

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN WHAUPHILL VILLAGE HALL, WHAUPHILL,
ON MONDAY 10 MARCH 2014 FROM 8.00 PM**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
John McDowall	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	John Dickson
Willie McCartney	David McAdam	Robert Richmond
Betty McGowan	John Jennings	Brian Vogan
Robert Harford	Carl Davis	Jak Kane

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Matt Kitson
Gail Jennings	Paul Tarling, <i>RSPB</i>	Dianne Hindle
Alison Maxwell	Fiona Marshall	Elaine Vance
Linda Galloway	Two reps, <i>Police Scotland</i>	

APOLOGIES		
Agnes Cluckie	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Lynn Drysdale
David Moran	Cllr Graham Nicol	Andrew Wilson

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. He reminded the meeting of the Code of Conduct and the expectation of working together for the good of the community despite potential differences of opinion.

The Comm. Council noted that Andrew Wilson had resigned as Secretary and as a Community Councillor, for personal reasons, and noted his work on the community's behalf. Secretary is an important office bearer dealing with minutes, correspondence, communications, monitoring progress with local works, etc. June Robinson is content to continue as Minutes Secretary but cannot extend her role to other secretarial duties. Matt Kitson was proposed to be re-co-opted as CC Secretary (as a non-Comm. Cllr at present) – prop. Carl Davis, sec. Betty McGowan. Matt Kitson agreed to take on the role, and is keen to consider co-option as a full Comm. Cllr with voting rights in due course.

2 POLICE REPORT

No crimes were reported in our area since the previous meeting, but there has been a high volume of Irish registered vans in the area selling power tools, etc. many of which are illegal. Across the region, there have been a number of housebreakings and forced entry into out-buildings and sheds; and there have been several “bogus” tradesmen. There were reminders to ask for ID if someone unknown comes to your door, and to report anything unusual or suspicious (tel. 101 routinely, or 999 in emergency).

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (10 February 2014) AND TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were adopted prop. J. Kane, sec. J McDowall.

Tasks from previous meeting:

Youth Representation

Carl Davis and Rob Harford continue to seek interest through local youth groups, contacts, etc. Whithorn CC now has two youth members who might have suggestions for our area.

Christmas Costs

Invoice for Xmas tree (quote was £350.00) not yet received, but Jock McDowall indicated it was to have been submitted. David Moran to pursue. Discussion about recognition payment for cherry-picker provision for which no invoice is expected. High Street gift voucher for £100.00 to be provided (prop. Willie McCartney; sec. Jock McDowall; carried unanimously). **ACTION DAVID MORAN**

Training session for new Comm. Cllrs

This went ahead and was valuable. Thanks have been intimated.

4 RSPB PROPOSALS FOR CROOK OF BALDOON

Paul Tarling summarised proposals and showed plan of proposed development (wetlands and upgraded visitor/information centre) which will encourage more wading birds at the reserve and is expected to encourage visitors. He confirmed proposals were imperative to the work of the RSPB. Several comments were fed back directly. CC agreed to respond to RSPB and D&GC Planning Dept in support of the development. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

5 WHAUPHILL COMMUNITY ISSUES

Whauphill Hall is being run successfully by the Community Association on a year by year basis, and re-cladding is underway. D&GC Area Committee recently agreed a grant for re-glazing. The CA's work was commended. It was noted that the threatened hall closure in 2013 related to D&GC savings in different, ongoing, budgets.

Better communication between CC and CA was sought, though CC minutes have long been circulated to CA. In previous CC Schemes in D&G, community organisations could nominate Comm. Cllrs but this is no longer allowed. Whauphill CA agreed to discuss links to CC at the CA AGM in May, with a view to identifying a CA rep. Who could be co-opted as an Associate on the CC. Kirkiner CA may wish to do the same.

6 UPDATES AND REPORTS

6A Planning Working Party Report earlier circulated as follows (recommendations approved by CC):

Current applications of relevance

14/P/1/0050 | ERECTION OF WIND TURBINE (MAX HEIGHT TO BLADE TIP 34.4M) | SOUTH WEST SLOPE OF HAWK HILL, BARNBARROCH FARM, WHAUPHILL.

Application for one turbine (34.4 metres to blade tip) on farmland. CC previously agreed that smaller turbines (below 50 metres) for single turbine development associated with farm, etc. would not be objected to. We recommend neither objection nor support for this development but note its proximity to a neighbouring dwelling. Note John Jennings not party to discussion as he indicated a conflict of interest.

14/P/1/0065 | CHANGE OF USE AND ALTERATIONS AND EXTENSION TO DISUSED SHOP/STORE TO FORM DWELLINGHOUSE | 5A MAIN STREET, WHAUPHILL

Restoration of semi-derelict building in Whauphill to bring into use as dwelling house. Recommend support application as this will improve the appearance of the area and provide additional accommodation in Whauphill.

Update on proposals

Auchleand Wind farm. Response submitted per CC meeting 10.2.2014.

House and Whisky warehouse at Bladnoch. Declined by D&GC.

Millairies wind turbines. Declined by D&GC.

Other Windfarm proposals

Shennanton – Community Liaison Group meeting. Nick Walker and John Jennings unable to attend on 5.3.2014. Feedback that developer intends to lodge planning application in late April or early May, and that there is a preference for all community benefit monies to remain local. Next CLG expected April 2014. Airriequhillart, Mindork – no update.

6B Consultations Working Party Report – No active consultations to report.

6C Finance & Resources Working Party report earlier circulated as follows (approved by CC):

Membership David Moran and John Jennings, and a vacant third position. Recent meeting (3.3.2014) agreed John Jennings as Chairperson.

Key tasks at present proposed as:

Trace and create register of CC assets (equipment, etc. and its location, state of repair, where appropriate value, etc.) - Willie McCartney assisting with this task.

Monthly summary of CC finances to be provided for monthly meetings. David Moran considering what form this should take.

Current system of five bank accounts to be reconsidered for simplifying financial management, but requiring further investigation.

6D Wigtown CC Organisation Working Party report (oral)

Membership Nick Walker, Willie McCartney, David Moran, Jak Kane, John Jennings and Matt Kitson. Meeting 3.3.2014 refined chart of main CC tasks and responsibilities, setting out current Committees and Working Parties, and suggesting additional groups. WP keen to hear from all about things missing from list of tasks and responsibilities, ideas about managing these, and offers of assistance for tasks from CCLRs and others. Suggestions, offers, feedback to John Jennings. Summary diagram and list of groups was tabled. Groups and current memberships are listed:

Finance & Resources WP (Budget, Grants, Fund Raising, Assets, Expenditure)

Members: John Jennings, Chairman; David Moran, Treasurer; vacancy; (CC Convenor)

Planning WP (Applications Scrutiny, Environment Overview)

Members: Nick Walker, Chairman; John Jennings; Robin Richmond

Consultations WP (Scottish Government, D&G Council, Outside bodies)

Members: Jak Kane, Chairman; Carl Davis; Rob Harford; John Jennings; vacancy; (CC Convenor)

Communications / Liaison function (Scottish Government, D&G Council, Press / Web / Newsletter / Noticeboard, outside bodies – e.g. Scottish Power, BT)

Members: CC Secretary; Minutes Secretary; Matt Kitson; (CC Convenor)

Events (Wigtown Community Festival, WinterFest/Christmas, others?)

Summer Committee: Carl Davies; Lynn Drysdale; Rob Harford; John Dickson; Willie McCartney; Agnes Cluckie; David Moran; Betty McGowan; and community volunteers

Works function (Repair, etc. of lighting, roads, cemeteries, infrastructure, etc. CC Enquiry Service, issue list)

Members: CC Secretary; (CC Convenor)

Youth & Education (Schools, Clubs, Groups, Bodies)

Pending: Carl Davis; Rob Harford, ? co-opted Youth Members

Licensing rep. (Applications Scrutiny, Forum)

Members: Willie McCartney, Lynn Drysdale, John Jennings

Resilience (for each community within our CC Area)

Members: TBD

Business and Opportunities (Chamber Of Commerce, NFU, New Business, Job Creation, Local Heritage, Tourism, Culture, LNR). Members: TBD

John Jennings also listed other community groups working from and for Wigtown, to help people be aware of how active the community is. Additions can be notified to John Jennings.

6E Community Festival Committee

Carl Davis reported that the Committee meeting on 6.3.2014 was very poorly attended. This calls into doubt the entire Festival. Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 8.4.2014 at 7.30 pm in County Buildings. Leaflets to be handed out advertising meeting and to encourage people in the community to become involved.

6F Wigtown Library

Jak Kane circulated draft proposed letter from CC in collaboration with other community organisations, to contest D&GC's decision-making about library hours reductions and the evidence decisions are based on, seek improved consultation, and argue for Wigtown Library to be promoted to a higher level in D&GC's scaling system with a smaller reduction in hours. Final comments on the letter need to be with Jak Kane or Nick Walker by 12.4.2014 for the letter to be completed. Wigtown Primary School Parent Council, the Association of Wigtown Booksellers, Wigtown Festival Company have provided input and are co-signatories to the letter. Numerous guides, school pupils and others have provided input. Our proposal would see hours reduced to 36 rather than 17 as D&GC proposes. CC was appreciative of Jak Kane's considerable work on this submission.

6G Greater Machars CCs Federation

Most CCs in Machars in support of Federation. First meeting was 4.3.2014, with Nick Walker elected interim Chairperson and John Jennings interim Secretary. Core issues for the first year, common to all CCs in the locality include D&GC Budget Process; lack of proper consultation processes with communities; Community Benefit from developments such as wind farms; variable role of D&GC Councillors in dealings with CCs; and Education. CCs not at the first meeting are being contacted by reps who were present, to aim at a fully inclusive body which can argue strongly on communities' behalf by being united. It was suggested that the Federation may be able to negotiate special meetings of the Area Committee. If there are other vital issues, please let Nick Walker or John Jennings know. Next meeting 13.5.2014.

6H Scottish Power meeting, Mid Galloway

Nick Walker, John Jennings and Jim McColm reported that the latest meeting (26.2.2014) heard evidence of reduced electricity problems in the Machars during storms over the festive season compared to other recent storms reflecting ongoing improvements in infrastructure. The way the meeting works is seen as positive by the Regulator and is beginning to be used in other areas. Scottish Power has also had public information sessions and is providing updates on progress of work periodically. As a result of these meetings SP revised its programme of works and its investment plan for the Machars, which shows the positive impact of coordinated community involvement. John Jennings had sent a short report to local newspapers and will forward this positive feedback to Scottish Power.

7 CORRESPONDENCE – None.

8 COUNCILLOR'S ISSUES – Cllr McColm

D&GC Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee to meet on 11.3.2014, and agenda includes consideration of roads to be upgraded in next financial year – locally affecting South Back Street, Tahall Road, Potato Mill Road, and others. Poor state of Beddie Crescent road surface was noted, and Cllr McColm agreed to report it. CC reminded that anyone can report pot holes, etc. to DGFirst.

Cllr McColm reiterated his concern about grass-cutting reductions (based on financial savings targets) affecting verges in Kirkinner and cemeteries with few funerals such as Wigtown kirkyard (St Machut's graveyard), Wigtown Top cemetery and St Kennera Kirkinner cemetery. Concerns about poor condition should be reported to DGFirst.

9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS – None.

10 NEXT MEETING – Monday 14 April 2014 at 7.30 pm, County Buildings, Viewing Room