

Royal Burgh of Wigtown & District Community Council
Monday 11th September 2017 at 7.30 pm in Wigtown County Buildings

1. Present: Joe McKeown, Kerr Inger, Willie McCartney, Jock McDowall, Kevin Witt, Nick Walker, David McAdam, Robert Harford, Robin Richmond, Matt Kitson.

2. In attendance: Cllr Jim McColm, Euan Maxwell (Free Press), Louise Kerr (Galloway Gazette), Const. Billy Dodds (Police Scotland).

3. Apologies: Sandra McDowall, Jak Kane, David Moran, Cllr Katie Hagmann.

4. Police Matters:

PC Dodds reported that preparations with communities for bonfire and Christmas festivities were starting. There is also a focus on bogus traders in collaboration with Trading Standards. A roadshow is to be held in Stranraer regarding changes which came in, in March 2017, regarding child seats and restraints in vehicles. A leaflet showing the dangers and effects of 'one punch' assaults will be distributed soon.

Parking complaints continue but Police Scotland will tackle only dangerous and/or obstructive parking, and in addition misuse of designated disabled parking bays. Cllr McColm sought clarification about rights to use disabled spaces provided near residences at a resident's request; in law, these spaces may be used by any disabled badge holder.

In the past month, crimes reported included: a horse rescued from the mud by Bladnoch river, three road crashes, a counterfeit banknote, a cat problem, and one arrest for disorderly conduct.

5. Notification of any other business and approval of agenda:

Agenda was agreed, with addition of three items: white refuse bags, guttering on County Buildings, containers located in lorry park.

6. Minutes of previous meeting (14.8.2017):

Minutes were approved – prop. Jock McDowall; sec. David McAdam.

7. Updates and reports:

7A. Financial report...

No update.

7B. Consultations report...

No update.

7C. Licensing report...

Application from Cobwebs, 31/32 South Main Street, Wigtown, for alcohol, on-sales licence Monday to Thursday 11.00 am to 11.00 pm, Friday & Saturday 11.00 am to 12.00 midnight, Sunday 12.00 noon to 11.00 pm. Application refers to restaurant facilities, bar meals, club and other group meetings, within and outwith core hours, and receptions and live performances within core hours.

Few comments had been sent in since Jak Kane circulated the application details, and the deadline for a CC response was three hours after the end of the meeting. Therefore additional information and clarification could not be sought. Several comments were discussed and questions raised: does bar meals imply creation of a bar beyond just being a restaurant? Why do licensed hours need to stretch so much beyond the hours at which food is served? If alcohol

is to be served separate from food, could that risk increased gathering outside and potential antisocial behaviour (such as noise, smoking, litter) in the vicinity? What scale and frequency of performance and other events is envisaged? Are there enough licensed premises in Wigtown already? This restaurant and licence replaces those at Bayview Bistro. There was a strong sense of needing to support local businesses continuing and developing.

Technically, CC could submit four types of response: full support, overall objection, suggestions for condition on licence if granted, suggestions for modification of terms if granted. Eventually, by majority (6 in favour, 3 against, 1 abstention), CC resolved to submit a representation supporting the application in principle, but raising concerns about the apparent extension of hours and implicit suggestion of developing a bar which may allow alcohol sales separate from sale of meals, due to consequential increased risk of antisocial behaviour and over-provision of alcohol sales; suggesting that the Licensing Board consider limiting alcohol sales to accompanying meals and consider reducing licensed hours from the those sought.

CC noted that the applicant had not made contact with the Community Council and regretted that statutory timescales for response prevented seeking clarification before deciding a CC response.

Cllr McColm was present for the discussion but took no part in it.

7D. Planning report...

Report had been circulated by Nick Walker prior to the meeting. Its contents were noted and recommendations agreed. No submission regarding **17/1574/FUL** or **17/1649/LBC**. D&GC had refused **17/1131/FUL** and **17//1132/LBC**, and approved **17/1069/LBC** and **17/1086/LBC**.

Regarding applications **17/1427/FUL & 17/1428/LBC** relating to restoration and renovation of 7 North Main Street, Wigtown, and creation of antique & second hand book shop, in C-listed building in conservation area: CC resolved to submit in support of the proposal.

In addition, after the report was complete, application **17/1337/FUL** for replacement windows at 11-13 High Street, Wigtown, had been approved by D&GC.

Cllr McColm was present for the discussion but took no part in it.

7E. Resilience report...

Joe McKeown indicated that a new resilience fund from D&GC was to open next month and application for generator funding would proceed as previously agreed. Wigtown Common Good Fund grant had apparently not yet been received, and Cllr McColm agreed to chase this up.

The £20K cost of the generator was questioned again, but the decision of earlier meetings was not revisited.

7F. Derelict Properties report...

No update.

7G. McGuffie VC report...

Minutes of last meeting had been circulated. Planning consent is still not through. The Publication is almost ready for the designer to prepare for printing, and one quote is available - £2500.00 for 1000 copies of a high quality product. Further quotes are pending, and funding will be sought, probably through WW1 Centenary funds of which several are available.

7H. Paul Lavery Presentation report...

No update. Matt Kitson agreed to speak with Anne Barclay to ensure preparations are in place.

8. Parking at Mercat Cross:

No feedback yet on parking options following feedback to D&GC from local consultation.

9. Core footpath at Bladnoch:

Report available for meeting on 12.9.2017 of D&GC Economy Environment & Infrastructure Committee. Report notes lack of core paths in this area, and difficulty finding a simple alternative to address Distillery concerns; it also notes local opposition to path closure, from CC, public and other interested groups. It recommends keeping core path 378 open, and seeking legal redress if necessary to do so, at least until full review of core paths in 2018-19. CC agreed to ask local D&GC Elected Councillors to support the report's recommendations.

Cllr McColm was present for the discussion but took no part in it.

10. Correspondence:

CC Engagement evening 3.10.2017, 6.45 pm to 9.00 pm. Topics will include wind farm money and resilience. Two delegates may attend. Nick Walker is attending as a Federation delegate. Joe McKeown offered to attend. Jak Kane may also wish to do so.

Recent short notice meeting arranged through Third Sector First to do with community empowerment. Notice was insufficient to allow CC to attend. Nick Walker to feedback concern about this.

Application for Whithorn Community Good Fund. Agreed this was not relevant to Wigtown CC.

11. Councillors' Issues:

Cllr McColm's issues had all arisen already in the meeting. He agreed to provide a copy of the D&GC Elected Councillors' rota for attending CCs so we are aware which Councillors to expect at our meetings, and when. He noted that vegetation on the new Mercat Cross had been addressed, and CC was grateful.

12. Other Business:

White Refuse Bags (Kerr Inger) – these bags cost 50p each and are for refuse beyond wheelie bin capacity, with advice that other refuse will not be collected. Apparently other refuse is being removed risking residents spending money on white bags needlessly. Cllr McColm agreed to look into this.

Guttering on County Bldgs, along Bank Street (Willie McCartney) – the roans seem to need clearing, and CC was disappointed that recent leaks and repairs due to similar issues had not led to pro-active management of the building. Cllr McColm agreed to raise this issue.

Shipping containers in lorry park (Matt Kitson) – these appeared within previous few days and obstruct parking which will be a problem in Book Festival; if access is needed during Festival, there could be significant disruption. Matt agreed to chase up information and link in with Festival Company about this also.

13. Next meeting:

Monday 9th October 2017, 7.30 pm, County Buildings