

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 10 SEPTEMBER 2018**

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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 |
| Jock McDowall | Joe McKeown | Robin Richmond |
| Nick Walker | Kevin Witt | |

IN ATTENDANCE

| | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Cllr Jim McColm | Cllr Graham Nicol | Euan Maxwell, Free Press |
| PS Scott | | |

APOLOGIES

| | |
|-------------|--------------------|
| Matt Kitson | Cllr Katie Hagmann |
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1 APOLOGIES

Apologies from Matt Kitson and Cllr Hagmann were intimated.

2 POLICE MATTERS

Police Sergeant Scott attended the meeting.

He reported that warrants for arrest had been issued for two male suspects from outwith the area in relation to the shoplifting reported at the August meeting. Similarly a 20 year old female had been charged and officially warned in connection with the Wigtown Show assault.

A man had been charged with dangerous driving after an incident in Wigtown and a female charged with Breach of the peace after a disturbance involving several persons in Wigtown. There had been a housebreak-in at a local business and several properties have been targeted in the region. A blue Ford Focus was possibly involved.

Sgt Scott provided information on the Community Speed Watch scheme which enables a local community to assist the police with addressing a perceived speeding issue within their community and how a community would go about establishing a project.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Items noted for discussion under Other Business included: Cherry picker and Market stalls.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 13 August 2018)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that it had been agreed at the meeting that Jak Kane would continue as the CC's representative on the board of Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative. Also that Cllr McColm had made reference to works that had been carried out in Wigtown including trees at Duncan Park having been cut back.

The minutes as amended were approved, proposed by Nick Walker and seconded by Jock McDowall.

5 MATTERS ARISING

a. Summer seat, Bladnoch

Karen Brownle, DGC had advised that the Bladnoch seat would be replaced with a new recycled seat within two weeks.

b. Traffic calming, Fordbank House

A response had been received from Tony Topping, DGC. Re the provision of a 'Concealed entrance' warning sign and/or 'Slow' markings on the road, he said that the Network Strategy and Road Safety Team would undertake a site visit to assess/identify any potential improvement works and report any decision. Maintenance of traffic signs and verge marker posts should to be reported using the 'Report It' section of the Council website and the local Roads Office would inspect/assess the site. Finally, re temporary traffic he said traffic data surveys would only be considered on lengths of road with high reported incidences of speeding and injury accident rates and this did not apply to the B7005. The Secretary would update Mr & Mrs Miller of Fordbank House..

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated the normal monthly report prior to the meeting. The DGC Administration grant of £680 for the year from 1 April 2017 – 31 March 2018 had eventually been received on 6 September. The only other movement in the Administration account was a payment in respect of the gift for the Independent Examiner.

For the Festivals Account, Jak explained that he had said at the August meeting that a donation expected from the Machars Young Farmers would be offset by an outstanding invoice for the school let. It transpired that the invoice was for £98.99 and the donation only £60. There had been additional income of £13 from the Fishing Competition, so the final shortfall increased from £184 to £210.

In connection with the McGuffie VC celebrations there had been additional book sales amounting to £71.55. The Memorial Archway had been completed triggering payments of £5,750 to Paul Siddle, blacksmith and £1,450 to Jack Sloan, designer. The commemorative First Day covers had been produced and £600 paid to British Forces Philatelic Service.

b: Consultations WP

A report had been circulated giving details of the Scottish Rural Parliament that would be meeting in the Ryan Centre, Stranraer from 14 until 16 November and outlining how to register. Representatives from community organisations (including community councils) were entitled to free attendance.

c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated by Nick Walker. It was agreed that there should be no submission re the application for an extension to the dwelling house at Barlae farm, Kirkinner. The updates on earlier applications were noted in particular the refusal of 3B's application for housing at Southfield Park

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

d: McGuffie Memorial Update

Nick Walker reported on how the planning for the celebrations was proceeding: additional McGuffie relatives had been identified; the memorial Archway had been installed; the stock of commemorative First Day Covers had been delivered; book orders had been received from Canada, Australia, Sussex and the Scottish Borders; the final draft of the programme was being prepared; and the paving stone was due to be delivered within a week. The next meeting of the Committee had been scheduled for 21 August.

e: Federation - Derelict Buildings Pilot Project

Robin Richmond had attended the rearranged meeting on 5 September. He reported that the Council had approached the owners of identified properties to encourage them to put the properties on the market. The family of the owner of the house in High Street, Wigtown had said that they did want to sell the property but the owner was in hospital. It had been suggested that the local community might decide to be proactive and paint the outside of neglected properties to improve the streetscape. The next meeting of the group had been scheduled for 10 October

7 CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

The Winter Kist was scheduled this year for the weekend of 24/25 November and although this was the last weekend in November, it was felt to be too early for the switch-on of the Christmas lights. It was agreed that Sandra McDowall would look to book the County Buildings for the band/teas for the evening of Friday, 30 November. Nick Walker said that Danny Heron had offered Highland dancers (who had received funding support from Wigtown Community Shop) to perform at the McGuffie celebrations. They could not be fitted in with that programme and Nick suggested that they provide additional entertainment after the Switch-on. Sandra would confirm the date with Nick who, in turn, would liaise with Danny.

It was agreed that David Moran would lead with the Christmas light check at 9:30am on Saturday, 10 November. Jock would arrange with Brian Little for the Christmas tree to be delivered and installed by 17 November.

8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Wigtown Festival Company – invitations to a Council-hosted Civic Reception on 5 September to mark 20 years of Book Town had been extended to all Community Councillors.

DGC Roads – Road faults at Moorpark and Main Street Kirkiner/St Kennera had been reported to DGC as well as a missing street sign at Agnew Crescent.

DG Conservatives – Details had been circulated for their event, Tory Question Time in the Robert Burns Centre, Dumfries on Sunday, 23 September.

DGC Planning – An enquiry had been sent re potential planning restrictions for phone boxes especially in respect of change of use and colour.

DGC – Contacted CCES re a hedge at the Bladnoch Play area. Karen Brownlie had said that it had not been cut in June because of birds nesting but it will be cut in September.

DGC Roads – a lamppost on Potato Mill Road was listing badly and had been reported via CCES.

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Cllr McColm said that the Council had agreed a £60,000 grant from the Town Centre Living Fund to part fund Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative's development of the Bank of Scotland building, if the community buyout is achieved.

Funding had also been allocated for tree removal and trimming that included Duncan Park and the former police houses in Wigtown. The verge at Fountainbleu had also been treated. The Council had allotted £10,000 from its Land Asset Capital Programme for the repointing and cleaning of Wigtown's Mercat Cross and funding that would pay for some of the benches around the bowling green to be replaced. The Region's LDP2 had been agreed by the Council and sent to the Scottish Government for its consideration.

Cllr Nicol said that negotiations on the future of the Bladnoch Core Path were ongoing with the Bladnoch Distillery.

10 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

Cherry picker – Kerr Inger said that the hydraulic lift being used to instal the murals for the Festival Company were causing an obstruction on pavements. It was explained that this was obviously a temporary problem and safety measures were put in place while the lift was being used.

Market Stalls– The issue of market stalls encroaching on to North and South Main Streets and removing the limited parking spaces available around the Mercat Cross was raised. It was agreed that the Saturday Market added to the visitor experience and brought visitors to the Town and the economic benefit offset any minimal inconvenience. It was suggested that, to compensate for any loss of parking spaces, the double yellow lines in front of the former Bank of Scotland (originally in place for the former bus stop) could be removed. Cllr McColm undertook to contact the Council to arrange this.

Mercat Cross – It was agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to window cleaner , Andrew Smith who had agreed to volunteer to remove weeds from the Mercat Cross.

Trees on Lightlands Avenue - Wigtown & Bladnoch Golf Club had reported that two trees on the verge of Lightlands Avenue were dead and should be replaced. CCES to be advised.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 8 October 2018, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.