

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

[contact@WigtownCC.org.uk](mailto:contact@WigtownCC.org.uk)

[www.WigtownCC.org.uk](http://www.WigtownCC.org.uk)

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Jim McColm	Louise Kerr, <i>Gazette</i>	Paul & Alison Bainbridge
-----------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------

**APOLOGIES**

Ann Gray	Cllr Alistair Geddes Police	Cllr Graham Nicol
----------	--------------------------------	-------------------

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

Matt Kitson, welcomed all to the meeting and thanked Vice Convenor Willie McCartney for presiding at the December meeting in his absence. Apologies had been received from Anne Gray, Cllrs Geddes and Nicol, and the Police. Urgent other business added to the agenda included Station Road, Lorry Park, Resilience, Car Parking, Christmas Lights, Street Lights in Bladnoch and ScottishPower lines at Braehead.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

Matt advised that the Police had advised that no-one was available to attend the meeting but a report would be sent out the following day. Nick Walker pointed out that Sgt Scott had undertaken at the November meeting to provide an update on the arson incidents in Wigtown and this was still outstanding.

**3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 12 December 2016)**

The minutes of previous meeting had been circulated. Nick Walker pointed out that the tender process for local bus services had been discussed. The Community Council had noted its concern about the potential for local bus services to reduce in number and frequency with a detrimental impact for local people especially those with less disposable income and the elderly particularly following the merger of Wigtown and Newton Stewart GP practices. It was to be suggested to Swestrans that they should look at options such as utilising smaller buses which would be cheaper to operate and potentially more flexible. The matter would also be referred to the Federation. It was also noted that Cllr Nicol had been recorded as Cllr McKie within the section on 'Councillors Issues'.

Subject to these amendments the minutes were adopted, proposed by Nick Walker and seconded by Kerr Inger.

Matt Kitson then moved to the issue of Power lines in Braehead so that Mr & Mrs Bainbridge would have the option of leaving the meeting. (*see 8 Other Urgent Business*)

**4 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**1: Consultations WP**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

The Government was consulting on proposed changes to the Councillors Code of Conduct which currently precluded local authority councillors from taking part in council meetings where there might be a conflict of interest between their responsibility as a councillor and their responsibility to an

organisation where they sat on the board as the council's representative. It was agreed that the current situation was detrimental to local organisations whereby Councillors could be prevented from speaking in support of an organisation based in and providing services to members of their electorate. It was agreed that Jak Kane would draft a response to the consultation for ratification at the February meeting.

**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 submission be made on the new application listed. There was a short discussion on the issue of Developer Contributions as part of the planning process particularly with residential development within a school (nursery, primary, secondary) catchment area where the capacity reaches or is projected to be above 80%. Cllr McColm advised that sheltered housing and affordable housing provided through a Registered Social Landlord are exempt. He also said that Councillors had recently asked for a report on the actual level and frequency of Develop Contributions collected.

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

## **5 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.**

***Derelict Properties*** – Work on the North Main Street property was continuing. Robin Richmond confirmed that, while a few works had been carried out there was no sign of the external redecoration. It was agreed that Matt Kitson would write to the Council to ensure that they continue to monitor the situation closely.

**ACTION Matt Kitson**

***Bladnoch Core path*** - There had been no official response from Matt Kitson's letter contesting the closure of the core path. It was agreed that Matt would write again asking for an update on the position and what the Council was doing.

**ACTION Matt Kitson**

***McGuffie Memorial*** – Nick Walker advised that there was no progress to report

## **6 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

***DGC Roadworks*** - There would be traffic lights and a convoy system in operation on the A714 at Causewayend for resurfacing from 9 to 13 January..

***DGC LDP Main Issues Report*** – the first stage in producing the Council's second Local Development Plan, and one of the main opportunities for people to have their say, will be published for 12 weeks' consultation on 30 January. Local drop-in sessions will be held in Whithorn on 2 March and Newton Stewart on 8 March. Further info to follow.

***Various*** – Nick Walker had circulated information re response to tender process for local bus services, A75 updates and information from the Council's Digital Seminar prepared by DGC and the South of Scotland Broadband Alliance.

***Fountainblue Terrace*** – email re situation with parking at front and access to rear of Fountainblue Terrace.

## **7 COUNCILLORS ISSUES**

Jim McColm reported that the principal issue was the Council looking to deal with a budget deficit of £19M with savings of £7M still to be identified by February.

A special meeting of the full Council had been convened to approve the Whitesands Flood Protection Scheme.

Councillors had asked for information from the Chief Executive on a timetable for the proposed roll-out of the household recycling scheme following the lengthy pilot scheme that had been operating in Wigtownshire

## **8 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

***ScottishPower lines at Braehead*** – Mr & Mrs Bainbridge had contacted the Community Council when they discovered that SPEN were to replace an underground line to the rear of their property with an overhead line with poles. Their concern was that there had been no consultation or opportunity to respond and had been advised by SPEN that the responsibility to consult lay with the local authority and the Community Council. It was explained that, while SPEN had attended the Community Council's meeting in September 2015, the only overhead/underground change intimated was that there would be more underground power lines than before. It was explained

that, while notified of the proposed works, the community council had no locus to comment on the related planning issue. It was agreed that Matt Kitson would write to SPEN asking for clarification and in support of reinstatement of the pre-existing underground power line with copies to the local MSP and MP.

**Station Road** - Kerr Inger again highlighted problems with the road surface in Station Road. Cllr McColm advised that Roads Department were aware of the problem and he undertook to contact them again to ascertain if works were planned. Church Lane was identified as a further site that needed investigation.

**Lorry Park** – a suggestion was made that the Lorry Park be redesignated for use by coaches as well as lorries, with coaches dropping passengers off at the County Buildings. It was agreed that the proposal should be added to the ongoing parking review discussions.

**Resilience** – Joe McKeown advised that he would be convening a meeting of Resilience volunteers next week following a meeting he had arranged with Wendy Jesson, DGC.

**Car Parking** – The Council had asked for comments on the bollards that would be used in the new parking scheme at the junction of North and South Main Streets. It was agreed that the Council would be asked if the required signage could be affixed to wooden planters to be looked after by Wigtown on Bloom. The Community Council had agreed on two proposed schemes that would be presented for public consultation at the end of February.

**Christmas Lights** – it was planned for the lights to be taken down on Sunday, 15 January and volunteers were asked to attend from 9:30am.

**Street Lights in Bladnoch** – Willie McCartney reported a fault in one of the street lights in Bladnoch.

## 9 NEXT MEETING

**Monday, 13 February 2017, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.**