

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 14 August 2017**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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	Jock McDowall	Joe McKeown
Nick Walker	Kevin Witt	

IN ATTENDANCE

Louise Kerr, *Gazette*

APOLOGIES

Robin Richmond

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Convenor Sandra McDowall welcomed all to the Community Council meeting. Items noted for discussion under Other Business included: Bin in centre gardens; the Mercat Cross; Bladnoch Bus Stop; Dog bins; pavement at Community Shop; Book Festival; and Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative. .

2 POLICE MATTERS

There was no police representative present to make a report

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

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were adopted, proposed by Nick Walker and seconded by Willie McCartney.

5 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated a financial report that the current balances on the CC Bank accounts were: Administration Account £920.73 and Festivals Account £4,592.36.

He explained that he had submitted the report and claim for the Council grant for administration but the payment was still outstanding. Total expenditure since the start of the financial year was £211.10.

The Festival Account monies was made up of Summer Festival £2,371.43, Christmas Festival £2,158.93 and McGuffie VC Celebrations £62. A detailed breakdown of income and expenditure to date for the summer festival showed a shortfall of £155.67 although some receipts and payments were still outstanding before a final figure could be shown.

b: Consultations WP

Jak Kane had circulated a report on Current Consultations.

Jak had contacted the Bank of Scotland re the new mobile branch service and had been told that they were in the final stages of route planning and hoped to have a schedule produced "shortly".

Following the previous meeting Jak had produced and circulated a draft response to Consultation on Draft Guidance for Community Empowerment and Common Good Property. The paper incorporated feedback from Nick Walker and Matt Kitson. It was agreed that Jak could submit the response to the Scottish Government

ACTION: Jak Kane

Jak had also circulated proposed amendments to the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils. This was the second phase of a Review of the Scheme and the Community Council had made a submission in the first phase with some of their suggestions now included as proposed

amendments. The closing date for this phase of the consultation was 27 October and it was agreed that the Community Council's response would be prepared for the October meeting for approval.

ACTION: Jak Kane

c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated by Nick Walker. It was agreed that the Community Council support the application for Listed Building Consent for the change of roof from concrete to slate at 19 Agnew Crescent on the grounds that it was consistent with conservation ideals as it would see the restoration of a slate roof to part of a C Listed building within the Conservation area. This support would also apply to a related planning application if one was submitted.

It was agreed not to make a submission on the application that would see replacement uPVC windows installed at the front of 11-13 High Street. The proposed style of windows were more suited to the age of the building than the existing windows and the building, although in the Conservation area, was not listed.

It was agreed that no submission be made in connection with the proposed erection of a house next to Ilex, Main Street, Kirkinner. The house would replace an existing building that had been converted into a house.

ACTION: Nick Walker

It was noted that permission without conditions had been awarded to the proposed Footpath and seating at the RSPB's Crook of Baldoon Reserve.

d: Resilience Committee

Joe McKeown reported that the Resilience Committee had met on 7 August and agreed a Budget for the purchase and installation of a generator that would be sited next to the Primary School. He would now meet with Ward Worker Graeme McKie to investigate potential sources of funding for the £20,500 project. Joe also provided figures that showed how the funding obtained from the Wigtown Common Good and Community Safety Fund would be spent.

The Committee had also compiled a list of information and volunteer requirements that would need to be in place.

e: Wigtown Week

Matt Kitson explained that he had been out of the area during Wigtown Week but, from anecdotal reports, the Saturday had again been beset by bad weather, the Car Treasure Hunt was busy and Elizabeth Tindal's activity was better attended in the afternoons than the morning. A judge for the Photo Competition had been found and the winners would be decided by the end of the week with winners posted on Facebook, the website and in the Gazette.

Sandra McDowall proposed that Wigtown in Bloom (WiB) be thanked for the work the group do in maintaining the Town Gardens throughout the year but particularly important during events like the Community Festivals, the Book Festival, the Food Festival and the Riding of the Marches when Wigtown is host to many visitors.

It was also agreed that the Council be reminded that it had been agreed that the Council would aid the WiB volunteers by removing the garden waste from the gardens. The Council should also be asked for the waste bins in the Garden to be emptied regularly.

f: Derelict Properties

Michael Goldie from DGC Strategic Housing Services had reported that the contractor working at 24 High Street will be replacing the front door "shortly". The contractor would also be looking at windows that had been made for the property some years ago but never installed. If they were in good condition, they would be installed also. Michael expected another update next week.

However, he has also asked the Council to price for the relevant work on the front of the property in the event that nothing further is actually done to the property.

g: McGuffie Memorial Update

Nick Walker confirmed that nothing to report with the next meeting of the organising committee scheduled for mid August.

6 PARKING AT THE MARKET CROSS

The results of the consultation had been sent to Douglas Kirkpatrick and a meeting arranged with Lillianne Pool Roads. Two fresh designs will be drawn up incorporating some of the elements put forward for agreement by the Community Council and be presented to the community for further consultation and selection.

ACTION: Jak Kane/Sandra

McDowall

7 CORE PATH BLADNOCH

Sandra and Jak with Simon Fieldhouse, Bryan Scott and Jim McColm to discuss the Council's report on the proposed extinguishment of the Bladnoch Core Path.

Simon and Brian accepted that the Extinguishment had been presented to the Committee prematurely and that the report did not properly represent the views of the community. They said that it would be beneficial to have a formal written submission from the Community Council re retention of the path/loss of access for the Committee's September meeting.

They said they were sympathetic of the Community's position but they see legal action to be the last resort and it would involve considerable expense with no guarantee of success and the money could be better spent on an alternative path.

Jak had circulated a draft submission and it was agreed that it could be sent to council and copied to the four local councillors, chair of the EEI Committee and MSPs. It was agreed that it should also be sent as an open letter to the Free Press, Gazette and BBC Radio Dumfries.

ACTION: Jak Kane

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Planning enforcement re satellite dishes Planning had requested further information re the address and owner of the properties in Bladnoch.

Action: Kerr Inger, Willie McCartney

CCES, DGC Roads overgrown verges and trees –Parish Church to Martyr's Stake Car Park, an order has been raised for the verge maintenance contractor to deal with the growth of verges and hedges in this area.; Fountainblue Terrace, Councillor Jim McColm was looking into the landownership of this particular area as the ground has changed hands. Once ownership is established, the Council will engage with the new owners with a view to resolving the issue.

CCES, DGC Roads Station Road resurfacing – response expected by 18/8

Fairtrade Confirmation that Fairtrade Zone application had been sent to the Fairtrade Foundation. Feedback expected within eight weeks.

SP Energy Networks asking if they could provide information for use on the Community Council's website, posters to display in community spaces or content for use on social media to promote their hotline number so local people know to report power cuts in the event that they happen. Also inviting the Community council to join the SP Energy Networks trusted partner network which would receive quarterly information to this network of councils, local authorities, emergency services and key influencers.

Scotland Transerv A77 north of Cairnryan will be closed for resurfacing the first weekend in September (Friday night till Monday morning) and the subsequent four nights.

Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband Newsletter circulated

Wigtownshire Family Support Group – a letter had been received from the group asking if the Community Council would consider making a donation towards the cost of an inclusive play facility at Stair Park Stranraer. It was agreed that the Community Council did not have any free resources to donate.

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

There were no Councillors present at the meeting.

10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Mercat Cross – There was foliage growing out the joints of the Mercat Cross again. It was agreed that the Council would be asked to ensure that it was removed before the start of the Book Festival. It was also agreed that they be asked to look at the pointing of the monument as this was obviously contributing to the recurrence of this problem.

ACTION: Jak Kane

Bladnoch bus stop – There was previously a seat next to the bus stop in Bladnoch that could be used by elderly passengers. It was agreed that Sustrans be asked to provide a replacement.

ACTION: Jak Kane

Harbour dog waste bin – Although there was a bin at the entrance to the road leading to the harbour, there was no bin at the Harbour car park or adjacent grounds. It was agreed that the Council be asked to investigate if one could be located there.

ACTION: Jak Kane

Book Festival – Sandra McDowall said that Paul Laverty would be appearing at this year's Festival. Paul was brought up in the area and has worked with Director, Ken Loach and has been responsible for a number of successful screen plays including 'Sweet Sixteen', winner of Best Screenplay at Cannes Film Festival. His latest film 'I, Daniel Blake' won a BAFTA for Outstanding British Film and will be shown during the Festival. It was agreed that the Community Council should present Paul with an award to acknowledge his achievements while he is in Wigtown.

ACTION: Sandra McDowall

Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative – Jak Kane advised that the Initiative was holding an Open Meeting on Monday 21 August to discuss the proposed registration of a Community Interest in the Bank of Scotland building with a view to a community buyouts of the building.

ACTION: Jak Kane

Alister Jack – Matt Kitson said that the Dumfries and Galloway Member of Parliament will be holding a 'Meet your MP' event in Stranraer on Wednesday, 30 August between 6pm and 8pm at The Coffee Bean Cafe. **Please note that only constituents who have pre-registered will be admitted. Register attendance by emailing Alister.Jack.MP@parliament.uk.**

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 11 September 2017, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.

Sandra McDowall, Convenor and Jak Kane, Secretary intimated their apologies for absence from the September meeting