



ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN
ON MONDAY, 11 DECEMBER 2017

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PRESENT

Sandra McDowall *Convenor*
David Moran
Robin Richmond

Jak Kane *Secretary*
David McAdam
Kevin Witt

Kerr Inger
Willie McCartney

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Katie Hagmann

CPO Billy Dodds

Euan Maxwell *Free Press*

APOLOGIES

Jock McDowall
Cllr David Inglis

Joe McKeown

Nick Walker

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Jock McDowall, Joe McKeown and Nick Walker had been intimated as well as those from Cllr David Inglis.

2 POLICE MATTERS

CPO Billy Dodds had sent a written report to the Secretary prior to the meeting and it had been wrongly assumed that this meant that he would be unable to attend. However he was at the meeting and offered to answer any questions on the content of his report or on any other issues.

His report gave details of crimes committed locally in the past month including:

- Vandalism to a property in Beddie Crescent
- Vandalism to a vehicle, three assaults, a Breach of the Peace, and a section 38 Criminal Justice and Licensing Act (Threatening and Abusive Behaviour) were all offences outside the County Buildings after a recent party.
- Theft of medication and electrical items from an insecure premises on High Street
- Abandoned vehicle in Harbour Road which turned out to be someone on holiday
- Vehicle Excise offences
- Motor Cyclist failing to display L Plates
- Two Concern for Person Reports

Enquiries were being made in connection with the theft of a motor vehicle from outside Whithorn and a further attempt made to steal a quad bike near Whauphill.

The Police's national Festive Drink/Drug Drive campaign had been launched on Friday, 1 December with the message "It's never acceptable to drive whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs and the risk of being caught is present 365 days a year and not only during the campaign".

Advice from the local crime reduction officer on Shed and outbuilding security is available free and the police encourage people to take up the offer of this free service.

3 NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved with 'Salt Bins' being added as Other Business.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 13 November 2017)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. The minutes were adopted subject to the date of the minute being amended from 9 October, proposed by David Moran and seconded by Willie McCartney.

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 4 December:

Administration	£1,342.04	Summer Festival	£2,433.43
Resilience	1,069.65	Christmas Festival	2,054.57
		McGuffie VC	<u>62.00</u>
Total	£2,411.69	Total	£4,550.00

Jak Kane advised that the only activity on the Admin Account was a payment of £11.44 for admin to Machars Action and the recovery of £66 from two organisations for poppy wreaths with two further payments still outstanding.

On the Festivals account, payments were made for the Christmas tree £600 (including £200 labour), lights £93.76, and advertising £57.50. This had been offset by the collection after the switch-on ceremony raising £66.50 and a grant application had been made to the Community Shop for a contribution to the costs.

b: Consultations WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting that confirmed that responses had been submitted to the Scottish Government 's 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 submitted as agreed at the previous meeting.

The only new consultation to be considered was on Dumfries & Galloway Licensing Boards' "informal" consultation on its '**Statement of Licensing Policy**'. Jak explained that comments could be made on any aspect of the terms of the proposed new Statement of Licensing Policy and responses could go wider than the matters already contained within the current document. He suggested that the Community Council should ask the Licensing Board that when consulting with Community Councils and others on licence applications, instead of just providing a copy of the Appendix which can be misleading, that a copy of the operating and layout plans be provided as well so that consultees have a fuller picture of what the applicants' intentions are. This would perhaps allay concerns based on the scant information provided as at present. This was agreed.

ACTION: Jak Kane

c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting that featured two new applications and gave updates on earlier applications.

The principal new application was one submitted by 3B Construction for the erection of 43 Dwellings and associated works at the Old Showfield. The report set out a list of key issues and asked the Community Council to consider arranging a survey of community opinion to contribute to a formal response from the Community Council. After a short discussion it was agreed by a majority of those able to vote that there was no desire to conduct any survey on the application given that members of the public, particularly neighbours, had the individual opportunity to respond to the application. It was suggested that there was still the opportunity to take the issue to Local members on the Planning Committee. Given the size of the development and the number of current objections, the application would be considered by the Planning Committee and tot by officers using delegated authority. Three of the Community Councillors present at the meeting (Jak Kane, Robin Richmond, Kevin Witt) were also Directors of Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative which had a Community Right to Buy interest in the site and consequently had a conflict of interest and did not participate in the decision..

An application for Full planning permission had been submitted in connection with a new Slate roof for Linmara, Agnew Crescent. The Community Council had supported the earlier application for Listed Building Consent for the works which had been granted and it was agreed that no submission on this application was required.

The Community Council had objected to an application for replacement uPVC windows in a C listed building in Agnew Crescent and the Council had refused permission. The decision had been appealed against and the CC's original objection would be considered as part of the appeal process.

The applications in connection with the installation of 12 LPG Storage Tanks and the Erection of a Replacement Hopper at Bladnoch Distillery had been considered by Committee on 7 December and Cllr Hagmann was able to confirm that both applications had been approved, the latter with the condition that it be painted grey or black to reduce visual impact. She reported that the committee felt (as in the case of the Hopper) that they were too often faced with little choice when retrospective applications involved development or economic benefits that carried weight in favour of the applications. New planning legislation would give local authorities the ability to charge more for retrospective applications.

Cllr Hagmann did not participate in the consideration of the subjects of the report other than providing information on the Distillery decisions already made.

d: Resilience WP

No update

e: Derelict Properties

An update from Michael Goldie, DGC Private Sector Housing Assistant had been circulated. He reports that the owner was arranging for a key to be cut that would allow Michael access to the inside of the property. The Contractor who was supposed to be fitting the new front door and bringing the box window frames would be chased up. The owner had also indicated that he would be willing to listen to offers if someone was interested in buying the property and Michael was offering to act as go-between. Willie McCartney agreed to pass Michael Goldie's contact details to a neighbour who had indicated an interest in the past. **ACTION: Willie McCartney.**

f: McGuffie VC Memorial

The next meeting of the Committee was scheduled for 20 February 2018.

6 Overgrown Verges Fountainbleu/Storage Containers

Sandra McDowall had reported the danger posed to vehicles due to the overgrown nature of Couthy Brae trees at the side of Fountainbleu. A tree had come down at some stage, had been pushed back in and was in danger of bringing the whole lot down if something was not done soon. An email was sent to Cllr McColm re the escalation of the issue and, given the potential threat to public safety, asked if he could go back to Roads to have something done irrespective of any ownership issues. Cllr McColm had asked Stuart Caven, Roads to investigate.

DGC, Planning Enforcement had been contacted via CCES asking them to investigate containers at Duncan Park and the Lorry Park and for an update on Station Yard, Kirkinner.

Lorry Park: Response from Billy Murray (sent to us by Cllr McColm) advised that Planning permission was not required as provision of moveable structures required in connection with operations linked to the land (on, in, under or over land adjoining the land) was deemed to be Permitted Development. We had replied, questioning the interpretation of the operations being carried out on "land adjoining that land" given that work was being carried out across the Machars and not just Wigtown, and nowhere near the Lorry Park. Planning Inspector Emma Stewart separately had identified that the containers were placed on the site by Mitie Property Services, who were contracted to do work in the area on behalf of DGHP. She contacted DGHP once again and they assured her that they had requested that Mitie remove containers as soon as possible.

Duncan Park:- Of the three containers, one belongs to PS Carpets and two to Jack Vance. Both parties were sent letters requesting they either remove the containers from the site or apply for planning permission. Mr Vance and his agent both called and stated that they will submit an application within 4 weeks. No communication has been received from PS Carpets as yet, despite the Planning Inspector having spoken with them advising that planning permission was required to site the container.

Station Yard, Kirkinner:- Despite some issues on the site having been addressed and assurances from the party concerned that retrospective planning application would be submitted, to date, no such application has been received. The Planning Inspector is continuing to pursue the matter.

7 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH-ON and LOOKING AHEAD TO 2018

The Switch-on was reported to be a very successful event and Sandra McDowall said that thanks should be given to all who were involved in the organisation and running of the event with

particular thanks to Willie McCartney and David Moran. It was agreed that a small sub-committee should be convened early in the new year to discuss 2018 festivities.

8 UPDATE OF TOWN MAPS

The updating of the maps in the two notice boards at the square had been mooted. BDS in Dumfries had the original artwork and provided an estimate of indicative costs totalling c£1,100 (£864 design, £240 production). It had been suggested that the cost might be included within the McGuffie project as the soon to be renamed gardens could be highlighted in the new version. It was agreed that a letter be sent to all businesses that would be indicated on the updated map explaining why an update was needed and asking for a voluntary contribution towards the cost.

ACTION: Jak Kane

9 PROPOSED BI-MONTHLY MACHARS MAGAZINE

This had been suggested for the agenda by Matt Kitson who was not present at the meeting so the discussion was deferred.

10 WIGTOWN WEEK 2018

This had been suggested for the agenda by Matt Kitson who was not present at the meeting so the discussion was deferred.

11 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

DGC CCES Countryside Access Officer - Martyrs' Stake path. Richard Masters asked Access Ranger Ross Gemmell to investigate and 'see if anything could be done'. We replied advising that that we wanted them to do more than "see if anything can be done". We wanted ScottishPower to reinstate the path to its previous condition. Ross Gemmell phoned to ask how much gravel he should bring in his trailer to repair the damaged walk. Told him that it was not a cross section of the path but along its length. Richard Masters subsequently emailed Kenny Hope of SPEN highlighting our complaints about the condition of the reinstated surface on the Martyr's Stake path where power cables were recently installed by SPEN and asking him to "see if anything can be done to improve the situation" explaining that the path is a popular route so the surface needs to be of good standard, suitable for all users. No response from Kenny Hope.

DGC Roads – Yellow lines South Main Street/Agnew Crescent junction. Roads advised that Lining works were being carried out within the Wigtownshire area and the location referred to formed part of these current batch of works which was programmed to be completed by the end of November.

Wigtown Harbour hide:- Message received from Bill Cluckie advising that the bird hide was in need of urgent repairs and asking the Community Council to make some arrangement with D&G Council to assist with this much needed maintenance. Letter sent to Simon Fieldhouse asking him to look into the situation and the possibility of repairs being carried out by volunteers with the Council providing materials. Simon to have a chat internally and see what could be done.

Streetlights Kirkinner: Streetlights in St Kennera Terrace were out and fault was reported and fixed but lights now on permanently. Fault had been reported in October and, when chased, was told that faulty sensor that caused the lights to stay off will have been overridden and lights will be on until faulty sensor replaced.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Hagmann reported that the Full Council would be considering the proposed Local Development Plan 2 at its meeting on Tuesday 12 December 2017. The Council would be asked to approve the proposed Plan and agree to publish it for 8 weeks from Monday, 29 January 2018 for consultation.

They would also be looking at a report on the Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils and considering motions on Transitional State Pension Arrangements for 1950's Women, Time for Inclusive Education (Tie) Campaign and Shelter's Call for Action on Homelessness.

She also advised that the Galloway and Southern Ayrshire Biosphere would be hosting a Land Use event at the end of January 2018.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Salt Bins – Sandra McDowall advised that there had been a salt bin at the top and bottom of High Street for use during cold spells but was no longer in situ. It had also been reported that other bins were waterlogged and it was not clear that the Council monitored the level or condition of the salt. It was agreed that the Resilience Committee should be asked to look to incorporate treatment of icy/snowy paths within its remit rather than just concentrating on rare major events such as power cuts and severe snow. **ACTION: Joe McKeown**

The secretary would write to the Council to ask why the High Street bins had been removed and to ascertain the criteria for additional bins to be sited around the town. **ACTION: Jak Kane**

Kevin Witt volunteered to monitor the existing bins for contents and condition. **ACTION: Kevin Witt**

Centenary of Suffrage – Again in the absence of Matt Kitson who had broached the subject, the issue was deferred until the January meeting.

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, 8 January 2018 in Wigtown County Buildings.