

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 11 AUGUST 2014 AT 7.30 PM**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Jock McDowall	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	David McAdam
Willie McCartney	Jak Kane	Robin Richmond

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>	David McKay, <i>Free Press</i>
June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Carol Green
Shona Heaney		

APOLOGIES		
Betty McGowan	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Brian Vogan
Matt Kitson, <i>Secretary</i>	Cllr Graham Nicol	

1 WELCOME

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies. CC noted the death of former Cllr Andy Farrington and expressed condolences to his family.

2 POLICE MATTERS

No report. No update on works vans break-ins from early in year.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (14.7.2014)

Adopted: prop. Robin Richmond, sec. Jak Kane.

4 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- 4A** Community Safety representative to attend CC in October (Kirkinner).
Machars Area Partnership / Building Healthy Communities representative to attend CC in November.

4B Remembrance / WWI Commemoration / VC Commemoration

Vigil for centenary of start of WWI

Wigtown. Well-attended (approx. 120 people). Led by clergy and community representatives, with piper.
Kirkinner. Attendance of approx. 20 people. Led by Parish Minister.

CC noted thanks to organisers, participants and those who attended these events. Proposal for payment of expenses for this (and Remembrance) as community events to come from Festivals account; agreed by CC.

Louis McGuffie VC commemoration

Councillor Dryburgh, D&GC "Armed Services Champion" keen to attend CC to start discussions about arrangements for Memorial plaque, etc. Agreed to invite Cllr Dryburgh to September CC meeting, with brief site visit prior to meeting with Elected Members and CC reps.

Remembrance Day (9.11.2014)

Betty McGowan left word that poppies were ordered in spring as early deadline. CC agreed usual arrangements for Wreath ordering – Betty to order for Wigtown, Kirkinner, Whauphill, as well as Guides and Masons. Arrangements for Act of Remembrance in Wigtown to be coordinated with Clergy. Nick Walker and Matt Kitson to discuss with Rev. Stephen McGarva. Nick can arrange printing of orders of service.

5 COMMUNITY BENEFIT FUND ARRANGEMENTS

Jak Kane had circulated a paper in June about options for community fund management, stressing importance of indemnity and liability (which is a problem for CCs), sustainability of organisations (also a problem for CCs which can go into abeyance), and clarity of processes, as well as ensuring consistent link to community. He described the support Machars Action can provide in this regard with the example of Kirkcowan CC's establishment of a community company limited by guarantee. Trusts and Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisations are other possible, but less flexible, structural options. Paper is available from Jak.

After discussion, agreed Company Ltd by Guarantee was likely the best option, with company "membership" open to all residents in the CC area. This could be established fairly quickly, and processes for managing funds would be developed by the company. CC representation on the company's Board could be built into company set-up. No action required at present as community benefit will take some time to be agreed and depends on planning approval for relevant projects. Jak will circulate example Articles of Association.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

6A Festival Committee

Wigtown Week was a success, with good attendance and participation, and positive feedback. Particular mention was made of the "Messy Church" event which hopefully can be included again next year. Willie McCartney was thanked for organising sound, etc. Stephen McGarva was thanked for convening the Committee meetings. David Moran reported that the Festival will likely break even financially once final expenses are accounted for. A portion of Festival funds – the amount raised by one event, £575.00 – will be transferred to the Christmas Lights fund to support Christmas preparations.

Christmas lights & events will need to be coordinated, and a CC working party was set up to start negotiations with other community groups (Festival Company, Churches, etc.) so that plans can start to form and be reported back to CC. Dividing elements of activity (as happened last year when the CC was in abeyance) helps share out workload in this time of limited volunteers with limited time to give. WP to include Jock McDowall, David Moran, Nick Walker and Willie McCartney. Anyone else interested should step forward.

6B Consultations Working Party

Jak Kane had previously circulated report. CC approved response to consultation on Councillor numbers by Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland.

Agreed no submission about Offshore Wind farm community benefit as first stage consultation and there will be further consultation on details in due course.

D&GC survey of CCs regarding D&GC support of CCs to be discussed at September meeting.

6C Planning Working Party

Cllr McColm present but did not contribute to any discussions.

Nick Walker had previously circulated report:

Current applications

Nil.

Update on proposals

Submissions made per previous CC meeting:

14/P/1/0307 ERECTION OF HOUSE WITH GARAGE, SEPTIC TANK & REED BED, MAIDLAND FARM DOWN HARBOUR ROAD (just past sewerage plant)

14/P/1/0344 CONVERSION OF STEADING TO 4 DWELLINGS, ALTERING ACCESS, SEPTIC TANK & SOAKAWAY, CARSEGOWAN FARM WIGTOWN

Wind farm proposals

Millairies, Shennanton, Airriequhillart, Mindork, Auchleand – no update.

California wind park – D&GC information is that Scoping Application is not open to public or CC submissions, as it is for D&GC and relevant public bodies (such as Scottish Natural Heritage, etc.) to respond only to inform decisions about the extent of documentation to support planning application, such as Environmental Impact Assessment. Therefore CC views agreed so far should be borne in mind for when further Pre-application Consultation takes place, and when (if) when formal application is made for Planning Permission.

Solar panel proposal

Lark Energy public exhibition on 16.7.2014. Info. available – but formal application not yet made. Site will relatively undisturbed, shielded from view from road, and will generate about 5MW electricity with some capacity to store electricity to supply grid when dark.

Recommendations

CC approve report.

CC approved report, with following amendment:

Galloway Gazette had carried an article suggesting Solar Panel Farm could benefit community by provision of solar panels at Newton Stewart Hospital. Report was based on Cree Valley CC meeting and indicated Wigtown CC support. The main development is too small for true community benefit payments, so this type of benefit is welcome. CC was concerned that NHS could get financial benefit however and that local area may gain nothing. CC supportive in principle, provided there is guarantee that income (or savings) remain in Machars for true local benefit. Other sites such as Riverside Community Centre may be worth considering for solar panels as this would be of clear benefit to the community, but there may be practical reasons that prevent this.

Residents raised concern about the Meteorological Mast application for Kirkdale Hill (related to the proposed California Wind Park). CC may have missed chance to submit a view on this. Discussion about landscape and other impacts, and refusal of similar application on nearby Blackmyre Moor, revealed mixed views. Agreed to check if time to make CC submission, and to circulate information for CCLrs to consider so a submission could be made quickly if allowable (Nick to contact planning; Jak to circulate info.).

NOTE – Since meeting, Planning Report has been published so CC is too late to submit a view, but issues considered have all been raised in other objections. Planning report advises approval. Planning Applications Committee expected to consider application at meeting on 26.8.2014.

6D Finance & Resources Working Party

David Moran reported on account balances at 11.8.2014:
Admin. £158.00 (Admin. Grant received but not yet paid in);
Action / Project Fund £2550.00;
Festivals £3290.20 (expenses yet to be paid for Wigtown Week);
Christmas Lights £2010.99;
Community Response £50.25.

F&RWP to meet before next CC meeting.

7 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

7A New CCs Scheme of Establishment

D&GC formally adopted revised Scheme for CCs on 26.6.2014. CCs need to adopt new Constitution at a General Meeting by the end of January. There will be a session for the Federation about the changes in autumn, so updates will follow.

7B Young Scots Reward Scheme

Development Officer at Young Scot details a reward scheme for 11-26 year olds participating in positive activities. This could help CC involve young people. Matt Kitson to look into details and possible links to Douglas Ewart High School and Youth workers including Duke of Edinburgh scheme.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Jim McColm

Problem with town lighting in Wigtown is still being addressed. Waste collection changes imminent and notices coming out now. Resurfacing at Southfield Lane and Potato Mill Road complete.

9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Nil

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 September 2014 at 7.30 pm in Viewing Room, County Buildings, Wigtown.

Subsequently 13.10.2014 at 8.00 pm, Kirkinner Hall; 10.11.2014 at 7.30 pm, Wigtown County Bldgs.