

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 19 APRIL 2018**

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

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Katie Hagmann	Cllr Graham Nicol	PC Billy Dodds
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**APOLOGIES**

Matt Kitson	Jock McDowall	Cllr David Inglis
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**1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS**

Convenor Sandra McDowall welcomed all to the Community Council meeting. Items noted for discussion under Other Business included: Baldoon Memorial, Book Town 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Potholes and the Federation of Community Councils.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

PC Dodds explained that this would be his last appearance at a Community Council meeting as the local Community officer because he would be moving to another post in the force.

Recent incidents included a report of a Domestic Incident in Baldoon. Also a man had fallen through a roof on a workshop on the Bladnoch Estate. There had been significant concerns for the man at the time of the incident, however it was understood that the injuries sustained were no longer life-threatening.

In the coming month, the Police would be working on 'Monarda', the annual operation against Doorstep Crime. Working with Trading Standards, the Police would be raising awareness of scammers targeting vulnerable people.

Sandra thanked PC Dodds for his work in the community and wished him well in his new post.

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

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

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

**a. Core Paths – Martyrs' Stake and Bladnoch**

Jak Kane said that he had again written to Simon Fieldhouse asking for an update on the restoration of the Martyr's Stake path and, if he was in a position to comment, on the Bladnoch Core Path but had received no response. Cllr Hagmann said that, as a member of the Outdoor Access Forum, she would pursue the issue on the CC's behalf.

**b. Wigtown Festivals**

An organising committee meeting had been fixed for the evening of 23 April. It was agreed that the Secretary would design a poster calling for volunteers and inviting people to attend the meeting.

**c. Cemetery Gate**

Jak Kane explained that the gate ran on a metal rail and he had cleared the mud that had covered the rail and was making the gate difficult to open.

**d. Wigtown Square Parking**

The Secretary would get in touch with Roads Department to chase the revised layouts of the roads and parking options.

**e. No 11 Ramp**

Sandra McDowall reported that she had taken up the issue of the ramp at the side entrance to No 11 with the Festival Company. The temporary ramp would be highlighted with hazard tape to make it more noticeable.

**6 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**a: Financial Report**

Jak Kane had previously advised that there would be no monthly Finance Report as the only movement in the Bank Accounts had been receipt of the £25 compensation from the Bank of Scotland, mentioned at the previous month's meeting. Since then a cheque for £200 towards the McGuffie VC project had been received from the Stranraer Branch of the KOSB Association.

**b: Consultations WP**

Jak Kane had circulated a report on Current Consultations.

The Local Licensing Board was consulting on the review of the Statement of Licencing Policy with a closing date of 31 May. It was agreed that Jak would draft a response and circulate it for comment with a revised version to be presented to the CC's May meeting for approval.

The Scottish Government was to create a new Enterprise Agency for the South of Scotland covering Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders. They were consulting on what people wanted from this agency and how best it could help the South of Scotland. It was agreed that a CC response was warranted and, again, Jak Kane would draft and circulate something for consideration at the May meeting.

Finally, Dumfries & Galloway Council were conducting its annual satisfaction survey on the support it delivers to Community Councils through the Communities Directorate Business Management Team and their Ward Officer. It was agreed that the Secretary had most contact and could represent the CC's verdict and any individual community Councillor who wanted to, could take the opportunity to share their own opinions through the survey.

**c: Planning WP**

A report had been circulated by Nick Walker. The only new application was a resubmission for Planning Permission and Listed Building Consent for replacement windows at 10 Agnew Crescent, Wigtown. The only change to the applications that had been refused permission and had been appealed unsuccessfully was that the front windows would now be timber sash and case with the rear windows being uPVC as previously. It was agreed that no submission should be made as Planning had indicated that the Council could still not support the revised proposals.

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

**d: Resilience Committee**

Joe McKeown confirmed that an application had been submitted to the Kilgallioch Community Fund for funding for the Resilience project and he had received an acknowledgement.

**e: McGuffie Memorial Update**

Nick Walker had circulated the minutes of the last meeting of the McGuffie held on 20 March. He said that a decision on the application to DGC's Wigtown Area Committee would now be taken at a meeting convened for 13 April. The KOSB Stranraer Branch had contributed £200 towards the McGuffie celebrations and the Dumfries Branch had contributed KOSB merchandise that could be sold with all proceeds going to the project. The McGuffie VC book had been delivered to JB Print and the printed versions were expected back within a week or so.

Nick circulated a draft commemorative First Day Cover specific to the McGuffie VC event that had been produced by the British Forces Philatelic Service. These would be used as a memento of the day and sold, again with proceeds coming the Community Council. As the Community Council had yet to contribute financially to the project, it was agreed that it would cover the £400 cost to produce the First Day Covers.

**7 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

**Cemetery Parking** - DGC, Communities' Karen Brownlie reported that she was aware that there had been discussion many years ago in relation to the parking situation at the cemetery and there were thoughts of perhaps looking at a parking area in the forest on the left prior to the cemetery (which she said was not Council owned land).

As far as she was aware, there were no plans drawn up for this and there was currently no capital budget available to do the work. The project was currently not on any capital list to progress works but she would put it forward as a project but realistically this would not be for another 2-3 years and the Council's initial step would need to be purchase of the land.

Willie McCartney said that, as far as he was aware, plans had been drawn up by former DGC officer, David McRobert for parking for c17 vehicles and that the land in question was Common Good land.

**Pavements** - The Community Council had been asked to raise the issue of the metal rain gullies that transected the pavements of North and South Main Streets, Wigtown. The recent trend of combined wet and freezing weather had seen these metal boxes present a slip hazard with ice forming on the top and there had been three incidents reported. The Secretary had written to ask the Council if the existing gullies could be modified so that they became non-slip or replaced so that the surface was a non-slip grating rather than smooth metal.

**ICO** – The CC's Data Protection registration was due for renewal and a £35 direct debit payment would be taken on 3 May.

**BT Payphones** - Following the 2016 consultations on payphone kiosk removals, BT had now been in contact re the adoption of the Bladnoch red telephone kiosk. They needed a completed contract together with a cheque for £1, payable to "British Telecommunications plc" and it was agreed that the Secretary should conclude the arrangement. Kevin Witt was leading on the project and there would be consultation to decide what would be done with the kiosk once ownership was transferred.

**Scottish Community Councils Website** – The Newsletter had been circulated.

**Baldoon Memorial** - Local resident, John L Webster had written suggesting that a plaque or some kind of memorial should be erected to recognise the contribution made by those serving at Baldoon airfield during WWII.

**Equal Right of Appeal inclusion in Planning Bill** - An email had been circulated re Planning Democracy Scotland's campaign for a fairer planning system in Scotland,

including Equal Right of Appeal (ERA) for communities. It outlined ways for CCs and individuals to support the campaign.

**SUP/SoSEP** - Southern Upland Partnership was organising a series of Consultation events on the South of Scotland European Partnership and the new South of Scotland Enterprise Agency. Nearest consultation event for Wigtown would be at the Creebridge House Hotel in Newton Stewart at 7pm on 16 May. Registration and details of all consultation events could be found at <http://www.sup.org.uk/sosep.asp>.

## 8 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

The Councillors reported that there were no issues which they needed to raise. They would both be attending the forthcoming Area Committee meeting that had been convened to consider the funding applications that had been deferred at the Committee's previous meeting. Cllr Hagmann would be at a meeting of the Access Forum at the end of May when she would look for a full progress report on both the paths discussed earlier in the meeting.

## 9 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

**Baldoon memorial** – It was agreed that this was a worthwhile project that would perhaps be more achievable if and when Lottery funding became available for the centenary of WWII. It was suggested that the 2018 RAF centenary might offer a possibility of support and it was agreed that the Secretary would investigate.

**Pot holes** – Concern was raised at Local pot holes including a large hole near the Wigtown bus shelter and one at Maidland corner and, while at the meeting, Nick Walker reported both using the hotline on the Council's website. Community Councillors were urged to act immediately to report faults with roads, pavements and street lights via the Fault reporting page on the Council's website to expedite repairs.

**Wigtown Book Town 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – Sandra explained that the Association of Wigtown Booksellers was organising a Garden Party to celebrate the anniversary of Wigtown becoming Scotland's Book Town, starting at 3pm on Wednesday, 16 May in the Town Gardens. They had commissioned a willow sculpture that would be in the gardens for the party and all community councillors were invited

**Broader Machars Federation of Community Council** – Nick Walker reported that the next Federation meeting would be held on Thursday, 19 April 2018 and the main issue to be discussed would be Roads with representatives from Transport Scotland & DGC Roads attending.

## 10 NEXT MEETING

**Monday, 14 May 2018, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.**