

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 12 DECEMBER 2016**

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**PRESENT**

Willie McCartney <i>Chair</i>	Jak Kane <i>Secretary</i>	Kerr Inger
David Moran	David McAdam	Joe McKeown
Robin Richmond	Nick Walker	Kevin Witt

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Graham Nicol
Tamsin Tyeson, <i>Free Press</i>	Police Sgt Scott	

**APOLOGIES**

Ann Gray	Matt Kitson	Jock McDowall
	Sandra McDowall	

**1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS**

In the absence of Matt Kitson, Vice Convenor Willie McCartney took the chair and welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies had been received from Anne Gray, Matt Kitson, Jock McDowall and Sandra McDowall. There was no urgent other business added to the agenda.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

Sgt Colin Scott, Community Policing Sergeant was in attendance and again outlined the new Police Scotland structure with him based at Castle Douglas Police Station and covering Mid Galloway, Abbey, Dee and Castle Douglas and Glenkens supported in the Machars by two Community Officers – Crystal Martin and Billy Dodds. He said there was to be a re-emphasis on community policing and committed to there being a Community Police presence to every other meeting of all Community Councils with a written report provided by email at other times.

He also mentioned the Police consultation on the viability and value of maintaining some police owned buildings including Whithorn Police Station and looking at alternative service delivery options. It was agreed that the Community Council would send a letter of support for retention of the Whithorn station as a hub for the Ambulance Service and other agencies as suggested by Wigtown Area Committee.

**ACTION JAK KANE**

**3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 14 November 2016)**

The minutes of previous meeting had been circulated. It was agreed that: Cllr Nicol and Bryan Scott's name had been misspelt; ratio of Community Councillors required to support co-options should be two thirds not 75%; Joe McKeown should be included in the list of Community Resilience volunteers; sentence re Bladnoch Core Path should be amended to say that '*Joe McKeown intimated that those at the site meeting agreed that they could see no alternatives*' rather than '*he could see no alternative*'; and the Council should be asked to provide more information re Parking in Square '*to allow for subsequent Community consultation*'.

Subject to these amendments the minutes were adopted, proposed by David Moran and seconded by David McAdam.

**4 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**1: Consultations WP**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting that included a draft response to the consultation on the proposed Solway Firth potential Special Protection Area. It was agreed that the response could be submitted to SNH.

**ACTION JAK KANE**

## 2: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted and it was agreed that no submissions be made on the new applications listed.

Councillors did not participate in the consideration of the subjects of the report.

## 3: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting that showed balances of £1,117.73 in the Admin Account and £4,920.59 in the Festivals Account. He advised that Wigtown Community Shop had made an award of £600 to the Community Council for Christmas Lights. It was agreed that Willie McCartney would attend the award event on 13 December.

## 5 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

**Derelict Properties** – Robin Richmond was able to confirm that some work had been carried out to windows and doors at 24 High Street. It was agreed that the situation should be monitored with pressure maintained if need be.

**Bladnoch Core path** - As agreed at the previous meeting, Matt Kitson had written to the Council's Access Officer, Bryan Scott to confirm that the Community Council contested the closure of the Core path and that all avenues should be explored to keep it. Willie McCartney advised that perversely a 'Core Path' sign had been installed in Bladnoch directing walkers even though access was blocked.

**Christmas 2016.** David Moran confirmed that the event for the switch-on of the Christmas lights had gone well. Thanks were intimated for those who had helped with the installation of the lights.

**McGuffie Memorial** – Nick Walker advised that there was no progress to report other than the application to the Community Shop for funding to cover initial development costs having been unsuccessful.

## 6 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

**DGC Communities Directorate** - Graeme McKie is the new Ward Officer' for Mid Galloway within the new Communities Directorate. Key Roles encompass Community Engagement, Community Development & Empowerment and Community Planning. He will be supported by Donna Hoodless.

**DGC Scrutiny and Performance Committee** - Jak Kane had circulated the link to the DGC Committee report that summarised the key findings from the questionnaires and also put forward recommendations for improving Public involvement to DGC Elected Members.

## 7 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Jim McColm indicated that there were concerns over the school roll numbers at the primary schools in Kirkinner and Garlieston. The Council would be looking into if better use could be made of the school buildings. He also reported that a car had damaged the wall surrounding the car park opposite Kirkinner Primary and would need to be repaired.

Cllr McKie said that he had noticed that the speed indicator sign for traffic travelling north through Kirkinner was not functioning properly.

**ACTION JAK KANE**

Cllr Geddes said that he had attended a Members' Seminar on Digital Connectivity where he had expressed the frustration re the rollout of Superfast Broadband in rural Dumfries & Galloway and the level of mobile phone coverage with many not spots despite the universal service obligation. He acknowledged the contributions of Matt Kitson and Eric Lucas who had provided him with input prior to the Seminar.

## 8 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There was no other business raised or discussed.

## 9 NEXT MEETING

**Monday, 9 January 2017, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.**