

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN KIRKINNER HALL
ON MONDAY 13 OCTOBER 2014 AT 8.00 PM

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Nick Walker, *Convenor*
Robin Richmond
Jak Kane

Jock McDowall
Matt Kitson, *Secretary*
David McAdam

Willie McCartney
David Moran, *Treasurer*
Robert Harford

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Alistair Geddes
Janet Patterson, *Kirkinner CA*
Dianne McColm, *Senior
Community Safety Officer*

David McKay, *Free Press*
Shona Heaney

Louise Kerr, *Galloway Gazette*
Wendy McCreadie, *Kirkinner CA*
Andrew Hay, *Community Safety
Enforcement Officer*

APOLOGIES

Cllr Jim McColm

June Robinson, *Mins Sec*

Betty McGowan

1 WELCOME

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

2 POLICE MATTERS

Nicola noted two **recent incidents** – a young driver cautioned for dangerous driving and graffiti on the bridge in the Moss of Cree for which one person has been interviewed.

Parking - Regarding the Mercat Cross parking, Nicola stated that after seeking advice about parking designations, from the D&G Council, Police could not enforce tickets because there is no signage/restriction. Police should be contacted (tel. 101) where parking is causing an obstruction or a danger to the public. There was debate about whether the area is formally a junction but on checking Nicola indicated that the road markings were ambiguous and that the area cannot be treated as a junction with the parking restrictions this implies.

Agreed to invite Robert Cowie, D&G Council, and DGFfirst (regarding buses) to come to a future meeting to discuss parking in general and the impact of the agreed changes to the bus stop near the Mercat Cross. Cllr Geddes noted that a previous parking review by D&G Council had not found favour locally, and that Police Scotland has overriding responsibility for road safety.

Remembrance Parade – Police will aim to have a presence at Wigtown Act of Remembrance for the procession.

Kirkinner - Skip blocking drivers' view leaving St Kennera – Kirkinner CA requested that Police review the safety of a skip place near the St Kennera junction, which makes it difficult for drivers to see when exiting onto Main Street.

Previous theft of jewellery in Wigtown – Police have charged a suspect in this case.

3 COMMUNITY SAFETY PRESENTATION

Dianne McColm and Andrew Hay of the Community Safety Team gave a presentation on their role and current legislation, including penalties associated with anti-social behaviour, littering, dog fouling and fly tipping. They left leaflets, dog poo scoops/bags, and personal ashtrays.

These will be available at Machars Action, Wigtown. The meeting thanked Dianne and Andrew for their time and excellent presentation.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (11.8.2014)

Adopted: prop. Jock McDowall, sec. Robin Richmond.

5 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

5A Young Scots Award: No response from requests for further information. Matt to continue to pursue.

5B Remembrance Sunday: Wreaths purchased for Wigtown CC, Kirkinner CA and Whauphill CA. Agreed CC to fund all three. Positive responses from Rev. Eric Boyle, Guides, Douglas Ewart High School, Wigtown Primary School and Masons. Awaiting response from Rev. Stephen McGarva. Piper booked. Nick Walker and Matt Kitson to arrange final details, orders of service, and parade licence. Agreed Nick Walker to lay the wreath, as convenor, on behalf of CC, supported by Jock McDowall and Matt Kitson.

5C Louis McGuffie: Meeting arranged for 27.10.2014 as agreed at September CC meeting.

5D Solway Firth Partnership: CC invited to Joint Conference on Solway Firth Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in Carlisle on 14.11.2014. If any CClrs wishes to attend, bookings needed by end of October (via Nick). Partnership will be invited to February 2015 CC meeting to give a presentation on role and so on.

6 KIRKINNER COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – KIRKINNER/BRAEHEAD ISSUES

The lack of adequate road name signs has been causing problems, such as with out of hours doctors, deliveries, etc. having difficulty finding addresses. CC will raise (via CCES) with D&GC, and with James Shirazi at DGHP.

7 UPDATES & REPORTS

7A Consultations Working Party

Report circulated by Jak Kane prior to meeting. Nil new.

7B Planning Working Party

Cllr Geddes present but did not contribute to any discussions.

Nick Walker had previously circulated report:

Current applications

Windfarm proposals

Shennanton – resubmitting notice of intention to apply for planning permission as turbines increased from 11 to 12, and location moved further up site for firmer foundation and reduced visibility from A75. CLG (community liaison group) meeting was planned for late October but now delayed and new date to be confirmed.

California wind park – an appeal has apparently been lodged for Met mast. This will reconsider the submissions already made. Shona Heaney advised that an email has been

established to support community objections to the application and the proposed windfarm scheme – savewigtownbay@gmail.com People can ask to be kept informed of community action.

Solar panel proposal

No update regarding application being submitted.

Local Development Plan: Nick Walker proposed that the CC purchase a hardcopy of the plan at a cost of £30, as it would be useful to reference when considering planning applications. The meeting agreed.

Additional since report completed:

14/P/1/0625 New house on Harbour Road, Wigtown: Alan Wykes' application was withdrawn and has been resubmitted, in revised form incorporating detailed reasons for development on agricultural land. Agreed no submission to this application, as not significantly different from previous application for which CC entered a neutral consultation response.

7C Christmas Working Party

Nick Walker circulated report before meeting. CC agreed proposals as laid out (see attached to minute). CC will be responsible for flyer, insurance, lights and tree. Jock McDowall to get quote for supply and installation of, and putting of lights onto, tree, and its removal. Willie McCartney advised that some new lights would be required for the bowling hut. Meeting agreed this expenditure from Christmas Lights fund. David Moran reported that D&GC is offering the same grants for lights as in recent years. Lights installation to be sorted out at November meeting.

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Southern Uplands Partnership (SUP) and National Rural Parliament (NRP) – CC was notified too late of the recent Rural Partnership events in D&G. Advised that lack of marketing budget and proximity to the independence referendum caused this problem. CC is able to send a representative to NRP, and they will meet travel costs. CC would consider accommodation support if any Cllr wished to attend. Cllr Geddes suggested that NRP could be asked to meet in south of Scotland at some stage. Agreed to ask D&GC Area Framework team to raise this.

Southwest Scotland Sectarian Project – Request to provide a presentation to CC. Agreed that it would be more efficient to have a general session for all Wigtownshire CCs, perhaps arranged via Area Framework team.

Statement re Household Waste and Recycling – Food waste levels are lower than expected but the quality is good (without contamination). Around 7,000 households have received their Dry Recyclates boxes. Problems with schedule issued for Bladnoch and Kirkinner have been addressed. The Newton Stewart Recycling centre is now open and as a result the Riverside car park, Newton Stewart, recycling point is being removed.

Amended scheme for the establishment of Community Councils – D&GC has re-issued a document outlining the differences between the former and current schemes.

Community Empowerment and Air Weapon Licensing Bills – Local Government and Regeneration Committee of Scottish Parliament is holding community evidence session at Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries, on 27.10.2014 from 12.30 pm to 2.00 pm. Jock McDowall will attend if possible.

October Funding News – Latest update has been released.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Geddes raised concern (from local residents) about derelict property at 24 High Street, Wigtown. He reported that D&GC has “de-classified” it to remove Council Tax liability. CC agreed derelict properties were unsightly (especially in an area of outstanding conservation value) and that shortage of accommodation locally made derelict properties all the less desirable. CC agreed to write to Alistair Speedie, D&GC, to clarify current position, and prospects for D&GC to address the situation with the owner, with the aim of remedying the situation.

Noted too that work on the property on North Main Street, between the shops and High Vennel has been halted, due to issues with structural integrity of a wall. CC to request update on this being addressed for next meeting.

Community Play Park at Beddie Crescent is to be upgraded, and D&GC will be consulting on this soon.

10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

None

11 NEXT MEETING

Data Protection and New CCs Scheme meeting for all Wigtownshire CCs – Newton Stewart – 6.11.2014. Nick and Matt to attend.

Next CC meeting: Monday 10 November 2014 at 7.30 pm in County Buildings, Wigtown.

Subsequently 8.12.2014 at 7.30 pm, Wigtown County Bldgs

and next Federation meeting 9.12.2014.