

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY 8 SEPTEMBER 2014 AT 7.30 PM**

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[www.WigtownCC.org.uk](http://www.WigtownCC.org.uk)

| <b>PRESENT</b>   |                              |                               |
|------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jock McDowall    | Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i> | Matt Kitson, <i>Secretary</i> |
| Willie McCartney | Betty McGowan                | Robin Richmond                |
| Agnes Cluckie    |                              |                               |

| <b>IN ATTENDANCE</b> |                                |                                |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Cllr Jim McColm      | Cllr Alistair Geddes           | David McKay, <i>Free Press</i> |
| Cllr Archie Dryburgh | Wilma McKeown, <i>D&amp;GC</i> | Mike Morley                    |

| <b>APOLOGIES</b> |                   |              |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| June Robinson    | Lynn Drysdale     | Jak Kane     |
| David Moran      | Cllr Graham Nicol | David McAdam |

### **1 WELCOME**

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

Other business to be added to agenda: Parking in centre of Wigtown (Betty McGowan).

### **2 POLICE MATTERS**

No report but update forwarded: Van break-ins all lines of enquiry are still being investigated. Numerous extra patrols were carried out in relation to the parking at Wigtown primary school, along with working with the school in reference to educating parents/ guardians re safety for their children. There seems to be an improvement in this area.

Jock McDowall noted that the fire brigade had been called to a fire in the paper recycling bin in the lorry park on 4.9.2014. CC agreed to request details from Police and Fire & Rescue.

### **3 LOUIS MCGUFFIE VC COMMEMORATION**

Prior to the meeting (7.15pm), Nick Walker, Willie McCartney, Betty McGowan, Cllr Dryburgh, Cllr Geddes, Cllr McColm and Wilma McKeown walked around the Town Gardens and general area to discuss possible sites for the Memorial Paving Stone and Plaque to be situated.

Possible locations discussed:

- a. Entrance to Town Gardens – plaque on pavement outside entrance, citation on the pillar at entrance. Possibility of having metal rail made for above the entrance with the name of the Town Gardens “Louis McGuffie VC Memorial Gardens”.
- b. Adjacent to the new “Mercat Cross” on the cobbled area with plaque and possible interpretation board with chains between the bollards.
- c. At the entrance to the Gardens opposite the entrance to Wigtown County Buildings (where the flagpoles are situated).
- d. Outside Louis McGuffie’s former house at 1 North Main Street, Wigtown on the pavement and building wall.

In the meeting, Cllr Dryburgh outlined the UK wide approach to place a specially commissioned paving slab on the centenary of the award of the Victoria Cross to commemorate each recipient. The paving slab will incorporate an electronic reader that will enable people to scan using smartphones to discover more about the recipient. DGFirst will install and maintain the slabs under existing obligations regarding war memorials. Communities may wish to apply for additional funding for further memorials (such as the archway considered in para. a. above) in relation to their VC recipient.

As Louis McGuffie received his VC in September 1918, the laying of the slab will coincide with the Wigtown Book Festival. The CC will liaise with the Wigtown Book Festival company to consider how the two events can be linked. Actions:

- a. Hazel Kerr, D&GC to investigate where Louis McGuffie was born, brought up and lived until he died on 4.10.1918, aged 26.
- b. Working Group to be formed to include our own D&GC Councillors, Cllr Dryburgh, Area Framework Representative, Mike Morley, Cllrs Matt Kitson, Robin Richmond, Jock McDowall, Nick Walker. Wilma McKeown to arrange dates for meetings of the Working Group to develop proposals for Commemoration Events, aiming for October/November, with a Public Engagement Meeting as part of the process. Once proposals are clear, the community may be asked to make the final decision.
- c. Area Framework Team could assist with a) organising meetings of the Working Group, organising Community Engagement evening meeting, assistance with funding applications, possibility of a Civic Reception to mark the unveiling of the Plaque in 2018.
- d. Once options for siting have been identified, Wilma McKeown to contact Planning and Building Control in relation to the Conservation Area in Wigtown to ensure that any plans are feasible.
- e. Potential Timescale:
  - late Oct 14 – establish up to 4 options to put out for public/family/school engagement/consultation
  - late Nov 14 – Public Engagement Meeting in Wigtown to receive the views of the public and also send consultation to descendants around the world for consultation
  - Jan 15 – Meeting of Working Group to finalise options from public
  - March 15 – Display final option for public to comment
  - April 15 – finalise costs for option agreed and start looking at funding avenues
  - June 15 – Funding applications submitted – possibility of the Community Covenant Grant, Wigtown Area Committee and Wigtown Common Good Fund
- f. CC to liaise with the Book Festival Company re link with 2018 Festival.

Nick Walker thanked Cllr Dryburgh and Wilma McKeown for their presentation and support.

#### **4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING (11.8.2014)**

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

#### **5 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

##### **5A Remembrance Sunday**

CC agreed to incorporate honouring the Wigtown WWI dead each year in the year that they were killed or reported missing. Wigtown Primary School is keen to be involved following sessions about the conflict led by Mike Morley. Betty McGowan advised that the School would like to lay a wreath. Agreed to ask that school children read the names of those who died in 1914, including a brief line or two on the individuals' lives. Cllr Geddes noted that some communities are honouring centenary by displaying information cards, and Mike Morley offered to provide information on each local man who died. CC agreed to display of information on Community Noticeboard and CC website for two weeks around the centenary of each death. Other arrangements for Remembrance Day are being finalised by Nick Walker & Matt Kitson.

##### **5B Young Scots Award**

No response from requests for further information. Matt Kitson will pursue. Agnes Cluckie may have possible youth members, and Young Scots Award programme might assist.

##### **5C CC Outdoor Chairs**

After Agnes Cluckie's intervention, Andrew Sproat has offered storage space for these chairs at Baldoon, as they can no longer be stored at Bladnoch Distillery. CC agreed this was good, and Jock McDowall agreed to arrange transport. CC to write to thank Andrew Sproat.

#### **6 UPDATES & REPORTS**

##### **6A Consultations Working Party**

D&GC survey of CCs regarding D&GC support of CCs no feedback received from Cllrs. Agreed that office bearers should respond on behalf of CC.

Separate survey relates to library / customer service hours, closes in two weeks. Nick Walker encouraged all Councillors to respond to this, and to encourage others to do so. Matt Kitson reported that there was a link to the survey on the CC website and that it could also be completed at the Library.

## **6B Planning Working Party**

Cllrs McColm and Geddes present but did not contribute to any discussions.

Nick Walker had previously circulated report (**additions during meeting in BOLD**):

### ***Current applications***

*14/A/1/0004 Additional non-illuminated sign at part of Co-op renovation.*

*Recommend no CC submission. Agreed by CC.*

### ***Windfarm proposals***

*Millairies, Shennanton, Airriequhillart, Mindork – no updates. Cllr McColm reported that Millairies proposal had been turned down on Appeal to Scottish Ministers.*

*California wind park – met mast application refused by D&GC Planning Applications Committee.*

*Auchleand – info. from developer indicates D&GC Planning Application Committee decision expected in October. Company is confident, as several statutory consultees have entered no objection. Expect CLG (community liaison group) meeting in early winter for more info.*

### ***Solar panel proposal***

*No update regarding application being submitted.*

**CC approved the report.**

### **New Applications after WP report circulated:**

14/P/1/0293 – Crook of Baldoon creation of wetlands, as discussed with RSPB in March 2014 at pre-application consultation. **CC agreed to make submission in support.**

14/P/1/0476 – Old Munitions Works, Carsegowan – erection of dwelling house and temporary siting of mobile home. **CC agreed to make submission in support.**

Notification of proposed new 11,000 volt overhead power line to the Larg Farm wind turbine, Creetown. Scottish Power Energy Networks require to notify D&GC but this is not a planning application, so CC cannot make a submission.

## **6C Christmas Working Party**

Nick Walker has contacted churches, Festival Company and others, to organise an initial meeting to determine roles and responsibilities. Meeting set for Wednesday 17.9.2014 at 7.00 pm.

## **6D Finance & Resources Working Party**

No report as David Moran on holiday.

## **6E Broader Machars Federation of Comm. Councils**

Nick Walker had circulated minutes of last Federation meeting. D&GC is looking in to options for increasing Comm. Council input into Area Committee and so on. Next meeting will be open to CCs in Rhins, and may be able to include additional Councillors from Machars CCs. It will be about the implications of the revised CCs Scheme of Establishment, and Data Protection Act requirements for CCs. It is set for Thursday 6.11.2014, and is likely to be in Newton Stewart.

## **7 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

### **7A Book Festival Road Closure and processions**

Two notices of processions (for open ceremony and boats arrival) and road closures in front of County Buildings relating to the Wigtown Book Festival were noted. No formal submission is allowed, but CC indicated no concerns.

**7B Remembrance installation, November 2014**

Request received from Gerrie Douglas Scott to support seven day remembrance installation on the railings of the Town Gardens as part of a national project to enable people to attach pictures, notes, flowers, etc. in memory of people they have lost. CC agreed to support the proposal. There was a request about planning permission and funding sources; CC will advise relevant contacts at D&GC.

**7C Third Sector**

Invitation for CCLrs to attend an open day at the Third Sector umbrella group's office in Stranraer on 3.10.2014. Any CCLrs welcome to attend. Also, CCs may join as Associates of the group (at no cost), and CC agreed to do so.

**7D Wigtown Festival Company First Aid Training**

Places are available on a one day First Aid on 13.9.2014 at County Buildings. Cost £30 per person. No CCLrs was able to attend.

**7E Inquiry about community use of Southfield Park (old show field)**

As the site is privately owned and subject to planning proposals (never approved) for housing, community use of the site cannot be assumed. Development proposals did include a portion of the area for open community green space however. CC agreed to hold the suggestion for possible future consideration, depending on ownership, development and community resource.

**8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES**

**Cllr Geddes**

Concerns regarding cemetery grass cutting being reviewed again for 2015-16 budget. D&GC's policy on derelict properties to be considered at Economy, Environment & Infrastructure Committee on 9.9.2014.

**Cllr McColm**

Marine Scotland have issued a draft protection area for the Solway Firth, but no map of the proposed area has been provided, so there is no clarity over which areas may be protected, or which areas not. CC agreed to highlight this to local MSPs. CC also agreed to ask Pam Taylor, Solway Firth Partnership, to attend a future CC meeting to give a presentation about the Partnership's role.

**9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

**Parking**

Betty McGowan raised a resident's concern over being warned by Police recently that only two cars are permitted to park by the Mercat Cross, and that others would be liable to parking tickets. This is out of keeping with long-established practice and there are no parking designation signs, so CC agreed to seek clarification from Police. Also agreed that parking (especially during large events) could benefit from review and rationalisation, so D&GC to be requested to discuss parking at a future meeting. CC noted that some trees are becoming dangerous at Martyrs' Stake car park. D&GC to be asked to address (or agree to relevant local volunteers to do so on D&GC's behalf which would be covered within D&GC insurance as community resilience work – storm preparation).

**10 NEXT MEETING**

**Monday 13 October 2014 at 8.00 pm at Kirkiner Hall, Kirkiner  
(includes Community Safety presentation).**

Subsequently 10.11.2014 at 7.30 pm (includes Building Healthy Communities presentation);  
then 8.12.2014 at 7.30 pm, in Wigtown County Bldgs.