



ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN
ON MONDAY, 12 March 2018

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PRESENT

Sandra McDowall, Convenor

Jak Kane *Secretary*

Kerr Inger

Matt Kitson

David McAdam

Willie McCartney

Jock McDowall

Joe McKeown

Robin Richmond

Nick Walker

Kevin Witt

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

Alan McDowall

Cora Sharp

Jack Vance

Charlotte & Natasha

Euan Maxwell *Free Press*

APOLOGIES

David Moran

1 APOLOGIES

Nick Walker had notified the Secretary that he had been delayed and would not make the start of the meeting but would arrive as soon as he could.

David Moran had sent his apologies for absence via Nick Walker but the message was not received until after the meeting,

Sandra McDowall acknowledged the attendance of three community members who were present in connection with a planning matter due for discussion. She explained that normally the consideration of the Planning Working Party Report would be brought forward in the Agenda to enable them to leave earlier in the meeting. However, she explained that the item would need to be deferred until Nick Walker, Convenor of the Working Party, arrived.

2 POLICE MATTERS

There was no police officer in attendance and a written report had not been received.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with the addition of Plastic Straws, Core Paths, and Wigtown Festivals.

PLASTIC STRAWS

Two local girls, Charlotte and Natasha, had asked permission to address the Community Council on the subject of the banning of plastic straws and, at this point, Sandra McDowall invited them to speak on the issue so that they could be excused from the rest of the meeting.

The young girls explained that there had been growing widespread concern about the impact of plastic waste on marine life, including discarded plastic straws. They had already approached bars, restaurants and cafés in Wigtown to ask that they stop providing plastic straws to customers and to replace them with biodegradable paper straws, in an attempt to cut down on marine pollution.

They were now asking for support from the Community Council through sponsorship for a design competition for primary school pupils that would see the design of a poster that could then be printed and used to highlight the issue.

The Community Council thanked the girls for their presentation and agreed that the project was a worthwhile one. It was also agreed that the Community Council would demonstrate its support through providing prizes and covering the cost of printing the winning poster.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday,12 February 2018)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

The Treasurer had circulated a report prior to the meeting showing the breakdown of balances in the Administration and Festivals accounts as at 6 March 2018:

Administration	£1,533.04	Summer Festival	£2,433.43
Resilience	1,069.65	Christmas Festival	1,986.56
		McGuffie VC	<u>3,073.00</u>
Total	<u>£2,602.69</u>	Total	<u>£7,492.99</u>

Jak Kane explained that the only movement in the Accounts since the February meeting had been the receipt of £2,000 from the Galloway Association of Glasgow and £600 from Wigtown Community Shop - both for the McGuffie VC commemorations.

He also advised that, following the previous complaint to the Bank of Scotland that had resulted in the Bank awarding compensation, he had made another complaint. This time the Bank had processed a cheque issue by the Community Council for 20p more than the amount of the cheque. He had given the Newton Stewart branch the opportunity to make the correction needed but they were unhelpful at best. The Bank's Customer Services had upheld the complaint and would be making the 20p correction on the account, awarding £25 compensation for the inconvenience and £8.10 mileage costs for the return journey to Newton Stewart.

Jak proposed that the £25 should be used to sponsor prizes for the plastic straw competition and this was agreed. Matt Kitson undertook to pass on news of the award to the organisers.

b: Consultations WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting with information on five Council consultations.

Local Development Plan (LDP2) – Following the February meeting Nick Walker had suggested a consultation representation could be made on Open Space. Jak Kane explained that it was not appropriate at this stage of the consultation as the relative *Supplementary Guidance 'Part 3 Open Space Settlement Account and Part 4 Protected areas of Open Space'* would not be reviewed and updated until after the adoption of LDP 2.

Review of Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils – A draft response to the third phase of the review had been prepared and circulated. Issues covered include feedback on specific areas of the Scheme of Establishment: Format; Code of Conduct; Elections, Minimum Numbers. It was agreed that a final response incorporating any further feedback would be submitted to the Council before the closing date of 30 March.

Two of the consultations were listed for information only as they were not looking for views from organisations such as the Community Council. The **Parental Satisfaction Survey for Schools 2018** was a short online survey for parents with children at school and the **Community Assets Customer Satisfaction Survey** was another similar short online survey to be completed by individual members of the community

Licensing Policy Statement Review – the Community Council had responded to an earlier phase of consultation at the end of 2017. This phase of online consultation covered a range of issues including Licensed Hours, Festive Hours extensions, Outdoor drinking areas, Children & Young People aged 0-17, Suggestions for promotion of the Licensing objectives and Overprovision. It was agreed that Jak Kane would download the survey and draft a response for circulation. The 31 May closing date would give the opportunity at the April meeting to decide if a separate meeting would need to be convened to agree a final response.

c: Planning WP

Deferred until arrival of Nick Walker.

d: Resilience WP

Joe McKeown said that, in accordance with the decision made at the February meeting, an application for a £10,000 grant from the Kilgallioch Community Fund had been submitted. The Awards for All Scotland application would not be made until a decision had been received from the Kilgallioch application.

f: McGuffie VC Memorial

Deferred until arrival of Nick Walker.

Nick Walker joined the meeting

c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The principal issue to be considered was the response to the application for the proposed erection of eight industrial units and the siting of two temporary containers at Duncan Park, Wigtown. ***At this stage Sandra McDowall declared a conflict of interest and left the meeting with Willie McCartney taking over the chair.***

Nick advised that there had been 13 objections to date and listed a number of issues to consider in relation to the proposal. Alan McDowall and Cora Sharp were given the opportunity to express their concerns about the proposed development as neighbours to the piece of land where the units would be built. Jack Vance, as applicant, was also given the opportunity to speak about his plans and said that he was willing to modify them both with regard to issues such as the number of units and design elements like wall and roof finishes. There followed a general discussion on the issue and it was agreed that the Community Council should make a submission in support of the proposed provision of additional industrial units at Duncan Park in principle, but outlining all the concerns highlighted in the Planning Report some of which also appeared in the objections already lodged.

Sandra McDowall returned to the meeting and resumed as Chair.

The Planning WP Report recommended no submission on two other applications (Southfield Park and Wind Turbine at Balcraig Moor) and this was agreed by the meeting.

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

f: McGuffie VC Memorial

Nick Walker advised that the next meeting of the organising committee would be held on 20 March 2018 and the group's application for Wigtown Area Committee funding was due to be considered at a meeting on 14 March. Galloway Preservation Society had indicated that they would be making a £500 contribution towards the cost of the celebrations.

7 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Alister Jack MP – had originally written to say that he was "*keen to have more engagement with Community Councils in D&G*" and had proposed that he or a member of his team attend one of Wigtown CC's meetings. A second letter had been received advising that, rather than him attending individual community council meetings, he had now scheduled a meeting in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart @ 12pm on Saturday, 21 April to which a group of CCs would be invited. An RSVP had been requested and it was agreed that Robin Richmond would attend.

Graeme McKie, Ward Worker - circulated info on the introduction of dedicated web pages on the Dumfries and Galloway Council website for each of the 12 Wards within the region. If WDCC felt it would be useful for Graeme to attend one of its regular meeting over the coming weeks/months he should be contacted.

DGC Budget - circulated details of Council Budget 2018/19 as agreed by Council on 27 February 2018.

Emma Stewart, Planning Enforcement- Containers – Planning applications had now been submitted in connection with the two Wigtown container sites. Regarding the Station Yard site at Kirkinner, Emma had again contacted the agent who lets out this site to ask for a progress report. She will keep us up to date as much as she can and is keen to see either an application submitted or the removal of the containers.

Galloway National Park Association Newsletter – Digital copy had been circulated. Article included details of a meeting to promote Galloway becoming Scotland's next National Park - Beltie Books, Wigtown @ 6pm on 4 May

Sustrans – Circulated information on Active travel funding opportunities with details of Sustrans' Community Links grant funding to encourage and enable walking and cycling in the community together with attached guidance booklet. Funding was directed at areas more urban than Wigtown.

DGC Roads - As part of Transport Scotland's strategic trunk road maintenance programme, Scotland TranServ will resurface 2.5 kilometres of the A75 between Newton Stewart and Kirkcowan. The £350k programme will be split into two phases, starting at 7pm on Saturday, 17 of March with the Benfield to Blackhill Croft stretch of carriageway. The second phase West of Blackhill Croft will follow on, with completion by 7am on Friday, 30 March.

Grit Bins - Mike Hawkes advised that Dumfries and Galloway have a Winter Service Operation Plan that sets out the policy regarding the placing of grit bins. The document can be downloaded from <http://egenda.dumgal.gov.uk/aksdumgal/images/att44902.pdf>.

The Council's 'Winter Treatment map' shows the location of three grit bins in Wigtown (Lochancroft Lane [M044] and two in Bank Street [C037 top, M043 bottom]). Grit bins should be marked with the Council's logo, a unique identifier and the Council's Call Centre telephone number (030 33 33 300) to arrange refills.

New salt/grit bins will not normally be provided on primary precautionary salting routes, or within 250m of an existing salt/grit bin location.

Salt/grit bin usage is monitored over a rolling 3-year period and where there is a history of little or no usage, they may be removed for re-deployment. They will soon be undertaking a review of salt bin locations within D&G which will allow them to identify the needs of the community and if existing bins are being utilised or not, resulting in possible relocation to areas with greater need. Any information from CC's that will aid the review would be appreciated.

Cllr McColm had undertaken to find out if the Council had any supplies of fine salt suitable for use with the pavement grit spreaders provide to Community Resilience groups. DGC Roads Network had advised him that the Council don't have a supply of the fine/white salt needed and, at this stage of the winter season, none would be purchased due to pressures on the Winter budget.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm confirmed that the Council's budget for 2018/19 had been agreed. The Council had agreed a 3% increase in Council Tax along with removing spending of almost £10M. There would be no compulsory redundancies but the Mobile Library service would be cancelled. Two draft budgets had been presented to councillors at the meeting – one from the Administration and one from the Conservative and Unionist group. The latter version would have retained more funding for Area Committees but would have provided £600K less for bus services. The Council had now made a total of £86M of savings since 2010 and would be expected to make somewhere in the region of a further £48M of savings over the next three Financial years.

Cllr McColm reported that the Council had hosted a Participatory Budgeting (PB) event in the County Buildings on 10 March. Participatory budgeting allows members of the public to prioritise spending on projects and gives them the power to make real decisions on how money is spent. There were 15 Wigtownshire projects looking for support with a maximum grant of £20,000 out of a Wigtownshire budget of £48,240. The event gave people the opportunity to find out more about the different projects that had applied and voting for those that they felt would have the greatest impact in their local communities. Anyone aged 12 plus and a resident in DG8 & DG9 was eligible to take part and vote.

The general impression of the Community Council was that there had been limited prior information about both the initial application process and the PB event which consequently reduced the number of people who would have attended to 'participate'.

Finally, Cllr McColm confirmed that he had engaged with the owner of Wigtown Post Office re non-domestic Rates for businesses.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Core Paths – Jak Kane confirmed that he had recently contacted Simon Fieldhouse for an update on the reinstatement of the Martyr's Stake path. He had also asked if there was anything that could be reported re the Bladnoch Core Path.

Wigtown Festivals – Nick Walker was able to advise that the 2018 Riding of the Marches would be held on 14 July in conjunction with the Food Festival scheduled for 14-17 July. Matt Kitson said that he would not be able to lead on the planning for the Summer Festival due to demands on his time elsewhere but could do an event within the programme. It was agreed that a meeting of the Wigtown Week Sub-Committee (Sandra McDowall, David Moran, David McAdam, and Matt Kitson) would be convened for 7:30pm on 23 April 2018. A poster would be designed inviting volunteers to the meeting and asking for expressions of interest for events for the programme.

Windyhill Cemetery Gate – David McAdam reported that the gate at the cemetery was difficult to open and needed attention.

Wigtown Square parking – It was agreed that the Council should be contacted again for an update on the way forward.

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held at 7:30 pm on Monday, 9 April 2018 in Wigtown County Buildings.