

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 10 JULY 2017**

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm	CPC Billy Dodds
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APOLOGIES

Jock McDowall	Ann Gray	Cllr Katie Hagmann
Cllr David Inglis	Cllr Graham Nicol	Tamsin Tyeson, <i>Free Press</i>

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Convenor Sandra McDowall welcomed all to the Community Council meeting. There were four items noted for discussion under Other Business: Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative; Road markings at Station Road; Satellite dishes in Bladnoch village; and Verges leading down to the Martyr's stake. .

2 POLICE MATTERS

Community Officer Billy Dodds reported that there had been a spike in offences in the local area. Incidents included disorder outside licensed premises, windows vandalised by what was suspected as younger offenders, and vandalism of a car and door in New Road. In connection with the last incident someone had been arrested and charged with a public order offence and with possession of a knife. The Police had visited the local licensed premises to remind them of their responsibilities re noise and nuisance both during licensing hours and after closing time.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 12 June 2017)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that the information entered under Item 7 - Councillors Issues - had been carried over from a previous meeting and there had been nothing to record at the June meeting as both Councillors in attendance were only recently appointed. The minutes were adopted subject to this alteration, proposed by Nick Walker and seconded by David McAdam.

5 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Consultations WP

Jak Kane had circulated a report on Current Consultations.

Jak explained that he had included details of the Community Council's short consultation that followed contact from the Bank of Scotland's Local Director re the proposed scheduling of the Bank's mobile service. Initial feedback from the Bank of Scotland had been positive.

The other important consultation was on how the Scottish Government would require Local Authorities to manage Common Good Property including the creation and maintenance of a register and the requirement to consult communities when there are proposals to dispose of common good property. A draft response would be prepared and circulated for comment/input.

ACTION: Jak Kane

Jak had also circulated details of a consultation that had only been received on the day of the meeting, where the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service were seeking views on its draft Local Fire and Rescue Plan 2017 for Dumfries and Galloway.

b: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were four new applications, one of which was the Community Council's application in respect of the McGuffie Memorial Archway for which no reasonable submission could be made: It was agreed that the rebranding signage at the Co-op should be supported but the PayPoint and Lottery signs be opposed as they were out of keeping with the building and the Conservation area. This was also reflected in the decision to object to the installation of uPVC windows and door at 10 Agnew Crescent on the basis that the Community Council should be looking for the integrity of the Wigtown conservation area to be maintained. It was recognised that the new windows would replace existing uPVC windows. It was also agreed that the (partly retrospective) application from the Distillery for replacement windows, doors and roof covering should be supported

ARQIVA had notified the Community Council of their intention to upgrade the antenna tower complex at the top of Lovers' Walk as part of the company's pre-application consultation. It was agreed that the work would allow additional aerials and provide improved mobile services and would benefit the locality as a whole. On the basis that the new tower would be the same height and general shape, the Community Council should advise ARQIVA of its support in principle.

ACTION: Nick Walker

There were no updates on outstanding applications.

Cllr McColm did not participate in the consideration of the subjects of the report

c: Resilience Committee

Joe McKeown reported that he had ascertained that the cost of hiring a crane from 3B to site the emergency generator at Wigtown School would be £760. However, the Council's Clerk of Works, Gavin Church had still to provide the estimated cost of providing the concrete base that would support the generator. He had requested the information again using the CCES and Cllr McColm agreed to chase up an answer.

ACTION: Cllr McColm

The next meeting of the Resilience Committee would be convened for 4pm on 7 August in Machars Action offices.

d: Wigtown Week

Matt Kitson advised that Lorna Cannon from Wigtown was to be this year's Princess and the festival brochures had been printed and distributed. Nick agreed to speak to Jock McDowall re collection of chairs on Friday for use at the Crowning on Saturday and the Church Service, which would be held in the Food Festival marquee, on Sunday. A decision on the BMX taster session was still not finalised as it was dependent on instructor availability.

e: Derelict Properties

The external works on the North Main Street property had been finished and the scaffolding and barriers removed.

Michael Goldie from DGC Strategic Housing Services had written that he was "looking to talk" with the Council's Senior Planner Built Heritage re 24 High Street about what would be allowed with regards to replacement of the front door and front and rear windows. Consequently no new maintenance plan had been issued as the door and windows were the current priorities and the landowner had been allowed an extension as long as contact was maintained. It was agreed that the Community Council should look for monthly reports from Mr Goldie to ensure that the issue remains current with the Council.

ACTION: Jak Kane

f: McGuffie Memorial Update

Nick Walker confirmed that the Wigtown Common Good Committee had made an award of £190 to the McGuffie project, which would cover the cost of the planning process. The next meeting of the organising committee was scheduled for mid August.

6 PARKING AT THE MARKET CROSS

Jak Kane had circulated the results of the consultation into potential design elements that could be integrated into the proposed parking scheme for the town square. It was agreed that the way forward would be for some of the feedback to be sent to Douglas Kirkpatrick with a subsequent meeting arranged so that potentially two fresh designs could be drawn up incorporating some of the elements put forward. These designs would then be presented to the community for further consultation and selection. It was agreed that that designs should clearly demonstrate the routes for buses travelling north and south.

ACTION: Jak Kane/Sandra McDowall

7 CORE PATH BLADNOCH

Tamsin Tyeson from the Free Press had contacted the Community Council the day after its June meeting re a Council report that would recommend extinguishment of Bladnoch Core Path. This was the first that the Community Council had heard of this proposal as there had been no consultation. The Community Council immediately wrote to Alistair Speedie Director of EEI asking that consideration of the report be deferred until proper consultation had been carried out. The letter was copied in to the EEI Committee's Chairman, all four Wigtown West councillors and the two officers who had written the report, Simon Fieldhouse and Bryan Scott. Cllr McColm also raised the issue direct with Alistair Speedie.

Although Cllr McColm was able to later advise informally that a decision on the path closure had been deferred pending wider consultation before the next EEI meeting on 12 September, there was no formal contact or response from Council officers. An email (again sent to the three officers and five councillors) prompted an immediate response from Chairman Archie Dryburgh who confirmed the decision of the Committee. Both Simon Fieldhouse and Bryan Scott were on leave until 17 July but Mr Speedie responded and said that he would ensure that they would be in contact on their return from leave to discuss the way forward.

It was agreed that the Community Council should continue to be proactive and contact Simon Fieldhouse on 17 July to arrange an early meeting.

ACTION: Sandra McDowall

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Drones – Police Sgt Scott had provided the information notice on the use of drones as agreed at the June meeting. Jak had transferred the information to a poster now on display at Machars Action and Scad's

Erosion on façade of County Buildings – Jak had reported the Community Council's concern about the condition of some of the stonework and Jennifer Burns, DGC Customer Services Area Officer had referred it to the Council's Clerk of Works with responsibility for the building.

Graeme McKie, DGC Ward Worker – As agreed a letter had been sent to Graeme advising that he would be welcome to attend any Community Council with the suggestion that he make contact beforehand if he had an issue that he would like to bring up so that it could be included in the Agenda.

Wigtown Riding of the Marches (ROM) – An invitation had been received for all members of the Community Council to attend a 'picnic' at Bladnoch Park to give hospitality to all riders and supporters after the ride on 22 July. The event would start c5pm with food being served from the pavilion.

Martyr's Stake Path – Bryan Scott had been contacted re the condition problems at the path. Jak Kane would chase the access Officer following his return to duty. **ACTION: Jak Kane**

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported that Garlieston Primary School had been proposed for closure and would now be subject to a one year consultation period. Kirkinner Primary School was likewise currently underutilised.

The Council had convened a special meeting to discuss the future of the DGOne Leisure Complex and it had been agreed to continue with funding the programme of repairs to the building despite additional serious defects being discovered. It had been established that the extra finance required above the £10M settlement agreed with Keir Northern was less than it would have cost to

simply stop work and demolish the building. Both the Ryan Centre and Dumfries Ice Bowl were being investigated to ensure the problems were not present in these buildings as well.

10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative – The Initiative's Articles of Association entitled the Community Council to appoint a representative on its Board who could also act as a conduit of information between the two organisations. It was agreed that Jak Kane would be appointed.

Station Road - Kerr Inger reported that fresh road markings had been painted on Station Road despite the fact that the road was due to be resurfaced at some stage. It was agreed to write to Roads Department to ascertain if and when the work was scheduled to be carried out.

ACTION: Jak Kane

Satellite dishes - Kerr also raised the issue of satellite dishes on the front of buildings in the conservation area of Bladnoch village. There had been two dishes but a third had been installed on an adjacent property and there was no record of any of them having planning permission. It was agreed that the issue would be reported to Planning Enforcement.

ACTION: Jak Kane

Verges leading to Martyrs' Stake car park – There was concern that the road from the church to the Martyr's Stake car park was difficult for pedestrians because of the undergrowth and trees on either side. It was agreed that Roads Department would be asked to look at the issue.

ACTION: Jak Kane

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 14 August 2017, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.