



ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN
ON MONDAY, 14 MAY 2018

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall, Convenor

Jak Kane *Secretary*

Kerr Inger

Matt Kitson

David McAdam

Willie McCartney

Jock McDowall

Robin Richmond

Nick Walker

Kevin Witt

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

PC W Boyce

Euan Maxwell *Free Press*

APOLOGIES

David Moran

Cllr Katie Hagmann

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been sent by David Moran and Cllr Hagmann

2 POLICE MATTERS

Stranraer Community Police Officer William Boyce reported that the only recent crime incident locally was that a man had been charged with careless driving following a Road Traffic accident near to Wigtown.

He advised that a new local Traffic Order relating to disabled persons parking bays in Wigtown had come into force in April 2018. The Roads Authority said that a disabled person's parking bay, even if outside someone's house, can be used by any disabled person's vehicle displaying a valid badge and therefore not solely for individual persons.

From May 2018 a revised deployment model for Armed Response Vehicles (ARVs) will see ARV officers deployed to non-firearms calls as well as continuing to provide specialist report to local communities to address the threat from terrorism and serious and organised crime. They will now support colleagues and the public by responding to a wider range of incidents with an emphasis on public protection, vulnerability and speed of response. This will include incidents where their enhanced medical skills are of great benefit to the public. Where appropriate, they will also support local and national campaigns, such as drink driving.

Police Scotland are urging rural residents and businesses to take steps to prevent fuel theft from outside tanks.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with the addition of Town Centre Gardens and former Bank of Scotland building.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 9 April 2018)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated. It was noted that reference to Cllr Inglis within the Planning Working Party item should refer to Cllr Nicol who was present at the meeting. Subject to this alteration, the minutes were adopted, proposed by Nick Walker and seconded by Kevin Witt.

5 MATTERS ARISING

DGC, EEI – The Secretary had written to the Council asking if the gullies in North and South Main Streets could be modified so that they became non-slip or replaced so that the surface is a non-slip grating rather than smooth metal. The Council replied that they were "*currently sourcing a*

suitable non-slip surface that can be applied to the metal drainage channels. Once a suitable product has been identified remedial works will be carried out”.

DGC – Park Cemetery – Following a title search by Landownership Scotland in 2010, legal services had confirmed that Dumfries & Galloway Council did not own the piece of land identified as potential parking next to the Cemetery and therefore it is not common good land. The fallen tree referred to was within this area and therefore not the responsibility of DGC to clear it. Jak Kane suggested that the Community Council carry out a search of the Registers of Scotland to try to identify who actually owned the piece of land as this would be the first step if the Council eventually decided to acquire the land for development as a car park. This was agreed.

Martyrs Stake Path – Cllr Hagmann had contacted DGC’s Simon Fieldhouse for an update and he had said *“initially the path surface was reinstated to a satisfactory standard, however it has since deteriorated. We will continue to pursue SPEN and try to progress as soon as possible”*. It was noted that new dressing for the path had been delivered and the work would be carried out.

BT Payphones - The completed signed contract had been set to BT together with a cheque for £1. Once removal of the telephony had been confirmed, they will send a completion notice but, due to safety and training issues, the recovery program had been delayed and this make take some time.

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	£1,535.92	Summer Festival	£2,433.43
Resilience	1,069.65	Christmas Festival	1,986.54
		McGuffie VC	<u>1,023.00</u>
Total	<u>£2,605.57</u>	Total	<u>£5,442.97</u>

Jak Kane explained that the only movement in the Accounts in the new financial year had been the £1 payment to BT for the kiosk from the Admin account and, from the Festivals account, payments of £2,400 and £350 to JB Print and Mike Marshall respectively in connection with the McGuffie VC publication..

b: Consultations WP

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

Community Council Research – This was a survey on Community councils and their activities intended for all current or retired community councillors in Scotland with a closing date of 30 May 2018. Individual community councillors were encouraged to complete the online survey. Answers would be based on their own experience rather than having to consult with the community council before completing the survey.

Licensing Policy Statement Review – A revised draft response had been circulated incorporating input from Matt Kitson. It was agreed that it should be submitted without further change.

Consultation on a new Enterprise Agency for the South of Scotland – It had been agreed at the April meeting that Jak Kane would draft a response to this consultation for consideration by the CC. He explained that he had arranged to attend a consultation meeting in Newton Stewart on 16 May on the proposed Enterprise Agency. and hoped that the meeting would provide a basis for the response. With a closing date of 7 June 2018 he would circulate a draft response for comment.

Community Conversations on Streetscene services – Dumfries & Galloway Council had arranged a consultation meeting to be held in the County Buildings @ 7pm on 14 June 2018. The ‘conversation’ would influence the delivery of ‘Streetscene’ services in the community (including grass cutting, grounds maintenance and street cleansing).

c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The only new application in the report was for Listed Building Consent (LBC) for installation of timber-framed windows and timber doors at 4 High Street. It was agreed that no submission be made.

Planning and LBC applications had been received after the report had been issued in connection with alterations at Bladnoch Distillery which would see change of use for a Storage building to

become a Visitors' Centre/Café. It was agreed that the proposals would benefit the wider community and that no submission would be made. However, it was noted that despite the applicant declaring that the work had not started, it was disappointing that the external stairs and replacement windows and doors were already in situ and that, once again, the Distillery were in fact making retrospective applications.

Updates on earlier applications were noted.

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

d: Resilience WP

Joe McKeown was not present to deliver an update.

e: McGuffie VC Memorial

Nick Walker confirmed that the first run of the McGuffie VC book had been printed and delivered and that DGC's Wigtown Area Committee had awarded a £5,000 grant towards the cost of the McGuffie commemorations which completed the funding package required. This had enabled the fabrication work on the Memorial Archway to be started. Arrangements for the inauguration ceremony continued and the next meeting was scheduled for 15 May. A letter had been sent by Archie Dryburgh, the Council's Armed Forces Champion asking communities to mark Armed Forces Day and RAF 100 with an event. It was agreed as the McGuffie VC publication was due to be launched then, that he should be advised that this would serve as Wigtown's contribution. It was also noted that 11 November 2018 would be the 100th Anniversary of the end of WW1 and that the Community Council would discuss how to commemorate this at a later meeting.

f: Civic Week WP

Sandra McDowall had circulated notes of a meeting held on 23 April. Jock McDowall agreed to organise the Fishing Competition and would check on tide times before setting the date. The next meeting of the Civic Week organisers would be on 16 May 2018.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

G McKie, Ward Officer – Derelict Buildings (including dangerous and derelict buildings, at risk properties & empty homes). Pilot Project based in the Broader Machars Federation area to inform DGC's Derelict Buildings Strategy. Asking for two CC representatives to attend Federation meeting, 7pm on Tuesday 29 May. Looking for 5 or 6 buildings to be part of the pilot project. **Agreed that Federation representatives Nick Walker and Robin Richmond would attend.**

G McKie, Ward Officer – Looking for suggestions re themes/issues for Ward events that will replace Area Committee Community meetings.

Festival Junior Photo Competition – Letter chasing up trophy for 2017 competition – passed to Matt Kitson.

Loreburn Housing & Community Engagement Officer – Offering to come to meeting to deliver presentation on Universal Credit. No interest shown.

SUP Newsletter – South of Scotland Enterprise Partnership Consultation. Nearest consultation event will be at the Creebridge House Hotel in Newton Stewart at 7pm on 16 May.

Community Councils Scotland – 'Battles Over – A Nation's Tribute 11/11/18'. An invitation to take part in a nationwide event to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI involving 1000 pipers, buglers, beacons, town criers or bell rings. <http://brunopeek.co.uk>

DGC Community Safety Team – Confirmation that a Community Engagement Day had been held on 10 May 2018 and representatives had been in Wigtown @ 1330 although no prior information was received. Community Safety Enforcement Officer Andrew Hay said that he had been instructed to engage with members of the public and "*contact with Community Councils was for information only*".

Stranraer Harbour Public Consultation event – 11am-8 pm on Tuesday, 15 May at the Harbour

Digital Scotland – Superfast Broadband Newsletter

CCES – Two benches replaced beside Bowling Green. Requested Electric car charging point at Lorry Park.

Third Sector D&G - Launch of Third Sector Tackling Poverty Forum (TSTPF) from 2-6 on 18 May in the McMillan Hall. Opportunity to say how the CC could contribute to and benefit from a TSTPF.

Transforming Health and Social Care in Wigtownshire Programme – Two emails, one letter and two phone calls. Invitation to a workshop on Tuesday 22 May from 10 am – 3 pm (lunch provided) to hear about the aims of the programme and how best to engage with and involve communities. Non-one was available to attend and H&SC Locality Manager would be advised accordingly.

DGC – Removal of Mobile Library Service – Confirmation that due to budget cuts, the Mobile Library Service would be removed in September 2018.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported that the report of the independent inquiry into the construction of the DG One complex in Dumfries had been published. The findings of the Inquiry gave a damning verdict in the quality of construction of DG One at the hands of Keir Northern. The report highlighted the fundamental problems in the construction of the DG One building were largely attributable to the design and build contract.

He said that the pot holes on the road to Kirkcowan had been repaired and, as previously mentioned, work to reinstate the Martyr's Stake path had started.

He acknowledged recent problems with the DGC Library Netloan IT system.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Town Gardens – A request was relayed from Wigtown in Bloom that the Council be asked to look into the repainting of the wall and railings around the town gardens. It was agreed that a request be sent to the Council given that it was c7years since the work had been done.

Former Bank of Scotland building – Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative's registered community interest in the building had been triggered by the Bank formally advising that they wanted to dispose of the building. The Initiative had secured funding for feasibility, consultation and business planning work and would be hosting an Open meeting on the evening of 30 May.

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held on Monday, 11 June 2018 in Wigtown County Buildings and would follow the Annual General Meeting that would start at 7:30 pm.