



**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN  
ON MONDAY, 9 OCTOBER 2017**

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

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Katie Hagmann	Cllr David Inglis	Euan <i>Free Press</i>
Louise Kerr <i>Galloway Gazette</i>	Dawn Barclay	3 members of the public

**APOLOGIES**

Ann Gray	Jock McDowall	CPO Billy Dodds
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**1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS**

Sandra McDowall welcomed everyone to the meeting and apologised for the confusion that had required the meeting to be moved to the Meeting Room, a room without disabled-friendly access. Apart from having Community Councillors who required disabled friendly access, this could also have precluded some members of the public from attending the meeting. It was agreed that the Community Council's concerns would be passed to the Council. **ACTION: Jak Kane**

Apologies from Ann Gray and Jock McDowall were recorded.

Other business items added to the Agenda Included: Wigtown Library, Containers in the Lorry Park and Duncan Park, Martyr's Stake path and Lovers Walk.

**COBWEBS APPLICATION FOR A PREMISES LICENCE**

Following the September meeting the Free Press had reported that the Community Council (CC) would object to Cobwebs' Licence Application when in fact it had been agreed to support the application in principle but would suggest that alcohol sales be limited to accompanying meals and limiting hours. In response to the press article Cobwebs' owner, Dawn Barclay had written to the CC providing some clarification on her application and addressing some of the concerns raised. Mrs Barclay was present at the meeting and asked that, in view of her additional information, the CC agree to withdraw its objection. A discussion followed and it was agreed that the CC's response to the Licensing Board clearly supported the application, and only suggested modification of the operating plan with regard to issues that Dawn had intimated that were not being looked for in her application anyway. Consequently it was agreed that the CC need not make further representation to the Licensing Board.

Sandra thanked Mrs Barclay for attending and wished her success on her new venture. Mrs Barclay and her supporters then left the meeting.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

CPO Billy Dodds had emailed a report as he would be otherwise engaged in Port William and said report had been circulated before the meeting.

**3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 September 2017)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. The minutes were adopted, proposed by Matt Kitson and seconded by Willie McCartney.

Sandra confirmed that, as agreed at an earlier meeting, a presentation had been made to Paul Lavery during the Book Festival.

## 4 UPDATES & REPORTS

### a: Financial Report

The Treasurer had circulated a report prior to the meeting that showed the breakdown of balances in the Administration and Festivals accounts as at 6 October:

Administration	£1,530.18	Summer Festival	£2,433.43
Resilience	574.65	Christmas Festival	2,158.93
		McGuffie VC	<u>67.00</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£2,104.83</u></b>	<b>Total</b>	<b><u>£4,654.36</u></b>

Jak Kane explained that the Council Administration grant of £678.10 had been received along with a Wigtown Common Good Grant of £506 for Resilience. He had also just received notification that a Resilience grant of £495 would be paid by BACS on 9 October

The only expenditure to report on was in the Summer Festival account with £150 paid to Creetown Silver Band and £24 to Wigtown Bowling Club for use of the Pavilion for teas during the Civic week. Further donations had been received from organisations providing the teas; Machars Young Farmers £100; Wigtown in Bloom £50; Wigtown Guild £50. The deficit for the 2017 Summer Festival now stood at £93.67

### b: Consultations WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting that outlined four current consultations.

Dumfries & Council was looking for responses to the second phase of its consultation on the '**Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils**' with a closing date of 27 October 2017. With almost 50 proposed amendments it was agreed that a working party meet to discuss and agree comments and a draft response circulated well before the closing date. Jak would arrange the meeting and notify all community councillors of details so anyone interested could take part.

**ACTION: Jak Kane**

The Scottish Government (SG) was consulting on its '**Guidance for Local Authorities when carrying out their new duties and functions under Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015.**' Closing date: 17 November 2017. This consultation was the next phase of updating the legislation on allotments. The online consultation specifically looks at the proposed wording of ten sections of the Guidance and consultees are asked to what extent they agree with the wording of each section with an opportunity to add a comment. It was agreed that anyone with an interest should submit individual response through the Consultation Portal.

The SG consultation on '**Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices**' seeks views on options to ensure the longer-term sustainability of the scheme so that free bus travel can continue to benefit those who have the greatest need (by increasing eligibility age from 60 to pension age). It also asks for views on a proposal to provide free bus travel to Modern Apprentices and how that might be taken forward and the provision of free companion travel for eligible disabled children under five who are not currently covered by the Scheme. It was agreed that the CC should submit a response as local bus provision was reliant on the financial support received from this Scheme. Jak Kane would draft a response for comment and approval before the next CC meeting. In time for the 17 November deadline.

**ACTION: Jak Kane**

Another SG transport consultation was looking at '**Local Bus Services in Scotland – Improving the Framework for Delivery**' with a closing date of 5 December 2017. It was again agreed that Jak Kane would draft a response for the November meeting emphasising the importance of local bus provision in rural parts of Dumfries & Galloway.

**ACTION: Jak Kane**

### c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting that featured two new applications. Nick explained the first had been submitted by Arqiva re its replacement 25m Telecom mast. The proposal had been discussed and supported at the CC's July meeting and Nick recommended a submission in support. This was agreed with the proviso that, as the mast was to be accessed via Lovers' Walk, the restoration of the path be included as a condition of the permission.

**ACTION: Nick Walker**

The second application was an updated version of an application for the conversion of Torhousemill to form a dwellinghouse. The revised application has addressed areas of concern in the original application and it was agreed that no submission should be made.

Updates on earlier applications included in the report were noted.

Cllrs Hagmann and Inglis did not participate in the consideration of the subjects of the report.

**d: Resilience WP**

Joe McKeown advised that he had attended a DGC Community Engagement meeting on 3 October where information had been given on a regional grant fund using Windfarm Community Benefit monies that might be a source of funding for the resilience generator.

**e: Derelict Properties**

Michael Goldie, DGC Private Sector Housing Assistant had advised that the Council was still trying to work with the owner of 24 High Street but it was proving difficult. He had now given the owner a deadline and, if not met, DGC would look at instructing contractors to complete the work with the Council recovering the cost.

**f: McGuffie VC Memorial**

Nick Walker confirmed that planning permission had been granted for the Memorial Archway but nothing further to report pending the next meeting of the group scheduled for three weeks' time.

**5 PARKING AT MERCAT CROSS**

Sandra advised that revised designs incorporating some of the elements put forward by the Community Council had not yet been received from Lilianne Pool, DGC Roads. Jak Kane would chase up. **ACTION: Jak Kane**

**6 CORE PATH BLADNOCH**

Sandra said Simon Fieldhouse DGC Environment Manager had advised that, following the Council decision to preserve the core path, the Council had issued a pre-warning letter to the Distillery's owners outlining the process that the Council would be following. This had resulted in communication from its legal representative and a meeting had been arranged for 12 October. He indicated that future communication might be restricted because the issue could be sub judice.

**7 REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER**

Responsibility for aspects of the Remembrance Sunday event were agreed as follows:

Ordering wreaths	Jak Kane
Parade Licence	Jak Kane
Poppy collection	Wigtown Community Shop
Piper	Matt Kitson
Ministers	Nick Walker
Sound system	Willie McCartney

**8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

**DGC Customer Services** – the Clerk of Works had looked at the veranda at County Buildings and had no concerns. He originally thought the damage was water marks on the stones but on closer inspection discovered it was moss.

**DGC – Bladnoch Bus Stop** – DG First had explained that the bench referred to had been placed at the bus stop by a local resident who also maintained the area around the bus stop. They averred that they had not been involved in its removal but had no objection to the community providing a replacement but they did have the funds to install a new bench.

**Scotland Transerv** – Due to Marchburn landslip reinstatement works, the A77 would be closed north of Cairnryan from Friday 3 to Monday, 6 November. Thereafter lane closure and traffic lights would be in place until “early” 2018.

**DGC Roads – Station Road** - Original response had been that Station Road, Newton Stewart that was programmed for works to be carried out in September but Wigtown's Station Road was not currently on the list of outstanding works. An inspection of this road had since been carried out by

the Team Leader Road Network Management West and it would be added to the Forward Maintenance Register and re-assessed with a view to securing funding for the financial year 2018/19.

**Edinburgh Napier University** – Jak Kane had circulated for information the University's report on 'Community Councils in Scotland: Information Literacy for Democratic Engagement'; initial findings from a survey of information practices of community councillors.

**Councillors' attendance at Community Council meetings** – Nick Walker had asked for and received details of the Councillors' rota. Scheduled representation at Wigtown CC's meetings had been extracted and circulated.

**Alister Jack MP** – Alister Jack had provided information on Monthly surgeries that would see him visit Newton Stewart Library from 12 till 12:45 on the third Friday of every month.

## 9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Katie Hagmann said that the Council had decided to 'pause' plans to shut Garlieston, Ae and Kirkbean primary schools at the end of the first phase of the formal consultation process. David Inglis explained that concerns had been raised about the process that had been agreed by the previous administration.

## 10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

**Wigtown Library** - Robin Richmond proposed that a letter of thanks be sent to the Council's Library Service who had delivered an enhanced service throughout the Book Festival. Katie Hagmann also reported that a new collection of Dementia friendly books had been launched at the Library during the Festival with the John McNeillie Library being the first in the region to be awarded Dementia Friendly Space status by Alzheimer's Scotland. It was agreed that a letter be sent.

**ACTION: Jak Kane**

**Containers** – Matt Kitson had pursued the issue of DGHP siting containers in the Lorry Park during the Book Festival and without planning permission. Cllr McColm had interceded and had been told by DGHP that they were unaware of the impending Book Festival and would arrange to resite the containers but nothing had been done. In a similar vein Sandra McDowall reported that two containers had been sited at Duncan Park, again without notification or an application for temporary planning permission. Planning Enforcement had already been told of the four unauthorised containers at Station Yard, Kirkinner but there had been no progress. It was agreed that the Secretary would contact Planning Enforcement re the three issues. **ACTION: Jak Kane**

**Martyr's Stake path and Lovers Walk** The CC had written to the Council's Access Officer re the Martyr's Stake Path which had been reinstated following ScottishPower work but had used unsuitable grade of stone which was causing difficulty for dogs and pram & wheelchair users. There had been no response and it was agreed that the Council be contacted again to pursue the issue. It was agreed to ask the Council at the same time if they could clarify the ownership of Lovers' Walk which was a Right of Way and a Core Path. The issue had been raised by a prospective purchaser of a property at the entrance to the pathway. **ACTION: Jak Kane**

## 11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, 13 November 2017 in Wigtown County Buildings.