

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN
on Monday, 8 December 2014 at 7.30 pm

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Nick Walker, *Convenor*
Robin Richmond
David Moran, *Treasurer*

Jock McDowall
Betty McGowan
Brian Vogan

Willie McCartney
Jak Kane
Cllr Jim McColm

IN ATTENDANCE

Nick Jackson, *D&GC*
PC Morton, *Police Scotland*

John Brodie, *D&GC*
Insp. Campbell Moffat, *Police
Scotland*

David McKay, *Free Press*

APOLOGIES

Agnes Cluckie
June Robinson
Louise Kerr, *Galloway
Gazette*

Matt Kitson
Cllr Alistair Geddes

David McAdam
Cllr Graham Nicol

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies. EGM was arranged for one issue only: consideration of adoption of CC Constitution, required by D&GC adoption of revised Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils. Nick Walker also intimated his intention to retire as Convenor at the Annual General Meeting.

2. CONSTITUTION

Nick Walker had circulated the Constitution previously. This is almost entirely mandatory in content. CC had considered which month to hold AGM to allow time for accounts to be completed and questioned by CC before final presentation for approval. June is proposed – and approved by 5 votes in favour and none against (with 4 abstentions). Bank account signatories ought to be office bearers (subject to not being “connected parties”) so an addition to allow another CClr to be a signatory in addition to the Treasurer and the Convenor was considered wise. With these details included, the Constitution was adopted by 7 votes in favour and none against (two abstentions).

3. NEXT MEETING

AGM will be on 8 June 2015 at 7.30 pm, prior to June business meeting.

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ORDINARY BUSINESS MEETING
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN
on Monday, 8 December 2014 at 7.45 pm

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Nick Walker, *Convenor*
Robin Richmond
Robert Hardford

Jock McDowall
Betty McGowan
Brian Vogan

Willie McCartney
Jak Kane

IN ATTENDANCE

David Moran, *Treasurer*
David McKay, *Free Press*

Cllr Jim McColm
John Brodie, *D&GC*

Nick Jackson, *D&GC*
PC Morton, *Police Scotland*
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David McAdam
Cllr Graham Nicol

1. WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies. Items to be included under item 9 – Other Urgent Business agreed: Scottish Poppy Appeal; Wigtown Public Toilets.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC Morton was accompanied to the meeting by newly appointed area commander, Inspector Campbell Moffat. PC Morton reported on two current operations: Operation Advent; and the annual Drink & Drive crackdown. Operation Advent would run from 2.11.2014 to 24.12.2014 aiming to discourage anti-social behaviour and alcohol-fuelled incidents particularly in the vicinity of licensed premises. The Drinking and Driving would last from 5.12.2014 to 5.1.2015, and coincides with the introduction of Scotland's reduced blood alcohol limits for driving for which there has been an extensive media campaign. There will be a focus on carrying out increased static checks at all times of the day and night, including checks designed to reduce the risks of "morning after" driving. Inspector Moffat said that his only recommendation on "safe" alcohol intake for drivers is not drink at all.

Nick Walker had circulated a Briefing Note on Average Speed Cameras (ASCs) compiled by Police Scotland at the request of Wigtown Area Committee. The report highlights the impact Average Speed Cameras have on road safety where used on the A77 and A9. Inspector Moffat was unaware of any proposal to introduce ASCs in D&G.

3. D&GC PRESENTATION RE BEDDIE CRESCENT PLAYGROUND REFURBISHMENT

Nick Jackson and John Brodie presented five designs for the replacement of play equipment on the Beddie Crescent site which is due replacement according to the periodic checks of play areas. D&GC Capital Fund has allocated £35,000 to be spent by 31.3.2015 for this, and all five proposals are within that budget. The community is now asked to vote for the decide to be installed. CC resolved to put designs and voting chits at Wigtown Primary School until the end of term and then in the County Buildings for

voting. A decision is needed by early January 2015. Nick Walker agreed to ask Secretary, Matt Kitson, to arrange.

Questioned about other play areas, Nick Jackson explained that all D&GC playgrounds are inspected each year, with repair, renovation and replacement scheduled according to need and available funding. New swings are scheduled for play areas in Bladnoch and Seaview during 2015. Beddie Crescent and eight other sites in D&G were considered beyond repair and a joint Capital Fund bid sought to replace them all.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (10.11.2014)

Item 6A Planning Working Party minute missed a key decision: CC had resolved to submit its support of the application for a house adjacent to 7 High Vennel. With this amendment, the minutes were approved: proposed Jock McDowall, seconded Robin Richmond.

5. TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5A Young Scots Rewards Scheme: Matt Kitson had circulated an email from Third Sector First (TSF), the local delivery office for Saltire Awards, an award scheme endorsed and supported by the Scottish Government where young volunteers get certificates based on hours volunteered. Young Scot Reward Points which they earn can be exchanged for prizes. CC agreed to revert to TSF and register two Youth Community Councillor roles as volunteering opportunities within the scheme.

5B Wigtown Parking near Mercat Cross: There had been no further feedback from D&GC.

5C Derelict Properties: Robin Richmond, David Moran and Cllr Geddes had made a site visit to High Street along with Alistair Speedie, D&GC Director of Planning and Environment. D&GC will now apply some pressure to the property owner to provide a plan for remediation and a timescale. In the event of no positive outcome emerging, D&GC would initiate a Section 29 notice specifying the required works and setting a timescale.

5D Scottish Power Forum: Nick Walker, Robin Richmond and Cllr McColm had attended. Scottish Power Energy Network's project to upgrade the electricity network in Mid Galloway remains on schedule. Several faulty street lights were then mentioned (including outside Rendezvous Café, New Road, Wigtown, and outside Miller's Cottage, Braehead). CCllrs were reminded that they can report these faults directly to DGFirst on line or by phone rather than waiting for a CC meeting. Nick Walker to report these faults following meeting.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

6A Planning Working Party: Nick Walker had circulated report prior to the meeting:

CURRENT APPLICATIONS

14/P/1/0658 New Application for 28 North Main Street, Wigtown.

*Alterations and conversion to two dwellings, with retention of principal front wall. This relates to the derelict building on which work was halted when a weak wall was found and previous plan could not be followed. **RECOMMEND** – submission in support.*

UPDATE ON PROPOSALS

14/P/1/0638 Adjacent to 7 High Vennel, Wigtown.

*Erection of house and oil storage tank, on vacant lot. **SUBMISSION** in support per CC meeting 10.11.2014.*

WINDFARM PROPOSAL

Shennanton – meeting of CLG 8.1.2015. Submission of planning application expected January 2015.

Public exhibition 25.11.2014 – did anyone attend?

California – appeal re Met mast pending. Developer seems to have declined CC request to hold full public meeting. No update from Federation or other CCs on Wigtown Bay. **Public meeting convened by Save Wigtown Bay – 16.12.2014 7.30 pm County Buildings - Robin Richmond & David Moran linking in with**

local community organisations and residents to understand this proposal, and local opinions, in more detail. Proposal is for seven turbines 126 metres tall on Kirkdale Hill and Torr Knowe.

Auchleand, Airriequhillart, Mindork – no update.

SOLAR PANEL PROPOSAL

Causewayend - no update.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Community Council approve report.

Any interested Community Councillors attend California Windpark public meeting.

Report was approved. Cllr McColm was present but did not contribute to any discussions.

6B Consultations Working Party: Jak Kane had circulated report prior to the meeting:

Public Engagement for Wind Turbine Proposals - Good Practice Guidance (closing date 15.12.2014)

Response to be submitted suggesting that windfarm developers be compelled to provide hard copies of planning documentation to relevant Community Councils. It was also to be suggested that a dynamic map should be produced showing windfarms in Dumfries & Galloway already installed, consented, in planning or at scoping stage to demonstrate the cumulative intensity of development in the area. PNE's Community Liaison Group and its willingness to pay attention to the concerns and suggestions of communities should be offered as an example of good practice.

Dumfries & Galloway Council's budget 2015/16 to 2017/18 *Draft proposals on where the council could spend its reduced budgets and where it will make future investment due to be published on 11 December 2014 with full Council considering the draft budget proposals on 18 December 2014. Nick Walker advised that DGC Chief Executive Gavin Stevenson had told the Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils that he would aim to ensure copies of the documents were circulated to CCs as soon as possible, preferably before Xmas. DGC will consult with local communities with a local community meeting to be held on Thursday, 15 January 2015 at the Ryan Leisure Centre, Stranraer. Feedback from these meetings will be presented to Councillors by 23 January, allowing them to consider the feedback and make decisions before they set their budget on 5 February.*

6C Finance & Resources WP: Treasurer David Moran circulated a financial report setting out the balances of the Community Council bank accounts as at 8.12.2014: Admin. £479.67; Action Fund £196.00; Response £50.25; Festivals £2967.50; Christmas Lights £2273.68.

David reported Christmas Lights account had benefited from donation of £250.00 from Wigtown Bay Wildfowlers and £500 from Wigtown Community Shop. Alan McDowall had also donated a replacement plug for the lights. It was agreed that letters of thanks should be sent to all three. It was also agreed that sundry expenses incurred in providing volunteers with refreshments should be reimbursed.

6D Christmas Working Party: Thanks were noted for volunteers installing Christmas tree and lights, and helping with the procession and switch-on. Jock McDowall explained that there was some difficulty with car parkers impeding access to the tree despite there being cones in place. It was noted that, for the future, D&GC would be asked to provide signage and barriers to provide a more secure workplace.

7 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC.

Secretary Matt Kitson had provided a list of items received since the last meeting:

*Latest **Development Plan Scheme (DPS)**, which sets out the timetable for the production of the Council's Local Development Plan (LDP), is now available. This can be viewed online at www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP or hard copies can be obtained in libraries and Council Planning Offices - notice issued to all Cllrs via email. **Noted.***

*Loan-shark poster - issued to all Cllrs via email. **Noted.***

Community Councils' use of IT workshop** is set for Friday 30.1.2015 in Edinburgh. **No one able to attend.

***Check if you can get Super-fast Broadband.** Upgrade on schedule and Bladnoch now able to order despite website stating "not yet taking orders."*

*Letter on new Community Council info. website, www.communitycouncils.org.uk - issued to Cllrs via email. **Noted.***

*Solway Firth Partnership Newsletter Nov 2014 - issued to Cllrs via email. **Noted.***

*Pot holes have been fixed in Church Lane and on corner near entrance to Maidland farm. **Noted.***

*Wigtown Area Committee Community Meeting regarding the Zero Waste Implementation was held at Belmont Primary School on 3.12.2014 - notice was issued to CCllrs via email. Reports are of no public attending at all, perhaps in part due to short notice and inconvenient venue. New collections perhaps settling into routine however. **Noted.***

*LED lighting for Wigtown has been postponed until next year to tie in with Scottish Power's changeover of poles - issued to CCllrs via email. **Noted.***

*D&GC Gambling licence for CC paid and paperwork received. **Noted.***

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm said that Chief Inspector Irvine Watson, Police Scotland Area Commander for Galloway, had reported a reduction in the number of “stop and searches” for D&G (but the time period was not clear) with no significant change in the number for Wigtownshire (approx. 400). Approx. 30% searches found evidence which was pursued. Mobile solar-powered speed signs had been installed again north of Braehead and Kirkinner villages but the permanent speed warning south of Kirkinner is out of order. Cllr McColm has sent photographs of potential sites for the McGuffie memorial to D&GC planners for visual “mock-ups” to assist the public meeting early next year.

9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

9A Scottish Poppy Appeal: Betty McGowan reported that £1314 .00 was raised in 2014, £210 more than in 2013. She also intimated her retiral form organising the Poppy Appeal locally. It was agreed that CC identify storage for relevant items, possibly in County Buildings initially. It was noted that CC does not have adequate, secure, appropriate storage and this will need to be addressed. Arrangements for 2015 Poppy Appeal will need considered in due course. Betty was thanked for her 18 years as organiser.

9B Wigtown Public Toilets: Several CCllrs had heard complaints about Wigtown public toilet. For example, recently the Gents was flooded with 4-5 cm of water from heavy rain mixing with foul water from the urinal. There are problems with the paper towel dispenser and availability of RADAR access. Agreed Cllr McColm and CC to raise this with D&GC.

9C Park Cemetery hedge: In response to a query, Cllr McColm agreed to check how long the work on the Park Cemetery hedge and fence are expected to take.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday 12 January 2015 at 7.30 pm in County Buildings, Wigtown.

Subsequently Wigtown County Buildings 9/2/2015 at 7.30 pm; Whauphill 9/3/2015.