

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minute of the first meeting following the Community Council By-Election (14.7.2011)
Held on Monday 25 July 2011 at 7.30pm in the County Buildings Supper Room,
Wigtown**

PRESENT: William McCartney, Betty McGowan, Jim McColm, David McAdam, John McDowall, Vivian Murray, Malcolm Booth, Nick Walker, Andrew Wilson, Brian Lees.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cllr Geddes, Helen Bark, David Moran, Fiona Richie, Representative for Returning Officer, Wendy Jesson & Amy Todd.

1 SEDERUNT & APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Howard Steele and John Dickson.

2 WELCOME:

Fiona Richie welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked everybody to introduce themselves. She informed the meeting that the Association of Community Councils had ceased trading. The Association had arranged the Public Liability Insurance for Community Councils. Nick Walker said that the Insurance would run until April 2012. Fiona said that the Council were taking steps to deal with future Insurance. A copy of the Community Council Handbook and Code of Conduct for Community Councillors was made available to everyone present.

3 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRPERSON:

Jim McColm was proposed by W McCartney and seconded by Vivian Murray. Jim accepted the appointment.

4 APPOINTMENT OF VICE CHAIRPERSON:

W McCartney was proposed by J McDowall and seconded by Betty McGowan. Willie accepted the appointment.

5 APPOINTMENT OF SECRETARY:

Helen Bark was proposed by W McCartney and seconded by J McDowall. Helen accepted the appointment. It was pointed out that Helen was not a community councillor but would be the Minute Secretary who also did the other secretarial duties.

6 APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER:

David Moran was proposed by W McCartney and seconded by J McDowall. David accepted the appointment. David is not a community councillor.

7 PROCEDURE:

Jim McColm took over the meeting as chairperson and it was agreed to consider the further items on the Agenda.

8 APPOINTMENT OF EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS:

It was agreed to ask Rae McGinn to do this, he had done this in the previous year.

9 APPOINTMENT OF THE RETURNING OFFICER:

It was agreed that Harry Hay or his successor should continue.

10 APPOINTMENT OF ANY OTHER OFFICE BEARERS:

No other office bearers required.

11 CO-OPTION OF NON-VOTING MEMBERS:

Jim said that the Community Council was strongly advised to have at least one youth member. Amy Todd was willing to be co-opted. Amy was proposed by J McDowall and seconded by D McAdam. Amy accepted the co-option.

12 APPOINTMENT OF ANY COMMITTEES:

No committees required.

13 PRODUCTION OF AUDITED STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF FORMER COMMUNITY COUNCIL:

Audited Accounts were presented at May Meeting for the year to March 2011 and approved. The Audited Statement will be presented at the August Meeting.

14 PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE COVER:

The Insurance in place at present will continue until April 2012 and covers the day to day running of the Community Council.

15 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT:

Betty said the application form had not yet been received. Fiona said she would chase up the forms so that the application can be made.

16 CONSTITUTION:

It was agreed to have a copy of the current constitution available at the next meeting. After a short discussion it was agreed that we should get clearance and guidance on the Code of Practice and Fiona said she would get a response on this for the next meeting.

17 AOCB:

Betty asked if it would be necessary to have the Accounts from March 2011 to date audited before handing over to the Treasurer. It was agreed that she should and present them at the September Meeting.

Andrew Wilson said he had sent a letter to Jim McColm in connection with the Remembrance Sunday Service and had had no response. He requested that this be put on the Agenda for the August Meeting this was agreed. Jim apologised for the delay in replying to the letter.

18 NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting was arranged for Monday 8th August 2011 at 7.30pm in the Meeting Room, County Buildings Wigtown.

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting held on Monday 8 August 2011 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Meeting Room, Wigtown**

PRESENT:

Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, David McAdam, John McDowall Vivian Murray, Howard Steele, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker & Malcolm Booth.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Bark and three members of the Public.

1 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from Cllrs Nicol & Geddes, David Moran, Amy Todd and John Dickson.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Agenda was approved with the following amendment & additions: Proposed A Wilson & seconded by W McCartney:

Bank Street Rights of Way Earl Haig Top Cemetery Bollards round square

3 POLICE MATTERS:

No police in attendance

4 AUDITED ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR TO 31 MARCH 2011

A copy of the Accounts was made available to the meeting. These had already been approved but were made available for the new members of the Community Council.

5 CONSTITUTION – CODE OF PRACTICE:

The secretary said she had heard from Fiona Richie that she would not be able to give us any information on the points raised at the July meeting until our September meeting. W McCartney asked why we should change the Constitution and after discussion it was agreed to accept it as it stands at present and reconsider it after the Scheme Review. This was proposed by Malcolm Booth and seconded by John McDowall.

Code of Practice – it was proposed that this should also be accepted as it stands at present by John McDowall and seconded by Malcolm Booth.

6 COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

There being no councillors present there were no reports.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERES ARISING: Meeting 9 May 2011

Park Cemetery – parking & paths – no reply had been received

3B – two emails had been sent and a phone call made only comment was that they had been refused permission by the council to demolish the buildings. The convener said he believed it may be because of wildlife issues as there were bats and owls in the building. It was agreed that the secretary should write to 3Bs again and copy the letter to the Council requesting that the buildings be demolished, for safety reasons, after the wildlife have left.

Machars Action Shed – Willie McCartney said that permission had been given for the

erection of the shed, by Wigtown In Bloom. Betty McGowan said this should hopefully be done in September and then all the Wigtown in Bloom equipment could all be stored in the one place.

Derelict properties – the property in North Main Street is owned by someone in England. Apparently planning permission for two houses on this site was granted in 2009. After discussion it was agreed that the property was a possible fire hazard as there is a lot of litter etc has been pushed behind the window boards, and that the secretary should write to the Council pointing this out and copy the letter to the Fire Officers and the councillors. High Street Property is owned by a Mr Thomas Rae who lives in Girvan. It was agreed to try and get Mr Rae's address and write to him asking him to at least paint the front of the house.

Electricity Supply – No reply had been received.

Chapel Court – DGHP no reply had been received. It was agreed that we should write again to DGHP.

Young People reps - Jim McColm said he thought we should co-opt another young person on to the Community Council and it was agreed that Jim should have a word with Amy to see if she knows anyone who would be interested.

Approval of minutes - The Minutes for both meetings were then approved: proposed by V Murray and seconded by W McCartney.

8 BOOKTOWN REPORT;

Betty McGowan said that the programme should be available within the next ten days. Nothing further to report at present.

9 PLANNING MATTERS – H STEELE:

02/05/2011 to 06/05/2011

4 Bank Street, Wigtown

Listed Building consent for installation of replacement windows to ground floor, front elevation.

North Balfern, Kirkinner

Renewal of Planning Permission (05/P/5/0159) for erection of dwelling house, installation of septic tank and soakaway system.

13/06/2011 – 17/06/2011

Jubilee Cottage, Kirkinner

Alterations and extension to dwelling-house (amended proposal)

20/06/2011 – 24/06/2011

No 13 Holding North Balfern, Kirkinner

Alterations and extension to stable building to bring about change of use to dwelling house and installation of septic tank and partial soakaway.

27/06/2011 – 01/07/2011

Carslae Crossing, Wigtown

Alterations and extension to dwelling house

Kirkland Farm, Wigtown

Erection of Dwelling House with integral garage, installation of septic tank and soakaway system, installation of ground source heat pump matrix, erection of wind turbine (15m high to hub, 19.8m high to blade tip)(NGR 243321 555996)

The plans and a map were made available to the meeting in connection with this application. It was pointed out that this was a re submission as the original application had been withdrawn. The convener said that this application was outwith the Settlement Area and would be accessible from the bottom of Lovers Lane. The turbine would be near the Aerial Mast on the opposite side of Lovers Lane. Lovers Lane is a public path. A lengthy discussion was held about whether this would be an agricultural development or a residential development. A representative for the developer was present, and stated that the application was for a farmhouse (residential) only and that they had no plans to build agricultural buildings. He also said that the plans would be subject to a Section 75 agreement which means it is tied to the land and could not be sold separately from the agricultural land.

The majority voted yes to the house with an assurance that it would not develop into a farm steading. The meeting voiced their concern in this connection.

Jim pointed out that the turbine would be in the middle of the most scenic viewpoint. Nick Walker asked if there was any possibility that the turbine would interfere with the mobile phone signal in the area. No answer available at present.

The majority voted yes to the turbine providing it is offset so as not to effect the viewpoint. It was agreed that we should write to the Planning Department giving our agreement with the above concerns and provisions.

10 MACHARS ACTION – W McCARTNEY

Willie reported that Jack Kane is the new Office Manager. Chris Hanna has now left the position.

11 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – B McGOWAN

Community Festival - Betty said the Festival had gone well and that a date for the meeting had not yet been arranged.

Wigtown In Bloom – Betty said she would like to thank everyone for all their hard work. The judging had been done on 4th August and the result will be announced on 12 September in Rothesay. Betty will attend the presentation with Mrs Jessie Thomson.

Community Shop - Betty said the charitable shop which had been opened in High Street had been run in aid of the Wigtown Festival for the first month, and had raised £1947. The shop is to continue for Community Funding, which will be shared by all the Organisations in the town. At this point Malcolm Booth said he thought we should minute our appreciation of all the ladies who are doing a great job running this shop. It was agreed that a letter of appreciation should be sent to them.

12 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE – P JEAL

Peter not at meeting therefore no report

13 COMMUNICATION:

Letter from Andrew Wilson re an Ecumenical Act of Remembrance for Remembrance Sunday. Andrew gave everyone a copy of his letter, which outlined his suggestions for the format of the service. Vivian Murray said she did not think it would be possible to change the format at Kirkinner because they share a minister with Sorbie, which is outside our Community Council District. After discussion it was agreed that Andrew, with the support of the Community Council, would approach Rev Eric Boyle, Rev Stephen McGarva and

Father Ben Lodge together with the relative groups who would attend this service. It was agreed a short service at the War Memorial with the laying of the wreaths, someone playing the last post, a piper playing the Flowers of the Forrest after the 2 minute silence would be appropriate. Jim informed the meeting that the Remembrance Sunday Service has always been organised by the Church and that we have attended by invitation.

Letter from D&GC re Storage Space within Wigtown County Buildings This letter was a reminder to all groups who use storage space in the County Buildings to only store equipment & resources essential to their activities that this should be checked on a regular basis so that it does not compromise the safety of staff or the buildings. An up-to-date inventory was requested but it was stated that this had not changed since the last inventory.

D&GC, Community & Support Services – outlining various community council matters.

D&GC Countryside & Environmental Projects Office - Reporting to Wigtown Area Committee - Crook of Baldoon Management Options - this will now be in October.

D&GC Local Services Wigtown – Maintenance Programme for 2011/12

Development Planning – Acknowledgement of our comment on the Main Issues Report.

Community & Support Services – Data Protection Registration with information commissioner.

South Machars Community Transport – Notification of change of contact for enquiries & bookings. New contact is Brian McIlwraith, at Combined Services, Commerce Road, Stranraer DG9 7DD. Tel. 01776 707 500. E-mail Brian.McIlwraith@dumgal.gov.uk

14 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Bank Street – road surface is in a terrible state – it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Roads Department complaining bitterly about the pot holes asking if and when anything is going to be done. It was also brought to the councillors attention that Southfield Lane is also in a bad state.

Bollards at Square – Although it is almost a year now since these were damaged still no replacements have been erected. We were assured some months ago that the replacements had been ordered. Secretary to write.

Top Cemetery – There is a large mound of rubble which has been in the cemetery for some time now and is now becoming overgrown This has been reported before and it is very upsetting for the relatives visiting the grave. Secretary to write.

Rights of Way – The subscription is now due for renewal – It was agreed to continue with this.

Earl Haig Fund – Betty asked if the co-ordination of this should be passed to the new Treasurer or should she continue doing this. It was agreed that if Betty was willing to continue she should do so.

Rally – Howard said a new sponsor had been found for the Rally which will be on 2nd and 3rd of September 2011. It would be run on the same basis as last year. The scrutineering

would be done in a Marquee with the lorry park being used for holding cars

15 DATE & TIME of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 12 September 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room in the County Buildings.

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minute of meeting held on Monday 12 September 2011 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Meeting Room, Wigtown**

PRESENT:

Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, David McAdam, Vivian Murray, Howard Steele, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, John Dickson & Malcolm Booth.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Bark, Amy Todd, Youth Representative, Cllrs Geddes, McDowall & Nicol, David Moran Treasurer, Shannon Lochrie, PCs Harrison & Davidson, F Wilson, Press Reporter and four ladies from the School Parent Teachers Council.

1 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from J McDowall

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Agenda was approved (Proposed W McCartney & seconded by M Booth) with the following additions:

Audited Accounts for period to 31 August 2011; Horse Droppings; Fly Tipping; Youth Rep. Co-option; MUGA; Rally Report; Insurance for community associations

3 POLICE MATTERS: PCs K Harrison & A Davidson

PC Harrison said that since the last report there had been one incident of a break in to outhouses at a property in Wigtown and that two people had been apprehended. There had also been 2 reports of Anti Social behaviour among children.

She said the rally had passed off very well with one incident where a competitor had been hurt in a crash. This had been in a forest stage and she believed the people concerned had not been too seriously injured.

The police had had a report of a black or navy Mercedes van being seen at an unoccupied farm property in the north of the region. PC Harrison said they would appreciate any information on this incident or any other sightings at unusual or remote places.

Road Traffic Accidents: A woman had been knocked down by a van outside the Co-op Shop in Wigtown on Saturday. She is expected to make a full recovery. There had been an accident between a car and a van on 28 August, on the B7005. The driver of the car had sustained broken bones but was expected to make a full recovery. The convener asked the police if the vehicles had left the road and if so would it perhaps be a case that barriers might be required. She said she understood none of the vehicles had left the road.

4 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS:

Cllr McDowall said that she had reported the bollards at the square again and that she believed they were to be repaired in the time for the Book Festival.

Cllr Geddes said he was awaiting information, from the planning department, on the 2 derelict properties, in Wigtown, and that he had asked for 179 Notices to be served on them. The secretary said she had received a telephone call from the Fire Service stating that they had checked the property in Main Street and that they did not consider it to be a fire hazard. The Crook of Baldoon - He said this was to come up at the Wigtown Area

Committee Meeting and that the public was to be invited to attend and be allowed to make their points known.

Cllr Nicol said he had also spoken to the planning department re the 2 derelict buildings. He said there seemed to be a reluctance to proceed with the s. 179 Notices.

5 PARENT COUNCIL – SAFER ROUTE TO SCHOOL:

Mrs Gail Plunkett from the School PC introduced the new headmistress, Mrs Kelly Devine to the Meeting. Mrs Plunkett then updated the meeting on the 'Safer Travel to School' project. She presented a copy of the updated plans, which showed where the changes would be made on New Road, the main road into Wigtown. These changes are build outs at Lochancroft/New Road, zigzags on New Road to be moved, double yellow lines at the junctions with North Main Street and at High Vennel / North Main Street. She pointed out that the school only has a janitor for 10 hours per week and it is therefore impossible for him to do road safety duties. Mrs Devine said that road surveys had been done and that the school did not qualify for a road crossing or the services of a traffic patrol person. This is an 'A' road with a substantial volume of traffic including heavy goods vehicles. The Road Safety Officer is the Chief Constable who has not yet seen the amended plans. Mrs Helen McMicken, a member of the PC and a police constable said she understood the Chief Constable did not get a copy of these until formal planning application. Cllr Geddes said he felt that Traffic Management should look at the plans and support the school on the matter of a safe crossing. Mrs Plunkett said that PC was keen on a traffic light controlled crossing. Cllr McDowall said she was aware that the school did not qualify for a safe crossing but felt that the school should try and make a case that Wigtown does need the crossing. The school has done its own traffic count but another during the Book Festival may be worthwhile.

The Community Council was unanimous in its support of the school and the PC in their fight for a crossing. The secretary was instructed to write in support to the PC.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes were approved by M Booth and seconded by N Walker.

Matters arising:

Cemeteries – A reply had been received from Alan Bradley, stating that there were no plans in hand to make a footpath along the hedge at the Park Cemetery, and that he had passed a copy of our letter to the Roads Office in connection with the car parking issue. He said the top cemetery pile of rubble was in fact their soil heap and was used occasionally for grave levelling.

The meeting agreed that we should pursue the matter of Park Cemetery footpath & parking.

It was agreed that Jane Bridges/Charles Clemie should be contacted re the Car Parking, at Park Cemetery, to point out the road safety issue here. It was also suggested that a concealed entry sign might be erected to improve the safety aspect at present.

Co-option of Youth Representative – Vivian Murray nominated Shannon Lochrie and this was seconded by Malcolm Booth. Shannon accepted the position.

Act of Remembrance – Andrew Wilson reported that he had spoken to Rev. Boyle who would be pleased to hold a short service at the war memorial after his kirk service. Andrew will progress with the arrangements with other clergy, including application for permission to hold a parade.

3B Old Cattle Show Field – Replies had been received from 3B and the Council. 3B said that someone would go to the old show field to make safe the buildings. After a short discussion it was agreed that we should contact Tommy Currie and ask him or one of his team to check to make sure these properties are safe and secure.

It was noted that Bank Street had been resurfaced and that Southfield Lane would be done in the near future.

Shed at Machars Action – Betty McGowan said this would be discussed at the next Wigtown In Bloom Meeting.

Crook of Baldoon Management Options Area Committee meeting – this has been deferred to a later date.

7 BOOKTOWN REPORT:

Betty McGowan said the sale of tickets was going well – nothing further to report.

8 PLANNING – H STEELE

01/08-05/08/2011

Glenturk Farm, Wigtown

Erection of 2 wind turbines (37m high to hub, 47.5m high to blade tip) and associated works

It was agreed to ask for further consultation on this application

08/08-12/08/2011

12 Lochancroft Lane, Wigtown

Alteration and extension to dwelling-house

29/08-02/09/2011

Landberrick Farm, Whauphill

Erection of two wind turbines (15m high to hub, 19.25m high to blade tip). It was agreed to ask for further consultation on this application. John Dickson asked at what height turbines became industrial rather than domestic. Cllr McDowall said she believed that turbines at 50m to blade tip had a different classification. W McCartney asked if rates were chargeable on turbines.

9 MACHARS ACTION – W McCARTNEY:

Willie reported that the front window displays have been revamped. Plans are in hand to re-paint the exterior of the buildings and to update the signage. Wild-fowling Permits are now available from 1 September. 151 applications have been received – approximately the same as the previous year. Independent Examination of Accounts – this service is now available; Louise can prepare charity and community group accounts that require R & P I E (income up to £100K). The office will be open during both weekends of the Wigtown Book Festival, Sat. 11-5.30, Sun. 11-5.

10 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – B McGOWAN

Wigtown In Bloom – Betty should have been in Rothesay today for the announcement of the winners of the Beautiful Scotland competition but due to the adverse weather conditions had been unable to attend.

11 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT – P JEAL

Peter Jeal not at meeting therefore no report

12 COMMUNICATIONS:

All communications have been dealt with under Previous Minutes & Matters arising.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Audited Accounts period to 31 August 2011

Copies of the accounts were made available to the Community Councillors. These were approved by W McCartney and seconded by David McAdam.

Horse Droppings

It had been reported to the Community Councillors that horses and riders have been using the new path along to the Martyrs and beyond. The horses left a mess. This path is supposed to be wheelchair friendly but unfortunately if horses use this it is not wheelchair friendly. The secretary was instructed to contact Simon Fieldhouse to see if the path is classed as a bridle path. If it is not we would request that a sign be erected to stop horse users using it. The path will soon be back into a state of disrepair if horses continue to use it.

Fly Tipping – Lovers Lane

It was brought to the attention of the Council Meeting that a large bag of garden waste etc. has been left up Lovers Lane. The secretary to contact June McKinstry.

MUGA – Dog Fouling

Cllr McDowall reported that a new sign was to be erected. The secretary said she had been told that the park would be monitored by the warden.

Rally Report

Howard Steele reported that the Rally had gone well. It was felt that this was good for the town bringing trade to local businesses. The town was very busy and there seemed to have been no complaints.

Insurance for Community Associations

Vivian Murray said that Kirkinner Community Association had had to pay £168 for insurance for their 2.5 hours festival. The least cover they could get was 4 days. Nick Walker said ASCC which provides CC insurance in D&G can give insurance only to community councils and their committees, not to community associations. However as the ASCC is to cease trading, and D&G Council will look at replacement insurance, they could be asked to look at the place of community associations in any scheme at the same time.

14 DATE & TIME of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 10 October 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room in the County Buildings.

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minute of special meeting on Monday 19th September 2011 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Meeting Room, Wigtown**

To discuss planning application for 2 Wind Turbines at Glenturk Farm.

PRESENT:

Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, David McAdam, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, Brian Lees, John McDowall and Malcolm Booth.

APOLOGIES:

John Dickson, Howard Steele and Vivian Murray.

The developer's submission was studied in detail and after due consideration it was the unanimous view of the meeting that an objection should be submitted. The reasons for objecting were as follows:-

- 1 Height of the turbines (47.5m) would make them visible from a wide area.
- 2 The area of maximum visibility to the NE of the proposed site coincided with an area of regional scenic importance.
- 3 Potential flicker effects on neighbouring properties.

Action - Jim to write to planning office.

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minute of meeting Monday 10 October 2011 at 7.30 pm
Held in the County Buildings Meeting Room, Wigtown.

Present:

Jim McColm, Betty McGowan, Jock McDowall, David McAdam, Vivian Murray, Howard Steele, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, & Malcolm Booth.

In Attendance:

Ami Todd, Shannon Lochrie (Youth Representatives), Cllr Alistair Geddes, Cllr Sandra McDowall, PC Elaine Milven, Press Reporters.

1 Apologies:

Apologies were received from Helen Bark, David Moran, William McCartney, John Dickson & Brian Lees.

2. Approval of Agenda and intimation of any other business:

The Agenda was approved unanimously with the following additions: Safer Travel to School; drainage problems on road between Wigtown and Bladnoch; Remembrance Service.

3. Police Matters: PC Elaine Milven

There had been an incident of a bogus workman in the area, also a worrying trend of "sneak" thefts in Stranraer (opportunistic thefts when occupant in garden and left front door unlocked). East European gang stealing purses from shoppers in Dumfries; also ATM incidents where thieves were using skimming devices. PC asked meeting for advice on how best to warn elderly groups of trends: October club on Wednesday afternoons, and Riverside Day Centre in Newton Stewart suggested.

4. Councillors Reports:

Neither Councillor present had specific issues, other than what would come up under the agenda of the meeting.

Minutes of Previous meetings and matters arising:

i) item 13 from the minutes of the main meeting. Insurance: the ASCC can only give insurance to community councils and their committees, not to community associations. However as the ASCC is to cease trading, and D&G Council is to be looking into replacement insurance, they could be asked to look at the place of community associations in any scheme, at the same time. Alistair Geddes spoke of the urgency of finding out what the Council's plans are and the danger of voluntary organisations folding if insurance cover for their activities becomes prohibitive. **Action: write to Sheila Armstrong, asking as a matter of urgency what the council's plan are, and to copy the letter to other CCs.**

Main minutes as amended, proposed by Nick, seconded by Malcolm, and minutes of additional 17 September meeting, proposed by Jock, seconded by Nick.

Alistair talked about the meeting at the Crook of Baldoon, and the importance of it being "themed" (on one particular subject) and proceeded by a site visit. He was hopeful of a compromise between the RSPB and the wild-fowlers.

Both owners of derelict buildings in the town have accepted the need to make remedial

work on their properties, the meeting expressed its thanks to both Councillor Geddes and the planning department for their support on this matter.

v) Jim has heard back: a site visit to the Park cemetery has been arranged to look at car parking, but the letter from Alan Bradley stated that there are no funds at present to make any path improvements.

vi) Alistair made the meeting aware that 3B Construction are fully aware of their obligation to provide a 2 meter fence round the old stand in the Show field, and that any such fence should be regularly inspected, and inspections logged. **Action: Community Council to write to Inspector Davidson at Newton Stewart if it is felt that, following inspection, there are still safety issues.**

The application for more wind turbines at Landberrick, has been withdrawn.

No response from Simon Fieldhouse regarding horse droppings on renewed railway line path. **Action: Karen Morley(Kirkcudbright) to be contacted.**

ix) rubbish in Lovers Walk **Action: Sandra offered to check on the situation.**

Booktown Report: none at present, not long since the festival finished, but general feeling that the first weekend had been busier than normal. **Action: Anne to be asked for report.**

Planning – Howard

11/P/1/0315 Torhousemuir Farm, Wigtown

Erection of 2 wind turbines (32m high to hub, 46.5m high to blade tip) and associated works. Jim declared an interest, so Howard chaired this part of the meeting, discussion followed on the height and likely visibility of the turbines from the road and dwelling houses. Meeting unanimously agreed to object. **Action: Objection letter to be sent, along similar lines to the one related to Muirhead of Glenturk.**

08/08-12/08/2011 30 Agnew Crescent, Wigtown

New windows at front; Woodside House Wigtown, PV cells to the rear of the house: Paradise Glen Farm, 5 caravan and tent site. No comment on any of these.

8. Machars Action update:

Willie not present, and had sent his apologies.

9. Community Activities – Betty

i) request has been received from the Girl Guides to use the disco equipment, Anne Barclay has offered to take care of the equipment on behalf of the CC; meeting agreed to both.

ii) Wigtown in Bloom: Silver Gilt Award (3 more points than last year) received, with no comment offered on how the town might achieve a gold medal, by the judges. All baskets are down, and stored in the Machars Action big shed; troughs planted up. Sensory garden to be formally opened on Friday 21st Oct. invites have gone out, Sharon Bruce (whose idea it was) to be present.

iii) Winterfest: 25th and 26th Nov. Betty in charge of the event, but expressed the wish for someone else to take over erection of Christmas Lights. Jim and Malcolm offered their

assistance and it was reported that Brian has likewise offered his, Jim agreed to act as liaison with D&G Council. Willie to be asked to co-ordinate erection of lights. Need for insurance discussed, Nick requested dates and value of lights. Lights likely to be up from 12th Nov. until 8th Jan. **Action: Insurance to be arranged.**

10. Chamber of Commerce Report – Peter Jeal

Peter Jeal not at meeting therefore no report.

Action: Peter to be asked for written report in future.

11. Communications:

i) Christmas Light Grant received from D&G Council: £747 (£200 for Whauphill, £200 for Kirkinner, and £347 for Wigtown), same as previous year.

ii) Administrative Grant of £575 received, which is down from last year's £610. Awaiting response from Bank of Scotland concerning new signatories for the account. **Action: Jim to contact the bank to enquire if the situation had not been resolved by 17th Oct.**

iii) Letter from Peter White of D&G Small Communities Housing Trust, requesting presentation at a CC meeting. **Action: Jim to reply, and suggest attendance at November or January meeting.**

iv) D&G Local Transport Strategy consultation: deadline for responses 4th Nov. meeting felt this did not allow sufficient time. **Action: Nick agreed to study the document and summarise.**

v) Safer route to school. Draft drawings and letter from John Howell of transport management. Long discussion followed regarding location and safety of the new gate (located next to the new bus stop site which was proposed on the north side of the main gate), and who would be responsible for seeing it was secure, especially as it is now to be much nearer the area of the playground where the younger children play. Meeting assured that it would be responsibility of head teacher to see gate was secure. Long discussion on where parents should park, where occupants of houses on New Road would now have to park, followed. All agreed with no parking suggestions in the drawings at junctions of New Road with North Main Street, and High Vennel with North Main Street; however concern expressed about the extent of no waiting restrictions and the build outs at Lochancroft/New Road intersection, as detailed in the drawings, and that this would cause problems for lorries, which need access to Lochancroft Lane. **Action: Jim to reply, expressing above views.** Discussion moved on to criteria for getting a school crossing person, and how to pay for one, seeing as Wigtown Primary does not qualify.

vi) request from South of Scotland list MSP Graeme Pearson (Labour) to attend a CC meeting. Request not to be followed up.

vii) Invite to CC to send 2 representatives to opening of the Sensory garden. Malcolm suggested Shannon and Amy, who accepted

12. Any other business:

i) roadside weeds and debris not being cleared between Bladnoch and Wigtown, leading to poor drainage of surface water, which could be a potential road hazard. **Action: Jim to phone Jane Bridge**

ii) Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday discussed: wreaths to be laid after the

morning service at Wigtown parish church around 12.30pm, as part of a joint service taken by Rev. Eric Boyle and Rev. Stephen McGarva (Father Ben Lodge unable to attend). Call to worship, Hymn, recitation, laying of wreaths, prayer, national anthem, benediction. Permission for procession for guides and brownies from the church hall via north Main Street, and return, has been applied for. Andrew seeking piper. Baptist Youth Group expressed desire to lay wreath as well. **Action: confirm arrangements with clergy, find a Piper: Andrew.**

13. Date & Time of next meeting:

Monday 14 November 2011 at 7.30 pm in the Meeting Room in the County Buildings.

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Minute of meeting held on Monday 14 November 2011 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Meeting Room, Wigtown

PRESENT:

Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, David McAdam, Vivian Murray, Howard Steele, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, Malcolm Booth, John McDowall & Brian Lees.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Bark, Amy Todd & Shannon Lochrie, Youth Representatives, Cllrs Geddes, & Nicol, David Moran Treasurer, PC Rodney Mitchell, Press Reporter & P White D&G Small Communities Housing Trust.

1 APOLOGIES:

Apologies were received from J Dickson & Cllr McDowall

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Agenda was approved with the following additions:

Proposed W McCartney & seconded by J McDowall:

- Wind Farm
- Minutes & Meeting Venue
- £3000 to Newton Stewart in Bloom
- Remembrance Service
- Common Good Fund - Application
- Banners on Railings round square

3 POLICE MATTERS: PC Rodney Mitchell

PC Mitchell reported on our area as follows:

There had been reports of dogs being allowed off leads.

There was a road traffic accident on 15 October 2011

Anti Social Behaviour – mainly noise

1 man had been charged with assault

Vehicles in Church Hall grounds prior to Blood Donors Team's visit

He said the Drink Driving Campaign is to be stepped up over the festive season.

He reminded the meeting of the importance of not giving out personal or bank details over the phone or to any one you do not know. This follows an incident of bogus phone calls reported in the Dumfries area.

4 D&G SMALL COMMUNITIES HOUSING TRUST – P White

Jim McColm introduced Mr White to the meeting. Mr White then gave a very informative presentation on the Housing Trust and how it works to help communities find suitable housing. After discussion it was agreed that a survey would be beneficial to our area and it was agreed to have this done in the new year. This will be done by way of leaflets being distributed to every house in our area.

5 COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Geddes reported that some progress was now being made on the two derelict properties and that he understood Section 179 Notices were being processed but had not been served.

Glenturk Road - There is great concern over the delay in repairing the bridge etc and he

said that he had tried to contact Jane Bridge in this connection but did not have anything to report at present. It was agreed that the Community Council would also contact Jane Bridge/Charles Clemie in this respect.

He also said that he believed Loreburn would like to get involved with Wigtown Community re affordable housing. Jim said he thought local people would appreciate more of this type of housing.

Cllr Nicol said there would appear to have been a complete turn around on the part of the Council re funding being available in connection with the 179 Notice. He said he thought an insurance claim may be involved in the Glenturk Road and could possibly be holding up the repair.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes were approved by N Walker & seconded by J McDowall.

Matters arising:

Crook of Baldoon – the Minutes of the Area Committee Meeting states a meeting is arranged for 14 December 2011 in this connection. It has apparently now been postponed until March 2012.

Car Park at Park Cemetery: Jane Bridge met with Jim at the site. It appears there is doubt about who owns this land. It may still belong to the Earl of Galloway. Secretary is to clarify with G M Thomson.

Martyrs Stake to Station Road Path – Jim read out a letter from Simon Fieldhouse in this connection. It said that it would appear that this path is not a Bridleway. Mr. Fieldhouse said he had passed a copy of our letter to Karen Morley and would report back to us after investigation. It was agreed that we should contact Karen Morley with a view to having a sign erected saying 'not suitable for horses'. It was felt that from a Health & Safety point of view the path is too narrow to accommodate horses if they should meet wheelchairs or prams.

Old Cattle Showfield – Still in a dangerous condition secretary to contact Inspector Davidson.

Planning Glenturk – A letter was received stating the permission for wind turbines had been refused.

Insurance for Winterfest – Nick confirmed this was now in place at a premium of £198.80.

The Sensory Garden – The garden was opened by Mrs Sharon Bruce and this was followed by refreshments in the County Buildings. Jim thanked Betty and her group of ladies for the refreshments.

Bank Account – The problem has still not been resolved re the new signatory. It was agreed that it might be easier to have three signatories. Betty McGowan agreed to stay on as signatory. The Council agreed that the convener, Jim McColm, the treasurer, David Moran and Mrs Elizabeth McGowan should operate the bank account, with any two out of these three signing cheques. Jim agreed to go to the Bank of Scotland in Newton Stewart to see if he could speak to someone who could resolve the situation.

D&GLTS Response: Nick Walker read out a summary of the D&G Local Transport

Strategy consultation and it was agreed to reply on the lines of Nick's comments. The secretary agreed to do this.

Meeting County Buildings 1/12/2011 re SWESTRANS local bus tender outcome: Jim pointed out that this was a public meeting and therefore everyone was welcome to go.

Safer Route to School letter & draft plans: Howard Steele said that he believed that at present some heavy vehicles have had to brake hard when they come round the top corner at the school. He said he is concerned that if the bus stop is moved up then this will make it more dangerous. It was agreed that a copy of the Community Council's response to John Howell should be sent to the police.

Roadside Weeds & Debris Bladnoch to Wigtown: Jim said he had spoken to Jane Bridge on this and Cllr Geddes said if no action soon then we should phone Johnny Bell at Newton Stewart.

7 BOOKTOWN REPORT:

Betty McGowan read out a report.

The report thanked all festival volunteers and the community of Wigtown for all their help and for their warm welcome to the visitors. The ticket numbers remained consistent with 2010. Just over 12,300 tickets were sold, with approximately 8,000 people attending throughout the 10 days.

The Active Scotland events and the Scotland Food and Drink activities were a continuation of a funding thread from 2010. The 2012 themed year – the Year of Creative Scotland – plan is already in hand. Funding applications for 2012 have been submitted to Creative Scotland, including an application to their Creative Places award for which only one award for £50k will be made to one place in Scotland. The Festival Company has made the application on behalf of Wigtown Book Town. The additional funding applications will be made over the coming months. The Friends and Friends for Life Scheme have remained on par with the previous year. The company is actively seeking new individuals to sign up to the Benefactors' Scheme where 250 people would possibly make a one off donation of £250 to help future development and sustainability of the festival.

The Poetry Competition is due to go live online for entries before the end of November until May 2012. The Spring Weekend will be held during the first May bank holiday weekend and will be staged by the Association of Wigtown Booksellers with help from the Book Festival. The charity will be undertaking some fundraising due to increasing pressure from funders to generate our own income. The first of these activities will be a Jamie Oliver at Home Party on 3/12/2011 at 7.00 pm in the County Buildings. Any suggestions or proposals for fundraising would be greatly appreciated.

8 PLANNING – H STEELE:

3/10-7/10/2011

Cotland Farm, Wigtown

Change of use of agricultural building to form horse livery and indoor exercise area setting aside condition 2 of planning permission 10/P/1/0433 restricting the use of the equine arena to private incidental to enjoyment of Cotland Farmhouse and access improvements.

10/10-14/10/2011

Barquhill Farm, Wigtown

Erection of Wind Turbine (15.42m high to hub, 19.02m high to Blade Tip)

17/10-21/10/2011

Moorpark Farm, Kirkinner

Application for renewal of unimplemented planning permission 074/P/5/0050 for erection of dwelling-house, garage, swimming pool, stable and wind turbine, installation of septic tank and soakaway system.

After discussion it was agreed that Jim McColm should have a look at the plans for this application to check details of the proposed turbine.

24/10-28/10/2011

Old Church Site, Wigtown

Application for approval of matters specified in conditions 1a-1e (design, layout, landscaping, access) attached to planning permission in principle 09/P/1/0148 for erection of dwelling-house.

9 MACHARS ACTION – W McCARTNEY:

Nothing to report

10 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – B McGOWAN

Betty said the Christmas Lights were put up on Saturday 12 November and that the tree was going up on Wednesday.

The switch on will take place on Friday 25 November and the Winterfest will be on Saturday 26 November. Betty handed out a list of who was doing what at the Switch On.

She also asked everyone if they could sell £ 10 worth of raffle tickets and let her have a donation for the hamper.

11 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT – P JEAL

Peter Jeal not at meeting therefore no report. The secretary was asked to write to Mr Jeal and ask if he could let us have a report in future if he is not able to attend.

12 COMMUNICATIONS:

All communications have been dealt with under Previous Minutes & Matters arising.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Wind Farm – An email had been received from Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd. informing us of a Public Information Day in the County Buildings, Wigtown on 24 November 2011. This is in connection with their interest in the potential for a wind farm at Blackmyre Moor near Creetown. The secretary said she had had a phone call from a Mr Jeffries from this company asking to come to one of the Community Council's Meetings. It was agreed that we would have them at the January 2012 Meeting.

Minutes & Meeting Venue: Nick Walker reminded the meeting that at the July Meeting we had agreed to consider a different venue for our monthly meetings. As there is no disabled access to the meeting room and also it is a bit cramped it was agreed to try our next meeting in the Viewing Room upstairs. This room has lift access. The Secretary was instructed to book this for the January Meeting.

Nick also said that the Minutes had not been on display in the library since early in the year. These had been sent by email to the library but had not been displayed. Malcolm Booth said he felt that the Minutes and Agenda should be displayed in a more public place. It was agreed to ask Machars Action if these could be put on their Website and

also ask that the Minutes be displayed in Machars Action and the Agenda put in the window.

£3000 paid to Newton Stewart in Bloom from D&G Council- Betty presented a report from the local paper which said that Newton Stewart had been given £3000, spread over two years, to help purchase plants etc. to make the town look better. She asked the Councillors if they knew where this had come from. She was advised to take the matter up with Wendy Jesson.

Remembrance Service – Andrew Wilson thanked the Community Council for backing the change. The service had gone very well, with a large turnout in the sunshine, and it was agreed a letter of thanks with a small honorarium should be sent to the young piper, Joel McGarva.

Common Good Fund Application – Andrew Wilson said that he and Donna Brewster had prepared a leaflet about the Martyrs. They would like to make a reprint of this and have it available to visitors, at the graves and at the stake. Suitable holders would also be required. The total cost would be approximately £200 and asked if he could apply to the Common Good Fund through the Community Council for funding. This was agreed.

Banners on railings: It was brought to the attention of the meeting that there was some concern over the number of banners, advertising boards etc which were being put on the railings round the square. It was agreed that clarification should be sought from Billy Murray on this.

14 DATE & TIME of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 9 January 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Viewing Room, County Buildings, Wigtown.