



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

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall *Convenor*

Jak Kane *Secretary*

Jock McDowall

Matt Kitson

David Moran

David McAdam

Willie McCartney

Joe McKeown

Robin Richmond

Nick Walker

Kevin Witt

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

CPO Billy Dodds

Kenny Barr, *Festival Company*

Louise Kerr *Galloway Gazette*

Euan Maxwell *Free Press*

APOLOGIES

Kerr Inger

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Kerr Inger were recorded and it was noted that Matt Kitson had intimated that he would be at the meeting but would be delayed.

LICENCE APPLICATION – WIGTOWN FESTIVAL COMPANY

Before proceeding with the business of the meeting, Sandra introduced Kenny Barr from Wigtown Festival Company who was attending to speak to the Festival Company's application for an Off Sales Licence for its shop at 11 North Main Street.

Kenny explained that alcohol sales would not be the primary function of the shop as their intention would be the sale of local, regional and Scottish products with an emphasis on Crafty Gin, Bladnoch whisky and Sulwath beers and the possible sale of Festival-branded miniatures. He anticipated sales through 9-5 business hours with the ability to stay open later during events.

Jak Kane proposed that the Community Council should not make a submission to the Licensing Board neither for nor against, seconded by Matt Kitson. David Moran moved an amendment that the Community Council should positively support the application, seconded by Joe McKeown. The proposal was carried by 6 votes to 3.

Neither Sandra McDowall nor Cllr McColm participated in the discussion and Sandra McDowall did not vote for either option.

2 POLICE MATTERS

CPO Billy Dodds was at the meeting and reported that he had attended the Wigtown Remembrance Parade. He suggested that, with the McGuffie Centenary in 2018, next year's Remembrance ceremony could be more substantial and consequently more stewards might be required. There had been a report of thefts from a North Main Street shop and the police were following a positive line of enquiry. A theft of wood from a local farm had also been reported. The national Drink Drive campaign would be active over the Festive period – 1 December to 2 January. He warned of a phishing scam involving Netflix customers being contacted re the alleged suspension of their accounts. Finally he said that Police Scotland would be supporting next year's designation as the Year of Young People.

3 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with no other business notified.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 9 October 2017)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. The minutes were adopted, proposed by Nick Walker and seconded by Kevin Witt.

5 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 30 October:

Administration	£1,340.48	Summer Festival	£2,433.43
Resilience	1,069.65	Christmas Festival	2,158.93
		McGuffie VC	<u>67.00</u>
Total	£2,410.13	Total	£4,654.36

Jak Kane confirmed that the Resilience grant of £495 had been received from the Council as indicated at last month's meeting. He had also recently received notice that the Council's Area Committee had awarded a grant of £780.40 for Christmas decorations with £400 of the grant to be split between Whauphill and Kirkinner.

A payment for admin had been paid to Machars Action and, as in previous years, he had ordered wreaths for the Community Council and Kirkinner, as well as four other organisations. Invoices had been sent to recover the cost from the external groups.

Jak reported that he was still having difficulty in the Bank of Scotland accepting notification of changes to signatories on the Bank Accounts. He had wrongly assumed that everything would be finalised when he returned another set of signed documents to a Complaints Manager dealing with the issue. However, he had now been notified that there was a mistake on the mandate that had been prepared by the Complaints Manager. It was agreed that once the issue was finally resolved, consideration should be given to looking elsewhere for a banking facility.

b: Consultations WP

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

Jak confirmed that, as agreed, he had submitted a response to the second phase of its consultation on the '**Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils**' incorporating input from Nick Walker.

Draft responses to SG consultations on '**Free Bus Travel for Older and Disabled People and Modern Apprentices**' and '**Local Bus Services in Scotland – Improving the Framework for Delivery**' had been circulated prior to the meeting for comment highlighting the importance of local bus provision in rural parts of Dumfries & Galloway. It was agreed that the responses should be submitted in their current form.

ACTION: Jak Kane

The final consultation was on the '**NHS D&G Out of Hours Service**' and Jak explained that the purpose was to help NHS D&G review how they could improve their Out of Hours Service. The online survey was targeted at individuals.

c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting that featured one new application. Sandra McDowall declared an interest in the application for a new house to be built at Duncan Park and Vice Convenor took over as chair for this part of the meeting.

Nick explained that the house was to be built in an area designated for housing as part of a larger development for which planning consent had been given in 2003. It was agreed that no Community Council submission was warranted.

Updates on earlier applications included in the report were noted.

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

d: Resilience WP

Joe McKeown said that he, along with Nick Walker and Andrew Wilson, had attended a DGC Resilience Training event.

e: Derelict Properties

There was no update available. The Secretary would contact Michael Goldie, DGC Private Sector Housing Assistant for a report for the next meeting.

f: McGuffie VC Memorial

Nick Walker advised that he had circulated the minutes of the organising committee's meeting of 30 October. It had been determined that the centenary event would still be held on 28 September 2018 even though it transpired that it would be the second Friday of the Book Festival and not the

opening Friday as originally thought. This suited the MOD who were keen that the ceremony be held on the centennial date wherever possible and the McGuffie extended family who had been notified of the original date and who may have already made arrangements. Nick and Mike Morley had met with Adrian Turpin and Anne Barclay from the Festival Company to agree outline arrangements and the Festival Company would be represented at future planning meetings.

With regard to the McGuffie publication, funding applications to cover the cost of publication had been sent to the Galloway Association of Glasgow and Wigtown Community Shop. It was proposed that the Community Council would publish the book, as this would make the practicalities of funding and receipts more straightforward and, should there be a surplus generated then that could be retained by the Community Council for the good of the local community and to maintain the McGuffie arch.

g. Parking at Market Cross Update

No progress to report

6 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON

It was reported that Matt Kitson had applied for the road closure on the revised date of Friday, 24 November. The Church Hall had been booked as the County Buildings were not available and the volunteers from the Community Shop had been organised for the refreshments. Creetown Silver Band had been booked and Rev McGarva was liaising with them re carols. Wigtown Princess, Lorna Cannon would be there for the switch-on and Matt was waiting confirmation that the Round Table sleigh would attend. Willie McCartney confirmed that the lights on the trees round the square would be checked this week. Volunteers were needed to erect poles and lights on Saturday, 17 November from 9:30. Jak Kane would organise Posters and fliers as well as putting in a grant application to the Community Shop.

7 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

DGC, Planning Enforcement – contacted via CCES asking them to investigate containers at Duncan Park and the Lorry Park and for an update on Station Yard, Kirkinner. A response had been received advising that DGHP had denied ‘ownership’ of the containers in the Lorry Park even though the containers were being used by one of their contractors.

Galloway Community Hospital Action Group – Information on the Rural Health Services & Rural Hospitals Rally, Stranraer on 28 October had been circulated

DGC Mid Galloway & Wigtown West Ward Worker – Graham McKie had sent details of the Community Resilience Training Exercise in Wigtown County Buildings on Tuesday 7 November 2017.

DGC Communities Directorate – Area Customer Services Officer, Jennifer Burns had responded to the Community Council’s letter complaining about the room mix-up for the CC October meeting. She apologised and asked that the CC agree to use viewing room in November but the Supper Room would be available thereafter. She also undertook the council would look at establishing some form of notice system at the bottom of the stairs that notified people which group was in which room.

DGC Communities Directorate – Area Customer Services Officer, Jennifer Burns had replied to a letter sent acknowledging enhanced Library provision throughout the Wigtown Book Festival. Comments had been passed to the staff and to the Council’s Customer Excellence Delivery Officer.

Digital Scotland Superfast Broadband – newsletter circulated.

DGC CCES- The Council had been contacted again re the unsatisfactory condition of the Martyrs’ Stake path following ScottishPower’s ‘reinstatement’ works using unsuitable grade of stone.

DGC Countryside Access Officer – Reply re question of ownership of Lovers Walk. Lovers Walk is a core path but NOT a Right of Way although it probably meets the criteria for one. Although recorded as a Core Path there are no details of ownership and no record of it being owned by the Council. Richard Masters suggested a property search at the Registers of Scotland (cost c£30) which should perhaps be done by the person asking the question..

DGC Communities Directorate – notification that Dumfries and Galloway has been awarded Fairtrade Zone status.

DGRI - invitation letter to Chairs of Community Councils for a tour of the new hospital on either Wednesday, 15th November at 7:15pm or Friday, 24th November at 1:00pm. Coinvenor Sandra McDowall advised that she would not be able to attend on either day and extended the invitation to any othe Community Councillor who wished to go in her stead..

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm advised that the Council's Budget Savings target for 2018/19 was £17M which represented 5% of the Councils' revenue budget. Over the next five years £81M of savings would be needed, 25% of the current budget. He foresaw that, without the savings being offset by increases in generated income, there would be a loss of services.

He was able to confirm that the Cobwebs' licence application had been approved by the Licensing Board.

There had been 4/5 incidences of street lighting problems in Wigtown which had been caused by storm damage with cables shorting.

There were reported problems with the mobile branch service being delivered by the Bank of Scotland following the Branch closure.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Centenary of Suffrage 2018 – Matt Kitson raised the prospect of the Community Council in some way marking the Centenary of Women getting the vote. It was agreed to add the issue to the December agenda for discussion.

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, 11 December 2017 in Wigtown County Buildings.