

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 8 OCTOBER 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	Matt Kitson	David Moran
David McAdam	Joe McKeown	Robin Richmond
Nick Walker	Kevin Witt	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Community Police	Euan Maxwell, Free Press
Colin Rennie, DGC Community Safety	Gordon McKeand, DGC Community Safety

**APOLOGIES**

Jock McDowall

Sandra McDowall welcomed two members of the Council's Community Safety Team to the meeting. Steven Kirkpatrick, DGC Senior Community Safety Officer had written to explain that, as part of a rebalancing of the Community Safety Team, they will now have a wider spread over both early and late shifts, and as such, will be in and about Communities more often right across the region. A key part of the rebalancing will be staff attending community council meetings, both to observe the issues of each community and to present and contribute where they could.

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been sent by Jock McDowall.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

A community police officer attended the meeting and advised of a number of Internet-based offences including an incident where a Primary School pupil had been induced to send images to a stranger and another where an adult male who had also sent images had been extorted for money.

The Police would be organising a series of community drop-in surgeries and a Community Officer would attend the County Buildings for one hour on Wednesday, 31 October 2018 and community members were encouraged to attend for a chat about issues affecting the area.

**3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Arrangements for Remembrance Sunday had been intimated as an issue for discussion under Other Business.

**4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 10 September 2018)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Robin Richmond and seconded by David McAdam.

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

**a. Summer seat, Bladnoch**

The defective seat at Bladnoch had been replaced with a new recycled seat as notified by Karen Brownlie.

**b. Telephone kiosks**

Planning had advised that Telephone kiosks were deemed to be a community facility and whatever communities decided to use them for, they would continue to be community facilities so Change of Use consent would not be required. The location of the Bladnoch kiosk within a Conservation Area would mean that permission would be needed for a change of colour but this would not apply to the Whauphill kiosk.

**c. Mercat Cross**

As agreed a letter of thanks had been sent to Andrew Smith for the weeding work he had carried out on the Mercat Cross.

**d. Lightlands Terrace**

The dead trees on the verge in Lightlands Terrace had been reported to the Council who had responded that "at this time no defects have been categorised as needing repair".

**6 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**a: Financial Report**

Jak Kane had circulated the normal monthly report prior to the meeting. The only movement in either of the Accounts was receipt of £79.80 from sale of McGuffie VC books.

**b: Consultations WP**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting giving details of current consultations.

- a) **Inclusive Play** – With a closing date of 11 October 2018, DGC was consulting on the installation of new Inclusive Play equipment at four locations in Dumfries and Galloway including Newton Stewart. The online consultation survey was targeted at individual responses with a hard copy available from the Library.
- b) **South West Scotland Transport Study** - Transport Scotland had commissioned consultants to research the case for change in transport interventions in the South West of Scotland. The study was asking Community Councils to provide feedback on two questions:
  - What, if any, do you see as being the main transport related problems and opportunities in the study area, now and in the future?
  - What options or interventions would you like to see considered to improve transport in the study area across all modes? What benefits do you think these improvements would deliver for communities in the South West of Scotland?

It was agreed that comments and reactions to both questions should be conveyed to Jak Kane who would draft a response for consideration at the next CC meeting.

**c) Democracy Matters: Your Community. Your ideas. Your Future**

The Scottish Government was asking people all over Scotland to consider a short set of questions, designed to help begin a conversation in communities about the kind of changes they want to see happen. The SG recommended that a Community Conversation event be held with a community response submitted thereafter. Funding was available to help cover any costs associated with running the event.

After the Consultation Report had been circulated, information on the DGC's 2019-2021 budget development process was received and then circulated separately. The Council offered Community Councils the opportunity to fulfil their statutory role and to act as a focal point for the community by hosting a Community Conversation, similar to Democracy Matters, thereby encouraging local people to have their say.

It was agreed that Wigtown CC should contact the Council with a proposal that it would organise a Community Conversation before the end of November that could cover both the Democracy Matters and the Council's budget consultations. The designated Council officer offered by DGC would be asked to attend the Community Council meeting on 12 November so that the CC could ascertain the level of involvement and support it can

expect from them and the local elected members, as it was felt that there could be questions raised for which Community Councillors would not have the answers..

**c: Planning WP**

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. It was agreed that there should be no submission re the LBC application for alterations to Mossspark Cottage, Whauphill. Updates on earlier applications were noted including the suggestion that the reduction of the visual impact of containers at Kirkland Garage in Kirkinner should be achieved through painting rather than screen planting.

A member of the public had contacted the CC, via Kevin Witt, questioning Bladnoch Distillery installing a septic tank in land next to the proposed Visitors Centre/Cafe and positing that there was a restriction within 50 metres of a water course and with the location being less than 10 metres from the lade that flows under the distillery. It was agreed that the Secretary should raise the issue with Planning Enforcement.

**d: McGuffie Memorial Update**

Nick Walker reported on the McGuffie VC events that had been held during the Book Festival. The ceremony that saw the unveiling of the memorial stone & commemorative archway, the renaming of the gardens and a DGC-hosted Civic reception had been very successful with good feedback received from everyone including family representatives. There had also been good media coverage both in local press and with TV coverage. Family members had been presented with a pack including a copy of the book and the First Day Cover (FDC). The book event involved only Mike Morley as Jack Hunter was unavailable due to his wife's incapacity and 100 copies of the McGuffie VC book had been supplied to the Festival Company for sale.

It had not been possible to arrange a sales outlet for the First Day Covers as part of the celebrations but BFPS had offered to buy back 50 sets as their sales were going well and they anticipated more demand with an article about the McGuffie VC FDC featuring in a Philatelic magazine . It was suggested that a copies of the book and FDC be part of a McGuffie VC display in the Wigtown Museum and Nick undertook to raise this option at the next meeting.

**e: Federation - Derelict Buildings Pilot Project**

The next meeting of the group was scheduled for 10 October 2018.

**f: Christmas Switch-on**

Sandra McDowall said that she had provisionally booked the County Buildings Main Hall for both Friday, 23 and 30 November with the earlier date coinciding with the weekend of the Winter Kist. It was agreed that the earlier date would be the preferred option dependent on the availability of the band and Rev Steven McGarva. Sandra would contact them to clarify.

It was agreed that Matt Kitson would check the availability of the Wigtown Princess and Santa for both dates. If there was to be a procession after Santa's sleigh, arrangements would have to be made for insurance, police and road closure.

Willie McCartney confirmed that he would be willing to provide sound for the event and agreed to ask the Community Shop if they would again be willing to provide refreshments after the switch-on as in the past.

It was reiterated 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.

**7 Roon the Toon Wigtown**

Arts Inc of Creetown had asked for a letter of support from the Community Council for a project for Wigtown based on a pilot project that had been delivered in Newton Stewart. Wigtown Primary School would potentially participate and produce the artwork for a board game and Arts Inc would also be looking to engage with "other groups" in the Town. Despite being asked to provide additional information, it was still not clear what they were going to do, how they were going to do it, where they were going to do it, and who they were going to do it with. They had still to engage with the Primary School or other groups.

It was agreed that Arts Inc be informed that the Community Council was not in a position to support the proposed project at this stage but offer them the opportunity of attending a future CC meeting to talk to their project

**8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

**Traffic calming, Fordbank House** - response from Tony Topping had been passed to residents. Roads had replaced the Verge markers and cleaned the road signs.

**DGC Roads** – a number of road defects had been reported with some already dealt with.

**Garden benches** – Four benches at the County Buildings side of the bowling club grounds had been replaced. One of them had a metal plaque attached, engraved "Presented to the Burgh of Wigto (sic) 1906" The Secretary had asked for it to be detached and delivered to the Community Council. It was agreed that the Secretary should investigate if it could be tidied up.

**A National Park for the Kingdom of Galloway** - Invitation to a FREE half-day conference organised by the Galloway National Park Association to be held at GG's Yard at Lagganmore on the morning of Monday, 12 November.

**Sunday Bus service** – The Council had been contacted re the anomaly of the final bus on Sunday leaving Newton Stewart at 7:45 pm and travelling to Kirkinner but bypassing Wigtown leaving passengers the option of walking up one of three hilly roads if they're going to Wigtown. Stagecoach had confirmed that the 19:45 departure from Newton Stewart will call into Wigtown on request from Sunday 30 September.

**DGC WAC** – The Treasurer had submitted an Interim report for the £5,000 McGuffie Grant awarded by the Area Committee.

**Transforming Wigtownshire** - Hosting two events on Wednesday, 17 October, in County Buildings and Thursday, 18 October in Ryan Centre, Stranraer both from 1pm – 4pm. Spaces at the events are limited to two members on the Community Council and two members of the Community to attend one of the events. Sandra McDowal would attend.

**9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES**

There were no Councillors in attendance.

**10 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

**Remembrance Sunday** – Nick Walker undertook to contact the clerics, the Guides and a piper to make arrangements for the day and Willie McCartney confirmed he would provide sound equipment. Mike Morley was working with the School pupils who would memorialise those who died not only in 1918 up to Armistice Day but afterwards in 1918-1920 as a result of injuries sustained during WWI. Jak Kane said that he had ordered wreaths for the Community Council and other organisations. It was agreed that Nick Walker and Robin Richmond would flank Sandra McDowal who would lay the Community Council's wreath. Community Councillors who wished to, should meet at the County Buildings at 9:45 to follow the Guides parading to the Church service with the Remembrance ceremony at the War memorial at 11 am.

It was suggested that the McGuffie VC Memorial Arch be spot lit using solar powered lights either from within the gardens or from the County Buildings. Nick Walker agreed to raise the issue at the next McGuffie meeting.

**Community Safety Team** – It was agreed that the Community Safety Team would be invited to attend a meeting in the New Year to make a presentation to the Community Council.

**10 NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, 12 November 2018, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.**