

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE WHAUPHILL COMMUNITY HALL
ON MONDAY 9 MARCH 2015 AT 8.00 PM

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Nick Walker, *Convenor*
Robin Richmond

Jock McDowall
Matt Kitson, *Secretary*
Robert Harford

Willie McCartney
David McAdam

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm
Martin Green

Curtiss Wilson, *Free Press*
Clair McFarlan, *Solway
Partnership*

Carol Green
Diane Hindle, *Whauphill CA*

APOLOGIES

Jak Kane
Cllr Alistair Geddes

June Robinson, *Mins Sec*
Cllr Graham Nicol

David Moran, *Treasurer*
Louise Kerr, *Gazette*

1 WELCOME

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

2 POLICE MATTERS

No police representative. No matters to pass on.

3 SOLWAY FIRTH PARTNERSHIP PRESENTATION

Clair McFarlan gave a 20 minute presentation on the aims and objectives of the Partnership, and the work and projects they have been involved in. Following a brief question and answer session, Nick thanked Clair for her attendance, and the literature she left with us.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (12.1.2015)

Adopted: prop. Jock McDowall, sec Robin Richmond.

5 WHAUPHILL BUSINESS

Diane highlighted ongoing problems with rooks fouling the side of the Whauphill Community Hall and the adjacent children's play area. Cutting back surrounding trees might alleviate the problem. CC agreed to contact Alan Bradley, DGFirst, about this. Advice will also be sought from RSPB.

Whauphill CA has secured funding from the Bank of Scotland for refurbishments to the hall toilets but D&GC has to approve the work. Agreed CC to contact Karen Brownlie, D&GC, to expedite approval.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

6A Consultations

Jak issued an update prior to the meeting. Only current consultation is **Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance**. No additional comments were made; Jak will respond by deadline (13.3.2015) per previous CC meeting discussion.

6B Wigtown Week:

No progress since the last meeting. Matt, Willie and David to arrange to meet before the next meeting. Common Riding committee has requested to use CC Coat of Arms for a Standard to be carried by the Ensign on the ride. CC agreed this was appropriate.

6C Planning:

There was no Planning WP report but there are several new applications:

Old Bank Bookshop – new signage; resolved to support but note that the signage should be sympathetic to the conservation area and the building's listed status.

The Bookshop – retrospective planning permission for the concrete book towers and chairs in front of the shop. Agreed no submission.

Stewarton Farm, Kirkinner – erection of a steel framed agricultural building. Agreed no submission.

Shennanton Wind Farm – Formal application for 12 turbines, 100 m high to blade tip. The proposal site is a considerable distance from CC's area but the application needs to be reviewed. Willie McCartney and Jak Kane have copies of the application documentation and will review to produce a draft submission from CC. Nick Walker will notify D&GC Planning Dept. that we intend to make a formal submission and ask that this be accepted after the April CC meeting.

California Wind Farm – Formal application for 7 turbines, 110 m high to blade tip. CC is already aware of considerable public concern at this proposal, and in pre-application consultation, CC noted that our request for the developer to hold a public meeting to allow the community to air views was declined with subsequent emails not receiving meaningful response.

Martin Green and Carol Green, Save Wigtown Bay, understand that a new access road from the A75 will be built (possibly at the lay-by near Carsluith Castle) and that the turbines will be built in Germany and shipped via Stranraer. It was noted that the date for the developer's public exhibition was incorrect in the local press.

David Moran and Robin Richmond will review the application and link in with residents to develop a draft submission from CC for consideration at April CC meeting. We will meet sooner if necessary. Nick Walker will notify D&GC Planning Dept. that we intend to make a formal submission and ask that this be accepted after the April CC meeting.

No updates on other proposals including **Auchleand Wind Farm**.

For the record Cllr McColm was present during discussions but took no part in them.

7 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

7A Youth Representation: Matt reported that no response had been received from the volunteer opportunity lodged with Third Sector First. Rob continues to find volunteers though local youth groups.

7B Community Resilience: Matt will meet Wendy Jesson soon for an update on the current situation in our CC area, and possibilities for funding in future.

7C Wigtown parking and bus stop: Still awaiting update.

7D Derelict Properties: Still awaiting further update. Noted that 10 Bank Street, Wigtown has been empty for a long time (around two years) and appears to be deteriorating.

7E Public Toilets: Alan Mawson, D&GC, has advised that this is now in the Capital Plan for the next financial year.

7F Teaching Support: D&GC agreed to maintain Teacher numbers at 2014 levels following Scottish Government intervention. Despite extra funds from Edinburgh, £600K additional savings will be needed as a result, and there is no indication how the Education Dept. will deal with this. Additional Learning Support changes in the original budget are not affected by the Teacher number change, and neither Wigtown nor Kirkinner Schools yet know how this will impact on them. CC is concerned that Support roles may be cut further to offset the increased deficit. D&GC must clarify the implications for our area's schools as a matter of urgency: Matt and Robin continue to liaise with Parent Councils; D&GC Cllrs to pursue clarification also, since the decisions are ultimately made by the Council's Elected Members.

7G Wigtown Bay LNR extension: Meeting of the Committee planned for 18.3.2015. Jock to attend as CC Delegate.

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

8A Beddie Crescent Pay Area – Local concern that there are no swings in the new layout, but this is untrue. Work is underway. Bladnoch repairs and new swings are completed.

8B Fraser Suites request to plant a tree – To commemorate their founder who was born in Wigtown before emigrating in the 1800s, the Fraser Suites of Glasgow company wishes to plant a tree in Wigtown to commemorate their bicentenary on 31.3.2015. They requested support in finding a suitable site and tree. CC felt that Town Gardens were already full enough, but Lovers' Walk or Lightlands Avenue may be suitable venues. Matt to feed back to the company and check about ongoing upkeep funding.

8C D&GC Online Training – Sheila Dressler has Highland Council's training package and wonders if a D&G version would be welcome. Nick to circulate information for a decision.

8D Trusted Trader Scheme launched – Matt advised of the launch of the scheme by D&GC.

8E KOSB Assoc. Stranraer Branch – Recently set up, and looking to expand membership and take part in events, etc. Nick has passed on Louis McGuffie VC commemoration info.

8F Wigtownshire Area Profile – Summary of Wigtownshire data from Crichton Institute; copy will be circulated to CC, and Matt will forward to CCllrs.

8G Anti Poverty Meeting – CCllrs are invited to a meeting in Kirkcudbright 23.3.2015, with a deadline for booking of 13.3.2015. No one able to attend. Nick to reply and note short notice.

8H Edinburgh Workshop on Digital Engagement for Councils – CC had been unable to send a representative to this meeting in January, but Edinburgh Napier University has requested feedback from all CCs across Scotland about use of info. technology.

8I Wigtownshire Chamber of Commerce – AGM is 28.3.2015 in Stoneykirk.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES - Cllr McColm

Resurfacing of Beddie Crescent: Now completed.

10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS - None.

11 NEXT MEETING

Monday 13 April 2015 at 7.30 pm in Wigtown County Bldgs.

Subsequently 11.5.2015 at 7.30 pm, Wigtown County Bldgs