

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUSINESS MEETING HELD IN WIGTOWN COUNTY BUILDINGS
ON MONDAY 12 MAY 2014 FROM 8.00 PM**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Robin Richmond	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Betty McGowan
Willie McCartney	David McAdam	Jock McDowall
Brian Vogan	Jak Kane	

IN ATTENDANCE		
Nicola McFadzean, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Cllr Jim McColm	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
Curtiss Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Elaine Vance, <i>Whauphill CA</i>
Matt Kitson, <i>Secretary</i>	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Other members of the public

APOLOGIES		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol	

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

The meeting followed straight on from the 2014 Annual General Meeting. Nick Walker indicated that John Jennings had resigned from CC shortly after the April meeting. There are now 12 elected Cllrs, and no co-opted members.

2 POLICE MATTERS

Nicola McFadzean reported that picnic tables removed Lochancroft Lane have been recovered. There were no further crimes reported since the last meeting. Police Scotland is sponsoring Good Citizens Awards with two Primary 7 pupils from each school in the area to the awards ceremony this week. There will be educational input at Operation Safety at Stair Park, Stranraer, in June 2014. On 19.6.2014, the Queen's Baton Relay, for the Commonwealth Games, passes through Newton Stewart (4.20 pm to 4.40 pm) and Stranraer (5.30 pm to 6.45 pm); Police Scotland will have to make temporary changes to roads/access/etc. The Command Centre at Cornwall Mount Police Station, Dumfries, will shut down but no date yet public (later confirmed as 28.5.2014). Newton Stewart Police Station opening hours for the public confirmed as Monday to Wednesday, 8.30 am to 2.30 pm.

Concerns about parking causing obstruction and safety hazards near Wigtown Primary will be looked into.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 14.4.2014 MEETING, AND TASKS ARISING

Minutes were adopted: prop. Jak Kane, sec. Willie McCartney.

Youth Representation - Carl Davis and Robert Harford to report back at next meeting.

Data Protection register payment - David Moran reported this is paid.

DGFirst Waste Info – Not yet confirmed whether they can attend June CC meeting, but looks hopeful (since meeting notified that they cannot, so may now be July). This would be to present latest plans for changes to recycling and waste collection. This is likely to generate significant interest so we may meet in the Supper Room. DGFirst briefing had been circulated notifying delay in changes, and reiterating Whithorn Household Waste Recycling Centre opening hours: Thursday to Monday 10 am to 4 pm; closed Tuesday and Wednesday. Condensed version of this note to be put on CC notice board. **ACTION NICK WALKER.**

Wigtown Partnership for Health - CC to reiterate that County Bldgs unsuitable for defibrillator to be attached, for heritage/conservation reasons. WPH has already suggested Wigtown Surgery as an alternative, and CC agreed this would be acceptable, but may need signs in North Main Street pointing up High Vennel. WPH not keen to attend CC meeting to describe their remit, etc. but happy for Cllrs to attend their meeting on 10.6.2014, 12.8.2014, etc. (second Tuesday of every second month). Further email to clarify.

ACTION NICK WALKER

NHS Dentistry proposals - Area Committee meeting 13.5.2014 at Douglas Ewart High School. Anyone interested should attend.

4 **CONSIDER CO-OPTION**

As there are three CCLr vacancies, we are able to co-opt voting members. As per agenda, proposal to co-opt Matt Kitson (Carleton, Bladnoch, Wigtown DG8 9AB; Elect. ref 03G1/851) moved by Nick Walker, seconded by Robin Richmond. Vote – 5 in favour and 0 against. Matt Kitson accepted co-option.

5 **UPDATES AND REPORTS**

5A **Festival Committee**

Draft programme distributed, and will be finalised at next meeting, 20.5.2014 at 7.30 pm. Photo competition details still being completed. Draft programme to go to insurers for festival cover arrangements. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

5B **Consultations Working Party**

Jak Kane circulated report including proposed response to D&GC Open Space Strategy:

Dumfries & Galloway Open Space Strategy 2014-19

*This consultation is on the strategy that will inform decision making on open space and present the vision for new and improved open space and how existing valuable and valued areas are to be protected. It will also set out how the Council will invest in and manage the open space in its area. There is no linked questionnaire with the Council asking only for people to "submit any comments on this strategy in writing". I contacted the Council for clarification and Christine Whittle from the Council's Development Planning has said that "the Council welcomes comments on any aspect of the Strategy and the audit maps shown in Annex 1. However, Section 6 (Priorities and Action Plans) is an important chapter along with other specific sections you may be interested in, namely Sections 3 (which set out various standards for open space) and Appendix 1 which sets out priorities for individual settlements." The Strategy will mainly focus on open space that is within or adjacent to the 48 settlements designated as Regional, District and Local Centres in the Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP), which includes Wigtown and Kirkinner/Braehead. While Whauphill and Bladnoch have not been specifically audited or mentioned in the Strategy, they are covered in para 3.5. Open space in the villages which do not have inset maps in the LDP will be identified in the Supplementary Guidance on Open Space, mainly for the purposes of protecting them from inappropriate development (subject to LDP policy CF3). Whilst these open space sites have not been formally audited and are therefore not able to be subject to the standards set out below, the principles from this Strategy and the Supplementary Guidance can still be applied to decisions on open space in these smaller settlements. Budget pressures is mentioned as a 'Challenge' at para 5.5. Much of the open space that is currently maintained by DGFirst on behalf of the Council is maintained to a high standard. However, in the current financial climate it is realistic to anticipate that there will be a reduction in the standard of maintenance within certain areas of open space. There will be exceptions to this, for example, where grant conditions dictate a certain level of maintenance. **Any reduction in maintenance will be subject to appropriate consultation at community level.** Based on recent experience it would be useful if the meaning of 'appropriate' was spelled out. Recent Budget decisions re grass cutting nor the impact of the decisions, were considered with regard to the Open Space Strategy because the Strategy is still in draft form. Whilst cemeteries are recognised as an important asset, for the purposes of this Strategy and the open space standards they do not fall under the "publicly usable" category and activity relating to cemetery provision will be addressed in a separate Burial Grounds Strategy. The open space standards set a target of 6hectares of publicly usable open space per 1000 population and that every household should be within of a publicly usable space of at least 0.2 hectares. Within the Audit, Wigtown was adjudged to have 4.27 hectares of open space per 1000 population, Kirkinner/Braehead only has 1.89 and has 'Significant Accessibility Issues'. The specific Priority for Action for Wigtown is for "new housing development to provide additional space"; Braehead/ Kirkinner's is the same with the additional requirement for a range of typologies.*

CC approved response. Electoral Future consultation response to be agreed at June CC meeting.

Consultations WP short on members with recent resignations. Matt Kitson volunteered to join.

5C Planning Working Party

Nick Walker had circulated a report previously:

Current applications

14/P/1/0173 TELECOMS CABINET, AGNEW CRESCENT, WIGTOWN

Recommend no CC submission.

Update on proposals

14/P/1/0087 INSTALLATION OF EXTERNAL WALL INSULATION, 19 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WIGTOWN

No submission, per CC meeting 14.4.2014.

Wind-farm proposals

Shennanton – Community Liaison Group met 16.4.2014.

Planning application now likely in autumn 2014. CLG agreed each CC area preference for separate fund-holding organisation (Trust or equivalent) but with a system for combining reports and feedback to developer. Kirkcowan has a Trust for community benefit fund management and grant awarding, with Machars Action providing management. Wigtown may wish to consider similar. Development Trust Association for Scotland presented about their approach which is not a Trust but a community company designed to help local economy through range of activities such as helping with education, business creation, etc. and could manage community benefit funds too. This may be too complex for our purposes, but it is worth considering if there is interest in this approach. Machars Action itself is similar to this type of organisation.

Recommend consider asking Machars Action to give presentation on Kirkcowan type approach.

Airriequhillart, Mindork, Auchleand – no update.

Larg Farm (Creetown) replacement turbine passed on Appeal.

Solar panel proposal

Possible proposal for a “solar panel farm” in locality (Causeway End), and developer, Lark Energy, keen to meet CC to set out their proposals as part of pre-application consultation.

Recommend invite developer to meeting in July, or separate meeting.

D&GC Planning Dept. restructuring

Details of revised Planning Dept. structure provided to CCs. Key point is that larger applications will be handled by a dedicated team across D&G; smaller applications remain with area Planning Officers.

Recommend note arrangements.

Recommendations

CC approve report, and make relevant arrangements.

CC approved report. Jak Kane agreed to do a short presentation on community benefit fund management later in year.

Additional issues

Lark Energy developing proposal for "solar panel farm" at Causewayend. They are keen to speak to CC about this, and will be invited to July meeting. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

Planning WP short on members since John Jennings' resignation. Willie McCartney agreed to join Robin Richmond and Nick Walker.

5D Finance & Resources Working Party

David Moran reported that CC has no assets except Christmas lights and cash in bank. Christmas lights still need clarification and checking. Nick Walker and Willie McCartney to assist David Moran with this.

David Moran to provide brief finances update for each meeting.

5E Communications, etc.

Matt Kitson encouraged postings on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/Wigtowncc) and Twitter (@WigtownCC) accounts.

6 CORRESPONDENCE

Scottish Natural Heritage magazine circulated for info.

7 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported that the Dark Skies community meeting of the Area Committee has been re-scheduled to 18.6.2014. Details will be sent out nearer the time.

8 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Federation of CCs meets tomorrow night. Nick Walker will be attending meeting and one other would be welcome. Matt Kitson unable to go tomorrow night but willing to attend in future.

9 NEXT MEETING

Monday 9 June 2014, at 7.30 pm, in Wigtown County Buildings.