

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 9 May 2016**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Matt Kitson *Convenor*

Jak Kane *Secretary*

Rob Harford

David McAdam

Jock McDowall

Joe McKeown

Robin Richmond

Nick Walker

IN ATTENDANCE

David Moran

Cllr Alistair Geddes

Cllr Jim McColm

Kris Gunn, *Free Press*

Louise Kerr, *Galloway
Gazette*

APOLOGIES

Willie McCartney

Cllr Graham Nicol

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Matt Kitson welcomed all to the meeting and intimated that 'Development role at Wigtown Book Festival' had been added to the agenda as other business. It was noted that both Willie McCartney and Cllr Nicol had intimated their apologies for absence.

2 POLICE MATTERS

There was no Police representation at the meeting and no report had been provided.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 April 2016)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were adopted, proposed by Robin Richmond and seconded by David McAdam.

4 UPDATES & REPORTS

1: Consultations WP

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting (see Appendix A). Jak explained that the first four items had been carried over from the previous month and, if a response was to be submitted to either or both of the Community Empowerment Act consultations, the draft response would be circulated for consideration at the June meeting. The fifth item was a local policing consultation by Police Scotland to identify the priorities for policing in local communities. This consultation would be open all year giving individuals the opportunity to take part when it suited.

2: Planning WP

A report had been previously circulated by Nick Walker (see Appendix B). Nick advised that the new applications were for matters that the Community Council normally did not respond to, so the Working Group had recommended that no submissions be made. Report approved.

3: Louis McGuffie VC Commemoration Working Group (inc Parking & Bus Stop) The next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for the end of May 2016. In the interim, Douglas Kirkpatrick, DGC's Service Manager Sustainable Travel would be meeting with Community Councillors Joe McKeown and David McAdam along with Anne Barclay of Wigtown Book Festival Company and a representative of Wigtown Community Promotions – the operator of Wigtown Market. Initially the reason for the meeting was to agree changes re the size, style and location of the new bus shelter but this would be extended to include concerns from other stakeholders relating mainly to the new bus route that saw buses driving along South Main Street. Wigtown Community Promotions claimed that their 3 year Market License entitled them to close the road between the

Mercat Cross and the Gardens on Saturdays during the months of April to September. The Book Festival had concerns about access to the Gardens for the marquee installers and for patrons queuing to access the principal Marquee during the Festival. Matt Kitson had written to Mr Kirkpatrick cataloguing the issues and asking that they be addressed at the aforementioned meeting. **ACTION JOE McKEOWN/DAVID McADAM**

6 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Derelict Properties – Matt Kitson had written to Dumfries & Galloway Council again iterating that the Council should serve a Section 179 Notice against the owner of 24 High Street. Strategic Housing Services had replied that the property owner had appointed a builder to carry out the renovation works but said contractor was unable to commit to a definite timetable due to work commitments elsewhere. Alistair Speedie had replied that his service would be reviewing the case to reach a view on whether or not it would be appropriate to serve a Section 179 Notice.

It was agreed that Matt Kitson would send a robust response, copying in both the Chief Executive and Leader of the Council, as it was felt to be unacceptable that the Council was considering that progress was being made on the basis that a contractor had allegedly been appointed despite the fact that there was no timescale whatsoever attributed to the contract. **ACTION MATT KITSON**

Cllr Geddes advised that he had received no response from James Shirazi, DGHP's Director of Investment and Regeneration in connection with the rebuilding of its property in North Main Street. He undertook to contact him again for an update. **ACTION CLLR A GEDDES**

Machars Federation – Nick Walker said that there was no update as the Federation had not met since the Community Council's last meeting. He reminded Councillors that they were all invited to attend the Federation's AGM on Friday, 3 June, starting at 7:30pm in the County Buildings. He asked that Community Councillors advise him if they intended going along to inform catering numbers. **ACTION ALL COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS**

Community Resilience – No progress to report.

7 WIGTOWN WEEK

Matt Kitson advised that the organising group had met on 19 April to draft an outline programme. It had been agreed that the 2016 community festival would be linked with the Common Riding on Saturday, 2 July. The day would start with a Fancy Dress competition followed by the Crowning of the Princess. The Riding of the Marches would follow, interspersed by music and dancing in the Town Gardens. A variety of other events had been agreed for the subsequent seven days. Matt would be convening another meeting of the group and would arrange for the launch of the Photo Competition. **ACTION MATT KITSON**

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Community Empowerment Conference – A Third Sector D&G conference with a focus on the Community Empowerment Act would be held on Monday, 6 June in the Easterbrook Hotel, Dumfries. Tickets for third sector organisations were offered free of charge and Jak had confirmed that, for the purpose of this Conference, Community Councillors would also be eligible for free tickets.

Data Protection registration – The Information Commissioner's Office had confirmed that the Community Council's registration had been renewed.

NHS – Mental Health Change Programme – NHS D&G would be presenting 'An Overview of Mental Health Developments in Dumfries and Galloway' in the Douglas Ewart High School, starting at 7 pm on 15 June.

Somme Vigil – Matt Kitson confirmed that plans were being put in place for a vigil being held on Thursday, 30 June to commemorate the Battle of the Somme. **ACTION MATT KITSON**

Wigtown Common Good Committee Meeting – A copy of the report re Newton Stewart Traditional Music Festival Association's application for funding from Wigtown and Whithorn's Common Good Funds to be considered at the Common Good Sub-committee meeting on 18 May 2016. The report included reference to the Community Council's determination that the application should be denied as there was a presumption that Common Good funds should be exclusively used for projects of lasting benefit to the Burgh's inhabitants.

8 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Following on from the previous item, Cllr Geddes declared that, while he regarded the Traditional Music Festival to be worthy of support, he considered that the application for assistance should have been directed to the Wigtown Area Committee Discretionary Fund and there was still a possibility that this was an option for the Association.

Cllr McColm was pleased to note that Wigtown & District Community Council had not been among the number of Community Councils that had been disbanded as a result of their failure to adopt a constitution within the prescribed time.

9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Matt Kitson advised that the Community Council had been approached by Wigtown Book Festival Company for a letter of support for a funding application they would be making to Dumfries & Galloway LEADER. The project would see the appointment of a Cultural Tourism Development post with a view to expanding the Book Town's year-round attraction with activities such as writing courses. There was unanimous agreement that the Community Council should provide a letter of support. **ACTION MATT KITSON**

David Moran said that he had circulated the Council's Annual Accounts and they would be Independently examined before presentation at the AGM.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 13 June 2016, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings. AGM to be followed by the normal business meeting.

Appendix A. Consultations Working Party - April 2016

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

- a) **Consultation on landing controls for the Scottish crab and lobster fisheries** – Marine Scotland. Closing date: 20 May 2016

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/marine-scotland/crab-lobster-landing-controls>

Scotland's brown crab, velvet crab and lobster fisheries are of great importance to many of Scotland's coastal communities with landings worth £32 million being recorded in 2014. Marine Scotland is seeking views on landing controls that it proposes to introduce throughout the Scottish coast to protect fisheries.

- b) **Transport Surveys** – SWestrans. Closing date – 27 May 2016

<http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/dgswestrans/index.aspx?articleid=15089>

SWestrans (the Transport Partnership for Dumfries and Galloway) has commissioned Sustainable Transport Options Studies to identify transport problems which affect the area and the surrounding communities on a day to day basis. Individuals can still complete the relevant online surveys for [Dunragit/Glenluce/The Machars/Newton Stewart transport study](#) -

- c) **Community right to buy abandoned, neglected or detrimental land as introduced by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 20 June 2016. *Draft response to be agreed CC's June meeting.*

Part 3A of the 2003 Act gives community bodies the right, in certain circumstances, to buy land without a willing seller, when the land is wholly or mainly abandoned or neglected, or the use or management of the land is causing harm to the environmental wellbeing of the local community.

The consultation addresses the proposed procedures and processes that would apply when communities look to exercise their right to buy. The consultation document is available for download at https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/community-land-team/abandoned-land/user_uploads/00497575.pdf

- d) **Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Consultation on Draft Regulations.** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 20 June 2016. *Draft response to be agreed CC's June meeting.*

Community ownership or control of land and buildings can make a major contribution to empowering communities. It helps to provide stability and a sustainable base from which a community organisation can develop its activities, and can create a stronger sense of community identity, cohesion and involvement.

This consultation is on the draft regulations for asset transfer, along with an indication of guidance and best practice in certain areas. The Scottish Government is seeking wider views on the proposed procedures from relevant authorities, who will be required to implement them, and community bodies who may wish to use them. [Click here to download a copy of the consultation paper.](#)

- e) **Local Policing Consultation.** – Police Scotland. Closing date: None.

Police Scotland has launched a local policing consultation which looks to find out the priorities for policing in local communities. This process takes place each year, but this is the first time the consultation can be completed online. The online consultation is open all year which means you take part when it suits you - as well as giving you the flexibility of being able to resubmit the consultation if your priorities change. Police Scotland say: "The public consultation is for you to tell us what is important to you in your community. Your opinion is valued - we need your opinion to inform our policing. Having your say in the decision making process of Police Scotland is a vital tool for residents of Scotland to be able to shape the way their public services should operate. Everyone's views across Scotland will be taken on board at a national and local level. They want you to help them focus on the priorities that will help communities most. There is no 'one size fits all' approach to local policing and all the needs and wants of individual communities will be considered." Take the survey [here](#). Many of the questions refer to the local area, which for the purposes of this survey, is considered to be the area you stay in. The survey includes 27 questions and should take, on average, up to 15 minutes to complete.

FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

No Forthcoming Consultation

Appendix B. Planning Working Party Report

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL PLANNING WORKING PARTY REPORT FOR FULL COMM. COUNCIL 9.5.2016

Members - Willie McCartney, Robin Richmond, Nick Walker.

New applications

16/P/1/0036 & 16/P/1/0082 REPLACEMENT AND ADDITION OF NEW ROOFLIGHTS, 10 BANK STREET, WIGTOWN. Full planning application and listed building consent.
RECOMMEND – no submission.

16/P/1/0085 REAR EXTENSION, 6 LILICO LOANING WIGTOWN.
RECOMMEND – no submission.

16/D/1/0009 ERECTION OF AGRICULTURAL SHED, EAST DRUMMODDIE, WHAUPHILL.
RECOMMEND – no submission.

Update on applications

16/P/1/0023 ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE (planning in principle), SUNNYBRAE, HIGH STREET, WIGTOWN. UPDATE: Approved with conditions (would need full application for finalising details).

16/P/1/0028 ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE, ETC., CRAIGMOUNT, HIGH STREET, WIGTOWN. UPDATE: Approved.

Renewable energy proposals

15/P/1/0031 SHENNANTON WINDFARM, NEWTON STEWART.

12 turbines, 100m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc.

UPDATE: Pending Appeal (ref. PPA-170-2109); target date for decision was 6.5.2016 but extended and no guidance as to when decision expected.

15/P/2/0053 CALIFORNIA WINDFARM, CARSLUTH.

7 turbines, 110m to blade tip, structures, etc.

UPDATE: Pending Appeal (ref. PPA-170-2107); target date for decision, 16.6.2016.

13/P/1/0366 AUCHLEAND WINDFARM, WIGTOWN.

7 turbines, 130 m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc. UPDATE: Nil.

ACTION

Note report. Agree recommendations.

Nick Walker 8.5.2016