

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 9 January 2012 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Viewing Room, Wigtown**

PRESENT: Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, David McAdam, Vivian Murray, Howard Steele, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, Malcolm Booth, John McDowall & Brian Lees.

IN ATTENDANCE: Helen Bark, Cllr McDowall, David Moran Treasurer, PC Kirsty Harrison & Sgt Murchie, the Press Reporter and one member of the public.

1 APOLOGIES:

Jim McColm welcomed everyone to the first meeting of 2012 and wished them the compliments of the season. Apologies were received from J Dickson & Cllrs Geddes & Nicol.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Agenda was approved with the following additions:

Proposed W McCartney & seconded by J McDowall:

- Bank of Scotland - Closure
- Christmas Lights
- Summer Festival Meeting
- Lovers Lane & Southfield Lane
- Committees
- Fly Tipping on Crook Road
- Kirkinner School Car Park
- Martyrs Stake Path

3 POLICE MATTERS: PC K Harrison & Sgt Murchie

The National Drink Driving campaign had been stepped up in the month of December 2011 and there were 3 positive arrests in the Newton Stewart & Machars area. There were 22 in the whole of Dumfries & Galloway.

There had been reports of people receiving phone calls stating it was the police and asking for personal details. PC Harrison said the police would never do this and that this was a scam.

People have been charged in our area since our last report. One was in connection with a vandalism incident on a farm. There was a serious assault on New Years Day on the main street near the Galloway Inn. This is being dealt with by CID in Castle Douglas, who are looking for information.

4 Vattenfall Wind Power Ltd – Blackmyre Moor

The secretary reported that she had not heard from Vattenfall and therefore there was no representative of the company coming to the meeting. Jim McColm said he had received a copy of the Proposal of Application Notice, which stated that the likely number of turbines is between 5 and 10, with power capacity in the range from 2 to 3 MW and each turbine being 125 metres (410 feet) from base to blade tip. After a short discussion it was agreed that we should invite Vattenfall to a single topic meeting with the Community Council. Community Council Meetings are open to the public and therefore members of the public would be welcome at this meeting.

5 SAFER ROUTE TO SCHOOL

Jim said he had received a reply from John Howell in connection with the Safer Route to School. The following is a summary of his reply:

New Road/Lochancroft Lane Junction

The proposed new road width between the pavement build-outs in Lochancroft Lane would be 6.0m, a standard road width. This narrower road width should significantly benefit children crossing here. On the south side of Lochancroft Lane the build out is 2.5m deep, which reflects the adjacent parking on this road. Similarly, in New Road it is the same dimension and reflects the existing position of the 'Give Way' line and the edge line at the parking area. The radius on the north side has been increased from 4m to 6m bringing the centre line square to the channel of New Road. This reduces the size of the build out on this side quite considerably. The radius on the south side has been reduced from 8m to 6m, as 6m is a recommended size for urban junctions – this has relatively little effect. 6m radii helps to improve road safety by reducing the speed of turning traffic. Manoeuvring space at the junction has also been checked on a computer by producing 'tracks' for a pantechnicon, which has a large turning radius. Whilst this requires manoeuvres to cross the road centre lines this is regarded as acceptable by the traffic planners for the likely infrequent use by large vehicles turning in/out of this junction.

Extent of waiting restrictions

He had looked again at the extent of these and was satisfied that they are appropriate, particularly given that they are indicated as part of the proposals agreed by the Parent Council, and that some elements are at locations raised by it.

Duncan Park/Jubilee Terrace junction and extent of waiting restrictions

The restrictions on the east side have previously been separately progressed through the appropriate statutory processes. Restrictions on the opposite west side, reflect the desire to protect a crossing point to the new footway on the east side. The extent also matches that of a vehicular access. On Jubilee Terrace they extend to end at a point opposite the end of the entrance to the garage – this should assist vehicle turning manoeuvres at what I would expect to be an awkward location to turn.

The safety concerns if the bus stop was moved were discussed at some length. Willie McCartney suggested that the school wall could be realigned which would let the school bus pull off the main road. After a discussion on several points of concern it was agreed that we should oppose the moving of the bus stop and suggest the realignment of the school wall to allow more space.

6 COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr McDowall – Nothing to report except the normal problems like flooding, lighting etc. She said that some budget cuts had been agreed and that they were still working on this. Howard Steele said that there had been a lack of salting and gritting in our area. Cllr McDowall said a policy had been agreed. Regular filling of the bins had been requested but this did not happen. Jim said that some roads in Wigtown were continually in the shade and therefore never thawed in cold weather. He said that this should be taken into consideration when gritting programmes were drawn up. It was the general feeling of the meeting that the gritting be left to the Council rather than the Community Council becoming involved.

7 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes were approved by M Booth & seconded by J McDowall.

Crook of Baldoon – The meeting had taken place in December. Cllr McDowall said that she understood that some discussions were still to take place regarding the positioning of the shooting zone.

Car Park at Park Cemetery – No update on the ownership of the land.

Martyrs Stake to Station Road Path – No reply from Karen Morley

Old Cattle Showfield – John McDowall said fences had now been repaired

Minutes – Machars Action cannot put CC Minutes on to their Website. The Secretary said the Minutes are available inside Machars Action and in the Library. The Agenda will now be shown in Machars Action window. Nick and Malcolm suggested a Newsletter as a possible way of informing the public about the Community Council. It was agreed that Nick would cost out the possibility of a CC website and newsletter, which could include a survey.

Common Good Fund Application – Andrew said his application had been successful.

Banners on Railings – The secretary said she had spoken to Billy Murray in this connection and that this was in hand with one of his colleagues.

Derelict Properties – These are in hand with the owners.

8 BOOKTOWN REPORT:

No Report

9 PLANNING – H STEELE:

21-25/11/2011

7 North Main Street, Wigtown

Listed Building consent for installation of painted metal handrails at front.

6 Bank Street, Wigtown

Listed Building consent for alterations and extension to dwelling-house.

A714 D&G Council

Traffic Calming for Safer Route to School

05-09/12/2011

6 Bank Street, Wigtown

Alteration and extension to part of dwelling house to bring about a change of use to shop & café and formation of an outside seating area.

12-16/12/2011

Crook of Baldoon, Shell Road, Wigtown

Demolition of 3 Agricultural Buildings

19-23/12/2011

Hillview, Torhousemuir, Wigtown

Reinstatement of abandoned dwelling-house, alteration and extension thereto, installation of septic tank and installation of wind turbine.

Big Balcraig, Whauphill
Erection of covered silage pit and installation of underground effluent tank.

9 MACHARS ACTION:

Nothing to report

10 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – B McGOWAN:

Betty said the Poppy Collection had raised £1340.71.

Winterfest was well attended on the Friday night, numbers up on previous year. The fete Saturday had been successful with some of the stall holders already booked for next year. Betty asked if the Winterfest could be held on the weekend 30 November and 1 December 2012. This was agreed.

Wigtown in Bloom Table Top Sale is on 4 February 2012 10.00 - 4.00 pm.

The Community Shop had paid out £350.00 to 18 organisations in December and the next payout will be in June.

The Treasurer said that he believed once all the costs had been paid for the Christmas tree, lights etc. we would have a deficit on this of approximately £100.00.

11 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT – P JEAL:

Peter had sent a report. Jim read this out to the meeting.

The Chamber remains concerned at the continuing decline in the number of visitors to the area following on from the last set of official figures to 2009.

We believe that there are also opportunities, created by the present situation, provided businesses work together to seize them. VisitScotland estimate the so-called 'staycation' market has grown by £90m across Scotland and Wigtownshire must secure its share of this growing market.

The Chamber is now a Wigtownshire-wide organisation, working with the Whithorn Business Association to support the Machars Guide. Also working with Destination D&G, Scottish Enterprise and others on a range of initiatives. The main thrust of our strategy however, is to create a tourism gateway into Wigtownshire. We have helped member businesses with a range of issues from planning and licensing matters through to dealing with enquiries for inward investment. One enquiry relates to an educational book business, which is currently seeking to locate to Wigtown from Northern England. Also working with the University of the West of Scotland on a range of projects.

12 COMMUNICATIONS:

Planning & Environment Services – Windfarms Community Benefit Funds – Solway Heritage have handed over the administration and management of the Community Benefit Funds to D & G Council's Economic Development Services, Business and Enterprise Team.

David Suttie re Planning Application Notification/Consultation arrangement with CCs.

Chief Executive Service – Licensing – Change to Licensed Hours Policy – No action to be taken by Community Council.

Planning & Environment Services – Erection of 46 affordable dwelling houses; provision of open space; and construction of service road with access from the U88(W) at St Kennera Terrace, Kirkinner application has been granted conditionally.

Red Cross – Looking for volunteers secretary to ask for the poster etc. to be displayed in County Buildings.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Bank of Scotland Closed on 6th January 2012

This was due to staff shortage due to illness. The feeling was that this was not acceptable as the bank is only open 3 days a week. It was agreed that the secretary should write to head office and lodge a complaint.

Christmas Lights

Tree and lights to be taken down on Saturday 14 January, 2012.

Wigtown Summer Festival Meeting

Betty asked if Renita Boyle had resigned from her position. Jim said she had intimated this at the last meeting. A meeting was arranged for Monday 30 January 2012 at 7.30 in Viewing Room.

Lovers Lane/Southfield Lane

Betty said she had been approached by a member of the public, on several occasions, regarding the muddy state of Lovers Lane. The feeling of the meeting was that as it was due to the excessive rain we have had over recent months, it would be very difficult to do anything about it.

Southfield Lane is full of pot holes but it is our understanding that this is on the works programme for Wigtown.

Committees

Malcolm said as he was a new comer to the Community Council he felt it would be useful to have a list of the people who are involved in other Committees, such as the Area Committee, Licensing Committee etc. Jim & Helen to make up a list.

Fly Tipping in Shell Road, Wigtown

John McDowall said electrical goods had been dumped – Secretary to inform Council.

Kirkinner School Car Park

John McDowall said that this Car Park is full of potholes. Cllr McDowall said she would deal with this.

Martyr's Stake Path

It was reported that two trees are down after the storm. They are partially blocking the path. Secretary to contact Simon Fieldhouse.

14 DATE & TIME of next meeting:

Monday 13 February 2012 at 7.30 pm in the Viewing Room, County Buildings, Wigtown.

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 13 February 2012 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Viewing Room, Wigtown**

PRESENT:

Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, David McAdam, Vivian Murray, Howard Steele, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, Malcolm Booth & John McDowall.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Bark, Cllrs Geddes & Nicol and the Press Reporter.

APOLOGIES:

Jim McColm welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from J Dickson, B Lees, D Moran Cllr McDowall and Police Representative.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Agenda was approved with the following additions:

Proposed J McDowall & seconded by V Murray:

- Hospital
- Bowling Pavilion
- Football Field & Pavilion
- Bank of Scotland
- County Buildings

2 POLICE MATTERS:

No Police Officer present.

The convener was given the following report on the telephone:

There had been one minor road traffic offence and a Road Traffic Accident. One person had been reported.

Two incidents of Anti Social Behaviour the people concerned have been spoken to.

A Report of a suspicious vehicle, possibly a white transit van.

One theft – one person reported.

Some drug paraphernalia was found in Southfield Lane.

Draw attention to Bogus Workmen, to the website regards farm vehicles being stolen and people trying to get bank details on the phone.

3 COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Geddes gave an update on the derelict buildings. He said that the Council had taken as much action as was possible in the case of 28 North Main Street, Wigtown. He said some improvements have been made to the appearance. Planning permission is in place for this building and will run out after two years so he would hope that something would be carried out before that. Billy Murray from the planning department has had a meeting with the son of the owner of 24 High Street, Wigtown and stressed that the look of this building must be improved as soon as possible or a Section 179 Notice will be served.

Cllr Geddes spoke about the Safer Route to School proposal. Signage and conservation issues were approved by the Planning Application Committee. The Wigtown Area Committee has yet to approve the overall proposal though works have begun. Cllr Geddes said he had met with John Howell and Alistair Speedie in connection with this plan and had asked that 'a computer' not be used to establish size of the build outs but to use actual vehicles. Jim McColm said our main objection was the movement of the bus stop.

Cllr Geddes said this was not under the Conservation Area planning and that he had made it clear that all our concerns must be brought before the Area Committee. Cllr Geddes suggested we write immediately showing our concerns and asking for immediate attention. He said our letter should be copied to Alistair Speedie. Jim also said that when he had spoken to John Howell re our proposal to realign the school wall he had been told this would be too expensive.

Cllr Nicol reported that budget setting had taken place last Thursday and that a balanced budget had been agreed. He said roads badly needed money spent on them, the main problem being potholes. At the present time all potholes reported must be repaired within 3 working days but because of the number of potholes these are only being temporarily repaired. This is a waste of money so they are now looking at a different timing policy.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes were approved by J McDowall & seconded by B McGowan.

Car Park at Park Cemetery:

It had now been confirmed that this land belongs to the Earl of Galloway. It was agreed that the Community Council should contact Alistair Speedie with a view to the Council purchasing this piece of land.

Martyrs Stake to Station Road Path:

Letter received from Karen Morley stating that it would not be suitable to erect a sign under the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003. After discussion it was agreed that the Community Council felt very strongly that there was a health & safety issue here. The secretary was instructed to write again to Karen Morley.

Dog Fouling:

It was brought to the attention of the Community Council that the mess by dog fouling at the Car Park and on the path was terrible. It was also reported that Harbour Road is really bad. It was agreed that we should invite Robert Matley to the April Meeting.

Website:

Nick Walker said it would cost £6 per month and £5-£10 to buy the site name for 2 years. It was agreed that Nick should go ahead with this. The website address is www.wigtowncc.org.uk

Newsletter:

Andrew Wilson said he had costed the production of 800 copies of a Newsletter at £88. It was agreed to ask the Common Good Fund to help with this cost if necessary. It was also agreed that a committee should be formed to deal with the production of the newsletter. The committee is Nick Walker, Andrew Wilson, Malcolm Booth, Ami Todd and Shannan Lochrie.

Common Good Fund Application:

Andrew said he would like his thanks minuted and handed out copies of the leaflet about the martyrs. He said these were now available to the public.

Banners on Railings:

An email had been received from Iona Brooke, the planning department stating that all the people concerned had been notified. The banners etc. have now been removed from the railings round the gardens

Fly Tipping:

J McDowall said the items had not been lifted from Shell Road, The Crook. The secretary said she had spoken to Robert Matley who had assured here he would attend to this. Cllr Geddes said a letter should be sent to June McKinstry asking the Environmental Clean Up Squad to get the Shell Road cleared and also to look again at the banks of the River Bladnoch down past the old creamery through the bridge

Kirkinner School Car Park:

Cllr Geddes said that this was a council owned car park and we should ask Cllr McDowall to update us.

Wigtown Festival Meeting:

This meeting had gone ahead and two ladies from the town had agreed to help with the organising of the events during the week.

Committees:

Jim said that he as Convener and Willie McCartney as vice convener attended the following meetings as representatives of the Community Council: Common Good Fund Meetings, Area Community Meetings. Also, Jim chaired the last meeting of the Summer Festival Committee because at present they do not have an overall convener. Nick Walker, Andrew Wilson and Malcolm Booth asked about the other Community Council Committees. Jim said that these were committees such as Wigtown in Bloom and the Summer Festival, which ran under the aegis of the Community Council. They held their own meetings and their finances were ring fenced for specific purposes.

5 PLANNING – H STEELE:

No report no planning applications in our area in this period.

19-23/12/2011

Hillview, Torhousemuir, Wigtown

Reinstatement of abandoned dwelling-house, alteration and extension thereto, installation of septic tank and installation of wind turbine.

The convener said he had not managed to find out the height of the turbine in the above application it was agreed that he should phone Billy Murray.

6 MACHARS ACTION – W McCARTNEY:

Willie said that they were interviewing on Friday for a second girl to work in the office.

7 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – B McGOWAN:

Betty said the Table Top Sale – Wigtown in Bloom had gone very well considering it was a very wet day. £450 had been raised over all.

Jim said that the final bill in connection with the Christmas Tree, lights etc. had come to £1200. He said he would like to pay tribute to the members of the community who had helped in anyway towards this event. He said that the people of the town were very appreciative.

8 COMMUNICATIONS:

Scoping opinion re the Blackmyre Wind Farm had been received. Jim presented this to the meeting and said that he had arranged a 'Single Topic Meeting' with Vattenfall Ltd for Thursday 1st March 2012 at 7.30pm in the supper room, County Buildings, Wigtown.

He said this meeting would not be a protest meeting but a meeting to give Vattenfall a chance to present their proposals to the Community Council.

Pete White – Housing Trust asking to come to our March Meeting. After discussion it was agreed that Nick Walker should contact Mr White with a view to including the survey being part of the Newsletter distribution.

Moss of Cree road will be closed between 5th March and 11th March 2012 to enable The Forestry Commission to carry out work.

Pete White re Coastal Communities Fund.

D&G Council re Community Council Training night on 23 February 2012 in Stranraer.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Bowling Pavilion is in a bad state of repair with water coming in - who should we contact. Cllr Nicol said he would let us know.

Trammondford Park – Football Pavilion. The convener said the SFA require facilities to be updated. Wigtown & Bladnoch Football Club lease the park. Cllr Nicol said he would follow this up.

Bank of Scotland. The secretary said she had written to the head office in Edinburgh and copied the letter to the Manager at Stranraer but had heard nothing from either of them. She was asked to write again as the Bank had failed to open on two mornings the week before.

New Hospital. Malcolm Booth said he felt the Community Council should write to the NHS requesting the potential new hospital be built at the west side of Dumfries. Cllr Nicol said the possible sites were now down to five. Jim McColm said he was disappointed that the Community Council had never been consulted on the proposed new hospital although the Community Council are Statutory Consultees in planning matters. The secretary was instructed to invite the NHS to come to our April 2012 Meeting to give us a presentation. Nick Walker said there was a survey on line re the potential new DGRI hospital site– the address is: www.surveymonkey.com/s/DX3N752

County Buildings. It was reported that some ridging had been blown off the roof of the County Buildings. Although, this had been reported by the Hall Keeper some 4 weeks ago, nothing has been done about it. Cllr Nicol said he would attend to this.

Stevenson Prize – School. Andrew Wilson had a communication in connection with this prize – Howard Steele said he would pass this to the school.

Auchleand Windfarm proposal. Jim said a joint meeting had been arranged for 16th February with the Community Wind Farm Company concerning their proposals for a wind farm at Auchleand. The other Community Councils joining in this meeting are Kirkcowan, Cree Valley and Kirkmabreck. Apologies, for non attendance at this meeting were received from Helen Bark, and Cllrs Nicol & Geddes.

10 DATE & TIME of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on Monday 12th March 2012 at 7.30pm in the Viewing Room, County Buildings, Wigtown.

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 12 March 2012 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Viewing Room, Wigtown**

PRESENT:

Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, David McAdam, Vivian Murray, Andrew Wilson, Nick Walker, Malcolm Booth & John McDowall.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Bark; Cllrs Geddes, McDowall & Nicol; Sgt Dodds, Police; L Burnett & G Sheriff, NHS; Pete White, D&G Small Communities Housing Trust; 3 members of WBW; Press Reporter.

APOLOGIES:

J Dickson, B Lees, D Moran, A Todd, S Lochrie & P Jeal.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Agenda was approved (Prop. J McDowall, Sec. W McCartney) with the following additions:

- Wild-fowling
- Draft Local Plan
- Queens Diamond Jubilee
- ASCC Conference
- CCs Scheme review
- Insurance Renewal

2 POLICE MATTERS: Sgt Dodds.

Sgt Dodds said there had been two road traffic accidents in our area which had been caused by driver error. One person had been charged with Assault. One person had been charged in connection with Animal Cruelty. She also said that residents should be on the look out for bogus people who may come to the door.

The convener asked if there had been any feedback on the drug paraphernalia which had been found in Southfield Lane. Sgt Dodds said she had not heard anything.

3 NHS PRESENTATION – Lydia Burnett & Gordon Sheriff

Ms Burnett and Mr Sheriff gave a presentation on the proposed new Hospital at Dumfries. They gave the reasons why a new hospital is needed and the possible locations for the new building. The Scottish Government is making approximately a £ 200 million investment in healthcare for our region. On the question of all single rooms, Ms Burnett said that these would be built in pods of four with a nurses station in the middle. Each room will have a glass front facing the other rooms. This will help with the control of infections and make it easier to cope with variation in the gender balance of patients. There will also be communal patient lounge areas. Mr Sheriff said that private funding would be used for the construction of the building. He said the government had no capital monies at present. When asked about previous problems with PFI, he said that public sector negotiators are now more up to speed. Ms Burnett handed out copies of “Plans for Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary” leaflet and “Hospital Site Options” form for completion. The consultation period for the new hospital site ends on 13 April. The convener thanked Ms Burnett & Mr Sheriff for their informative presentation.

4 D&G SMALL COMMUNITIES HOUSING TRUST – Pete White

The convener introduced Mr White who gave an interesting and informative talk on how the Small Communities Housing Trust works. A survey will be done to identify what the housing requirements are in the area. He said that the survey can be completed by people who have had to move away because of the shortage of suitable housing. Mr White said that planners are on their side and will be constructive. The houses can be for rental or purchase. He has agreed to combine his survey, on housing needs in the area, with the CC Newsletter and Survey. At this stage Nick Walker handed out copies of the draft "Wigtown CC News" and surveys. Mr White said that D&G Small Communities' Housing Trust would print this in colour at no cost. It was unanimously agreed by the meeting that the Newsletter was impressive. The convener thanked Nick and his committee for their work in the preparation of this. The Newsletter, etc will now be printed and delivered to every household in our area. The convener thanked Mr White for his informative talk and his support.

5 COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllrs McDowall and Nicol said they had nothing to report. Cllr Geddes said that he had been pushing for the minor roads in the area to be repaired. John McDowall said that work had started on the High Barness and other roads. Cllr Geddes said he felt that Colin Forbes was performing well as roads manager.

6 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

The Minutes were approved by M Booth & seconded by J McDowall after one amendment. The amendment was that Item 4 – Safer Route to School should read: "This has now been approved by the Planning Application Committee."

Safer Route to School: Jim McColm said he had contacted John Howell and had been assured that a large vehicle would be used to check the build outs. The build outs are now in place and it was stated that a physical check had indeed been made. It was agreed that clarity was required in connection with the other proposals and the Convener would contact Mr Speedie.

Car Park at Park Cemetery: Jim reported that Keith Brown was now dealing with the possible Council acquisition of land at the cemetery. He also said that, to the Council's credit, a path has now been put in place in the cemetery.

Martyrs Stake to Station Road Path: No response as yet to our letter.

Dog Fouling & Fly Tipping: The secretary reported that Robert Matley had spent a day with Elizabeth Tindall, monitoring the situation at the Martyrs Car Park and walk. They had handed out bags in an effort to educate dog owners on the importance of lifting the mess. She also said Mr Matley had been unable to see the items that had been fly tipped in Shell Road. Malcolm Booth agreed to show him.

Website: www.wigtowncc.org.uk It was agreed that the website was very effective and the convener thanked Nick for his work on this.

Kirkinner School Car Park: Cllr McDowall said that she had contacted Peter Nelson who had thought this had been part of a previous re-surfacing programme. Cllr Geddes said he thought it had been agreed to split the car park off from Education and transfer it to Planning, Housing & environment as a designated Village Car Park.

Wind Farm Meetings: Jim said that the meeting with Community Windpower Ltd (Auchleand) attracted approximately 30 people, and the one with Vattenfall Ltd (Blackmyre Moor) had been poorly attended with only 10 people. Jim also presented a map from Dong Energy Ltd in connection with a proposed Offshore Wind Farm off Luce Bay. There was a questionnaire for completion but it was agreed that we would not complete it.

Bowling Pavilion: It was reported that this had been repaired today.

Trammondford Park Football Pavilion: No further information at this time.

County Buildings: No repairs have been done yet. It was agreed that it is important that this be repaired as soon as possible.

Bank of Scotland: The convener read out a letter, received from bank of Scotland Customer Services. It was felt that this letter was not acceptable as it did not answer our question. A letter to be sent in reply and to be copied to the Chief Executive and the Manager at Stranraer.

7 BOOKTOWN REPORT:

The convener read out the following report:

In January 2012 Wigtown was awarded the Creative Scotland Creative Place Award for places of less than 2500 residents. £ 50,000 was awarded for activities specifically to benefit Wigtown and promote tourism at times outside the festival. An open meeting for stakeholders was held on 20/02/2012, more than 30 attended. There are a number of projects to which commitments have been made, which include Residential Creative Writing Courses: A Lecture Series throughout the year which will be themed 'Small World, Big World': Wigtown Poetry Competition: Spring Book Weekend: and Promotion for Wigtown as Scotland's National Book Town. In addition to these there is some funding for creativity – using this funding as a platform to bring projects together as a community. A number of projects were discussed, ideas are still be collated.

The Festival Company held the first ever Great Wigtown Pancake Challenge, which saw 14 teams compete. This was a fun community event. It was also a Fairtrade event.

The annual Wigtown Poetry Competition is now open for entries. Plans for this year's Festival are now well underway with funding agreed from Creative Scotland of £ 30,000, Creative Scotland's One Step Further fund of £ 17,550 towards projects including Dark Skies and Artist as Audience, a recommitment to sponsorship from Baillie Gifford and new sponsorship agreements with the RSPB and Forestry Commission. Funding bids have also been submitted to Event Scotland and D&G Council Area Committee. The aim is that the Festival will be on a similar scale to 2011 with threads including creativity (in the year of Creative Scotland) and Dark Skies. There will be food and drink related events in the programme.

The children's festival will encourage activities within these strands – authors already confirmed for the children's festival include: Shoo Rayner, Debi Giori, Sally Magnusson, Norman Stone and Damien Dibben. The children's festival team are currently working with Wigtown Primary School to invite new sponsors on board to enhance the children's area and encourage more children from D&G and beyond to participate.

The Spring Weekend, organised by the Association of Wigtown Booksellers and

supported by WFC will take place on Saturday 5 and Sunday 6 May 2012. Events will include: Jack Hunter, Dorothy Alexander, Dane Love, Zoë Bestel, Orain Sangs, Linda Woodfield, David Collin, Maria Carnie, Richard Smith, Hugh Bryden and Hugh McMillan and Scotland Mapping a Nation to name a few. The programme will be available in the next ten days.

The Literature Development Officer for D&G is now based in the festival office in Wigtown since the post became hosted by WFC in Mid December. Carolyn Yates is working with and supporting a wide variety of literature development activities across the region, including with organisations such as Wigtown Book Festival, Moffat Book Events, Peter Pan Moat Brae Trust and The Bakehouse.

8 PLANNING – H STEELE:

No report.

The convener said he had spoken to Billy Murray in connection with the wind turbine at Hillview, Torhousemuir, Wigtown and had been assured that this would not be more than 20 m tall.

9 MACHARS ACTION – W McCARTNEY:

Willie reported that Machars Action had been involved in the successful applications for grants by Whithorn Boys' Brigade (£1200) and Loch Inch Garden Festival (£10,000).

10 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – B McGOWAN:

Betty said that the Community Festival Committee had met and would meet again in April, with the programme being developed.

11 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT – P JEAL:

Peter not present but the convener read out a report:

The Wigtownshire Chamber of Commerce has been involved in the following issues: the two-tier licensing hours in Wigtownshire and the impact this is having on the viability of Machars/Newton Stewart local inns and hotels; the proposals for an out of town supermarket at Newton Stewart and the Scottish Government Task Force seeking to develop Stranraer waterfront.

The membership of the Chamber is now 110 businesses including West Sound Radio. The increase is largely due to the fact that the Chamber is being seen as a strategic organisation and, as such, is able to engage with the local authority and Scottish Government on behalf of local businesses more effectively.

The merger in January of the Stranraer and District Chamber of Commerce with the Wigtownshire Chamber has been welcomed by D&GC and the Scottish Government.

The Chamber of Commerce is the only non-statutory organisation to have a seat on the Stranraer Task Force, which is at present chaired by Alex Neil MSP.

The Chamber was disappointed that Licensing Board members were not given any of the submissions or evidence submitted to the Board at their January Meeting to review their two-tier hours policy.

The proposed new out-of-town supermarket at Barnkirk is also opposed by the Chamber of Commerce and the business community in Newton Stewart.

The Chamber has put together a detailed evidence-led objection which will be submitted to the Council once the proposers, CWP submit their planning application.

12 COMMUNICATIONS:

Letter of thanks from Community Windpower Ltd for organising the meeting.

Notification of Military Exercise from the Army Headquarters across Galloway – *Exercise Joint Warrior* – 10 April to 13 May 2012.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Wild-fowling at the Crook

The convener introduced Alan Wykes, secretary of the Wigtown Wild-fowling Club. In 2010, the Community Council wrote to RSPB stating we were in favour of continued Wild-fowling at the Crook. Mr Wykes said the wild-fowling club were disappointed that no agreement had been reached with the RSPB. The wild-fowling club had gone to an Area Committee meeting in December 2011, expecting three proposals to be on the table but found that option 3, which they had been willing to accept, had been withdrawn. It then transpired that they were only offered 25% at the south end, which was not suitable because of the lack of shelter. Mr Wykes said they were very upset by the way things were developing. The wild-fowling club had had a lot of input in the Local Nature Reserve and bird hide. He also said he owned the harbour but was willing to let it remain open to the public as part of the LNR but this may change if wild-fowling cannot be resolved. It would appear that RSPB does not want to allow access over its land. Wild-fowling lasts only 6-8 weeks in the year. If wild-fowling is not allowed to continue the wild geese would cause more damage to farmland. It also forms part of our region's economy. After a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously agreed that the Community Council should write to Simon Fieldhouse and Alistair Speedie to say that we would like controlled wild-fowling to continue at the Crook. Cllr Geddes said urgent clarification is required in this case.

Draft Local Development Plan

Jim McColm said he had been at a meeting about the draft local development plan and handed out copies of a map showing the proposed housing sites; two potential housing sites – namely ground in front of the Martyrs Monument, and ground next to Lovers Lane – were considered inappropriate for development by the CC. It was agreed that we should object strongly to these places becoming future development sites. Jim said that the consultation period had closed on 9 March 2012 but that he had an extension of two weeks to allow us to reply. He only found out about the meeting on the day of the meeting. It was agreed that we write to Steve Rogers showing our concern at the lack of communication re these consultations. Vivian Murray said she believed a house was now being built in the place marked on the Kirkinner map.

Diamond Jubilee

Betty McGowan asked if Wigtown was going to acknowledge the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. It was agreed that we should think about it and bring any ideas to the next meeting.

ASCC Final Conference

Nick Walker said there is a final conference on Wednesday 18 April 2012 at Dunblane Hydro.

At this point the fire alarm went off for a second time and the meeting ended.

Review of CC Scheme & Renewal of Insurance

Not discussed.

14 DATE & TIME of next meeting:

The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 11 April 2012 at 7.30pm** in the **Viewing Room, County Buildings, Wigtown. Change of night due to Easter.**

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of meeting held on Monday 11 April 2012 at 7.30pm
Held in the County Buildings Viewing Room, Wigtown**

PRESENT:

Jim McColm, William McCartney, Betty McGowan, Vivian Murray, Nick Walker, Malcolm Booth & Howard Steele.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Helen Bark, David Moran, Cllrs Geddes & Nicol, PC Dingwall, 2 Members of the public, Ami Todd & Shannan Lochrie, Youth Representatives and the Press Reporter.

APOLOGIES:

J Dickson, B Lees, D Moran, D McAdam, J McDowall, A Wilson, P Jeal & Cllr McDowall.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Agenda was approved with the following additions:

Proposed W McCartney & seconded by M Booth:

- ASCC Final Conference
- Insurance
- Data Protection renewal
- Fairtrade
- Queens Golden Jubilee
- Safer Route to School

2 POLICE MATTERS: PC Dingwall.

PC Dingwall reported the following incidents, which had been dealt with since our last meeting.

2 Conditional Orders had been served for Road Tax Discs not being displayed. This is a £60 fine.

There had been one serious road traffic accident on the A714.

A car had been damaged in Jubilee Terrace.

2 ASB incidents.

PC Dingwall said she would again like to draw everyone's attention to bogus workmen etc. who are operating in the area. She asked everyone to report anything or anyone suspicious to the police.

Vivian Murray said there was a caravan, large boat and a trailer with a rowing boat in the car park in Kirkinner. No one seemed to know who they belonged to. The convener asked PC Dingwall if the police would look into this and also to the fact that the height barrier had been removed.

3 COUNCILLORS REPORTS:

Cllr Nicol said the one thing he wanted to report on was the state of the region's roads. He said that there had been a meeting the previous day, including PHES and DG First, to discuss the best way forward for permanent repairs rather than temporary repairs. He said extra investment would be required. He said this had been given the go ahead by the council. The convener said he had seen the South Balfern Road on Border TV. This showed a great improvement on the state of the road now compared to it before the work was done. Cllr Geddes said he had been pushing for a considerable time for extra

investment. An application for a further £3.5 Million has been made to upgrade and enhance the roads. He said it was very important that a proper job be done.

4 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING:

Minutes were approved by N Walker & seconded by M Booth.

Wild-fowling at the Crook – The report on this has been shelved and will be revisited with new elected council. Cllr Geddes said the Report was not fit for purpose.

D&G Small Communities Housing Trust – Nick Walker said that Pete White was willing to hold work shops in County Buildings if required.

Car Park at Park Cemetery – Nothing further to hand.

Martyrs' Stake to Station Road Path – Still no response

Dog Fouling – Secretary to invite Robert Matley to May meeting.

Kirkinner School Car Park – Vivian said hard core had been put in place in the Car Park. It was agreed that this car park should be designated to P H E S and that we should write and clarify this.

Blackmyre Moor Wind Turbines – The convener said he had received a copy of the Consultation Plan. He said this did not include all the groups in Wigtown who are active in the community, although it did have a more comprehensive coverage for Creetown, etc. It was agreed we should write to them in this connection.

Trammondford Park – The convener said that he believed Nick Lane was working on the lease at this time. Cllr Geddes said we should contact Rhona Lewis in connection with our enquiries.

County Buildings – Pleased to report that the repairs have now been done, although it was felt that when the scaffolding was in the place, it would have been a good idea to have painted the tower.

Bank of Scotland – No response.

Draft Local Development Plan – A letter of apology was received from Mr Maxwell.

5 PLANNING – H STEELE:

19/03/2012- 23/03/2012

Auchleand Farm – Erection of temporary Meteorological Mast (3yrs) 50m high

27 South Main Street, Wigtown – Display of Internally Illuminated Fascia Sign

27 South Main Street, Wigtown – Installation of ATM

Airriequhillart Forest – Rural Development Contract – Long Term Forest Plan

Ballaird Forest – Rural Development Contract – Long Term Forest Plan

26/03/2012 – 30/03/2012

9 North Main Street, Wigtown – Formation of Ramped Access

6 Rowantree Court – Construction of Dormer

6 COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – B MCGOWAN

Betty said that the programme was taking shape for the Summer Festival which will run from 7th July to 13th July 2012. The next meeting is 15 May 2012 at 7.00 pm in County Buildings.

Wigtown in Bloom applied to Mid Galloway Area Committee for a grant to help with a project for the entrance to Wigtown from the North side. She said a grant of approximately £ 600 had been awarded. Betty also said that the money in connection with the broken seat had started to come in again.

7 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE REPORT – P JEAL (by letter)

Proposed out-of-town supermarket, Barnkirk, Newton Stewart

This is the last paragraph of the letter

The Chamber is in favour of inward investment, but not at the expense of local businesses and local jobs. The area simply cannot afford to lose any more jobs. We would be happy to discuss our evidence with you should you wish, but would ask that the Community Council support us in opposing this application.' A copy of the whole letter is available. It was agreed that the Community Council could not give a view on this project until further information is to hand.

8 NEWSLETTER:

Nick Walker said that copies of the newsletter should by now have been delivered to all houses in our area. He said he had already received some surveys back.

9 COMMUNICATIONS:

A letter of resignation from the post of Secretary was received from Helen Bark. She said she would not be at the Annual General Meeting and would not take on the post.

A letter of resignation from the post of Convener was received from Jim McColm.

A letter was received from James Harbison & Company in connection with CWP Supermarket Plans for Newton Stewart. He said he would be willing to attend one of our meetings. Jim McColm & Willie McCartney had attended a meeting in Newton Stewart in this connection. They said it would appear that the Newton Stewart community is split on the situation. To date no application has been submitted but it was felt that an independent consultants investigation will be essential.

Email was received from Joe McKeown in connection with the two wind farm proposals. Mr McKeown attended the meeting. The convener said that both companies had had public meetings in Wigtown. He said that although only approximately 10 people attended the Vattenfall Ltd meeting, there had been some very searching questions put to the developers. The meetings are to give people the chance to get information. It was agreed that we could not decide our position on these Wind Farms until applications are made, and that it would not be feasible to make a blanket policy in connection with applications.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

ASCC Final Conference – Nick said that this had been oversubscribed so therefore nothing to discuss.

Insurance – Nick said that Sheila Armstrong had been negotiating insurance for Community Councils. Keegan & Pennykid's proposal was accepted by D&G Council and cover will begin when current ASCC cover ends.

Data Protection registration renewal – A renewal notice had been received but an email had also been received from Wendy Jesson informing us that Sheila Armstrong is dealing with this and will let us know if this has to be paid or not.

Fairtrade – An article had appeared in the Free Press stating that Wigtown might lose Fairtrade Status due to lack of support in the town. After discussion it was agreed that we should write to Mr J Gough stating our concern in this matter as the Community Council had backed the Fairtrade Committee when it was first formed.

Jubilee Celebrations – It was agreed that Betty McGowan should contact the school to find out what their plans are for the celebrations and offer additional input to what had been planned. An evening event for young people was agreed. The community will be invited to take part in the UK-wide Big Lunch on Jubilee weekend.

Safer Route to School – It was reported that some of the public were disappointed that the work was going ahead, with the build outs already in place and a hole made in the perimeter wall which would suggest a new gate was to be made. It was disappointing as we understood that there were still several outstanding objections to be resolved. Cllr Geddes said he was very disappointed that no negotiations had taken place between ourselves and John Howell in connection with the new gate and possible movement of the bus stop. The meeting felt strongly about the bus stop being moved nearer a dangerous corner. It was agreed that we should contact Alistair Speedie immediately concerning this.

12 DATE & TIME of next meeting:

**Annual General Meeting – Monday 14 May 2012 at 7.00 pm
in Viewing Room County Buildings, Wigtown;**

followed by regular monthly meeting at 7.30pm.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY 14 MAY 2012
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS**

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Howard Steele	Willie McCartney, <i>Vice-convenor</i>
Vivian Murray	Andrew Wilson	Betty McGowan
David McAdam	Malcolm Booth	Jock McDowall

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	
William Saunders	Andy Farrington	

APOLOGIES		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol	Gillian Thorley, <i>Clerk</i>

1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
	<p>Nick Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting, thanked CCllrs for electing him Convenor, and intimated the apologies received. Andrew Wilson agreed to take notes for Gillian Thorley to write up minutes.</p>
2	NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA
	<p>Other business: (a) decorative state of wall around the square & Chapel Court; (b) Heritage fund application proposal.</p> <p>Nick Walker suggested that Machars Action, Booktown and Chamber of Commerce reports be removed from the agenda as there have been no reports provided.</p> <p>Agenda approved (proposed Vivian Murray, sec. Jock McDowall).</p>
3	POLICE REPORT
	<p>PC Keith Kennedy reported that there had been 1 minor road traffic offence, 1 incident of fire raising, 1 instance of breach of the peace, 7 incidents of anti-social behaviour.</p> <p>On investigation, it appears that the caravan and boat in Kirkinner car park are not abandoned.</p> <p>PC Kennedy advised people to be vigilant against bogus workmen and thefts of copper and heating oil.</p> <p>The meeting raised concerns about the <i>Safer Routes to School</i> develop, and in particular the new school gate and the bus stop relocation. The CC wished to know whether the Police had been consulted; PC Kennedy said he would inquire with the Schools Liaison Officer.</p>
4	COMMUNITY WARDENS – Andrew Hay & Robert Matley
	<p>Andy Hay and Robert Matley gave the group a presentation about their work as Community Wardens. The three commonest complaints they receive are about dog fouling, litter and anti-social behaviour. They highlighted examples they had found in Wigtown, described the system of fixed penalties, and encouraged us to report offenders. They also stressed the importance of</p>

	<p>witness statements to procure convictions.</p> <p>Various Council teams are now coming together, so there will be more enforcement staff operating in our area, but the new team will cover the Stewartry as well as Wigtownshire.</p> <p>The number to report all offences to is : 01776 70 60 30. They also advised reporting full dog waste bins (to DG First) and full recycling bins to the provider (normally a number on the bin).</p>
5	COUNCILLORS' REPORTS
	<p>Shortly before the meeting, it was reported that Dumfries & Galloway Council would have a coalition Conservative and SNP administration. The first full Council meeting since the elections will take place on Tuesday 22 May 2012. Committee Convenors will be appointed then.</p>
6	MINUTES OF 11 APRIL MEETING AND MATTERS ARISING
	<p>The minutes were adopted (prop. Malcolm Booth, sec. Vivian Murray).</p> <p>a The ownership issue of Kirkinner car park has still to be settled.</p> <p>b The issue of Wild-fowling at the Crook will be re-visited by the Area Committee.</p> <p>c Pete White from D&G SCHAT has resigned. Jamie Dent will handle his work at present. There are Wigtown housing concern drop-in sessions on 17 and 25 May. Action: Andrew to check whether Jamie will manage drop in sessions.</p> <p>d Cemetery Car parking - still on going.</p> <p>e Footpath past Martyrs' stake - still on going.</p> <p>f Trammondford Park - Jim McColm to progress this issue in his FC role.</p> <p>g Bank of Scotland failures to open - meeting noted no response to our further letter on this matter. David Moran informed meeting of £35 donation from the Bank in compensation for delays over change of account signatories.</p> <p>h Registration with Information Commissioner, under Data Protection Act – no further word from Sheila Armstrong CCLO. Action: Nick to seek clarification.</p> <p>i Fairtrade status of Wigtown – previous discussion over failure of Fairtrade Steering Group was revisited. Reiterated that CC supports Fairtrade status. Agreed to contact those individuals and groups previously involved suggesting they re-establish the Steering Group. Action: Betty McGowan and William Saunders to identify relevant people/organisations. Nick Walker then to write from CC.</p>
7	PLANNING MATTERS - Howard Steele
	<p>CC noted that Vattenfall was refused permission for a turbine height wind monitoring device at Blackmyre Moor.</p> <p>Renewal of extant permission in principle, for ten affordable houses at Whauphill, by Mr McGarva. CC agreed no response.</p> <p>Planning application weekly lists will need re-directed due to Helen Bark's retiral. Action: Nick to speak to Wendy Jesson.</p>

8	COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES – Betty McGowan
	<p><u>Wigtown in Bloom</u> Committee continues to plan for Beautiful Scotland competition.</p> <p><u>Community Festival</u> Committee meeting 15 May 2012. Insurance requirements will be clarified then. Festival plans being developed. Jubilee plans include fun day for children on Saturday 2 June, including Big Lunch (everyone invited to bring picnic for joint meal in town square). In the evening, a musical reminiscence event (ticketed but free) in the County Building. Draft fliers were commented upon. A fund-raising quiz will be held in the Masonic Hall on Friday 25 May 2012 at 8.00 pm to support jubilee events. Prize donations requested.</p>
9	NEWSLETTER
	<p>Now circulated throughout Wigtown, Kirkcubbin and Whauphill. Well-received. Analysis of survey responses will be ready for next CC meeting. Future newsletters have been discussed with Adrian Turpin (Director, Book Festival Company) who is keen to set up a joint local publication linking into the Creative Scotland Award recently won by Wigtown. The meeting agreed that Nick Walker and the Newsletter Committee should work with the Festival Company on a more detailed plan for future newsletters.</p>
10	COMMUNICATIONS
	<p>Graeme McKie has now been appointed as Principal Officer for Community Services - Wigtown. Karen Brownlie has taken over his former role, leading Community Learning & Development, Wigtown.</p> <p>Vattenfall Ltd notification of intent to investigate potential hydro-electric developments in the region.</p>
11	OTHER BUSINESS
a	<p>Decorative state of wall around the square & Chapel Court: Cllr McColm offered to look into possible improvement work on the wall around the square. The poor state of part of Chapel Court has been raised previously, and this will need to be raised with DGHP.</p>
b	<p>Heritage Fund proposed application – This plan arose because of interest shown by the local family history group. Information from censuses, Parish records, graveyard surveys, etc. stored on computer by Machars Action needs updated so it is safe, backed up and accessible for people to use. There could be updates for new census data released since the database was established in about 1996; and the database covers only Wigtown Parish so could be extended to include Kirkcubbin Parish as well. In due course, other Machars' parishes could be added also.</p> <p>Initial discussions with Machars Action and Donna Brewster suggest the application might be better coming from Machars Action, with support from the Community Council. The family history group, and Kirkcubbin and Wigtown churches would be invited to support the application also. The meeting agreed Nick Walker could take this proposal further with Jak Kane at Machars Action.</p>
12	NEXT MEETING
	<p>Monday 11 June 2012, 7.30 pm, County Buildings, Wigtown.</p>

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY 11 JUNE 2012
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Howard Steele	Willie McCartney, <i>Vice-convenor</i>
Vivian Murray	Andrew Wilson	Betty McGowan
Jock McDowall	Malcolm Booth	

IN ATTENDANCE		
David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Andy Farrington	Gillian Thorley, <i>Clerk</i>
Cllr Graham Nicol	Julia Farroll, <i>Licensing Forum</i>	Tom Taylor, <i>Licensing Forum</i>
PC Kevin Nicholson, <i>Police</i>		

APOLOGIES		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Jim McColm	Ami Todd
David McAdam	Fraser Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>	

1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
	Nick Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Gillian Thorley in her new role as Clerk.
2	APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF OTHER BUSINESS
	Nick apologised as the wrong date had been intimated on the Agenda for tonight's meeting. The agenda was accepted with the addition of Book Festival report, trees in High Street, and Martyrs' Car park to Other Business.
3	POLICE REPORT
	PC Kevin Nicholson reported that there had been four incidents of fire raising including two garden sheds and a display outside The Bookshop. Enquiries are continuing by local Police and Stranraer CID. The public is being urged to come forward with information. Police are willing to carry out Crime Prevention Surveys and answer any questions for local residents. There was also one theft, and a female is in custody.
	<i>Safer Routes to School</i> development. Having checked, PC Nicholson confirmed that Police were consulted on the proposal and responded as considered appropriate. The Police's Planning link officer is Michael McDonald, and he would arrange risk assessment where considered necessary.
4	LICENSING FORUM PRESENTATION
	Julia Farroll, Licensing Standards Officer spoke about Licensing Act and highlighted the need for Community Council and the Licensing Forum to work together in terms of licensing objectives and to raise awareness of the Forum which advises the Licensing Board on public opinion, etc. The Forum includes CC representatives; Willie McCartney represents Wigtown CC. Forum minutes will be circulated to CC which is a statutory consultee on licensing issues. There is more information at http://dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=1751 . If a member of the Public has an objection to a Licence then they should write to the Clerk of the Licensing Board; a pro-forma is available to fill in on the website.

	The five Licensing objectives are: prevention of disorder, promotion of public safety, prevention of public nuisance, promotion of public health, and protection of children from harm.
5	MINUTES OF AGM & 14th MAY MEETING
	Approval of AGM minutes will be considered at the next AGM, but the meeting agreed they appeared accurate. Minutes of the ordinary May meeting were adopted (prop. Betty McGowan, sec. Vivian Murray).
6	MATTERS ARISING
6A	<u>Accounts Submission</u> : Nick Walker is meeting Wendy Jesson on 27.6.2012 and will confirm details for submission of accounts and annual report of CC, and application for the Admin. Grant. David Moran has paper copies of the accounts available, certified by the external examiner. Nick Walker will ask Jim McColm for the Convenor's Report. Action Nick
6B	<u>Change of Signatories</u> : David Moran, Treasurer, is arranging completion of relevant forms.
6C	<u>Ownership issue of Kirkinner car park</u> has still to be settled, so that the resurfacing can be considered. Cllr Nicol agreed to take the matter forward. Action Cllr Nicol
6D	<u>Wild-fowlingg at Crook of Baldoon</u> : Letter from Andrew Bielinski, RSPB Scotland Area Reserves Manager, responding to previous CC minutes. (Letter available from Gillian.) There was progress towards a compromise agreement previously, assisted by the Area Committee. Planning, Housing and Environment Committee (PH&E) will decide on this, but the meeting schedule is not yet available, and the terms of what is to be discussed are not yet clear. Therefore, the CC will await notification on when the next PH&E meeting will take place from Cllr Nicol, and we will meet to consider any response if necessary.
6E	<u>Small Communities Housing Trust drop-in sessions</u> : Jamie Dent replaced Pete White at sessions on 17 th and 25 th May at Wigtown County Buildings. No feedback has been received.
6F	<u>Park Cemetery Car parking</u> : This issue remains outstanding. Cllr Nicol agreed to pursue.
6G	<u>Bank of Scotland failures to open</u> : Recent letters not acknowledged. Andrew Wilson agreed to pursue.
6H	<u>Registration with Information Commissioner, under Data Protection Act</u> : Sheila Armstrong CCLO has advised that D&G Council paid for all CCs this year.
6I	<u>Fairtrade status of Wigtown</u> : Summary of responses to CC letter – Stacey Wilson has replaced Senga Steele as Fairtrade link person at Wigtown Primary School, but the school remains active and keen to contribute to Fairtrade; Baptist Church, Church of Scotland, Quakers, and Book Festival Company are all supportive and willing to contribute; Joe Gough is keen to remain involved but his work prevents him being as active as he would like; Roman Catholic Church and Chamber of Commerce are supportive but unable to provide direct input. The Convenor advised that as long as a Steering Group is re-established and events are arranged for Fairtrade Fortnight in February next year, re-registration should go ahead for Wigtown's Fairtrade status. It was agreed CC would arrange a Steering Group meeting in August, with advertising for interested others to become involved. Action Nick
6J	<u>Communication with D&G Council</u> : Convenor will meet Wendy Jesson on 27.6.2012 to clarify support, contact details, etc. Gillian to obtain information on hall charges. Meanwhile, Helen Bark is forwarding any information which comes to her. Action Nick & Gillian

6K	<u>Community Survey</u> : Results have been collated by Nick Walker, and were tabled. Overall response was poor, but issues raised were consistent with current CC activity. No specific action required at present. Further surveys may be best left to specific issues. Newsletter however attracted positive feedback.
6L	<u>Chapel Court Flats & Wall around Square</u> : Previous letters have been unproductive. Further pursuit of this matter is with Cllr McColm.
6M	<u>Heritage Fund</u> : Jak Kane is submitting a preliminary application on behalf of Machars Action and CC.
7	CONSIDERATION OF CO-OPTION
	Nominated per agenda in keeping with constitution, Andy Farrington accepted nomination (prop. Nick Walker; sec. Andrew Wilson). Co-option agreed by CC. Andy Farrington full co-opted CCllr.
8	PLANNING & LICENSING MATTERS
	Applications registered weeks commencing 7.5.2012 to 4.6.2012
	12/D/1/0012 – Premises Licence, Grapes Inn 2-4 Agnew Crescent, Wigtown <u>Agreed unanimously to submit support in principle, but note preference that premises shut by 12 midnight to prevent excessive noise nuisance to residents in the locality. Action – Nick to write CC submission.</u>
	12/A/1/0004 – Wigtown Post Office, 29 South Main Street, Wigtown Installation of internally illuminated signage. <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u>
	12/P/1/0132 – Beechwood, Lightlands Terrace, Wigtown Alterations to roof (increase to existing roof pitch), formation of pitched roofs & installation of replacement windows to existing dormers on front elevation & stone cleaning of external walls. <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u>
	12/P/1/0159 – 17 North Main Street, Wigtown Erection of Garden Wall. <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u>
	12/P/1/0140 – Barwhanny, Whauphill, Newton Stewart Erection of Wind Turbine (25m high to hub & 35m high to blade tip). <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u>
	12/P/1/0136 – Kirwaugh Farm, Wigtown Erection of Wind Turbine (18m high to hub, 28.673m high to blade tip). <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u>
9	COMMUNITY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE
9A	Jubilee Celebration Weather was kind and attendance was good, with positive informal feedback, including appreciation expressed by some Canadian tourists. Costs in total £676.00. Income from quiz at Masonic Hall on 25.5.2012, £211.00; Community Shop donation, £350.00; remainder CC contribution from Community Festival account, £115.00. CC agreed to write in thanks to Community Shop for their support. Action - Gillian
9B	Community Festival Committee met on 4.6.2012. Wigtown Princess not yet decided. Programme almost completed, and deadline for printing (to enable distribution in time for Festival week) is looming. Nick suggested another Committee meeting soon (tentatively 13.6.2012, to be confirmed) to complete programme. Action Nick / Gillian arrange venue / meeting

	<p>The second Saturday inflatables for Trammondford Park were discussed, as the cost was expected to be around £950.00, with no option for late cancellation in case of bad weather. The Committee had previously felt that the spend would be acceptable to provide something different at this year's Festival, aimed primarily at older children and young adults, but only if an acceptable cancellation arrangement was in place. There was a lack of clarity over the logistics of installing the equipment by lorry at Trammondford if there has been substantial rain. After considerable discussion, there was a unanimous decision that this spend was unwise and should not go ahead. The meeting was reminded also that the original remit of the Committee was to arrange the Festival from Sat. 7.7.2012 to Fri. 13.7.2012. David Moran agreed to feedback on the inflatables decision to Lynsey Thomson and Lisa Martin (who are the main Festival organisers).</p> <p>Betty suggested the Jubilee bunting remain in place until after the Festival. Andrew Wilson spoke against the suggestion, but final CC decision was in favour.</p> <p>The insurance quote for the Festival was accepted, at a premium of £265.00. Action – Nick accept quote.</p>
10	WIGTOWN IN BLOOM – Betty McGowan
	<p>DGFirst generally no longer sprays weed-killer but has agreed to do so around the Square and down Harbour Road. Wigtown in Bloom volunteers will be weeding pavements on 12.6.2012, meeting at the County Buildings at 6.30 pm. DGHP will attend to the Youth Garden at Seaview. David McAdam contributed £43.00 from his regular fund-raising towards plant purchasing. Soil was donated by Mr K. Wilson, Corsemalzie House, and a letter of thanks will be sent. Action Betty</p> <p>Andrew asked about the grant from Area Committee. Betty advised that £638.00 had been given to improve the approach to the town. Clarification was sought about the CC's agreement to make application to Area Committee, and there followed discussion about the status of the Wigtown in Bloom Committee, and transparency/accountability in decision-making. Betty indicated that there is a Wigtown in Bloom constitution but no one was aware of its content or status. Nick and Betty will meet to review this, and the Committee's status will be discussed at the next CC meeting. Action Nick / Betty</p>
11	COUNCILLORS' MATTERS
	<p>Cllr Nicol advised there is now a majority coalition D&G Council Administration. Budgets will need to reduce each year for some time. The new Council Committees will begin their round of meeting in the week beginning 18.6.2012.</p>
12	CORRESPONDENCE
12A	<p><u>Wigtown School Fête 9.6.2012</u> CC received an invitation to attend. Nick & Andrew attended what was an excellent event and a good opportunity to meet parents and staff, and build up a good working relationship with the School.</p>
12B	<p><u>Big Society Capital 20.6.2012</u> Email invitation for Interactive Strategy and Funding discussion. Unclear whether this applies in Scotland, and the meeting is in London. Agreed to decline.</p>
12C	<p><u>D&G Council notice of CC elections 4.10.2012</u> Notice that CC nominations will be opened in early August. Request for CC to nominate Returning Officer. Previously CC had nominated the Area Manager, Wigtown, Harry Hay. Agreed to nominate his successor (or deputy), Stephen Jack, Area Framework Manager, Community Services. Action Nick</p>

13	OTHER BUSINESS
13A	<u>Wigtown Festival Company report</u> Spring Book Weekend was well-attended and feedback was positive. A full report from Anne Barclay is available from Gillian Thorley. Andrew would welcome ideas for the Book Festival Fringe programme.
13B	<u>Leaning trees in High Street at Fountainblue</u> This may be cause a problem to power lines. Cllr Nicol agreed to investigate and report back to next meeting, as there is lack of clarity over ownership and responsibility. Action – Cllr Nicol
13C	<u>Martyrs' Stake car park</u> Andrew asked for information on ownership of this land, as an information board about the Martyrs may be worth considering, and the landowner would need to agree in principle to make looking into feasibility worthwhile. Cllr Nicol suggested Colin Forbes, Roads Dept may be a good initial contact.
14	DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING
	Monday 11 th August 2012 at 7.30 pm in Wigtown County Buildings, Visitors Room. (Possibly Monday 23 rd July if important issues require attention.) Email address request - Nick asked that everyone provide an email address, if possible, to facilitate contacts with CCllrs and distributing minutes, etc. with greatest efficiency.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY 23rd JULY 2012 HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS**

contact@wigtowncc.org.uk

www.wigtowncc.org.uk

PRESENT		
Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Howard Steele	Willie McCartney, <i>Vice-convenor</i>
Jock McDowall	Andrew Wilson	Malcolm Booth
David McAdam		

IN ATTENDANCE		
David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Gillian Thorley, <i>Clerk</i>	William Saunders
Ami Todd	Lynsey Thomson (from 7.40)	Gail Plunkett
Shannan Lochrie	Lisa Martin (from 7.40)	Jessie Thomson (from 7.45)
Cllr Jim McColm		

APOLOGIES		
Betty McGowan	Andy Farrington	Vivian Murray
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol	Anne Barclay

1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
	Nick Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting, explaining that it was organized as soon after the Community Festival had taken place, to enable people to feedback any general comments and thoughts on different ideas for the 2013 festival.
2	APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF URGENT BUSINESS
	Nick Walker circulated copies of the Agenda and sought notification of items of urgent business for tonight's meeting. Several items added, as minuted. Agenda approved.
3	URGENT BUSINESS
3A	<u>Bank of Scotland</u> Willie McCartney intimated he had been advised that the Bank would again be closed on Friday 27 th July due to staff shortages. Everyone agreed this was unacceptable, taking into consideration personal circumstances/travel costs of residents in and around the Wigtown area that rely on the service. Andrew Wilson had written to the Bank following the June meeting. It was agreed to share the letter and the CC's concern with local press. Action Andrew
3B	<u>Wigtown to Bladnoch Road</u> Hedges are obstructing the pavement on this road as happens each year, endangering pedestrians and motorists. Cllr McColm will raise this with Alan Bradley – DG Council Land & Street Services. Action Cllr McColm
3C	<u>Fly Tipping in Lorry Park, Wigtown</u> Malcolm Booth reported repeated piles of rubbish dumped in the Lorry Park. He and other residents have removed this for disposal on occasions. There was discussion about possible sources of fly tipping and how to address the problem. Cllr McColm reminded the CC that Refuse Collections will uplift only rubbish in wheelie bins and paid Council Disposable Waste Sack

	(available from Council Offices & Libraries). Cllr McColm agreed to raise the issue with Robert Matley – DG Council Environmental Enforcement Officer; a notice about fly tipping may be helpful. It was agreed that fly tipping should be reported to Robert Matley (01776 70 60 30) so that the Council becomes aware of the problem, and arranges clearance. Action Cllr McColm
3D	<u>Fairtrade</u> Nick Walker indicated that a request for possible dates to restart the Wigtown Fairtrade Steering Group had provoked a single response. Agree CC should set date and advertise meeting, for late August, and review situation depending on outcome. Action Nick
3E	<u>Meikle Cairn Forest Plan consultation</u> – Closing date 25.7.2012 Notification of this Long Term Forest Plan scoping exercise was received. Meikle Cairn Forest is some distance from Wigtown CC area, and further forestry is proposed. Agreed no formal response warranted.
3F	<u>Trees in High Street</u> Cllr Nicol had contacted Alan Bradley – DG Council Land & Street Services, who suggested a site visit to clarify which trees pose a risk and to ascertain ownership and liability. Jock McDowall agreed to contact Alan to arrange. Action Jock McDowall
3G	<u>Blackmyre Moor windfarm proposal</u> CC received notification from Vattenfall Ltd that they will not proceed with this proposal.
3H	<u>Mark Farm Wind Turbine proposal</u> Infinis Ltd proposes up to ten wind turbines, 110m tall, at Mark Farm, Creetown. Information is available on the company website (www.infinis.com). Infinis has requested a meeting with the CC. After discussion, it was agreed to arrange a special CC meeting to allow the company to explain their proposals and take questions. Other CCs in the area may wish to attend also, or Wigtown CC may be able to join their meetings if already arranged. Nick will arrange. Action Nick Cllr McColm also intimated that a planning application for two smaller wind turbines at Lark Farm was refused by the Planning Applications Committee recently.
3I	<u>Community Empowerment Proposed Bill consultation</u> - closing date 29.8.2012 This Scottish Government consultation covers community planning and related issues, and has substantial potential importance to Community Councils. Nick believes the CC should submit a response; individuals may respond also. The document is available on the CC website (www.wigtowncc.org.uk – click miscellaneous link at top of page). All CCllrs were encouraged to read and bring suggestions for CC response to August meeting. Action ALL
3J	<u>Gambling Act (“Lottery”) Licence</u> Nick sought clarification about the CC's Licence. David Moran advised that the current calendar year's payment (£20.00) had been made. The “Promoter” is named as Jim McColm and this will require amendment to Nick Walker (as the Convenor is normally the CC's nominee for this). Action Gillian
3K	<u>Bowling Green Walls</u> Nick received an email on 20.7.2012 advising the CC of power-washing of walls around the Town Square with associated temporary closing off of parking, to begin 23.7.2012. Nick has asked for confirmation that further restorative work will follow.

<p>3L</p>	<p><u>Information Boards / Town Map</u> Machars Action had been approached by a company wanting to provide new signs in Wigtown, but planning advice was not in favour. Machars Action was prompted to look at costs of updating current town information and map boards by the company originally involved. A quote for replacement with updated information for the two boards is £420.00. Machars Action thought the CC might be best placed to take this forward.</p> <p>Cllr McColm thought the Wigtown Festival Company had established the signs originally. The Association of Wigtown Booksellers may have been involved also. After discussion, it was agreed the CC should involve other organisation to update information, seek offers to contribute funding, and consider the addition of a community notice board for public accessible CC and other information as has been discussed in previous meeting. Andrew Wilson and Malcolm Booth agreed to form a CC Working Group to take this forward, and report back.</p> <p>Action Andrew / Malcolm</p>
<p>3M</p>	<p><u>Signs on railings</u> Fish & Chip sign on railings near Bowling Club was raised. This has been commented upon on by residents. Agreed it appears out of keeping with the centre of the Town. CC to contact Billy Murray – DG Council Senior Planning Officer to express concern about the sign.</p> <p>Action Gillian</p>
<p>4</p>	<p>COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FEEDBACK & FUTURE PLANNING</p>
	<p>See following pages.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING</p>
	<p>Monday 13th August 2012, 7.30 pm, County Buildings, Wigtown.</p>

COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FEEDBACK & FUTURE PLANNING

Group discussion with Festival organisers Lynsey Thomson and Lisa Martin. The Festival was generally well-attended and feedback from the community has been mainly positive. Some general issues arose however, including that: the Programme needs to be distributed earlier (agreed, hence starting planning for 2013 now); there was a lack of volunteers to help with events which could pose a Health & Safety issue (but volunteers were not sought systematically). Gail Plunkett suggested closer work with the Parent Council in Festival planning.

Summary of comments about specific events:

- a) Toddler Play Day – decided not to have this again next year
- b) Fancy Dress – consider using the School for ease of indoor/outdoor options and the fete in the grounds, but in the past, availability of a janitor has been a problem; this may be worked around. Need to note who holds the Quaich.
- c) Country Dancing – some children intending to take part missed out as others were away on holiday, but agreed worth planning for next year.
- d) Fishing Competition – 19 took part; won by Andrew McCreddie. There was a trophy in past. No one certain if there still is. Nick to check via Briar Engraving. **Action Nick**
- e) Sing for your Supper – Limited attendance but enjoyed by those who attended, and positive feedback about catering. Suggestions that it may be better held later in the week so people have more time to book places, perhaps Friday evening. Cost (£5) questioned, but agreed fair price.
- f) Raft Race – Some negative feedback from the public about lack of activity at the Harbour. Few rafts entered. Previous Festivals without raft race may mean people did not expect it to be held. For future, more advertising and longer notice (for raft building) would be wise, and there were suggestions about bringing in inflatables or show people for entertainment, but costs and commitments would need clarified. Attendance typically around 200. Prize money for the winning rafts may need increased also. Note timing depends on tides. Anne Barclay cannot arrange this in future, but can advise whoever takes over.
- g) Girls & Boys events – well attended but would be easier for parents if they took place nearer each other for those with children at both. Agreed to run next year.
- h) Bowling – Cancelled due to weather, but should be discussed with Bowling Club for 2013.
- i) Team Games – rain moved this into Kirk Hall, but well attended and enjoyed.
- j) Animal Zoo – agreed for next year.
- k) Fun Run / 10 km – Good turnout, more co-ordination with Galloway Harriers may increase attendance. Anne Barclay cannot arrange this in future, but can advise whoever takes over.
- l) Tennis – limited numbers but may be worth repeating.
- m) Teddy Bears Picnic – good turnout but for younger age group, 90 minutes long enough.
- n) Yucky Mud Walk – went well.
- o) Mr Boom – 50 children attended and enjoyed. Costly (£275 – equiv. £5.50 per child). Alternatives, such as Road Runner, need considered, but Mr Boom may be best bet.
- p) Quiz – excellent fund-raiser, netting £521 from attendance of 139 people. Nick suggested holding another Quiz night during the year to raise funds.
- q) Swamp Games – switched to wet n wild as weather meant fields had not been prepared with farm work delayed.
- r) Cooking Event – went well, may change to an event for adults as well next year.
- s) Disco – great fun had by all but ratio of volunteers to children (over 60 attended) was not adequate; more volunteers required for next year, and this needs to be made clearer. Parent Council may help.
- t) Bingo – Turnout of 200, and nett fund-raising £420.
- u) Golf Tournament – concern that this event is sponsored by CC but only Wigtown junior members may play. To involve community more, alternatives need to be discussed with the Club (e.g. members may enter only if they bring along a non-member, or make it open to members of other clubs but with a Wigtown Division). Nick to discuss with Ian Thin. **Action Nick**
- v) Pet Show – School was a good location for this event and loud-speaker made all the difference from last year. Too many categories though so scale down next year.
- w) Scavenger Hunt – 9 teams attended, enjoyed by all. Agreed for next year.

- x) Car Treasure Hunt – excellent turn out. Agreed for next year.
- y) Arts & Crafts – went well. Agreed for next year.
- z) Rugby – only 6 boys. May need thought about changes if included – age groups broadened, timing altered. Swamp rugby may be worth considering.
- aa) Zumba – 10 attended, change age group next year to involve more children, or else remove from programme.
- bb) Guddle – Good event but too long, maximum 90 minutes next year.
- cc) Auld Film Show – disappointing turn out of 40. First time this event has been in the Festival, and not intended as annual event. Prize giving was included but served little purpose. Perhaps separate prize giving at larger more general event (e.g. ceilidh) for presenting “major” prizes in future. Smaller events should present prizes at the time.
- dd) Spooky Walk – a firm favourite at the Festival, 20 teams attended but wanted it later so it was dark. Maybe better in spring and/or autumn. May be worthwhile allocating departure times for each team when they register.
- ee) Family 5-a-side football – only 4 teams took part, but may have been better if part of a larger event. Consider for next year.
- ff) Race night – netted £365. Another fund-raiser worth repeating during the year.
- gg) Teas & Coffees – well attended no total raised to date.
- hh) Hanging Baskets – better organisation required for next year with clarification about whether people have to enter or judged simply on whatever garden they display publicly. Wigtown in Bloom to clarify how they want the event to run.
- ii) Photography Competition – Entry categories need advertised earlier and linked to the Parent Council. Gillian advised that the School Camera Club had made enquiries about entering but information was not available at the time. Aim to launch after Easter holidays next year, with closing date at the festival. Note Trophy being engraved.
- jj) Suggestions for extra events next year – Ceilidh, Bonfire, Pipe Band Procession, Hog Roast, Torchlight Procession

After consideration of other Community Festivals and events in the area, it was agreed that next year’s Festival be moved to the second week of the school holidays (Sat. 13 to Sat. 20 July 2013).

Record of trophies and who has them is needed. CC should take over clear responsibility for engraving them, before presentation preferably, and ask that they be cleaned before returning at the next year’s Festival.

Gillian offered the Library to deal with registration for events; money can be taken but may be required to be uplifted on a daily basis by Festival Committee – agreed for next year.

Bunting around the Square is to be taken down on Tues 24.7.2012 by Malcolm Booth & Jock McDowall as the Festival is now finished.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY 13 AUGUST 2012
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS**

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Andrew Wilson	Betty McGowan
John Dickson	Andy Farrington	

IN ATTENDANCE		
Ami Todd	Shannan Lochrie	Gillian Thorley, <i>Clerk</i>
Cllr Graham Nicol	Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Alistair Geddes
PC, <i>Police</i>	Alexa Seagrave, <i>RSPB</i>	William Saunders

APOLOGIES		
Howard Steele	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Vivian Murray
David McAdam	Gail Plunkett	Jock McDowall
	William McCartney	

1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
	Nick Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that Malcolm Booth has resigned from his position on the Community Council, but will continue to support community activities.
2	APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF OTHER BUSINESS
	Accepted, with addition of Winterfest, and “Bug Hotel” (RSPB).
3	POLICE REPORT
	Since the last CC meeting, there have been 4 road traffic incidents, 8 instances of anti-social behaviour and 6 crimes (3 thefts, 3 vandalisms). Inquiries into recent fires in Wigtown are now complete and a juvenile has been reported to the Children’s Panel. Another juvenile has been reported with regard to vandalism. The thefts have included items of clothing from a few properties in Wigtown. Police have recovered some clothing, and are keen to hear from anyone who may have realised clothing is missing; inquiries are ongoing. There have continued to be numerous reports of “cold callers” in the area; and advice is to be vigilant, and report anything suspicious (taking car registration numbers, etc. wherever possible).
4	SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL UPDATE
	This item was deferred as Gail Plunkett, Parents’ Council, apologised. The issue may come before the Area Committee before the next CC meeting however, so an extra CC meeting needed on this issue, with Gail Plunkett and John Howell (Service Manager for Network Strategy, D&GC Planning & Environment). Wednesday 29th August 7.00 pm, Supper Room, County Buildings.
5	WIGTOWN ACT OF REMEMBRANCE 2012 – Sunday 11th November
	2011 Remembrance was well-attended and feedback was positive. Andrew Wilson agreed to coordinate again, linking in with relevant Clergy, Guides/Brownies, Piper (small honorarium agreed), etc. and Parade Licence application. Betty McGowan agreed to arrange Poppy Fund

	<p>collection and wreath orders (CC will purchase for Kirkinner CA and Wigtown Guides); other organisations that wish to take part may purchase wreaths through CC, but order deadline is approaching. Ami Todd agreed to speak to Baptist Church Youth Group.</p> <p>Action - Andrew, Betty, Ami</p>
6	MINUTES OF JUNE AND JULY MEETINGS
	<p>June minutes adopted (prop. Andrew, sec. Betty). July minutes adopted (prop. Andrew, sec. Ami).</p>
7	PLANNING & LICENSING MATTERS
7A	<p>Mark Farm Wind Turbine proposal Additional CC meeting arranged, open to public including neighbouring CCllrs, to hear detail of the proposals from the developer, Infinis Ltd. The Company prefers meeting with individual CCs but meetings are required to be open to public anyway. Meeting arranged - Wednesday 29th August 8.00 pm, but CANCELLED BY COMPANY on 20th.</p>
7B	<p>12/P/1/0210 – Wigtown Post Office, 29 South Main Street, Wigtown Installation of ATM and display of associated signage. <u>Agreed unanimously to submit in support of application</u> Action - Nick</p> <p>12/P/1/0159 – 17 North Main Street, Wigtown Erection of Garden Wall. <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u></p> <p>12/P/1/0220 – Tropic House, Carty Port, Moss of Cree Road, Newton Stewart Erection of new house, etc. <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u></p> <p>12/P/1/0216 – Bayview, North Balfern, Kirkinner Application for discharge of section 75 planning obligation associated with the erection of a dwelling house approved under planning reference 03/P/5/0113. <u>Agreed no CC submission.</u></p>
7C	<p>Application for Premises Licence ReadingLasses Bookshop & Café, 17 South Main Street, Wigtown <u>Agreed to submit in support of application</u> Action - Nick</p>
8	MATTERS ARISING
8A	<p><u>Accounts / Admin. Grant:</u> Forms received and Nick will pass on to David Moran for completion and submission. Grant will be the same as last year, £585.00. Action - David</p>
8B	<p><u>Kirkinner Car Park:</u> Cllr Nicol had nothing to update. CC will contact Steven Herriet. Action - Gillian</p>
8C	<p><u>Wild-fowling at Crook:</u> No update. No CC action required at present.</p>
8D	<p><u>Park Cemetery:</u> No further forward. CC will contact Steven Herriet. Action - Gillian</p>
8E	<p><u>Bank of Scotland:</u> Reply to Andrew's CC letter emphasised commitment to providing service, but failed to address CC suggestions about staffing. Further letter to be sent, with copies to Alex Fergusson MSP and Russell Brown MP who have indicated a willingness to assist. Banking Ombudsman involvement may be helpful.</p>

8F	<p><u>Fair Trade:</u> Meeting to restart the Wigtown Fair Trade Steering Group agreed, jointly hosted by CC and School. Meeting at Wigtown Primary School, Wednesday 19th Sept. at 3.30 pm.</p>
8G	<p><u>Wall around Town Square & Chapel Court Flats</u> Cllr McColm advised that the wall has been cleaned and repaired. A local painter has been commissioned to repaint. Jane Moore, DGHP, advised Cllr McColm that Chapel Court includes some DGHP flats and some properties which are privately owned. Therefore agreement to repair and repaint has proved hard to reach. Cllrs McColm and Geddes will continue to pursue.</p>
8H	<p><u>Trees in High Street:</u> Jock McDowall to update at next meeting.</p>
8I	<p><u>Pavement on Wigtown to Bladnoch Road:</u> Hedges have been cut but weeds have not been removed. Cllr Geddes advised contacting Johnny Bell, Roads Dept. and Jane Bridge, with copy for information to Alan Bradley. CC noted disappointed that this issue arises every year. Other hedge growth obstructing roads/pavements (e.g. between Church and Ballgreen Cottages) to be advised in letter also. Action - Gillian</p>
8J	<p><u>Fly Tipping at Lorry Park, Wigtown:</u> Cllr McColm contacted Alan Bradley and has requested an advisory notice against fly tipping.</p>
8K	<p><u>Wigtown in Bloom:</u> Beautiful Scotland judging went well, with positive comments on cleanliness of Town, weeding and cemetery grass-cutting, and high quality portfolio of the year (not seen by CCllrs). Results are expected on 11th September. CC expressed its thanks to Wigtown in Bloom volunteers for their ongoing work. Wigtown in Bloom status as a CC Committee was revisited. CC agreed two options exist: (i) WiB becomes a separate unincorporated association (with its own constitution, committee, accountability and liability); or (ii) it remains a CC Committee but CCllrs take a closer role in its management (since CCllrs are jointly and severally liable for all CC and Committee decisions and actions, and other volunteers on such groups have no liability or right to make binding decisions, under the CC Scheme). Betty noted that an end of season WiB volunteers meeting was due soon (22nd August) and agreed to seek their views on these options. CC agreed to accept the decision on status of WiB meeting. Action - Betty</p>
8L	<p><u>Noticeboards / Leaflets:</u> Andrew fed back proposals so far from this Working Group (Andrew & Malcolm Booth). Four linked elements – 1. renew town map/guide for the existing noticeboards (likely £400.00) requiring consultation to ensure content is accurate; 2. new noticeboard to match others but for posting of community notices (likely £1800 plus installation) and siting would need advice from Planning Dept. though as a core part of CC work relies on notices, etc. formal planning permission may not be required; 3. replacement / correction of “finger” directional signs (costs not yet ascertained); 4. new information signs near Martyrs' Stake and Martyrs' Monument (examples “Monolith” shown, but costs not yet clear). Also, an updated leaflet guide to Wigtown including map, points of interest, history, etc. proposed (not yet costed). Funding is likely to require several sources such as Area Committee, RSPB, Scottish Natural Heritage, Leader, Lottery Funds, Book Festival Co., etc. Andrew has a funders seminar soon and may have further suggestions. Agreed Andrew & Malcolm should complete planning and costings, so that applications for funding can be considered at next meeting. Action - Andrew</p>
8M	<p><u>Community Empowerment:</u> No one had views to feed back for a CC response to this consultation which includes community planning and other issues highly relevant to CCs. Nick expressed his disappointment. He intends to make personal submission, and encouraged others to. CC felt that over summer longer would have helped for a response; agreed this should be fed back. Action – Nick</p>
9	<p>COUNCILLORS' MATTERS</p>
	<p><u>Cllr McColm:</u> Glenturk and Larg Farm wind turbine planning Appeals were both declined.</p>

	Social Housing Act looks likely to come into force in April 2013, reducing housing benefit where accommodation appears larger than required for the residents. Leaflet available for information.
10	<u>CORRESPONDENCE</u>
10A	Notice of Parade from Wigtown to Bladnoch on Saturday 6 th October at 8.00 pm as part of Wigtown Book Festival.
10B	Cllr McColm passed on a hydro-electric survey document looking at potential locally. The report draws together three old sources of information and suggests there is virtually no hydro. potential in the district.
10C	Invitation to attend opening of new Community Payback Centre in Stranraer on 29 th June, received too late to respond.
10D	Community Energy Scotland / Renewable Energy Scheme information forwarded by D&GC. Leaflets available.
10E	Supported Employment Service letter about Scottish Business Diversity Awards. CC may nominate an individual, organisation or local business for their commitment to promoting diversity in the workplace. Suggestions may be put forward at next meeting.
10F	Marine Scotland notice of meeting with public bodies and interested community representatives about illegal cockle fishing on the Solway, at the Aston Hotel, Dumfries on 10 th August. Notice too short to arrange attendance. Feedback expected.
10G	Divisional Licensing Board revision of statement of licensing principles, for consultation. Responses by 2 nd November. Papers available from Gillian, comments for future meeting.
10H	Funding News received.
11	<u>OTHER BUSINESS</u>
11A	<u>Bug Hotel:</u> RSPB built "Bug Hotel" with children at Community Festival. Alexa Seagrave is keen to install it in Town Gardens for environmental and educational value. Alan Bradley has agreed in principle. CC agreed appropriate, suggested near Bowling Clubhouse and Sensory Garden.
11B	<u>Christmas Lighting / Winterfest:</u> Scheduled for Friday 30 th November and Saturday 1 st December. Agreed usual format for Christmas lighting and carols followed by soup & tea. Agreed usual sale and tea room during Saturday. Agreed new event, St Andrew's Night Ceilidh, on Saturday evening. Actions – Gillian, room bookings; Betty, teas / stalls / Creetown Silver Band / etc.; Willie McCartney lights / sound system; Andrew, ceilidh; Nick, add details to website.
12	<u>DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS</u>
12A	<u>Safer Routes to School:</u> with Gail Plunkett and John Howell Wednesday 29 th August at 7.00 pm, Supper Room, County Buildings.
12B	<u>Mark Farm Wind Turbines:</u> with Infinis Ltd. CANCELLED BY COMPANY
12C	<u>Next standard CC meeting:</u> Monday 10th September at 7.30 pm, Viewing Room, County Buildings.
12D	<u>Fair Trade:</u> Wednesday 19 th September at 3.30 pm, at Wigtown Primary School
**	NOTE COMM. COUNCIL ELECTIONS DUE – NOMINATIONS CLOSE 7th SEPT.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL MEETING
WEDNESDAY 29TH AUGUST HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS**

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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PRESENT		
Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Andrew Wilson	Betty McGowan
Andy Farrington	Jock McDowall	Willie McCartney
Howard Steele		

IN ATTENDANCE		
Gillian Thorley, <i>Clerk</i>	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Gail Plunkett, <i>Parent Council</i>
Kelly Devine, <i>Head Teacher</i>	John Howell, <i>D&G Council</i>	

APOLOGIES		
David McAdam	Vivian Murray	Cllr Alistair Geddes
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Graham Nicol	

1	WELCOME & APOLOGIES
	Nick Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting, and introduced Gail Plunkett, Kelly Devine and John Howell. The extra session set for this meeting about Mark Farm Wind Farm was cancelled by the developer, Infinis Ltd, late on 24.9.2012.
2	SAFER ROUTES TO SCHOOL
2A	PARENT COUNCIL
	<p>Gail Plunkett thanked the CC for arranging the meeting to present the views of Wigtown Primary's Parent Council and to answer questions about the Safer Routes proposals.</p> <p>The safety of the pupils is paramount to the Parent Council as they have a duty to ensure pupil welfare. There are health and safety concerns for pupils walking to and from school. The New Road (A714) running past the school is the main route in and out of Wigtown, and is busy, with additional congestion at school arrival and departure times when parents' vehicles are stopped. In the past, the Janitor supervised children crossing the road (voluntarily) but since his retirement, janitorial hours have been cut (to ten hours a week). Therefore, alternatives for addressing road crossing safety are necessary.</p> <p>Numerous consultations have taken place with parents and staff, and there is a clear desire for a crossing patrol person or an automatic controlled crossing at the school. D&G Council then became involved and the current proposals were developed. Not all that parents wished included has been. In particular, pupils numbers and traffic levels do not reach the thresholds required for funding a traffic light controlled crossing or a crossing patrol person. The proposals sought to make visibility at the designated crossing point as clear as possible for children, by building out pavements, moving the bus stop, and restricting stopping and parking in certain areas at school start and finish times; in addition, improved disabled access to the school was included in the proposals; and 20's Plenty zones were introduced.</p> <p>Gail explained cars parked across from the current bus stop (by residents, visitors, parents, etc.) limit space for vehicles to manoeuvre. To allow clearance, the school bus sometimes moves back from the bus stop, blocking the designated crossing point. Even when the bus is correctly positioned, the road is congested and pupils have no clear vision to cross the road. The</p>

	relocation of the bus stop would allow clear vision for the children to cross safely. There is a new gate positioned at the top playground, which would allow safe passage of the children from the school to the waiting bus which is only in place for approximately 10 minutes.
2B	D&G COUNCIL
	<p>Signage and pavement alterations required planning consent within the Wigtown Conservation Area. Parking restrictions require statutory consultation. Other changes do not require formal consultation, but it would be good practice for D&GC to engage not only with the School and the Parent Council but also with the Comm. Council representing the community as a whole. The CC noted that concerns about the proposed bus stop location had been raised but D&GC had not answered these concerns. The Police have agreed that the plans are safe and acceptable overall, including the bus stop move.</p> <p>Twenty's plenty signage and build outs have been completed. The new school access has been created. The only outstanding work is the parking restrictions and bus stop move. This remains outstanding because there is one remaining objection to the parking restriction proposals, relating to an area near Jubilee Terrace. D&GC is negotiating on this and if it cannot be resolved, the Area Committee on 3.10.2012 must decide how to proceed. Proposed parking restrictions will apply Monday to Friday, 8.30 – 9.30 am and 2.30 – 3.30 pm only.</p> <p>The Parent Council has been assured D&GC and the Police will monitor the impact of the changes once complete, and if concerns arise as a result of that monitoring, appropriate action can be considered.</p>
2C	DISCUSSION
	<p>Concerns were raised about the following issues:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Jubilee Terrace parking restrictions 2. Waiting restrictions not in place at Beddie Crescent 3. Safety for children related to new school gate 4. Success of (drivers observing) speed restrictions 5. Re-location of bus stop <p>CC opinion was that parking restrictions in Jubilee are excessive, and if these need excluded to allow the other work to proceed, CC would be supportive. Traffic obscuring children's view for crossing safely at Beddie Crescent / Lochancroft Lane / Kirklandhill was raised, with a suggestion that parking restrictions may be warranted there. Kelly Devine assured CC that the new gate was for bus stop and disabled access, and will be supervised when in use; most children would continue to use the main gateway which protects pedestrians from vehicles on school property. CC was keen that Police follow up the changes, monitoring speed, parking, bus stop safety, etc. CC agreed that the bus stop move appeared necessary; the proposed option brings it nearer the bend in New Road at Duncan Park junction which is why CC had raised concerns; however, the proposed location may prevent cars parking near the bend (as currently occurs) and the bus will be at the stop infrequently and for relatively short periods of time.</p> <p>On balance, CC accepted the proposals on the understanding that monitoring the impact of the changes would occur, and that future proposals of this type would be subject to fuller, more inclusive and open engagement with CC and others, by D&GC.</p>
3	DATE OF NEXT MEETING
	Monday 10 th September, Wigtown County Buildings, 7.30 pm.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING MONDAY 10 SEPTEMBER 2012
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Andrew Wilson	Betty McGowan
Willie McCartney	Andy Farrington	David McAdam
Jock McDowall	Howard Steele	

IN ATTENDANCE		
Ami Todd	Shannan Lochrie	Gillian Thorley, <i>Clerk</i>
Sgt Emma Dodds, <i>Police</i>	Cllr Jim McColm	Fraser Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>

APOLOGIES		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Vivian Murray

1 WELCOME

Nick Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting and congratulated Ami Todd on becoming 2012 Dux of Douglas Ewart High School.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA & INTIMATION OF URGENT BUSINESS

Nick Walker advised that the Energy Agency presentation was cancelled at short notice. Other business added: Merrick Stages Rally; vacant property at North Main Street, Wigtown. Agenda approved.

3 POLICE MATTERS

Sergeant Dodds advised that further stolen clothing previously reported had been recovered. Bogus callers remain a concern as are letter scams and pretend Sky TV personnel. Residents are reminded to be vigilant and cautious, and to check credentials for unexpected visits; car registrations and descriptions of suspicious people can be helpful. Report anything suspicious to the Police. Questions about recent break-ins at local farms and in Wigtown were noted, but Sgt Dodds was unable to comment at present.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AUGUST MEETINGS

13.8.2012 business meeting: Betty McGowan expressed concern about reference to the Wigtown in Bloom portfolio (item 8K); meeting agreed minute was accurate, but thanked Betty for offering to show portfolio to Comm. Cllrs.

Accepted – prop. Andrew Wilson, sec. Andy Farrington.

29.8.2012 special (Safer Routes to School) meeting: positive informal feedback.

Accepted – prop. Andy Farrington, sec. Jock McDowall.

5 PLANNING & LICENSING MATTERS

No significant new applications.

Grapes Inn licence was granted. Howard Steele advised potential issue with parking near Grapes. Sgt Dodds noted this and will follow up.

Airriequhillart wind farm possible development. Parsons Brinckerhoff notified pre-application

scoping report submitted to Scottish Government for consideration. CC will be asked to comment. They are keen to meet CCs later in the year. Agreed joint meeting would be appropriate with other CCs. Nick will put link to current papers on website for all to view. **Action Nick / All**

6 UP COMING EVENTS

6A Remembrance

Andrew has spoken to Rev. McGarva and will speak to Rev. Boyle. Guides response awaited so that parade application can be lodged. Piper still to be arranged. Youth Groups apparently not participating this year, but Douglas Ewart High may do so. Betty advised that wreaths and poppies have been ordered. Final details to be ready for next meeting. **Action Andrew**

6B Xmas lighting / Winterfest / Ceilidh

Xmas lighting night (30.11.2012):

Rev McGarva usually organises Carols and Creetown Silver Band. Betty agreed to discuss with him. **Action Betty**. Most other arrangements in place. Erection of tree and lights to be finalised – likely Saturdays 10.11.2012 or 17.11.2012. Last year, costs were thought to be around £700.00. Details to be confirmed by David Moran. **Action David**. Jock suggested quotes from local tradesmen to compare against Council prices, but CC noted that relevant certifications would be necessary. There was said to be no requirement for Council staff to erect lights when permission for them was received some years ago. Willie McCartney indicated that the lights have all been checked and are working. Jock agreed to arrange quotes. **Action Jock**. Once quotes available, decision on erection working party date can be finalised. Willie asked if the Festival Company had requested use of the Xmas lights; there had been no request. Past experience of lights and cabling being lent was of items missing or broken, and previous decision was apparently that the lights would be solely for CC use. This decision was reaffirmed.

Winterfest (1.12.2012): Betty reported that all arrangements are in place.

Ceilidh (1.12.2012):

Andrew reported that hall is booked. Band yet to be confirmed. Discussion about bar / licence / etc. options. Agreed teas/coffees/supper to be included in price and no alcohol sales. Event will be aimed at family entertainment with music and dancing, and possibly a formal country dancing demonstration. **Action Andrew**

Insurance:

For entire Winterfest and Xmas lights themselves, Nick agreed to arrange cover. **Action Nick**

7 MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED

7A Wigtown in Bloom

At their meeting, WiB voted to become a separate unincorporated association. They are agreeing a constitution, and elected office bearers: *Convener* – Malcolm Booth, *Vice Convener* – Alex Craig, *Treasurer* – Betty McGowan, *Secretary* – Helen Bark. CC had previously agreed to support WiB if this was the decision, and reiterated CC support. WiB funds will be released once WiB account set up. Judging outcomes for Beautiful Scotland 2012 will be announced on 11.9.2012.

7B Noticeboards / Leaflets project

Andrew gave update on proposals with detailed costing. The costings include renewal of maps / information on the two existing boards and replacement of perspex covers; replacement of out of date “finger” signs (e.g. remove Vet. Surgery, add Quaker Meeting House); new (matching) noticeboard for CC and other community notices (Planning Officer, Billy Murray, indicates that planning consent would be deemed given, since the noticeboard relates to core, statutory CC business) – this noticeboard proposed to be opposite County Buildings at South Main Street

corner, to balance existing map / info. board at North Main Street corner; two info. "monoliths" - one near Windyhill Martyrs' Monument, one near Martyrs' Stake. Also included is a revised leaflet for visitors to Wigtown using updated map, and current and historical local information. Installation costs are awaited. Total cost approx. £9400 plus installation.

Meeting agreed the project should proceed on CC's behalf. Andrew will attend a funding seminar on 12.9.2012 and will take advice on funding sources, and to draft applications. Suggested funders include Awards for All, and LEADER, with possible contributions from the Community Shop, Festival Company, RSPB, SNH, Covenanters' Memorial Assoc., and CC fund-raising. Latest CC approved accounts will be needed in support of funding applications (copies from David Moran). **Action David / Andrew**

The welcome sign erected by the Festival Company and Assoc. of Wigtown Booksellers (opposite New Road on North Main Street) is deteriorating. Advice from Billy Murray is to approach Jane Bridge (Roads) about replacement, possibly involving Visit Scotland for proper tourism signage. Andrew agreed to deal with this. **Action Andrew**

7C Business Diversity Awards

Agreed no nominations.

7D Cockle Fishery

Minutes of recent Scottish Government meeting have been received. Cockle fishing will remain closed until stocks recover. Enforcement provisions are likely to be tightened. Minutes available from Nick.

7E Licensing (Gaming) Principles consultation

Agreed that proposed principles appear reasonable. CC to respond as such. Noted that there remains the possibility of a small casino licence for Wigtownshire, but Cllr McColm understood that this was a consideration for Stranraer.

8 COUNCILLORS' MATTERS

Cllr McColm:

Doon Hill wind turbine application (one turbine, 60 m tall) will come before Committee this week.

For Safer Routes to School, John Howell will now complete the required Traffic Management Order.

Updates to issues list including wall around town square should be complete within a week; pot holes in town centre and Beddie Crescent causing concern; Bladnoch road weed-killing completed, but concern about Council's approach to such "non-urban" areas; over-grown hedges on roadway to Trammondford where there is no pavement being raised; Chapel Court décor remains unresolved; Kirkiner and Park Cemetery car parks issues passed to D&GC Legal Services to pursue (letter agreed at last meeting not now to be sent).

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9A Marine Scotland

Notice of meeting at McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart, on 7.9.2012, for pre-consultation on Scotland's off shore renewable energy potential sites. Andrew, Nick and Cllr McColm had attended. At present, locally, off shore wind and tidal are considered potential developments, mainly off Luce Bay. Civil servants were asked to ensure Wendy Jesson was aware of future meetings in good time, to notify all local CCs.

Details of current proposals are at www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/marine/marineenergy

9B D&GC Renewable Energy Project Grants

Notification of grants for communities to develop community renewable energy schemes. Applications deadline end of September. Agreed of little interest locally and insufficient time to pursue in any case.

10 ADDITIONS TO / UPDATE ON LOCAL TASKS / ISSUES LIST

Nick circulated a table of ongoing issues which will be added to as necessary, and updated every second meeting. This is an attempt to reduce time spent on rehearsal of such concerns, which reduces time available to address other matters important to the community.

Updates from Cllr McColm noted under item 8.

Other updates:

Bank of Scotland no reply, MP/MSP to be asked to intervene; Kirkcowan road surface repairs underway; High Street trees not a problem to address according to Alan Bradley but Scottish Power should be contacted to arrange (this requires telephoning and is laborious) – Cllr McColm agreed to progress; annual grant papers with David Moran to submit with accounts; signatory changeover papers now back with Nick to go into bank; Mark Farm wind farm proposal meeting – no further word from developer.

New issues:

Broadband unreliability, esp. on Kirkinner exchange. Considerable local concern. Agreed to raise issue with MP/MSP. **Action Gillian**

Beddie Crescent and Main Street pot holes. Agreed to raise with Colin Forbes (Roads).
Action Gillian

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11A Merrick Stages Rally

Howard Steele reported that Allan Marshall was pleased with how well the rally went. Staff and locals were helpful, and results were received in the Library. Preparation at the harbour reduced noise in the town. There were fewer entries than previous years, but hopefully 2013 will have a local stage again.

11B Empty house, North Main Street

Andrew raised the possibility of community purchase of the derelict building as a community facility. Such projects have succeeded elsewhere. Cllr McColm advised that D&G Council was reluctant to take on properties needing considerable renovation and maintenance. Agreed this was an interesting idea but too big a project at this time.

12 DATE OF NEXT MEETINGS

Wigtown Bay Wild-fowlers meeting scheduled for Wednesday 12.9.2012. Jock McDowall and Andy Farrington to attend as observers. Gillian to confirm time of meeting. **Action Gillian**

Fair Trade steering group meeting - Wigtown Primary School, Wednesday 19.9.2012 at 3.30 pm.

Community Council post-election re-establishment meeting
Monday 8th October 2012 at 7.00 pm, in Main Hall, Wigtown County Buildings
followed by October business meeting (approx. 7.30 pm).

**ESTABLISHMENT MEETING AND BUSINESS MEETING OF
ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN, ON MONDAY 8 OCTOBER 2012**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Ian Macdonald	Nick Walker	Betty McGowan
Andrew Wilson	Howard Steele	Jock McDowall
Vivian Murray	Andy Farrington	John Dickson
Willie McCartney		

IN ATTENDANCE		
Graeme McKie, <i>D & G Council</i> <i>(until 7.25 pm)</i>	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Jim McColm
Ami Todd	Shannan Lochrie	Gillian Thorley, <i>Clerk</i>
Bob Baillie, <i>Energy Agency</i>	David Moran (from 7.30 pm)	

APOLOGIES		
David McAdam	Cllr Graham Nicol	<i>Police</i>

RE-ESTABLISHMENT MEETING

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Graeme McKie (Principal Officer, Community Services, Wigtown Area, D&GC) took the chair on behalf of Stephen Jack (CC Returning Officer) and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Graeme announced a forthcoming education session for Comm. Cllrs on Thursday 8.11.2012 at 7.00 pm, at D&GC Stranraer offices. Topics will include Office Bearer roles, running effective CC meetings, and the relationship between CCs and D&GC.

2 APPOINTMENT OF OFFICE BEARERS

Convenor – Nick Walker, prop. Willie McCartney, sec. Jock McDowall.
Graeme McKie handed chairmanship of the meeting over to Nick.

Vice-convenor – Willie McCartney, prop. Betty McGowan, sec. Vivian Murray.

Secretary – no nominations.

Gillian Thorley tendered her resignation as CC Clerk to take effect after this meeting. Andrew Wilson offered to act as Secretary and minute meetings pending another appointment. Everyone was asked to consider possible appointees. It was agreed that we consider advertising if the post remains unfilled after the next meeting.

Treasurer – no nominations.

Nick indicated that David Moran, co-opted as Treasurer previously, had offered to continue in post. Agreed (and David later accepted).

Others – none considered necessary at this time.

3 APPOINTMENT OF RETURNING OFFICER

Resolved that Stephen Jack be re-appointed. Graeme McKie confirmed Stephen was agreeable to this appointment.

4 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF ACCOUNTS

Agreed to defer decision to a later meeting. Note that D&GC must approve our appointee.

5 CO-OPTION OF NON-VOTING MEMBERS

Ami Todd and Shannan Lochrie were agreeable to remaining youth members and their appointments were agreed unanimously.

6 ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMITTEES

Newsletter Committee – Shannan Lochrie, Ami Todd, Andy Farrington, Nick Walker.
Community Festival Committee – to be agreed at subsequent meeting.

7 REPRESENTATIVES & SPECIFIC ROLES

Area Committee – Willie McCartney & Howard Steele
Common Good sub-Committee – Convenor & Vice-Convenor, ex officio
Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve Committee – Jock McDowall & Andy Farrington
FairTrade Steering Group – Betty McGowan
Wigtown in Bloom – Betty McGowan
Licensing Forum – Willie McCartney

Planning monitors – Howard Steele & Ian Macdonald
Licensing monitor – Willie McCartney

8 CONSIDER PRODUCTION OF CERTIFIED STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS, ASSETS AND LIABILITIES OF FORMER COMMUNITY COUNCIL, AND PUBLIC LIABILITY INSURANCE

Nick proposed that former CC finances be adopted without formal interim accounts as majority of CClrs and Treasurer unchanged. Agreed.

Noted D&GC's payment of insurance premium on behalf of all D&G CCs, to run until 30.4.2013.

9 CONSIDER PROPOSED CONSTITUTION FOR ADOPTION

Graeme McKie advised that the CC is required to adopt a Constitution within three months of establishment (i.e. before 4.1.2013). Adoption must be approved by a General Meeting. D&GC proposes a standardised constitution, but CClrs had not seen this document. It will be circulated for consideration and amendment before calling a Special General Meeting. D&GC requires to ratify the amended constitution before it can be adopted formally. Nick asked that all consider the draft when available. **ACTION – all**

BUSINESS MEETING (Graeme McKie left the meeting)

10 WELCOME & APPROVAL OF AGENDA (WITH INTIMATION OF OTHER BUSINESS)

Nick welcomed everyone to the re-established CC's first business meeting, and asked for a round of introductions. Agenda approved with addition of South Main Street disabled parking spaces (Betty McGowan) and removal of Police Report (as Police unable to attend).

11 ENERGY AGENCY PRESENTATION – BOB BAILLIE

The Energy Agency was established in 1999 as a charitable company giving free, impartial, expert advice on energy efficiency and renewable energy. They are based in Ayr and work across South West Scotland. They have managed 12 area based Energy Efficiency projects since 2007, insulating over 6000 houses.

Energy Agency runs the D&GC home insulation scheme which is free to all and includes:

- Cavity wall insulation;
- Loft insulation (including top-up to 270 mm if 150 mm or less);
- Associated costs (e.g. scaffolding, ventilation) to enable works;
- Jacket insulation for hot water tanks;
- Energy advice; and
- Transport advice.

Also, subject to tenure, the following are available:

- Energy Assistance Package (owner or private tenant);
- Renewables advice (owners); and
- Home renewables loan (owners).

Since April 2012, more than 600 households in D&G have been insulated under the scheme. There are 250 scheduled for insulation, and funds for 1000 further households are available. The project runs until March 2013 and includes match funding from Scottish & Southern Electricity Ltd (owners of Scottish Hydro). Funds are allocated on a first come basis. Please pass on information across the Comm. Council area. Bob left posters and leaflets, and some are available in the Library. For further info., phone 0800 512 012 or visit www.energyagency.org.uk.

12 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER MEETING

Approved. Prop. Jock McDowall, Sec. Andrew Wilson.

13 PLANNING & LICENSING MATTERS

12/P/1/0276 ERECTION OF 12 FLOODLIGHTS ON 6 X 6M HIGH COLUMNS; WIGTOWN MUGA, KILQUHIRN ROAD, WIGTOWN.

Agreed supportive of proposal to enable more use of MUGA. Nick to respond to Planning Officer. Charges for use of MUGA have caused concern previously, and lighting may affect this, so Nick to contact Karen Brownlie for clarification. **ACTION – Nick**

12/P/1/0296 INSTALLATION OF DOORWAY WITHIN EXISTING WINDOW OPENING (FRONT ELEVATION), REPOSITIONING OF EXTRACT FLUE (REAR ELEVATION), CHANGE OF USE FROM HOTEL TO HOTEL/HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY, AND ERECTION OF SMOKING SHELTER (RETROSPECTIVE); PLOUGHMAN HOTEL, 30 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WIGTOWN

Agreed further information and consideration necessary. Nick to contact Billy Murray requesting formal CC consultation period. **ACTION – Nick**

12/P/1/0292 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF MATTERS SPECIFIED IN CONDITIONS 1a, 1b, 1c, 1e and 2 (DESIGN, LAYOUT, LANDSCAPING, ACCESS) ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE 09/P/1/0148 FOR ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE; OLD CHURCH SITE, HIGH STREET, WIGTOWN

Agreed further information and consideration necessary. Nick to contact Billy Murray requesting formal CC consultation period. **ACTION – Nick**

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON SCOPING OPINION FOR PROPOSED SECTION 36 APPLICATION FOR WIND FARM COMPRISING 18 WIND TURBINES UP TO 136.5M IN HEIGHT; AIRRIEQUHILLART, WIGTOWN

Scoping report had been on CC website since last meeting for everyone to consider. Nick received agreement to submit our response late. Discussion led to agreement to object to the proposal on several grounds. *The scale of the turbines and of the development as a whole is felt to be excessive and intrusive. One of the key benefits of this locality to locals and for tourism is the wide open natural spaces and views which would be impacted negatively by the development. We are concerned about substantial impact, especially during construction, on local fauna, especially with nearby designations for birds and the RSPB reserve. The proposal is outwith areas designated in the Development Plan as "search areas" for commercial wind turbine development, and areas considered suitable by the D&GC have not been fully exploited. Most importantly, road access is poorly described in the scoping report, but the roads intended for*

access right through from the main trunk A75 are small, narrow, rural, windy roads with generally poor surfaces, and a considerable record for obstruction and accidents; construction and decommissioning traffic would inevitably have a huge detrimental impact on local life and the local economy for the one year period of construction and the one year period of de-construction. When roads in the immediate vicinity of the proposed development are considered, these issues are even more important, as the roads are narrow enough to be effectively single track in places, and many corners and junctions are tight for regular traffic let alone transporters conveying large portions of wind turbine. The CC believes that the development would be a substantial impediment to local economic life and the local amenity. **ACTION – Nick**

PROPOSED WIND FARM COMPRISING UP TO 14 WIND TURBINES, 130M HIGH TO BLADE TIP, AUCHLEAND FARM, WIGTOWN

There will be open information session at McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart on Wednesday 10.10.2012 (12.00 noon – 5.00 pm) and Wigtown County Buildings on Thursday 11.10.2012 (10.30 am – 6.00 pm). Nick encouraged CCllrs to attend. The developer, Community Windpower Ltd, is keen to have another meeting with the CC; agreed that Nick set this up. **ACTION – Nick**

NEW D&G ROYAL INFIRMARY, PREAPPLICATION CONSULTATION

The proposed new infirmary will be sited at the western end of the Dumfries bypass, near the Garroch roundabout. The next phase of development is beginning with three months for public and interested parties to respond to outline plans, shortly available at www.nhsdg.scot.nhs.uk.

14 UP-COMING EVENTS

14A Remembrance

For Wigtown, Andrew confirmed that Joel McGarva has agreed to be piper. Andrew is meeting Rev. Stephen McGarva and Rev. Eric Boyle on 12.10.2012 to finalise the order for the Act of Remembrance. The Parade Licence application has been lodged. Douglas Ewart High School school captains will lay a wreath in addition to the others already planned. On Sunday 11.10.2012, Guides, etc. will parade from the Church Hall shortly after 11.00 am. CCllrs may join the parade at the County Buildings about 11.10 am. The Act of Remembrance will take place shortly after 12.30 pm, as last year. For the Comm. Council, the wreath will be laid by the Convenor, Nick Walker, flanked by Betty McGowan and Howard Steele. Andrew and Nick will arrange orders of service once the final details agreed with the Ministers.

For Kirkiner, the Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial will follow Kirkiner Church service (service 11.45 am, remembrance about 12.45 pm). Local Brownies and Guides will participate. CCllrs are welcome to attend as well.

14B Christmas Lighting / Winterfest / Ceilidh

Lighting (30.11.2012)

Betty confirmed she has arranged with Rev McGarva for carols and Creetown Silver Band. Glo Sticks for children to purchase at cost price will be bought from the Christmas lighting account again this year. Betty will arrange. Jock McDowall confirmed that a quote is due in for supply and erection of the Christmas tree, and erection of the Lights; he indicated that the local tradesman has the relevant safety certificates. David Moran indicated that the total cost last year was approx. £1200.00. Agreed that if the quote is below last year's total, we should proceed. Dates previously set (Saturdays 10 or 17.11.2012). Jock to chase up quote. If quote exceeds last year's costs, a further meeting would be necessary to agree how to proceed.

ACTION – Jock

The Round Table is aware of the date of the event but has yet to confirm Santa's attendance. They are struggling for membership but have indicated they intend to provide Santa visits across the Machars during December, as usual. They have asked for CCllrs' assistance in collecting donations for Santa's visits. Ami Todd indicated that she and others at Douglas Ewart High School had agreed to assist. CCllrs usually help with stewarding and could assist with collections also. Agreed to repeat usual CC donation of £100.00 for Santa attending Lighting ceremony.

Winterfest (1.12.2012): All arrangements are in place.

Ceilidh (1.12.2012):

Band booked for £150.00, the Dykeside Rablers, from Kirkcudbright. Agreed this plan. Also agreed cloak ticket raffle on the night, and donations of prizes would be appreciated (to Andrew Wilson). Ceilidh ticket price agreed to be £5.00 per person, to include tea/coffee and light supper. Once ready, tickets will be available from CCLrs and at Machars Action. Decision to have no bar, but to allow people to bring a bottle, was reiterated. Tickets will indicate "no bar."

Insurance:

Quote for Public Liability cover for all events and "all risk" cover for the lights while in place is £63.60. Agreed to accept. Nick to inform insurers; David to pay. **ACTION – Nick & David**

15 NEWSLETTER

The last newsletter was six months ago. Agreed new issue should be prepared so next meeting can consider draft. Newsletter Committee (per item 6 above) to meet to prepare draft. Articles could include: Community Festival 2013 preparation, Winterfest, noticeboard project, Wigtown in Bloom update, proposed wind farms news. Any potential articles to be emailed to Nick (convenor@WigtownCC.org.uk) before the end of October.

16 COMMON GOOD COMMITTEE / AREA COMMITTEE

16A Common Good

Willie McCartney attended. Wigtown Common Good Fund has only about £250.00 to distribute due to limited income from Bowling Club and Football Club rentals, and limited cash assets in bank. Next meeting scheduled for March 2013.

16B Area Committee

From Area Grant funds, Cllr Geddes advised that Whauphill Community Association was awarded £4950.00 for the playpark redevelopment project, and Wigtown & Bladnoch Golf Club was awarded £6000.00 towards running costs. There was nothing else significant to report.

There will be a themed meeting at which the public may have the opportunity to speak, on Grounds Maintenance issues, on Wednesday 10.10.2012 at 7.00 pm in Wigtown County Buildings. Nick encouraged CCLrs to attend if possible.

17 MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED

17A Noticeboard / Signs / Leaflet Project

Andrew reported on the funding seminar he attended, which suggested that Awards for All could fund the bulk of this project. Additional funds may be available from the Glasgow Galloway Association and the Scottish Covenanters' Memorial Association for elements relevant to their interests, as well as funds raised by CC ourselves. The Area Committee may consider requests for 2013-14 financial year over the winter, and this would be worth considering. David Moran has provided a copy of the last approved accounts which would be needed as part of applications. Installation cost estimates are still awaited but once received, applications will go ahead.

Replacement costs for the Welcome sign opposite New Road on North Main Street are awaited from Roads Dept. Ian Macdonald suggested that this sign might also refer to Wigtown's FairTrade town status. Ian was also reassured that the "finger signs" near the County Buildings would be updated as part of this project (e.g. removing Vet. Surgery, adding Quaker Meeting House).

17B Wild Fowling Meeting

Andy Farrington circulated minutes of the recent (and previous) meetings. For the coming

season, shooting times will remain as last year. There appears to be gradual progress towards a compromise agreement.

17C FairTrade Steering Group

Nick Walker, Betty McGowan and Ian Macdonald attended the meeting on 19.9.2012, with Parish Church and School representatives. The steering group has been re-established with a plan to include representation from Parish Church, Baptist Church, Quakers, local business and CC. Helen Macdonald (Quakers' rep.) will be the Steering Group Coordinator, and the Quaker Meeting House has been offered, free, for Steering Group meetings.

17D Wigtown in Bloom

Betty informed the CC that Wigtown gained a Silver Gilt award again this year. The RSPB / LNR received a Biodiversity Award. WiB was grateful to RSPB and Alexa Seagrave, and Wigtown Primary School for their contributions to Wigtown's Beautiful Scotland entry.

17E ScotGov Cockle Fishing Meeting

Further to previous discussions and information, there will be a meeting to consider future management of the Solway cockle fishery. The meeting is on Thursday 18.10.2012 at 7.00 pm, in Dumfries. Nick Walker and Cllr Geddes may be able to attend.

18 COUNCILLORS' MATTERS

18A Cllr McColm

Updates on various issues: hedges on roads to Trammondford and Martyrs' Monument should be cut next week; Kirkinner Car Park now agreed responsibility of Education Dept. and surface to be repaired; Kirkinner War Memorial to have protective barrier put in place, but not until after Remembrance Day; Japanese Knotweed treatment due in spring as currently dying back; trees in High Street at Fountainbleau, despite positive feedback to last meeting, still subject to ongoing confusion about ownership and liability.

18B Cllr Geddes

Broadband complaints, mainly about Kirkinner exchange, from CCllrs and constituents. John Jennings (local resident) had emailed CC about this also. Press and MSPs/MP involved in this issue. D&GC considers this an important issue. Unclear how CC can take this forward except encouraging MP/MSPs to pursue.

Poor road surface on A714 to Carslae to be addressed. Continuing work to address derelict building in North Main Street.

19 CORRESPONDENCE

19A Stranraer Development Info.

Public exhibitions due soon in Stranraer Library, and Antrim and Belmont Community Hub, relating to "Stranraer Going Forward" proposals.

19B Galloway & South Ayrshire Biosphere Consultation

Available on line a general opinions consultation about what you like about this area. Agreed no CC response.

19C Lottery Licence

Updated licence has been received.

20 OTHER BUSINESS

20A Disabled Parking Spaces

During the Book Festival, disabled spaces near the market square in South Main Street were demonstrably too narrow for disabled people to negotiate in and out of vehicles once parked. Cllr McColm agreed to contact Colin Forbes (Roads) about this, and about parking arrangements throughout the centre of Wigtown. Parking during the Festival is always a challenge, and it was suggested that temporary disabled parking be put in place along North Main Street adjacent to the bowling green, with the lorry park designated for regular parking as it is barely used for disabled parking despite signage.

21 NEXT MEETINGS

Extra meeting – Wednesday 24th October 2012, County Buildings:

7.00 pm – 7.50 pm in Viewing Room, urgent planning issues & review of proposed constitution;

8.00 pm – 9.00 pm in Supper Room, Auchleand Windfarm update meeting.

Regular business meeting - Monday 12th November 2012, County Buildings:

7.30 pm to 9.30 pm in Viewing Room, draft agenda on website.

**EXTRA MEETING OF ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN, ON WEDNESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2012**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Ian Macdonald	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Vivian Murray
Andrew Wilson, <i>Acting Secretary</i>	Howard Steele	Jock McDowall
Willie McCartney	Andy Farrington	

IN ATTENDANCE		
David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	Ian Wood	Sue Swift
John Jennings	Gayle Jennings	Laura Mustian
Christian Higham		

APOLOGIES		
David McAdam	Betty McGowan	Cllr Alistair Geddes

1 WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed everyone to the meeting, and asked for any items of urgent business. The agenda was accepted with urgent items added: Christmas Lights & Tree installation quote; Community Shop dispersal of funds; Education Session for Community Councillors.

2 PLANNING/LICENSING MATTERS

2A 12/P/1/0292 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF MATTERS SPECIFIED IN CONDITIONS 1a, 1b, 1c, 1e and 2 (DESIGN, LAYOUT, LANDSCAPING, ACCESS) ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION IN PRINCIPLE 09/P/1/0148 FOR ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE; OLD CHURCH SITE, HIGH STREET, WIGTOWN

Further information sought since last meeting. Planning Permission in Principle was refused by D&GC in 2009 but was granted on Appeal to Scottish Ministers. The conditions now being addressed are to convert to full Planning Permission (condition 1) and to ensure an archaeological survey is conducted in case of burials in the former Churchyard (condition 2). There was discussion about access, trees and the impact on the approach to the town's conservation area from the Kirkcowan direction. On balance, however, CC resolved to note the application and make no formal representation.

2B 12/P/1/0296 INSTALLATION OF DOORWAY WITHIN EXISTING WINDOW OPENING (FRONT ELEVATION), REPOSITIONING OF EXTRACT FLUE (REAR ELEVATION), CHANGE OF USE FROM HOTEL TO HOTEL/HOT FOOD TAKEAWAY, AND ERECTION OF SMOKING SHELTER (RETROSPECTIVE); PLOUGHMAN HOTEL, 30 SOUTH MAIN STREET, WIGTOWN

Part of this application is retrospective for changes that have already been made (change of use, and smoking shelter). Other elements are proposed. There was discussion about takeaway hot food being available adjacent to alcohol sales. Note was taken of concerns expressed to Comm. Councillors over recent months and at the meeting. There appear to be issues of increased congregating of customers around the front doors with more litter and antisocial behaviour; noise, vibration and smell affecting nearby properties due to ventilation system limitations; and young people using the takeaway shop mixing with pub customers. Proposed changes would leave the top of the flue below the eaves of the adjoining property meaning that smell and noise problems would not be addressed, and relevant regulations would not be adequately followed. There was concern about the appropriateness of a takeaway food outlet in a listed building in Wigtown's conservation area. There was concern also about the beer garden and antisocial behaviour; the takeaway shop signage not having planning consent; and the retrospective nature of elements of

the application.

The Comm. Council agreed that it is desirable for the town to have a hotel. However, the proposals in this application and recent concerns (since the takeaway shop was added to the pub) led to resolutions to oppose installation of new doorway, repositioning of extract flue and change of use, but support erection of smoking shelter.

OBJECTION:

CHANGE OF USE

We believe that a hot food takeaway is out of keeping with the building and its listed status, out of keeping with the conservation area of central Wigtown, and out of keeping with Scotland's National BookTown. We believe that co-locating a takeaway food business with a public house is inappropriate because of likely significant mixing of underage young people with pub users in the takeaway shop and its immediate vicinity. We are concerned that the takeaway business has already led to increased litter. There is already evidence of increased antisocial behaviour (e.g. vomitus, urine) in the vicinity of the takeaway shop, reflecting the combined effects of alcohol and takeaway food, and aggravated by the proximate premises encouraging simultaneous use.

INSTALLATION OF DOORWAY

There are already separate, albeit adjacent, entrances to the two premises; we see no need to create an additional doorway for the takeaway shop. Doing so would be likely to encourage pub users to congregate further along the pavement, and would encourage antisocial behaviour (noted above) to spread further along South Main Street.

REPOSITIONING OF FLUE

While the Community Council accepts the need for the flue to be repositioned, we do not believe that the proposal meets the standards required. The drawings are not entirely clear, however it appears to us that the proposed flue fails to give adequate clearance to the windows and roof lines of adjacent properties, and does not extend high enough for exhaust to clear the Hotel or nearby dwellings. Fixture of the flue and detail of the extractor system are not described, so we are unable to assess potential for noise and vibration nuisance about which the Community Council is aware of recent complaints.

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

The Community Council is not aware of there having been approval sought or granted for the Beer Garden detailed on the drawings. We have received numerous comments about signage at the takeaway shop, and we are not aware of permission having been granted for these. We are disappointed that this application is largely in retrospect.

It was also resolved to pass concerns to the Licensing Forum.

3 CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION

Nick had circulated an amended version of D&GC's proposed CC Constitution for consideration before the meeting. The CC is required to adopt a constitution at a Special General Meeting before 4 January 2013, but D&GC must approve it before its adoption is finalised. Nick explained the background to proposed alterations, and there was discussion about the proposals with agreement that we seek D&GC's approval for this constitution and arrange a short SGM at the start of the November CC meeting.

The role of Treasurer was discussed, as this role does not require to be fulfilled by a Comm. Councillor, but liability for decisions is shared (jointly and severally) by all (voting) Comm. Councillors, so a non-CCllr Treasurer would have little liability for their actions. It was acknowledged that no current CCllr was agreeable to take on the Treasurer post, but Willie McCartney proposed co-opting David Moran as a CCllr. Jock McDowall seconded the proposal. David indicated he would agree to this. Co-option to be considered at next meeting.

4 URGENT MATTERS

4A Christmas Lights & Tree installation

Quote for £1200.00 received from Brian Little to provide and erect Christmas Tree, and erect Christmas Lights. Agreed to accept quote (prop. Willie McCartney, sec. Jock McDowall). Agreed

to arrange light erecting session on Saturday 17 November at 9.00 am, at the County Buildings. Jock to liaise with Brian Little. Andrew to notify Police of arrangements so that parking may be restricted to enable access for placing lights in trees.

4B Community Shop disbursal of funds

Nick reported that Val Spernagel, Community Shop, had asked the Comm. Council to apply for a grant in their current round of disbursal. The deadline was within days and therefore Nick put in an application focusing on the CC Newsletter and the Noticeboard project, and general communication costs of Comm. Council. The meeting approved Nick's decision and agreed funds would be for the Admin. account if granted.

David Moran indicated that a previous disbursal contributed to two Comm. Council projects: Wigtown in Bloom and Winterfest. After discussion, it was agreed that the application already discussed should be the only one from the Comm. Council at this time. As awareness increases, other community groups and activities hope to be funded from the Community Shop, so multiple applications from a single organisation would not be appropriate.

4C Education Session for Community Councillors – Thursday 8 November, at 7.00 pm

Notice given of an Education Session run by D&G Council for Comm. Councillors, in Wigtown County Buildings, on Thursday 8 November 2012 at 7.00 pm. All CCllrs welcome.

5 AUCHLEAND WINDFARM PROPOSALS

Community Windpower Ltd presented update on proposals. Questions and comments were taken from the public. The proposal is reduced to either 8 or 12 turbines, and the company hopes to lodge a formal planning application in January 2013. No formal minute was taken.

6 NEXT MEETING

Special General Meeting, followed by business meeting:
Monday 12th November 2012, 7.30 pm – 9.30 pm, Viewing Room, County Buildings.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2012**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Ian Macdonald	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Betty McGowan
Andrew Wilson, <i>Acting Secretary</i>	Howard Steele	Jock McDowall
David McAdam	Andy Farrington	John Dickson
Willie McCartney		

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	PC Alan White, <i>Police</i>	PC Rachel Jackson, <i>Police</i>
Ami Todd	Shannan Lochrie	Fraser Wilson, <i>Press</i>
John Jennings	Gail Jennings	Louise Kerr, <i>Press</i>
David Moran, <i>Treasurer</i>	June Robinson	

APOLOGIES		
Vivian Murray	Cllr Graham Nicol	Cllr Jim McColm

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Nick Walker welcomed people to the meeting and intimated the apologies received. A complaint had been received which CC needed to consider and Comm. Cllrs agreed this issue should be considered in private session. Agenda approved with addition of Machars Basics Bank (Andrew Wilson), Town Gardens (Willie McCartney) and Wigtown Christmas Market (Andy Farrington).

2 POLICE MATTERS

Confirmed tragic road crash in Kirkinner on 3.11.2012 and loss of a young life. Theft of chainsaw from the former Creamery at Bladnoch. Spate of damage and anti-social behaviour around Kirkinner Primary School, which Police appealed for information about from the public. Again, bogus tradesman have targeted vulnerable residents in the area, and all were asked to beware and report anyone suspicious.

Three matters were drawn to the attention of the police:

- A van often parked obscuring the view at the corner of Beddie Crescent and Church Lane. Police agreed to check the situation but powers limited unless unlawfully parked.
- Removal of automatic speed notices approaching Sorbie and Braehead (from Wigtown direction). It was explained that the southern approach speed signs are permanent, but the northern approach signs were temporary. They will be moved around a variety of sites, and should return to our locality at some stage.
- Request for Police agreement for traffic cones to facilitate installing Christmas lights on Saturday 17th Nov.

3 SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING – Adoption of Constitution

Nick reported that the Council had agreed in principle to all the changes suggested by our CC to their standard constitution, apart from point 11.13 which relates to the Code of Conduct, but they agreed a compromise. Proposed constitution had been circulated before the meeting, and additional copies were tabled. Meeting resolved to adopt the amended constitution as proposed. Comm. Cllrs in favour 10, against 0. Total eligible residents present: in favour 11, against 0, abstain 3. **ACTION Nick to notify D&GC for formal approval.**

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETINGS

Meeting of 8.10.2012, adopted; prop. Jock McDowall, sec. Andy Farrington.
Meeting of 24.10.2012, adopted: prop. Ian Macdonald, sec. Willie McCartney.

5 CONSIDER NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVE ON MACHARS ACTION BOARD

Willie McCartney nominated by Nick Walker, seconded by Betty McGowan. No other nominations. Appointed unopposed. Consideration of depute, but as this role is as a nominee Director of Machars Action Ltd a formal depute is not permissible. Willie agreed to ask advice at the upcoming AGM if a non-voting depute could attend on his behalf for information.

ACTION Willie

6 CONSIDER CO-OPTION OF DAVID MORAN

David Moran's co-option was proposed by Willie McCartney, seconded by Jock McDowall. Agreed unanimously, forms completed. **ACTION Nick to notify D&GC.**

7 PLANNING & LICENSING MATTERS

12/P/1/0295 CHANGE OF USE OF LAND TO FORM CARAVAN SITE, ERECTION OF TOILET BLOCK AND BOATHOUSE, ERECTION OF WIND TURBINE, INSTALLATION OF SEPTIC TANK AND REED BED, AND ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE WIGTOWN HARBOUR.

Discussion about number of caravans and whether static or touring. Concerns raised over disturbance to wildfowl and other birdlife, potential for flooding, leakage of sewerage, interference with public amenity enjoyed by locals and visitors. There was reported to be a lack of clarity over ownership of part of the harbour area but this was not thought to affect the application site. It was noted that the harbour restoration was funded by public subscription. There was a view that a caravan site would be an asset to the town. Opinion was divided over whether to support or object, and the meeting eventually resolved NOT to object. **ACTION Nick respond to D&GC.**

SCOPING CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED WINDFARM AT MINDORK, BY KIRKOWAN.

Proposal for up to 21 turbines, 80 metres tall (125 m to blade tip), linking to grid at Newton Stewart by overhead 132kV line which will be a separate proposal. After discussion, CC resolved to object to the proposal as follows:

We are concerned that evidence of potential harm from vibration is likely to require greater than 1 km distance (perhaps as much as 2 km) between collections of industrial scale wind turbines and built up areas. This proposal is only 1 km from the village of Kirkcowan. We believe that the scale of the proposal will detract significantly from the landscape which is a tourist attraction.

In our opinion, the long period of construction (and eventual removal) will cause substantial, prolonged disruption and huge inconvenience to local residents and businesses, and public transport, as the roads in this area are small, narrow, windy and poorly surfaced. Heavy traffic struggles with it already, let alone with large construction vehicles and transporters for huge sections of wind turbines. This will greatly increase road hazards in the broader surrounding area.

*Finally, the suggested viewing point for assessment of visual impact from our town, is Southfield Park. This is inappropriate. The Park (the former agricultural show field) is on the low side of the town facing away from the proposed development, and the view towards Mindork is obstructed by large trees, buildings and the lie of the land. We request choosing a valid viewpoint for visual impact assessment, such as the Windyhill. **ACTION Nick respond to ScotGov.***

8 UP-COMING EVENTS

8A Winterfest

Community Shop donated £450 towards Winterfest; David Moran to attend presentation event. Letter of thanks to be forwarded. D&GC has granted £747 for Christmas decoration for the CC Area - £347 for Wigtown and £200 each for Kirkinner/Braehead and Whauphill. David Moran to forward payment to Community Associations. These grants must be used within three years.

Winterfest and Christmas light insurance is now in place. Brian Little prepared for tree and light installation on Sat. 17 November. To help, meet at 9.00 am at County Buildings.

Friday 30th November procession from the school, led by Santa, at 7.00 pm. Jock McDowall to be in charge of stewards who should meet at 6.00 pm at the school. Seating for the band to be set out at that time near the Ploughman. Lighting ceremony and carol singing to follow procession. Refreshments in County Buildings afterwards.

Saturday 1st December fayre has 16 stalls booked. Betty McGowan has arrangements in place, and has raffle tickets available. David Moran to sort out collection buckets at Co-op and elsewhere in the town.

St Andrew's Nicht ceilidh on Saturday 1st December arranged. Raffle prize donations welcome. Tickets from Andrew and Machars Action. Adults £5.00, children £3.00.

8B COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

First organising committee meeting to be arranged for January 2013. All Comm. Cllrs asked to consider what they can offer to organisation and who from outwith CC may be willing to help.

9 MEETING UPDATES

9A CC Education Session

Andrew Wilson & Howard Steele reported on the useful but long CC Education Session. There is a new system for D&GC Councillors' inquiries to be handled through Stephen Jack's office which should speed up responses. This system may be extended to Comm. Councils too. CCs were reminded of the importance of risk assessments for events, etc.

9B Area Committee Themed Meeting – Grounds Maintenance

No substantial feedback.

10 MATTERS ARISING

10A Community Shop Disbursement of Funds

In addition to the Winterfest grant, Community Shop has agreed £450 towards Noticeboard/Info. Project and CC Newsletters. Andrew Wilson to attend presentation. Letter of thanks needed.

10B Noticeboard/Info. Project

Andrew Wilson updated on the project. One installation quote is still outstanding, and then the main Awards for All application can be submitted. A draft was available at the meeting for comment. The Scottish Covenanters' Memorial Association has agreed in principle to a small grant towards the information parts of the project to do with the Wigtown Martyrs.

10C Cockle Fishery

Nick Walker reported that in the end neither he nor Cllr Geddes were able to attend the meeting. No minutes are yet available. The fishery remains closed for the time being.

10D Newsletter

The Newsletter Committee had not met due to time constraints. A meeting will be arranged when possible, with a view to a newsletter after Christmas.

10E Comm. Council Secretary

Nick Walker reported that June Robinson was considering the role of Minute Secretary for the Comm. Council. She asked to attend a meeting to observe before making a decision.

10F Wigtown MUGA

Feedback from Karen Brownlie stated that D&GC has recently reviewed and standardised all fees for use of MUGAs. The charges are: full facility, adults, £18.05, juniors £9.25; tennis courts,

adults, £7.25, juniors £3.80. How long this permits is unclear. Community Learning & Development also indicated that there would be free sessions arranged periodically for young people, by youth workers.

11 COUNCILLORS' MATTERS

By this item, Cllr Geddes had left the meeting. It was agreed that this item top the agenda at some meetings.

12 ISSUES LIST

This was updated. There is a broadband survey which CC agreed Andrew should respond to on CC's behalf. David Moran reported that the Admin. Grant had been paid. The Bank of Scotland has not yet confirmed signatory changes, but Nick had provided relevant forms and proofs of identity, etc. on 11.10.2012. **Updated issues list appended to minutes.**

13 CORRESPONDENCE

13A Winter Resilience

Request for update from D&GC about CC's winter resilience equipment. It was clarified that the only equipment is flasks for provision of hot water if needed. **ACTION Nick to reply**

13B Countryside Rangers / Volunteers

Update leaflet tabled for info. Available in library.

13C Scotways – Scottish Rights of Way Society

Update newsletter and AGM notification. No one available to attend. Info. available at library.

13D D&GC Budget meetings

Notification of Area Committee meeting on Thursday 15th November in County Buildings about D&GC budget for current and future years. All welcome to attend.

13E ScotGov CCs Working Group

Summary of meetings and recommendations. Unclear whether there will be any further progress or significant change as a result. Info. at website <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Government/local-government/CommunityCouncils/CCShortLifeWorkingGroup>

13F D&G Fire & Rescue Annual Report

Report available on website at <http://www.wigtowncc.org.uk/Wigtown/Miscellaneous.html>

14 OTHER BUSINESS

14A Town Gardens

Willie McCartney asked if the sculpture in the Gardens which was built as part of the Book Festival "Audience as Artist" theme was to remain indefinitely. Agreed to ask Festival Company (Anne Barclay). **ACTION Andrew**

14B Machars Basics Bank

Andrew informed CC that the Machars Basic Bank was about to start. Run by local churchs, the scheme will provide emergency food and household commodities to people who cannot afford them. Referral will be through social services. Andrew encouraged people to donate items in the blue box which will be in the Library.

14D Wigtown Christmas Market

Andy Farrington intimated that there will be a Christmas Market in the square on Saturday 22nd December. See <http://wigtownmarket.com/news.html>

15 NEXT MEETING

Regular business meeting - Monday 14th January 2013, County Buildings:

7.30 pm to 9.30 pm in Viewing Room.

Draft agenda on website - http://www.wigtowncc.org.uk/Wigtown/Next_Meeting.html

16 PRIVATE SESSION

There is a separate confidential minute of this item, as the complaint about a Comm. Councillor was considered unfounded.