

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 14 JANUARY 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	Alan Wykes	Fraser Wilson, <i>Press</i>
Ami Todd	Shannan Lochrie	June Robinson, <i>Minutes Sec.</i>

APOLOGIES		
Vivian Murray	Cllr Graham Nicol	Police
Ian McDonald	Cllr Alistair Geddes	

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and introduce new Minutes Secretary, June Robinson.

1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTIMATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved with addition of Poppy Collection (Betty McGowan), Wigtown in Bloom (Betty McGowan), Fairtrade (Betty McGowan), and Day of the Region (Andrew Wilson).

2 POLICE REPORT

None.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (12 NOVEMBER 2012)

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record, included item taken in private (minute not in public minutes): prop. David Moran, sec. Betty McGowan.

4 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Jim McColm reported on the following:

- Ground Maintenance Plans – should be available in 6-7 weeks.
- Local Development Plan – CC responses important; noted Cllr McColm's initial concerns about the plan as it affects our area (very loose definition of small group rural housing; intention to remove “section 75 requirement” to restrict certain agricultural properties from open sale). Agreed **Nick Walker, Andrew Wilson, Ian McDonald and Howard Steele** would review the draft plan so CC submission can be agreed at CC February meeting. Link to plan on CC website (www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP). There are training sessions with Planning Aid for Scotland about CCs role in planning and specifically the Local Development Plan consultation on 31.1.2012 in Castle Douglas (am) and Stranraer (pm). Details were tabled, and are available from Nick Walker.
- Kirkinner Car Park – pot holes filled.
- No Fly Tipping Sign for Lorry Park – Alan Bradley agreed to arrange.
- Trees at High Street / Fountainblue – action reported to have been taken.
- Chapel Court external repair – no progress, not a priority for DGHP.
- D&GC meets on 15.1.2013 to approve Core Paths Plan.
- DGHP starting renovations of heating, etc. in Beddie Crescent.

5 ISSUES LIST UPDATE

Noted relevant updates from item 4 above. Others as follows:

- Bank of Scotland – Andrew Wilson reported no significant progress regarding short notice closure of the Wigtown branch. Agreed all CCllrs to note closure incidents, to gather data before pursuing further.
- Broadband – Ongoing problems with speed and intermittent failures, Local residents continue to raise this issue. It also affects local businesses. Agreed CC newsletter to begin campaign about this. Fraser Wilson was asked to feature this issue in the Press. Politicians to be asked to work on this on our behalf, including MEPs (there is EU funding), MP (telecom. infrastructure is reserved to UK Parliament/Government) and MSPs/D&G Cllrs (local broadband improvement planning has been devolved to Scottish Parliament/Government and local authorities). **Nick Walker** to coordinate.
- CC Bank Account Signatory updates – **David Moran** had no update, and will pursue.
- Town Gardens sculpture – this has been removed but will be used in future in connection to the Book Festival. Planning Aid for Scotland- Community Council Training available in Castle Douglas and Stranraer on 31.1.13. For more information contact Nick Walker.

6 EVENTS – Winterfest & Community Festival

Winterfest:

- Betty McGowan reported successful Friday evening / Saturday day events. She said £666 were raised.
- Andrew Wilson reported the Ceilidh was successful and feedback positive. Hall let charges have to be clarified.
- The electricity cost for the Christmas lights is £200. The lights require dismantling and Jock McDowall was arranging a date with the contractor but no response was yet available. **Andrew Wilson** agreed to chase up **Jock McDowall**.
- Final financial summary will be needed for next meeting. Action – **David Moran**.
- All involved in organising, assisting, volunteering, donating and attending were thanked.

Community Festival:

- Agreed to establish Festival Committee, with remit to arrange and coordinate Festival events, and empowered to manage within a budget of up to £2500, based on expenditure in 2012; but with an expectation of bringing costs down where possible, and raising a significant amount to offset costs (about £2000 were raised in 2012 Festival). Any spend of £500 or more on an individual item or element of the Festival would have to be agreed by the full Comm. Council.
- This agreement would be revised if David Moran finds that 2012 figures differ significantly from what he reported (from memory) above.
- Agreed Comm. Councillors **Andrew Wilson, David Moran, Betty McGowan, Nick Walker** and **Willie McCartney** would form the Committee, and begin with a public invitation for others to join for this year's Festival.
- Date of first meeting to be confirmed once last year's volunteer organisers have responded to invitation to contribute again this year. **Nick Walker** to arrange.
- Committee meetings will be minuted and will report back to the full Comm. Council.
- **FIRST COMMITTEE MEETING, INVITING PUBLIC WISHING TO HELP, WEDNESDAY 30th JANUARY 2013, AT 8.00 PM, COUNTY BUILDINGS**
- Meeting venues were debated for the Committee and broadly for all Comm. Council meetings and events. It was proposed that ALL meetings be required to be held in the County Buildings; this is expensive and a counter-proposal was to have meetings at any venue but with the County Buildings the preferred venue whenever practicable. **On a formal vote, the counter-proposal was agreed by 4 votes to 3 with 2 abstentions.**

7 PLANNING & LICENSING MATTERS

There were no significant new planning or licensing applications since the November meeting.

Updates on proposals for Wind Turbine sites.

- Airriequhillart – D&GC Landscape and Archaeology reports raise concerns about this proposal in the Council's submission to the Scottish Government Scoping consultation. The Landscape officer suggests a maximum turbine height of 50m given the low-lying nature of the Machars.
- Alan Wykes suggested painting wind turbines brown/green might make them less obtrusive.
- Nick Walker suggested the Comm. Council seek information about potential advantages for the community if a wind farm in our area is approved. This does not conflict with CC coming to a opinion on any specific formal application for a wind farm, and does not imply CC is in favour of, or against, developments. It could give the CC options for action subsequent to a planning decision. D&GC has its own Community Benefit scheme which developers of wind turbines are encouraged to opt into. It was agreed to set up information sessions for the CC about the D&GC scheme and about Community Trust ownership of turbines.

Proposed development at Wigtown Harbour

- Alan Wykes presented his proposals and clarified his position on the harbour as a well-used public amenity. His intention is that public access remains as at present, and that the development will add toilets and rubbish bins (for the caravan site, but of use to other visitors). In answer to a questions, trees planted by school children near the proposed house would be re-sited, and the ground level and drainage plans would be above the flood level and agreed with SEPA.

8 MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED

8A Constitution

Nick Walker reported we have not had this back from the Council yet. Informed we will have it by the end of the financial year.

8B Machars Action Depute

Willie McCartney reported agreement for a depute when he is unable to attend Board meetings was agreed at the Machars Action Ltd AGM. Agreed **Andy Farrington** as depute.

8C Noticeboard/ Information Project

Andrew Wilson reported on progress with funding applications. Awards for All declined the application. Galloway Association of Glasgow application is awaiting outcome, and Heritage Lottery pre-application was accepted so a full application will be submitted in February. Area Committee application will be made too, for consideration from the 2013-14 budget. David Moran's input as Treasurer is needed to complete these applications. Agreed these should proceed as previously agreed. Action – **Andrew Wilson, David Moran**.

8D CC Newsletter

Holidays had prevented a Committee (Ami Todd, Shannan Lochrie, Andy Farrington, Nick Walker) meeting. A date will be set after the meeting (30.1.2013 at 6.00 pm – Library).

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9A CC Scheme Review

This begins at the end of the month and will consider the names and areas of CCs, then the detail of the scheme itself which sets the rules for all D&G's CCs. The whole process will take more than a year. D&GC will convene meetings about this in February.

9B Chamber of Commerce

Notification of change of chairman for Wigtownshire Chamber, now Wolf Richthofen.

9C Community Resilience Training

Rearranged meeting from December, to be held at D&GC offices in Stranraer, at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 16 January. Also information on community resilience from D&GC and Scottish

Government. No one expressed interest in attending the meeting. Generally the CC has taken a minimal role in community resilience due to lack of clarity about liability and insurance.

9D Scottish Parliament Session on Travellers/Gypsies

Invitation to send representative to session in Parliament which was held last week; there was no time to identify issues, coordinate information or contact CCllrs to see if anyone would be willing to attend. Nick Walker had indicated that notice was too short for us to attend and that he was not aware of any issues with Travellers in recent years. CC agreed that this had been a suitable response.

9E Scottish Civic Trust My Place Awards

SCT offers CCs opportunity to nominate projects and people for My Place Award or My Civic Champion Award. Agreed no nomination.

9F British Forces Charities Challenge

For information, this charity team relay will arrive in Cairnryan and proceed to Girvan on 26 July 2014, as part of a UK wide event.

9G Wild fowling at Crook

Andrew Bielinski, RSPB, has asked to attend February meeting to update on agreements reached with Wigtown Bay Wild-fowling Club. Once agreement is confirmed, Local Nature Reserve Committee needs to ratify it, and then bye law changes will require D&G Council resolutions. Agreed to invite both Andrew Bielinski and Alan Wykes to February meeting.

9H Bird Watching Cameras

RSPB cameras in LNR area, shown on screens in the Viewing Room, County Buildings, are nearing replacement. RSPB has asked CC to lead on funding applications, etc. Details are not clear. Agreed **Nick Walker** and **Andy Farrington** to meet with RSPB for clarification in the first instance. Meeting 30.1.2013 at 4.00 pm, in RSPB office at Machars Action. Alan Wykes stated Wigtown Bay Wild-fowling Club may be willing to look after cameras on site.

9I Stranraer & Cairnryan Developments

Economic Development Officer, Wendi Cuffe, has asked to present information on proposals. CC agreed that this is not a high priority for this area, and to ask for written information at this stage. **Nick Walker to contact Wendi Cuffe.**

9J Airies Moss Forest Plan

Proposals to thin out forest for Sitka Spruce to continue growing for another two decades, and to sort out wind damage and trees which risk falling across roads, etc. Proposal was available for inspection. No concerns raised. **Nick Walker to respond to owner.**

9K Book Festival Company Area Committee Application

Anne Barclay had requested a letter of support from CC with a deadline before the meeting. As there is a long history of joint working and obvious benefit to the area from the Festival, and since previous letters of support have been provided, Nick Walker had provided a letter, subject to approval at this meeting. Agreed provision of letter was acceptable to CC.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

10A Day of Region

Andrew Wilson reported on D&GC Day of Region proposal for weekend of 5/6 October (during the Book Festival). They are looking for events to include and sponsor but have strict guidance on what is acceptable. Cllr McColm suggested Book Festival events could be included but this was not thought to be possible. CC agreed not possible to put on additional events during the Book Festival.

10B Wigtown Fair Trade Town Steering Group

Betty McGowan reported: Helen McDonald is Coordinator. Fair trade Fortnight is 25 February to 10 March. Steering Group will coordinate feedback about events then and throughout the year.

10C Poppy Collection

Betty McGowan reported the November collection raised £1218.14.

10D Wigtown in Bloom

Betty McGowan wished CC to be aware that reparation payments for damage to seating in the town gardens, agreed some years ago, is now complete.

11 NEXT MEETING

Business Meeting – Monday 11 February, 7.30 pm, Viewing Room, County Building.

Subsequent meetings second Monday each month.

Festival Committee meeting – Wednesday 30 January, 8.00 pm, County Buildings.

Draft agenda for next meeting will be updated from time to time on website -

http://www.wigtowncc.org.uk/Wigtown/Next_Meeting.html

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ON MONDAY 11 FEBRUARY 2013**

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

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	Andrew Bielinski, RSPB	Fraser Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>
Alexa Seagrave, RSPB	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	

APOLOGIES		
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol	Ami Todd
Shannan Lochrie	David Moran	Betty McGowan

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTIMATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved. Dog fouling and Christmas lights were added as other business but taken within Councillors' matters and Matters arising.

3 POLICE REPORT

No Representation from D&G Police.

Nick Walker to attend meeting of Machars' Comm. Council Convenors with local Police Inspector. Nick also reported that the new Chief Constable for Scotland was not in favour of police officers regularly attending Comm. Council meetings in Strathelyde.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING – 14.1.2013

Minutes were adopted: prop. Andrew Wilson, sec. Willie McCartney.

5 WILD- FOWLING AT THE CROOK OF BALDOON

Andrew Bielinski (RSPB) reported the following, from meetings with local Wild-fowler Clubs:

RSPB keen to see wild-fowling reduced at the Crook of Baldoon. Wild-fowlers keen to continue. Agreement between them, and BAS, reached in August 2012. Shooting and No Shooting areas agreed with some areas (north) for season permit holders (local Club members, in effect) and some areas (south) open also to visiting (weekly) permit-holders. There will be an area of No Shooting near the agricultural buildings / RSPB centre. Shooting will be restricted to certain times of day, with morning only in the North area, both morning and evening in the South. Most people happy with compromise agreement reached. Local accommodation providers reportedly happy too.

Next steps. Bye laws need to change to incorporate RSPB land into Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve (LNR). This will involve a formal public consultation period. Adding Crook of Baldoon to LNR will allow permits to cover the whole area. Some permit details require alteration to take account of this change and the impact of changes to access laws. All involved hope all necessary changes can be in place before the new shooting season (starting 1.9.2013).

CC to contact Simon Fieldhouse (D&GC Countryside Services Manager) noting CC is pleased that compromise has been reached, and encouraging completion of processes as soon as possible. **ACTION – Nick Walker.**

Andrew Bielinski asked that if anyone is approached by individuals with concerns about the situation they should be directed to the RSPB or the local Wild-fowlers Clubs. He agreed to CC informed as to developments at the Crook of Baldoon.

6 RSPB & D&GC BIRD CAMERAS

Nick Walker & Andy Farrington previously met Andrew Bielinski (RSPB) and Karen Morley (D&GC Countryside Development Officer) about this. Andy Farrington reported that there are three cameras feeding into the Viewing Room, but one does not work at all and only one of the others can operate at a time due to interference. They belong to D&GC but are overdue maintenance, and technologically are out of date. There is a suggestion from Creetown Initiative (which runs the currently defunct camera on Peregrines near Creetown) that cameras from there and the Mull of Galloway could be linked into Wigtown. Additional cameras locally could cover the wetlands by the Harbour, and other bird species. This would give pictures of interest almost year round, and would also mean items of interest even if migrant birds failed to return for a year.

RSPB has funded a feasibility project on linking from the Mull to Creetown, and taking all this project together, it could cost £50K - £100K. Nick and Andy had said at the earlier meeting that this size of project was unlikely to be manageable by CC. CC agreed. But CC also agreed to support and take part in the project, assuming it would involve D&GC, RSPB, Creetown Initiative, and all the relevant CCs. Nick and Andy agreed to attend further meetings, with Andrew Wilson and Jock McDowall as deputies.

7 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Jim McColm

- Setting of Budget – Budget was approved by full Council. It includes £7M cuts from previous year. £500K has been set aside to address consequences of Welfare Reform.
- Cluster Review – Proposed reorganisation of rural schools with each head teacher responsible for two or three schools. Various discussions and public meetings underway.
- Roads – Local roads generally in need of pot hole repairs; considerable backlog (est. £120M worth) and annual budget limited (approx. £10M). Many emergency repairs already undertaken require further repair due to poor quality temporary repairs. Unclear whether temporary repairs reflect pressures of DGFirst resources, scale of problem, continued bad weather, etc. Unclear also if temporary repairs are noted for subsequent proper repair. Agreed to invite Colin Forbes (DGFirst, Works Maintenance Team Leader) to next CC meeting to report on systems they have in place for monitoring and maintaining roads, and for CC to report specific and general concerns. **Action – Nick Walker**
- Dog Fouling – Various parts of the town noted to be badly affected, especially Harbour Road, Bank Street, Town Gardens, Martyrs' Stake walkway. Agreed to invite D&GC Community Safety Team to CC for update on procedures and to agree plan to address this issue. **Action – Nick Walker.** Meanwhile, all asked to watch out for potential offenders and to remind them about laws and possible sanctions for dog fouling.

8 EVENT- COMMUNITY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of Community Festival Committee meeting of 30.1.2013 had been circulated. Main points:

- David Moran had given clearer figures form 2012 Festival.
- Lynsey Thomson, Lisa Martin and Debbie Kennedy agreed to co-ordinate children's events but noted limited other volunteers last year. They will draft a programme of events which they feel they can manage even though this may be less than in previous years. Other local groups will be encouraged to lead additional activities.
- Andrew Wilson agreed to organise Fun Run / 10km Race.
- No one yet identified to manage Raft Race, and this may be scrapped.
- Alexa Seagrave (RSPB) and Elizabeth Tindall (D&GC Countryside Ranger) have offered to organise events.

9 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

Howard Steele reported several minor Planning Applications which CC agreed were private and did not warrant further inquiry.

Willie McCartney indicated there were no Licensing matters.

Nick Walker reported there was no update on wind farm proposals. Details for Peter Roberts (D&GC Community Benefits) were received too late to make contact prior to this meeting. However, there may be a meeting between him and all Wigtownshire CCs arranged over spring. Martin Turner (Fintry Community, Stirlingshire) has agreed to give a presentation and answer questions about his community's experience taking ownership of a wind turbine in a local development, providing considerable community benefit. **This extra CC meeting will be Wednesday 20.2.2013 at 7.00 pm in the Supper Room, County Buildings.**

Proposal to alter Safer Route to School 20 mph Speed Limit Boundary

D&GC is consulting on the 20 mph zone around Wigtown Primary School. CC had previously supported this plan. The plan now is to reduce the zone slightly, by moving the boundary up Lochcroft Lane to start outside Barclay's Garage rather than near Arduaine B&B. CC resolved to respond to this consultation in favour of the proposal.

Proposed Local Development Plan (LDP)

There was considerable discussion about how valuable LDP will be, and therefore how much effort should be expended on a CC response to this consultation. In the end, CC agreed Nick Walker should draft a response based on points discussed, for circulation to all CCLrs, before finalising for submission. Deadline is prior to next CC meeting. Copy of response will be formally included in next meeting's minutes.

Action – Nick Walker.

10 MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED

10A Christmas Lights

Andrew Wilson reported that David Moran has paid electricity bill to Bowling Club. BC sought contribution to Standing Charge also. Following discussion, CC decided this was not appropriate as standing charge payable even if CC had not used electricity. However, it was not clear whether a standing charge contribution had been made before. Agreed to revisit at next meeting, to make final decision.

No invoice yet received for erection of lights and tree. There had been some concern about efficiency of work, and removal of lights was almost all completed by Willie McCartney and Jock McDowall. CC thanked Willie and Jock. CC hopes that invoice is reduced from original quote.

10B CC Newsletter

Nick Walker and Andy Farrington met on 30.1.2013 and agreed outline of newsletter. Several people and organisations being asked to contribute. Aim for draft copy for next CC meeting.

10C Noticeboard/ Information Project

Andrew Wilson reported award of £1000 from Scottish Covenanters Memorials' Association. He is waiting to hear the results of other funding applications, from Galloway Association of Glasgow and Heritage Lottery Fund. Local Area Committee application to be submitted this month.

10D 4th Periodic Review of Community Councils Scheme

D&GC's formal review of the Scheme of Establishment for Community Councils has just begun. The Scheme is the main governing document for Comm. Councils in D&G. Nick Walker reported the most substantial changes are proposals for managing complaints about Community Councils and Community Councillors, and empowering the Code of Conduct, and changes to minimum and maximum membership which would require between seven and nine CCLrs in our CC; we currently have twelve voting members.

There are drop-in session about the Review on Wednesday 20.2.2013 at the Council Offices, Sun Street, Stranraer; and on Thursday 21.2.2013 in County Buildings, Wigtown. Both meetings run from 2.00 pm to 8.00 pm. Wilma McKeown and Fiona Ritchie have asked for notification of intentions to attend – tel. 01776 888 316.

All those present were encouraged to read document to contribute to CC response, and to consider responding as individuals.

10E Bank Signatories

David Moran had left word that the Bank has completed change of account signatory procedures.

11 CORRESPONDENCE

11A Lottery Licence Renewal

Nick Walker reported that the CC's Gambling Act registration has been processed.

11B International Women's Day 2013

Information circulated to CC about a special movie showing and other events. Posters in Library and at Machars Action.

12 OTHER BUSINESS

12A Viewing Room redecoration

Alexa Seagrave (RSPB) reported that the Viewing Room, County Buildings, is to be redecorated with wall displays and information to be changed. This should take place within the next two weeks.

13 NEXT MEETING

Main CC Business meeting: Monday 11 March 2013, 7.30pm, Viewing Room, County Buildings.

Also note Fintry Wind Turbine information meeting – Wednesday 20 February 2013, 7.00 pm, Supper Room, County Buildings

And Community Festival Committee – Wednesdays 13 February 2013 & 27 February 2013, 6.00 pm, Meeting Room, County Buildings

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

IN ATTENDANCE			
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Graham Nicol	Cllr Alistair Geddes	
Alison Hannah, D & G Constabulary	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Fraser Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>	
Ami Todd	Shannan Lochrie	Colin Forbes, DG First	
Paul Tarling			

APOLOGIES			
Vivian Murray	Ian Macdonald	David McAdam	

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTIMATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved. No other business.

3 POLICE REPORT

Alison Hannah from D&G Police reported on various offences including:-

- 1x failure to wear seat belt
- 1x careless driving
- broken window at charity shop South Main Street

Operation Steer focusing on inappropriate driving identified 45 offences with 2 vehicles having been seized. There has been a slight rise in drink driving offences.

Galloway Gazette blog has been successful. Police Facebook page has been complimented too.

Note new UK-wide telephone number for non-emergency local police contact – Dial 101.

Courses being run in conjunction with CLD (Community Learning & Development) and Fire Service. Farm Watch being further developed with many farmers now informed by text message regarding rural crime and missing persons. Any farmers not included should be encouraged to join.

Community Council convenors from Mid-Galloway and the three D&G Councillors are meeting community police and the area Inspector, Stuart Davidson, on 13.3.2013.

4 ROADS – COLIN FORBES – DG FIRST

Colin Forbes from DG First reported on procedure for road repairs as follows:-

Issues are identified by 2 inspectors covering Wigtownshire. Roads are classified A, B, C & U due to amount /speed of traffic and where road serves. Safety inspections carried out as follows:-

- once a month for A Class
- once every 3 months for B Class
- once every 6 months for C Class
- once every 12 months for U Class

Safety defects are noted, for example, signs, drainage issues, road condition, faded white lines, pot holes.

Pot holes are classified:-

1. Category 1 – Possible result in loss of life/limb if unrepaired. Greater than 100mm deep. To be repaired within 48 hours.
2. Category 2A – 40-100mm deep. To be repaired within 28 days.
3. Category 2B – Less than 40mm deep. Unsightly but not unsafe. Added to plan for future work.

Footways and Cycle ways – walked inspections once per year. Inspectors looking for trip hazards and general condition.

A drainage review is proposed.

DGFirst intends to inform the general public of upcoming works with road signage. Patching repairs now “outlawed.” DGFirst carrying out first time permanent repairs, but using various methods. Over summer, surface dressing of roads (spray and chip method) will go ahead to reduce deterioration. Roads which need more than surface dressing tar overlays will be added to the future work programme but this is expensive. DGFirst roads team has regular meetings to decide priorities and update plans.

Many suggestions were put forward by those in attendance regarding roads needing repair. These were noted by Colin Forbes and an assurance was made that these roads would be checked. It was noted that all citizens have a responsibility to report roads defects to DGFirst as we see them. With regard to drainage issues, Colin Forbes said that landowners are informed by letter under Section 99 of Roads (Scotland) Act of any works needing to be carried out to rectify illegal discharge of water. Regular hedge cutting each summer has been an issue with some landowners slow to carry out necessary work; it was suggested that DGFirst might anticipate this annual problem. Various hedges requiring to be cut were brought to the attention of Colin Forbes and these were noted.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Minutes were accepted as an accurate record.: prop. A Wilson, sec. J McDowall.

5 EVENT – COMMUNITY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Nick Walker updated on Community Festival as follows:

Decision made not to hold raft race as no organiser identified. “Fun Day” instead is to be considered. CC voted 7 in favour and none against (plus one abstention) to pay up to £1000 for a selection of extra rides, laser-quest, etc. being hired for this fun day, hopefully at Trammondford Park, with other activities and fund-raising by local groups. Much of the additional cost will be offset by reduced insurance costs with raft race not going ahead, increased fund-raising, etc. Questions about whether the Crowning Ceremony and Fancy Dress would be held at the County Buildings or Primary School remain unanswered as further cost information is needed. There were mixed views about the best location, with pros and cons for each. Agreed that Committee was empowered to make this decision once full information available.

6 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

- LDP – Nick Walker noted that five Cllrs did not respond to the final draft to indicate their views, but the others all agreed so it was submitted. The process was made difficult by D&GC's required response system. Cllr Geddes was concerned that the consultation was awkward for people. Agreed D&G Cllrs to be issued with copies. **ACTION Nick Walker.**
- Fintry Talk – Interesting and informative talk about community ownership of a proportion of a local wind-farm, but only three Cllrs attended. Nick Walker expressed his dismay at this, given the commitment of the speaker in attending.
- Peter Roberts (D&GC Wind-farm Community Benefit) – Information meeting, Wednesday 26.3.2013 at 7.00 pm in McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart. It would be helpful if some Cllrs could attend.
- PNE Wind has submitted a scoping proposal to D&GC for up to 11 wind turbines (about 100 metres tall) at Shennanton (north of Kirkcowan). The company was requesting a meeting with Nick Walker, Howard Steele and Andrew Wilson. Agreed proposal is too early to pursue and there are other priorities at present. Nick Walker to request information be forwarded to CC at this stage, but possible public meeting if proposals move forward. **ACTION Nick Walker.**
- Howard Steele listed several planning applications, mainly minor issues not needing CC response.

- Clay Pigeon Shooting Range at Causewayend, Newton Stewart - 13/P/1/0036. This was broadly discussed. There were comments about proximity to houses and the A714 but also about positive contribution to the local economy. Agreed to support application. **Action Nick Walker.**
- 30kV electricity line to be renewed connecting Newton Stewart to Whithorn - 13/C/1/007. CC not entitled to respond but after brief discussion, D&G Councillors were advised that CC supported the proposal.

7 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Nicol reported roads are a big issue at the moment with £14.5m having been spent in the current financial year. Welfare Reform is also an area of concern with a considerable sum to be set aside to deal with it.

Cllr McColm spoke about the reported 30% cut in D&G Council funding for the Riverside Day Centre from 2014. The situation is apparently more complex than newspaper reports suggest. After general discussion about the merits of the day centre, and consideration of a letter about this from the Riverside Centre Board Chairman, Bill Stuart, it was agreed to write in support of the Centre and its work, to Cllr Andy Ferguson, Chairman, D&GC Social Work Committee. **ACTION Andrew Wilson.**

Cllr McColm also raised the issue of hall lets, and their costs. He suggested CC consider writing to Justin Tracey, Director, D&GC "Customer Services" asking that hall lets, etc. be reviewed and harmonised with emphasis on affordability for local, not for profit groups. **ACTION Andrew Wilson.**

Cllr Geddes reported on the derelict building adjacent to David McAdam's shop in Wigtown. D&GC's Housing Sub-committee is to make a decision on purchase of this property through DGHP on 12.3.2013, with a view to improving its appearance and providing two social rented dwellings.

8 MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED

8A Dog Fouling

Robert Matley, D&GC Community Safety, to attend April meeting to update on systems and changes since his attendance in May 2012.

8B Christmas Lights

Revisited Bowling Club request for additional donation regarding electricity provision for Xmas Lights. Electricity usage already paid for by CC. Previously no additional payment made. CC noted that BC has fund-raising opportunities in Community Festival and Book Festival, and has a good deal on rental of the BC from Wigtown Common Good. David Moran to report to Bowling Club regarding payment. **ACTION David Moran.**

Jock McDowall to pursue Brian Little for invoice for Xmas lights and tree, so payment can be made within current financial year. **ACTION Jock McDowall.**

8C Newsletter

Nick Walker apologised that this is not progressing, and offered anyone wishing to take over responsibility for it the opportunity to come forward.

8D Noticeboard / Information Project

Andrew Wilson reported a grant of £1000 from Galloway Association of Glasgow. In addition to money from the Community Shop and the Scottish Covenanter Memorials Association, this means that some work can go ahead – the work to update and replace the two current Wigtown Information Signs, and the "finger post" direction signs. David Moran suggested that the former Wigtown in Bloom bank account be used as a Project Account and this was agreed. **ACTION Andrew Wilson & David Moran.**

8E Review of Community Councils Scheme

No one had read the CC Scheme review documentation so Andrew Wilson agreed to put out a draft response from Nick Walker's comments, so Cllrs could respond and decide about a formal submission on this matter which is vital to how CCs function in D&G. Closing date for response is 28.3.2013.

ACTION Andrew Wilson.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9A Leaflets from D&G Council

These were regarding funding opportunities and how to handle power cuts, and were circulated.

9B Invoice from Website Host

It was agreed to pay this. **ACTION David Moran & Nick Walker.**

9C Letter from Russell Brown MP

Welfare Reform Seminar invitation – but not received in time and already taken place.

9D Letter from DGFirst regarding grassed public areas to be cut

Colour coding unclear and agreed to write to DG First requesting clarification. Also request copy of Kirkinner map to be sent to Kirkinner Community Association. **Action Andrew Wilson.**

9F Wild-fowling

Wolf Richtigofen (Chairman, Wigtownshire Chamber of Commerce) forwarded an email from a visiting wild-fowler regarding wild-fowling at the Crook of Baldoon and permit guidance. These issues were subject to considerable consultation by relevant bodies, and Cllr McColm reported having contacted the correspondent, who has already resolved the matter.

10 NEXT MEETING

CC Meeting: Monday 8 April 2013 , 7.30pm, Viewing Room, County Buildings.

AGM will be in May. Meeting Monday 13 May 2013 at 7.30 pm (probably Supper Room, County Buildings). Agreed David Moran should ask Ray McGinn to be Independent Examiner of Accounts again this year; and provided he agrees to notify Wendy Jesson, D&GC of decision which requires ratification by the Council. **ACTION David Moran.**

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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

	IN ATTENDANCE	
Cllr Jim McColm	Robert Matley, <i>DG First</i>	William Saunders
Ami Todd	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Shannan Lochrie

	APOLOGIES	
Vivian Murray	Ian Macdonald	David McAdam
Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol	Police Scotland

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. He reported that Vivian Murray has retired from CC service and intimated thanks to her for service to CC and for being an active and caring member of the community.

2 POLICE REPORT

No report.

3 COMMUNITY SAFETY – ROBERT MATLEY (*Community Safety Enforcement Officer*)

Robert Matley reported on the reorganised service which is responsible for dealing with antisocial behaviour and environmental issues. Within the Community Safety Team, there are two types of officer. They deal with the following issues.

Community Safety Enforcement Officers (CSEOs): Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) case management; Domestic Noise enforcement; Dog fouling and litter enforcement; Fly tipping; Abandoned cars; Legislative consultation; Trade waste infringements; A visible preventative element.

Community Safety Officers (CSOs); Delivering community preventative work; Issuing Fixed Penalty; Notices for dog fouling and littering; Gathering evidence for domestic noise issues; Recovering discarded needles; Community monitoring; Off street parking inspections.

A total of 28 officers cover Dumfries & Galloway. They wear high visibility jackets and are able to communicate with the Police and other emergency services via Airwave radios. The team can be contacted by phoning 0303 333 3000 or e-mailing community_safety_team@dumgal.gov.uk. Cllr McColm commented on dog fouling in Lightlands Avenue. An officer has apparently visited and signage is proposed. Robert Matley stressed the need for individuals to report offenders with name, time of day, type of dog, etc. High visibility jackets were questioned, and they may alter behaviour when prevent and reduce the chance of enforcement notices being served. It is a risk management requirement, and may be educational too. Community Safety Team does in reach work to local schools also. There was a question as to how many dog fouling and littering fixed penalty notices had been issued; Robert agreed to find out and let CC know. He also confirmed No Fly Tipping sign has been erected in lorry park, Wigtown.

4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND INTIMATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved, with addition of “Response Group” to AOB (Betty McGowan).

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (11 March 2013)

Minutes were adopted: prop. A Wilson, sec. A Farrington.

6 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

6A PLANNING

- Meeting with Peter Roberts, Dumfries and Galloway Council Community Benefit (wind farms), to be re-scheduled. It was reported that new policy on Community Benefit is being drafted and will hopefully become clearer over the next few weeks. CC agreed that lack of community engagement in this process was unacceptable.
- Clay Pigeon Shooting Application (13/P/1/0036). Email from concerned neighbours wishing to attend CC meeting when this is discussed. Nick Walker had replied to email informing them of planning timescales and that this item has already been discussed, enclosing a copy of CC response.
- Two planning applications at Bladnoch - dwelling house / garage / septic tank (13/P/1/0011) and visitors centre / car park / warehouse (13/P/1/0010). CC agreed to consider these formally if D&GC would allow additional time. Nick Walker to request this. **Action Nick Walker.**
- Wind turbine proposal at Larg Farm, Creetown, 45.5m to blade tip (13/P/2/0050). Agreed this should be considered if time available also. Nick Walker to request details of this.

Action Nick Walker.

- Retrospective planning permission applied for various air source heat pumps installed in DGHP houses in Wigtown. CC concerned that these application were retrospective.

6B LICENSING

Letter regarding Renewal of Licensing Policy statement. Local Licensing Boards wish the views of CC on how present policy can be improved to ensure promotion of the five licensing objectives which underpin the alcohol licensing system:-

1. Preventing Crime & Disorder
2. Securing Public Safety
3. Preventing Public Nuisance
4. Protecting and Improving Public Health
5. Protecting Children from Harm

Deadline is June 2013, so all to consider for next meeting. Cllr McColm indicated that concerns have been raised already about alcohol related activity in central Stranraer and Dumfries.

7 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Jim McColm reported on the following:-

- Reminder has been sent to Colin Forbes to repair various pot holes not attended to in Wigtown. It was noted that a number have already been repaired. Various other potholes were mentioned by CCllrs – including near Park Cemetery, B714 to Kirkcowan, Potato Mill Road, North Main Street. Convenor reminded CC that these issues should be reported direct to DG First (tel. 030 3333 3000 or on line www.dumgal.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=4407) as more reports could mean faster attention. Cllr McColm and CC to notify Colin Forbes of ongoing issues. **Action Nick Walker**
- Cluster Review of Primary Schools is ongoing, due to report to Education on 28.5.2013.
- Common Good Sub-Committee (8.4.2013) – Nick Walker has been co-opted; Willie McCartney was co-opted already. There are limited funds (about £250.00) and no spending was agreed.

8 EVENT – COMMUNITY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of 6.3.2013 and 4.4.2013 meetings were issued, with the latest draft programme (version 2). There were no significant issues to be agreed. Howard Steele reminded the committee that use of Church premises will require formal request. Lisa Martin and Lynsey Thomson will be dealing with this as part of the children's events schedule.

9 MATTERS ARISING NOT ELSEWHERE INCLUDED

9A Xmas Lights

Betty McGowan reported that Brian Little's invoice £1100.00 (quote was £1200) and has been paid.

9B Noticeboard/Info. Project

Andrew Wilson reported that RSPB and Association of Wigtown Booksellers (*in fact, this grant is from Wigtown Festival Company not AWB*) have each granted £200.00 towards the leaflet part of this project. With the other grants already noted, the information leaflet and renovation of the town information notices is going ahead. Other grant applications (Heritage Lottery and Local Area Committee) are still pending. Individual book shops also to be asked to contribute.

9C CC Scheme Review

Andrew Wilson submitted the CC's final response to the Scheme Review. The next round of consultation will start in summer.

9D Newsletter

Nick Walker again reported no progress, no volunteers to assist and only on articles supplied so far (from Malcolm Booth, Convenor, Wigtown in Bloom).

9E Meeting with Police

Nick Walker and Jim McColm reported on this meeting which covered similar ground to the last Police report to the CC. There is some concern about civilian job losses locally with the change to Police Scotland, but there is not expected to be a loss of Police personnel or service. The way that the Division is structured internally will change, and there will be an Armed Response Unit based in the area (supporting general policing when not called for Armed Response duties).

9F Derelict Building, North Main Street

As indicated at last CC meeting, D&GC Planning, Housing and Environment Committee considered this building in March and agreed that DGHP should assume ownership of it, in addition agreeing relevant funding. It is expected that the building will be renovated to provide two affordable flatted dwellings.

9G Grass Cutting Schedule

DG First responded that all areas of grass on the cutting schedule in Wigtown & District are to be cut 15 times per year (in effect fortnightly during growing season).

9H AGM Prep.

Wigtown CC AGM scheduled for Supper Room, County Building, Monday 13 May 2013 at 7.30 pm. In addition to the AGM business, Mike Morley will present his research about Wigtown War Memorial and we will discuss whether an application to the War Memorial Fund is warranted for repairs, etc. The main CC business will be kept to a minimum.

9I Review of Issues List (see update attached)

Bank of Scotland no recent closures. Broadband remains unreliable. Kirkinner War Memorial fencing no progress – Jim McColm to pursue. Park Cemetery Car Park no progress with D&GC Legal Dept. - Jim McColm to pursue. Hall Let Costs – Andrew Wilson received acknowledgement of CC letter, but no action. Disabled Parking Spaces opposite Machars Action no progress – Jim McColm to pursue.

10 CORRESPONDENCE

10A Honoraria

Letter from D&GC regarding payments CC makes to treasurers/secretaries/etc. indicating that HMRC must be informed and that PAYE may be required. Decided that the small amounts involved and private nature of income information mean Minute Secretary should be asked to ensure her payments are reported to HMRC when she completes her Tax Return.

10B Seaview Play Equipment Renewal

Letter from DG First reporting funding available to renew equipment.

10C CC Constitution

Letter from D&GC apologising for delays in formal approval of CC Constitution.

10D Solway Cockle Fisheries Meeting

Letter from Scottish Government informing CC of meeting but this has already taken place.

10E Scotways Spring Newsletter

Newsletter and subscription reminder from Scotways, the Scottish Rights of Way and Access Society. Discussion about whether to continue membership, given limited value and the development of access officers, core path plans, etc. by local authorities. Proposal to allow membership to lapse – Andy Farrington, sec. Howard Steele, no objections; agreed. David Moran to notify and not to make payment.

Action David Moran

10F D&GC CC Support Survey

Survey to assess service given by D&GC to CCs. Resolved that office bearers respond on CC's behalf.

11 OTHER BUSINESS

11A Response Group - Betty McGowan

In light of recent heavy snow and subsequent electricity interruption, CC agreed it would be wise to revisit Community Resilience and our own systems for coordinating and responding when necessary. Cllr McColm indicated that D&GC is to review its procedures in light of recent events and CC agreed to ask Wendy Jesson to attend CC after D&GC review to support our planning for our own area. Convenor asked all Cllrs to consider what we may need to do and how.

12 NEXT MEETING

AGM and War Memorial Presentation (and reduced business meeting):

Monday 13 May 2013 at 7.30 pm, Supper Room, County Buildings.

Additional planning meeting to consider issues raised under item 6A:

Thursday 18 April 2013 at 8.00 pm, Meeting Room, County Buildings.

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF ADDITIONAL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2013

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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

	APOLOGIES	
Jock McDowall	Betty McGowan	

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. He indicated that the meeting was called purely to consider planning matters.

2 APPLICATION 13/P/2/0050 – Larg Farm, Creetown, wind turbine

The proposal appears to relate to removal of a smaller turbine and replaces permission for additional smaller turbines in the same area. After consideration of the application papers and planning guidelines, CC unanimously resolved to object this application. Our objection is based on the following grounds:

1. The site of the proposed development is not within an area designated for consideration of wind turbine installation.
2. We believe the scale of the proposed turbine is such that it would stand out dramatically, and therefore have a detrimental effect on the landscape such as when viewed across Wigtown Bay. This would be detrimental to an area of outstanding natural beauty, of relevance to tourism which is one of the major local "industries", and of relevance to the nearby biosphere designation.
3. The proposed turbine is of a scale which is known to have potential to cause noise and low frequency vibration nuisance; these can adversely affect sleep and therefore health. This type of nuisance is more likely to be noticeable in rural areas which are otherwise relatively quiet, especially at night. It is likely that a minimum 2 km clearance between such developments and dwellings is necessary to avoid this type of impact. On inspection of the application documents, we believe that the proposed turbine substantially impinges on residences in the locality.
4. The proposed turbine would detract from the vicinity of several listed buildings in Creetown including the Kirk and Hill of Burns House. Scottish Planning Policy indicates that developments within 2 km of settlements are likely to have a prominent impact on local landscape - this proposal therefore impinges not only on listed buildings but on Creetown as a whole.

Nick Walker to submit objection.

3 APPLICATIONS 13/P/1/0010 & 13/P/1/0011 – Land beside Bladnoch village – house, garage, warehouse, etc. application for planning permission in principle

These proposals were considered together as they relate to the same site, near Bladnoch, in an agricultural field on the village side of the river, just across the disused railway line away from the village. The applications propose development of (a) a whisky store and bottling plant (not apparently linked to Bladnoch Distillery), with a visitor centre and ten parking spaces, and a septic tank; and (b) a two storey house and detached single storey garage adjacent to the proposed warehouse, with a septic tank. CC considered the location and the limited available details of the proposals, and planning policy and guidance, including the material considerations of the currently proposed Local Development Plan. After discussion, CC unanimously resolved to object both applications. Our objections are based on the following grounds:

1. The site of the proposed developments is greenbelt agricultural land and the proposal developments are not directly associated with agricultural use, nor do they appear to warrant a rural, greenbelt location. The business is not agricultural and the dwelling is said to be the manager's house, not accommodation intended for agricultural workers.
2. Planning policy seeks to protect and enhance the landscape. The CC believes that these proposals would detract from the landscape and have no relevance to it.
3. Planning policy seeks to avoid development in areas at significant risk of flooding. The CC is

concerned that the proposal site is so near the Bladnoch River that flood risk is likely to be significant.

4. Both proposals include site access (once built and presumably during construction) over the disused railway line. This is an element of D&GC designated Core Pathways, and proposed planning policy presumes against development which detrimentally affects core paths and other elements of the “green network”.
5. Access to the proposal site is from the A714 Wigtown to Bladnoch road near a blind bend in the road. We are concerned that this access could cause hazard to road user, especially with respect to heavy vehicles during construction, and later – on the presumption that heavy vehicles will be required to attend the warehouse for delivery and collection of whisky, bottles, and so on.
6. Both applications indicate they attract functional need or special circumstances consideration, but neither application gives any details of this. The CC therefore assumes that there is no functional need and there are no special circumstances.
7. The warehouse is likely to be of limited interest to visitors as the main activity will be storage, with bottling likely to be occasional only. Furthermore, the application indicates there is no intention to sell alcohol at the warehouse. This development therefore does not appear to warrant favourable consideration on the basis of tourism. In our opinion, it is unlikely – as proposed – to provide touristic interest.
8. The proposal site is not a designated business or industrial location, and the application gives no justification as to why this agricultural land should be considered suitable.
9. There site is outwith designated areas intended for housing development, and gives no justification for considering as suitable as housing in the countryside. It is not associated with a small group of other dwellings; it is not a proposal to convert or reuse an existing building or ruin; it is not proposed as retiral accommodation for an agricultural worker but is explicitly designated as a manager's house (presumably for the warehouse manager). The proposal therefore appears not to fulfil the requirements of housing in the countryside and should be declined.

Nick Walker to submit objections.

4 NEXT MEETING

AGM and War Memorial Presentation (and reduced business meeting):

Monday 13 May 2013 at 7.30 pm, Supper Room, County Buildings.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 13 MAY 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Alison Hannah, <i>Police</i>

APOLOGIES		
Fraser Wilson, <i>Free Press</i> Cllr Alistair Geddes	Ian Macdonald Cllr Graham Nicol	Andy Farrington

1 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. He reported that Ian Macdonald has retired from CC due to other commitments, and intimated thanks to him for his service to the CC recently and in his previous periods of involvement.

2 POLICE REPORT

Alison Hannah reported on the following offences:-

- 1 driving without insurance;
- 4 thefts (incl. 2 of power tools from vans);
- Oil thefts;
- 1 assault.

There are to be increased patrols around licensed premises at weekends. She reminded the meeting that free security advice is available from community Police. She encouraged the public to report any suspicious activity to the Police, tel. 101.

3 APPROVAL OF BUSINESS AGENDA & CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved with Beddie Crescent / Church Lane construction traffic (H Steele) added, under Councillor's Issues.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Minutes of meeting 8.4.2013 were adopted: prop. A Wilson, sec. H Steele.

Minutes of meeting 18.4.2013 were adopted: prop. W McCartney, sec. H Steele.

5 COUNCILLOR'S ISSUES

Cllr McColm

Kirkinner War Memorial Fencing - Peter Wilson reported money is now available for this.

Park Cemetery Car Park – No progress, but in mean time a SLOW sign to be sought before bend.

Construction Traffic Beddie Crescent / Church Lane - Complaints have been made by residents about machinery serving the site at Lovers' Walk being driven too fast especially near the Beddie Crescent play park. Cllr McColm to contact Colin Forbes, DG First, regarding options such as temporary signs warning vehicles of children playing and heavy traffic. Direct correspondence to contractors or the site owner may be considered in future.

6 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

6A PLANNING

Peter Roberts, D&GC Windfarm Community Benefits Officer has a meeting on Tuesday 28.5.2013 at 7.00 pm in the McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart, to discuss his role, agreements with wind farm developers, and the planning process for wind farms including CCs' role within this. All Cllrs invited but attendance may be limited.

Cllr McColm was interested to know the CC's view on the local community vs region-wide split in wind farm contributions – suggesting the current 50:50, or 40:60, 60:40 or 70:30. Nick Walker reminded the meeting that Peter Roberts had already said that the policy was being reviewed by Councillors but this was not intended to be a revision. CC had mixed views but agreed by majority to support 50:50. There remains concern from some Cllrs that the D&GC system fails to provide fair benefit or a fair system for distribution. The delayed meeting with Peter Roberts should enable CCs to understand the D&GC system, which may assist in decisions on responding to wind farm planning applications in some cases.

Andrew Wilson reported that Alan Brown (Millairies Farm) has invited CCs and others from across the Machars to a meeting on 14.5.2013 about a possible small community wind turbine development at his farm. Andrew is able to attend. CC agreed that gathering information would be wise.

Shennanton wind farm proposal had a public info. meeting 7-8.5.2013 but CC received notification only a few days before with no time to inform Cllrs. No one had seen public advertising for the session.

6B LICENSING

CC agreed not to submit any suggestions to the Licensing Board for their policy statement review, which we agreed was appropriate as written.

7 EVENT - COMMUNITY FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Minutes of recent committee meetings and the latest programme had been circulated. Two issues required consideration.

Nick Walker suggested that the CC agree to purchase a Youth Open Golf Trophy from Festival funds the cost for engraving and small replicas for the Wigtown winner and the Outsider winner would be within the recent £30 per annum grant made to the Golf Club from Festival funds to purchase golf balls as prizes in recent years. Andrew Wilson confirmed that the Tournament was to be open to all handicapped junior golfers. CC agreed up to £100 for cup, and proposal to be taken to Festival Committee on 15.5.2013.

David Moran sought final clarification about naming individual sponsors (persons and companies) in the Festival Programme. This was agreed to be desirable but impracticable since the programme goes to print soon and sponsorships have not yet been sought in earnest. CC agreed best to have a general statement acknowledging sponsors' support.

8 OTHER MATTERS REQUIRING URGENT ATTENTION

8A Noticeboard / Information Project

Andrew Wilson reported that the Area Committee had granted £2403 towards this project. This added to other grants already reported (Festival Company £200, Galloway Assoc. Glasgow £1000, RSPB £200, Scottish Covenanter Memorials Assoc. £1000, Wigtown Community Shop £450) makes a total so far of £5250.00. Heritage Lottery Fund has turned down an application but there is a funding seminar shortly which Andrew will attend, hoping to identify other funders.

CC agreed that work should now proceed for updating the two town information boards, replacing relevant “finger signs” and installing the new Community Council Noticeboard, and production of the new Wigtown leaflet. The Martyrs Info. “monoliths” remain unfunded so far.

8B Community Resilience

There was a meeting on 27.4.2013 at short notice which no one was able to attend. Cllr McColm assumes a report will follow. Nick Walker indicated that Wendy Jesson (D&GC) had apologised for recent meetings being held at short notice. CC to invite her to attend meeting to discuss Community Resilience options with us, in her role as coordinator.

8C Dog Fouling Survey

DGFirst seeking info. on dog fouling from all CCs. This may be a result of Robert Matley attending Wigtown CC in April. Agreed to indicate main areas of concern - Harbour Road, walkway at Martyr's Stake, Town Gardens.

8D Riverside Day Centre – reply from Cllr Andy Fergusson

Cllr Fergusson reassures CC that D&GC is committed to day care provision and that the Riverside Day Centre will be able to tender to provide services, which will bring funding.

8E Hall Let Charges – reply from Justin Tracy

D&GC has “harmonised” hall let charges but Wigtown County Buildings are anomalous due to staff required for opening, closing and security. Mr Tracy indicates that D&GC intends immediately to rectify this and bring County Building charges into line with other venues. CC welcomes this decision and awaits confirmation of improved charges.

8F D&GC Approval of CC Constitution

The CC constitution adopted in November 2012 has at last been approved by D&GC, and now formally applies.

8G Electricity “Outages” Mid-Galloway ward

Cllr Geddes has proposed meeting about lack of reliability of electricity supplies across the ward, to include CC representation, local authority Councillors, MSPs, MP, D&GC officials, and Scottish Power Energy Network management. No date has yet been set.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9A Wigtown in Bloom

Betty McGowan reported that some areas of crocuses were cut early by lawn mowing teams despite an agreement between DGFirst and WiB. Malcolm Booth (WiB Chairman) had raised this concern with Alan Bradley (DGFirst), making the CC and Cllr McColm aware also. It is not certain that the crocuses will be harmed by this, but Alan Bradley has apparently apologised for the mix-up. Agreed to contact DGFirst to note situation, and again next year if the crocuses fail.

9B Wigtown & District Horticultural Show

Betty McGowan requested that the theme for the floral art section at this year's show be “Let Wigtown Flourish.” CC has no locus in Horticultural Society decisions but agreed this seemed a suitable theme.

10 NEXT MEETINGS

Monday 10 June 2013 at 7.30 pm in the Viewing Room, County Buildings.

And, subsequent meetings, Mondays 8 July 2013, 12 August 2013, etc.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN
ON MONDAY 10 JUNE 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol
Carl Davis	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	John Jennings
Alison Hannah, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>	

APOLOGIES		
Betty McGowan	David McAdam	

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies.

1 POLICE REPORT

Alison Hannah – *Police Scotland* - reported there had been one assault, one driving without MOT, two sales without current excise licence, and two failures to wear seat belt. She reminded the meeting of the need to be vigilant given ongoing thefts from vans, etc.

There are three initiatives over the summer: National drink-driving crackdown; Operation Terrapin – checking car parks and beauty spots (reminder not to leave valuables in vehicles); Operation Offwatch – tackling alcohol-fuelled behaviour and under-age drinking (licensed premises will be checked more often).

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CALL FOR OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved with Other Business added: Botany/High Street junction (John McDowall); public toilets (Willie McCartney).

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (13 MAY 2013) AND PRELIM. REVIEW OF AGM MINUTES

Minutes from meeting of 13 May 2013 were adopted: prop. J McDowall, sec. A Wilson.

After preliminary review of AGM Minutes no amendments were suggested. To be adopted at AGM 2014.

4 ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE

Cllr Geddes announced a meeting with Scottish Power representatives on Friday 28.6.2013 at 6.00 pm in the County Buildings. Various people to attend including two from each CC in the ward. The meeting will discuss unacceptable power outages in mid-Galloway (in some areas as often as once a week there are transient power disruptions which can damage electronic equipment). The meeting aims to achieve an assurance from Scottish Power of improved communication with local communities and more reliable service, as well as more efficient and appropriate compensation when failures occur. John Jennings spoke of his experience trying to establish a business in the area which has been thwarted by unreliable electrical and broadband infrastructure. There are concerns that money is being taken away from improvement and maintenance of domestic supply in favour of grid upgrades to support wind turbine developments. Apparently, Scottish Power hold data on power outages only where they exceed 5 seconds, but shorter disruptions and voltage fluctuations can be damaging.

Agreed to co-opt John Jennings as a Comm. Council Associate to assist in this issue. He and Nick Walker will attend the meeting on CC's behalf. A pre-meeting for community representatives was suggested too, to ensure clarity of purpose in the main meeting. It was stressed that the meeting will not be a public meeting, but any issues about electricity supply in the area may be notified to Comm. Councillors so we are well-armed with relevant information for the meeting.

5 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Geddes

He informed CC of intended closure of Whauphill Village Hall on 31.7.2013 and questioned whether D&GC had consulted appropriately. Savings from the closure are expected to be only £3258 per annum. D&GC apparently intends to inform relevant community organisations this week.

The lack of consultation or notification was considered unacceptable. The lack of opportunity to consider alternatives such as community management of the hall is disappointing. Whauphill Comm. Assoc. will have a substantial interest in this, especially as there is additional play park funding and the play park is in the curtilage of the hall.

Agreed to contact Whauphill CA to discuss, and to suggest seeking a joint meeting with D&GC officials. Agreed also to raise concerns over the proposal and the apparent lack of due process with D&GC. Cllr Geddes advised that Alex Haswell, Monitoring Officer, would be the relevant officer to contact.

ACTION NICK WALKER

Cllr McColm

Updated on SLOW signage approaching Park Cemetery which will be in place soon. Cluster Working Review has agreed that Wigtown and Kirkcowan Primary Schools will share a non-teaching Head Teacher. Both Parent Councils have apparently accepted that this is a reasonable way to address relevant issues (such as recruitment). There was some concern about administrative impact on teaching staff but there have been assurances that duties will remain within contracted hours. CC noted this decision. CC was pleased to hear that pupil numbers for 2013-14 mean that four teaching staff will in post next year at Wigtown PS.

Wigtown Public Toilets were closed and locked on May bank holiday Monday. Also they are limited for internal space. There were apparently replacement options some years ago which fell by the wayside as no decisions were made. Full details could not be recalled. Agreed that this was worth further discussion and that relevant D&GC officer, Nick Jackson, should be invited to CC meeting (possibly in August 2013).

ACTION ANDREW WILSON

Cllr Nicol

Welfare Reform remains a big issue. D&GC budget is expected to reduce by a further £30M over the 2014-2017 three year period.

6 ISSUES LIST

Bank of Scotland Closures – no recent concerns, but agreed to continue to monitor.

Broadband Failures – continue to be troublesome and detrimental to leisure, education and business in area. Agreed to ask D&GC to arrange meeting for CCs, Chamber of Commerce, other community reps. to update / discuss the issue, and the prospects of improvement given South of Scotland Alliance funding, etc. James Pocock and Ewan Green apparently the best people to attend, dealing with infrastructure and economic development. Stephen Jack, Wigtown Area Service Manager (Framework & CLD), to be contacted.

ACTION NICK WALKER.

Kirkinner War Memorial Fencing – Cllr McColm pursuing action since funding approved.

Park Cemetery car park surface – Cllr McColm pursuing D&GC Legal Dept on land ownership.

Hall Let Costs – County Bldgs costs have now been reduced to accord with other D&GC venues.

Disabled Parking spaces, town centre – no progress.

7 PLANNING & LICENSING MATTERS

7A New Applications – nothing significant.

Updates – Clay pigeon shooting application at Causewayend refused since applicant failed to provide extra information within required time scale. It is understood an alternative site elsewhere is now proposed.

House & Warehouse application at Bladnoch – ongoing.

7B Wind Farm Community Benefit Meeting 28.5.2013

Attended by Nick Walker, Andrew Wilson, Howard Steele, Willie McCartney, Andy Farrington.

SUMMARY

1. Robert Duncan, Area Planning Manager

Planning application process described. Appeals to Scottish Government must take account of relevant local guidance but in context of national guidance too. Clearly local policy needs to be developed in the context of national policy and guidance. Current interim planning policy in DGC for wind energy is recent and typically upheld by appeals. Note that community benefit is not a “material consideration” is assessing planning applications.

2. Peter Roberts, Developer Contributions Officer

No requirement for community benefit payments by developers, but it is established practice. £5k per MW per annum is typical level set but nothing actually established and locally payments are typically much less - c. £1-2k per MW. Community Energy Scotland has an online register of established community benefit agreements which can be a useful guide to agreements elsewhere and advice on good practice, which may help to develop consistency.

Currently a wide variation locally on arrangements. Some direct payment to CCs by developers or via administrators. Some developers setting up community liaison groups to consider community benefit. Local companies or trusts in some areas. Variation in levels of payment as well. Clarity and robustness of arrangements is not at all clear.

Peter Roberts' role is to support communities in negotiating with developers and to assist in management of funds. He is to set up and administer the proposed regional socioeconomic fund but D&GC has yet to make decisions about how this will be done; committee likely to be established to finalise procedures over summer so that systems can begin to be in place late this year. D&GC policy aims to seek consistency and equity around region; aiming at £5k payment; it defines communities to benefit (15 km radius from wind farm adjusted with visibility effect); and a 50:50 split regional:local host community. Policy gives no assurance of direct and meaningful community input to decisions on use of funds.

Given voluntary engagement with this process, developers may wrest considerable control over funding, or agree to pay larger amounts only with “strings attached.” Overall CC was not impressed by D&GC policy or arrangements, and was not reassured at all about developers' willingness to compensate communities meaningfully. Generally CCs represented at the meeting were concerned about developers' tactics and divisiveness of wind farm development proposals. Finally, there is nothing to prevent CCs negotiating directly with companies, but liability issues and the imbalance of legal and technical advice could disadvantage CCs.

7C Millairies Community Wind Turbine Meeting

Attended by Nick Walker & Andrew Wilson

Alan Brown is proposing two 225kW wind turbines on his land and planning application is underway. He is keen to have community ownership for all or part of the development. Community Energy Scotland (a charity set up to support communities manage this type of project, find funding, etc.) is involved. If a collective (perhaps a development trust) of South Machars communities was involved, this body would be in line for the project's income which could be considerably more than the community benefit options hinted at by larger developers. After considerable discussion, meeting agreed by majority (four in favour, one against, one abstention) that CC should express interest in taking part in further work on this proposal, looking at feasibility and practical options for moving it on.

ACTION ANDREW WILSON

7D ScotGovt consultation on NPF (National Planning Framework) runs to 23.7.2013. CC needs to consider how to respond Meeting on 12.6.2013 at Cairndale Hotel, Dumfries about this arranged by ScotGovt in April but only passed on to CC by D&GC at start of June. All welcome to attend if able.

7E Licensing

Forum Members being sought. Anyone interested in applying (whether CClrs or not) should approach Willie McCartney for information.

8 **EVENT – COMMUNITY FESTIVAL**

Programmes have been printed and will be distributed this week. Committee meets 12.6.2013.

9 **OTHER MATTERS ARISING**

9A **Notice Board/ Information Project update**

Andrew Wilson reported new information boards are now in place. Guide to Wigtown leaflet will follow. More funding being sought to complete project with new application likely to Heritage Lottery Fund and an application into Co-op Community Fund already.

9B **Community Resilience**

Wendy Jesson expects a D&GC report from the recent Community Resilience debriefing meeting, but she is willing to come to CC meeting to discuss relevant issues. Agreed she will be invited for July meeting.

9C **CC Scheme Review**

Next phase consultation to take place 22.7.2013 to 13.9.2013. There will also be separate negotiations about CC boundaries later in the year.

9D **CC Admin Grant**

Expected to be agreed by D&GC full council meeting this month, so claims should be possible by late July.

10 **CORRESPONDENCE**

10A **Data Protection Registration**

No reply to request to update register entry and for information on making payment by cheque.

10B **www.TellMeScotland.gov.uk**

Letter about this website which provides links to Government and Local Authority information.

10C **Mull of Galloway Coastal Path**

Poster advertising meetings 25.6.2013 at 7.00 pm in Drummore Community Hall, and 26.6.2013 at 7.00 pm in Portpatrick Village Hall to discuss tourism opportunities on this path. All welcome.

10D **Climate Change Fund**

Notification of grants available for community projects which aim to carbon footprint and improve local facilities.

11 **OTHER BUSINESS**

Impaired visibility at Botany / High Street junction

Cllr McColm agreed to report this to Colin Forbes (DG First), and to remind D&GC of other stretches of road in the area which typically become obscured in mid-late summer, so they can be addressed earlier this year.

12 NEXT MEETING

Monday 8 July 2013 at 7.30 pm, County Buildings

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 8 JULY 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Andrew Wilson	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	Betty McGowan
Willie McCartney	David Moran	Andy Farrington
John Jennings		

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	Bob Boan, <i>Cree Valley CC</i>	Wendy Jesson, <i>D&G Council</i>
<i>Alison Hannah, Police Scotland</i>	<i>June Robinson, Mins Sec.</i>	Alan Wykes
Martin Armstrong	Jane Armstrong	

APOLOGIES		
Howard Steele	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol
<i>Fraser Wilson, Free Press</i>	Jock McDowall	

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. He reported that Cllr Geddes was ill and would not be involved in Council business for the time being.

1 POLICE REPORT

Alison Hannah, Police Scotland reported three crimes since the last meeting: one assault, one not wearing a seat belt, and one attempted break in. She also reported that Operation Terrapin is continuing, as are other operations previously discussed. Police officers were present at Relay for Life.

Andrew Wilson asked about Wigtown Week Community Festival. For the Fun Run, two officers will be on duty. High visibility vests and GO SLOW signs were requested. Police can put up temporary GO SLOW signs at Culquhirk (coming from Newton Stewart) and at Bladnoch Bridge. Betty McGowan will locate CC high viz. gear.

Concern was raised about speed on local roads. PC Hannah agreed to inform traffic colleagues and report back to CC within 2 months.

D&G Divisional Commander, Kathleen Thomson, has written to CCs forewarning of reviews of traffic warden services and police stations across Scotland, aiming to harmonise arrangements across the national Force, and looking at areas where savings could be made while avoiding reductions in core Police services.

2 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Wendy Jesson, D&GC Principal Officer – Partnership Support, Wigtownshire issued “templates” for Community Resilience Local Plans for communities in Wigtown Comm. Council area. She encouraged those present to give out Household Emergency Life-Saving Plans to as many households as possible. D&GC intends to work with local communities to help plan for managing emergencies, and to coordinate emergency responses when events occur (such as the heavy snowfall in March). Five or six volunteers are being sought to co-ordinate and assist in each Community Response Team. Each town and village in the district will its own team. Central control is from Stranraer (Wendy Jesson, Stephen Jack) and/or Dumfries (Stephen Wylie).

There have been concerns about how much is expected of people on Community Response Teams and about liability for actions taken. D&GC is clear that such action is on the Council's behalf and is therefore indemnified through the Local Authority's own insurance. Action required will depend on situations, but local teams should be aware of who has offered assistance and in what way, so when needed, relevant people can be asked to assist. Bob Boan gave helpful examples of how well this system works in Newton Stewart.

Volunteers initial coordinators were agreed as follows: Wigtown – Andrew Wilson and Betty McGowan; Bladnoch – Willie McCartney; Kirkinner & Braehead – Andy Farrington; Whauphill – John Jennings (on condition that Whauphill Hall remains open as a community resilience hub). Wendy Jesson intends to contact Community Associations in Kirkinner/Braehead and Whauphill for volunteers as well. Comm. Cllrs were asked to approach local residents who may be able to help, and if they agree to be added to a list of potential helpers, bring their details to the next CC meeting.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CALL FOR OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (10 JUNE 2013)

Minutes from meeting of 10.6.2013 were adopted: prop. A. Wilson, sec. A. Farrington.

4 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

New Applications – No significant new applications.

Whisky warehouse and house at Bladnoch – Martin Armstrong spoke to his application which CC had already discussed and made a submission about, within strict planning system time constraints. He indicated growing business with increased need for storage. He believes that an additional whisky business in Bladnoch will attract more tourists to the area, but it was not clear what touristic value his proposal would have. He had looked at re-use of existing buildings in the area but found they were unsuitable for various reasons. He expects his business to provide additional local employment in the area. The CC's submission had raised concerns about access and development in the countryside needing to be relevant and beneficial to the countryside. He reported discussions with DGFirst about access from A714 and said his plans reflected those discussions. He emphasised that the proposed buildings would be out of view from the road and from Bladnoch itself.

In discussion, CC was grateful for the additional information provided but concerned at the limited information in the application papers. Note that Cllr McColm took no part in discussion. There was a proposal (Andy Farrington, sec. Betty McGowan) to reconsider the CC's submission, but this may not be possible; the submission had been considered and agreed previously, based on planning matters and policy. Agreed Nick Walker to contact Planning Officer, Billy Murray, to establish whether a further or revised submission could be made.

ACTION NICK WALKER – note since meeting Billy Murray says too late to amend submission.

Shennanton Wind Farm – Bob Boan, Cree Valley Comm. Council, has met Kirkcowan CC and the developers of this wind farm to discuss distribution of community benefit funds for maximum benefit locally, given D&GC's system for managing renewable energy scheme community benefit is not yet established. Bob was seeking Wigtown CC's agreement in principle to participate in some form of community Trust to accept community benefit money and manage its distribution. Agreed to support proposal to consider this approach.

Millairies – No update.

Wigtown Harbour housing and caravan park proposal – Alan Wykes reported that a site visit is to be undertaken by D&GC Planning Applications Committee.

Larg Farm Wind Turbine proposal Application – Refused by D&GC.

Scottish Planning Policy Consultation – No one had read the document but Nick Walker had some suggested comments. Agree Nick to respond on CC's behalf, in keeping with general comments made in Local Development Plan consultation, including that wind turbine proposals should be sympathetic in scale to the area. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

Knock of Luce Forest Development Plan – Short notice for this consultation and agreed to ask for time to consider, with offer to respond after next CC meeting. Andrew Wilson to study maps. Nick Walker to ask for extension. **ACTION ANDREW WILSON, NICK WALKER**

5 COMMUNITY FESTIVAL

Community Festival runs from Saturday 13 July to Friday 19 July. Willie McCartney confirmed he will be available on Saturday, Sunday and Monday events with sound system. Andrew Wilson seeking volunteer stewards for Fun Run – anyone interested to approach Andrew Wilson. Tickets for ceilidh available from County Buildings (Book Festival office) and Beltie Books.

6 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

ELECTRICITY – Meeting with Scottish Power Networks attended by Cllr Jim McColm, and other Cllrs, as well as John Jennings and Nick Walker, Aileen McLeod MSP, Russell Brown MP and reps from other CCs. SP admitted service is sub-standard at present and assurance given that in the next 10 years the entire network would be upgraded/renewed. There remain questions about ongoing maintenance which appears to have been lacking, and a complete lack of communicating with local communities. They agreed further meetings to keep us up to date with developments in the Machars but no minutes are yet available from the meeting. Power cuts are counted only if they exceed three minutes. Many, much shorter, cuts occur locally. All were encouraged to report any outage which causes disruption, even if brief. Call 0845 272 7999.

WHAUPHILL HALL - Hall due to close 31 July 2013. D&GC reports no chance of change to this, but agrees to attend public meeting in Whauphill Hall with Whauphill Comm. Assoc. and Wigtown CC, this Wednesday, 10 July 2013 at 7.30 pm. Nick Walker, Andy Farrington and John Jennings to attend.

BROADBAND – D&GC allocated £12.6m to add to central funding for broadband improvements, so that 95% residences and businesses will have access to improved broadband by 2017. CC to continue to pursue D&GC about a public meeting in the Machars to increase awareness of the upgrade and try to influence prioritisation so the Machars' upgrade happens as soon as possible. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

PARK CEMETERY- Signs indicating concealed entrance erected. No SLOW sign to date.

7 OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Notice Board/ Information Project - Leaflet now produced. Information Boards updated. New Notice Board has arrived and should be installed before the Festival. New road signs are in place.

CC Scheme Review – Boundaries – D&GC asking for views on proposals to alter CC boundaries, proposals made by Wigtown CC and Cree Valley CC. The proposals are not in agreement with each other. Nick Walker suggested a meeting of reps from our two CCs and Kirkcowan CC, with D&GC staff to reach compromise for each CC to consider and then D&GC officers can finalise a proposal for the full Council to consider with the responses to the next round of CC Scheme review consultation. Bob Boan indicated that Cree Valley CC is not keen on changes on the Moss of Cree. Nick Walker indicated that some Moss of Cree residents have said they consider themselves oriented more towards Wigtown than towards Newton Stewart. The primary school catchment boundary could provide a guide to CC boundary considerations. Agreed Nick Walker to seek a meeting as discussed. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

DPA Registration – No reply yet; Nick Walker to contact ICO again. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

8 CORRESPONDENCE

8A LEADER Funding

Letter advising new round of funding available.

8B DG First meeting to discuss waste services changes

Meeting Thursday 12 September 2013, 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm (County Buildings). Agreed Andrew Wilson and Andy Farrington to attend.

8C D&GC Joint Trade Unions

Letter about staffing changes within D&GC. Agreed not to get involved.

8D Scottish Government – Towards a litter free Scotland consultation

Deadline 27.9.2013. Agreed CCllrs should read and we will discuss at future meeting.

9 NEXT MEETING

Monday 12 August 2013 at 7.30pm, County Buildings, Viewing Room.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 12 AUGUST 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
Alan Brown		

APOLOGIES		
John McDowall	Cllr Alistair Geddes	John Dickson
David McAdam	Cllr Graham Nicol	

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies.

1 POLICE REPORT

No Police representation.

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CALL FOR OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved with no additions.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (8 JULY 2013)

Minutes from meeting of 8 July 2013 were adopted: prop. A. Wilson, sec. B. McGowan.

4 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

13/P/1/0259

Alan Brown reported on his proposed wind turbine development at Millairies, Sorbie. Planning application has been submitted for erection of 2 x 225kW wind turbines, 33m to hub, 47m to blade tip. Alan is looking for interest from local communities in investing in the turbines should planning permission be granted. He explained the reasoning behind turbine size and location proposals. Community Energy Scotland is supporting his application. After discussion about the proposal, CC vote was split between in favour, opposed and neutral. A neutral response was agreed, noting support for the principle of community ownership and genuine community benefit. Cllr McColm abstained from the discussion.

Other applications

Slurry storage at Over Airies, Land at Tahall discharge of s.75 restriction on lapsed unused planning permission, house at Paradise Glen, extension at Knocknar, Bladnoch, and Landmark Sculpture at Creetown were considered briefly and for all, CC resolved to make no representation.

Updates

No further developments on larger wind farms proposed for area. Whisky warehouse and house, Bladnoch, further submission was out of time and not possible when CC contacted Planning Officer after July meeting. Site visit for house and caravan park proposal at Wigtown Harbour is yet to take place.

Local Development Plan

D&GC's summary of consultation responses and suggested alterations to the plan is available. Our CC's comments were taken account of and minor changes are likely to follow on some issues. D&GC full Council will consider the consultation report at September meeting.

National Planning Framework

Power failure in Wigtown prevented response being completed and submitted from CC.

Knock of Luce forest plan

After discussion at July CC meeting and consideration since, it was agreed no specific response in favour or against should be made.

Licensing Board Policy Update

Final Consultation now on D&G Council website taking account of previous responses on licensing policy locally - www.dumgal.gov.uk/licensingconsultation

5 COUNCILLOR'S ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported on several issues.

Power outages still an issue, and locals were troubled by Scottish Power's lack of information and support in recent prolonged outage; there is a follow-up meeting of CCs, Councillors, MSPs/MP and Scottish Power scheduled for 27.8.2013. As before, Nick Walker and John Jennings will aim to attend.

David Mundell MP has written to D&GC on minor changes to Welfare Reform plans. Tenants who exceed two months' rent arrears will revert to having Housing Benefit paid directly to landlords; and compulsory benefit application over the internet will no longer be expected. It is estimated that Mid Galloway ward will lose £85K in housing benefit income as a result of "bedroom tax" implementation.

Whauphill Community Association is in discussion with D&GC about possible lease or ownership of Whauphill Hall.

6 ISSUES LIST UPDATE

Bank of Scotland – New cash machine has been installed.

Broadband Failures – Unreliability continues. There will be an update for CC reps. as part of the meeting on 12.9.2013 about waste management changes. Andrew Wilson and Andy Farrington to attend.

Kirkinner War Memorial Fencing – Fence is apparently being galvanised so should be erected soon.

7 EVENTS

Act of Remembrance 10.11.2013

With Wigtown Church service timing having changed again, it was agreed to aim at 11.00 am for this year's Act of Remembrance. Andrew Wilson to approach clergy. Joel McGarva to be asked to pipe again. Betty McGowan to arrange wreaths; and David Moran reported the Admin. Account contains sufficient funds to cover this despite the Admin. Grant not having yet arrived.

CC noted BBC article about Centenary stones being proposed to commemorate Victoria Cross winners in their home towns. The article is unclear as to whether this proposal relates to England or UK. As Wigtown's Louis McGuffie was awarded VC, Nick Walker agreed to seek clarification.

Review of Wigtown Week Community Festival

David Moran (Treasurer) reported that most money is now in, with income £2724.00 and outgoings £2183.00. This leaves a surplus of £541.00. There are likely to be a few adjustments outstanding still however, so this is a guide. Overall, the Festival went well, though numbers of volunteers and numbers attending many events were disappointing. Anticipating this led to a somewhat reduced programme and further reduction in aims for future festivals may be necessary. Andrew Wilson indicated that he would not oversee the Fun Run in future having found it complicated and more work than one person could reasonably

manage. CC noted thanks for those who did volunteer and for the many sponsors who supported events in various ways. In particular, it was agreed to buy meal vouchers for Bayview Bistro for Lynsey Thomson and Lisa Martin in recognition of their substantial efforts organising the children's events this year and in 2012. Various feedback was reported – some positive and some with suggestions for improvement, and some regarding events that were no longer put on due to limited organisational support. There was written feedback from William Saunders, complaining about Comm. Councillors not attending as many events as might be expected, and raising concerns about attitude of and respect from a specific Comm. Councillor, reflecting concerns of unnamed others. There was a full discussion about this and related issues, and CC resolved that Howard Steele, being independent due to holiday causing him to miss the Festival, should write a letter of response.

8 OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Community Resilience

Wendy Jesson will arrange meetings as names of volunteers and coordinators come in. She has provided a copy of D&GC insurance documentation which covers volunteers acting on D&GC's behalf in community resilience activities.

CCs Scheme Review & Boundaries

Second round consultation of the Review of the Scheme of Establishment of Comm. Councils is underway. Closing date is 13.9.2013, shortly after the September CC meeting. Nick Walker asked that CCLrs read and prepare to comment on the latest version of the proposed new scheme.

CC Boundary changes were discussed. CC was disappointed that Cree Valley CC had not responded to our proposal, accepted by Kirkcowan CC, for a representative meeting to see if potential compromises could be achieved regarding minor adjustments to CC boundaries, which could then have been taken back to full CC meetings. We noted CVCC was unhappy with our original proposal to extend Wigtown CC's boundary towards Newton Stewart along the Moss of Cree due in part to some of their CCLrs living in that area. CC agreed to propose an amended alteration to our boundary, as an offer of compromise - to extend Wigtown CC northeast boundary from the current boundary along the Bishopburn to coincide with Wigtown Primary School catchment boundary where it runs from the coast (opposite Carsewalloch) through Moss of Cree Forest to the A714 at Causeway End. Where CVCC wishes to relinquish a small area at Mochrum Park and Grange of Bladnoch, we agree not to object; we understand that the area is within Kirkcowan Parish and Kirkcowan Primary School catchment, and we therefore agreed to suggest that the area be taken into KCC's boundary. Where CVCC wishes to extend its area into the northeastern corner of current KCC area, we agreed we have no locus to respond. We agreed again that views of residents in areas put forward for moving between CCs should be sought as part of the final phase consultation on the scheme.

Noticeboard / Info. Project

David Moran indicated that current reserves for this project amount to £2459.00 and there is an invoice for £2800.00 to be paid. The shortfall of £341.00 reflects an unexpected increase in one invoice, and a minor miscalculation in making a grant application. Nick Walker proposed that the considerable reserves in the Festival Account loan sufficient funds to the project to pay the outstanding invoice, pending further grant income. Andrew Wilson has submitted an application to the Co-op Community Fund, and the Heritage Lottery Fund application will be submitted soon, when its next round is expected to open.

Data Protection Registration

Nick Walker reported a response from the Information Commissioner with details of the £35.00 registration fee and where it should be paid. This is a statutory requirement. It was agreed David Moran would process payment.

Waste Revision Meeting (12.9.2013)

Reminder of this meeting to update Comm. Councils about plans to change waste management in Wigtownshire, which will include an update on broadband developments. Andy Farrington and Andrew Wilson had previously agreed to attend.

Litter Free Scotland Consultation

Reminder of this consultation which closes 27.9.2013. CCLrs were encouraged to read and prepare comments for the September meeting.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

Climate Change Fund

Seminar at DGOne Solway Suite on 30.8.2013, from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm, for Council staff and community groups interested in projects to reduce our community's carbon footprint.

CCs Enquiry Service (CCES)

Leaflet circulated regarding this new system developed to support, manage and monitor the wide ranging enquiries made to all Council Services by CCs. This requires one email address and one contact person; agreed Secretary, Andrew Wilson would be designated contact at present.

Moss of Cree Forest possible partial sale

Letter forewarning of possible partial or whole sale of this land, with request for CC's views on potential community ownership or management. After discussion, CC agreed no interest or capacity to take this on.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday 9 September 2013 at 7.30pm, County Buildings, Viewing Room.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Andrew Wilson	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	John McDowall
Willie McCartney	David Moran	Howard Steele
David McAdam		

IN ATTENDANCE		
June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Curtiss Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol
Stuart Davidson, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Alison Hannah, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Malcolm Booth

APOLOGIES		
Betty McGowan	Andy Farrington	Ami Todd

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting. Apologies were recorded. CC condolences were offered for Betty McGowan. Letter of resignation was noted from Ami Todd, Youth rep. and CCllrs were asked to consider possible future youth representatives.

1 POLICE REPORT

Alison Hannah reported several offences in the past two months, including two vandalisms, one theft, one driving without insurance, and two contraventions of licensing laws. Inspector Davidson reassured CC that calls regarding recent anti-social behaviour incidents near licensed premises in Wigtown are being taken seriously, with notification already passed to the Licensing Board. It was stressed that residents experiencing problems should report them to the Police (tel. 999 for emergency, or tel. 101 otherwise), and the public can contact the Licensing Board directly (via D&G Council offices in Stranraer) to raise concerns.

Wigtown Festival Company requested advice about parking causing congestion near the Mercat Cross last year and how to prevent or address this at this year's Wigtown Book Festival. Police advice was to report obstructions at the time, but that parking changes were unlikely to be practicable. Disabled parking arrangements for the Book Festival were discussed also and several suggestions were made – including designating the south side of North Main Street for disabled parking during festival weekends, or much improved parking signage and volunteer parking advisers. There is concern from some that traffic and parking disruption is already substantial during the festival and further restriction would be unwelcome. This was not the majority view. Decisions about temporary parking rule changes lie with D&G Council, through DGFirst. Alison Hannah offered to discuss the issues with Festival Manager, Anne Barclay. Nick Walker will update Anne Barclay about the discussion and advise that Jane Bridge, DG First, would be the relevant person for the Festival Company to contact. Formal permission for road closure in the front of the County Buildings throughout the festival was questioned, as CC had not received notification. D&G Councillors believed CCs were notified or consulted on such issues. Nick Walker agreed to confirm with Anne Barclay that official sanction was granted [since the meeting this has been confirmed].

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CALL FOR OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved with addition of several minor issues to be raised within Councillors' issues.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (12 AUGUST 2013)

Minutes from meeting of 12 August 2013 were adopted: prop. W. McCartney, sec. D. Moran.

4 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

New Applications

- 13/P/1/0290 Extension to 10 Jubilee Terrace, Wigtown. CC agreed no submission.

Updates

- 12/P/1/0295 Harbour house and caravan site – refused by Planning Applications Committee.
- 13/P/1/0010 & 13/P/1/0011 Whisky warehouse and House at Bladnoch – no update.
- 13/P/1/0259 Millairies Wind Turbines – no update.
- Larg Farm Wind Turbine refusal – Appeal lodged. CC agreed to submit objection as previously.
- Knock of Luce Forest Plan – CC responded after last meeting, but Forestry Commission has offered to attend and discuss in detail. CC agreed this was not warranted.
- Shennanton Wind Farm proposal – invitation to Community Liaison Group meeting on Wednesday 25.9.2013 (6.30 – 8.00 pm). Agreed Nick Walker to attend.
- Potential Wind Farm Proposals (Airriequhillart, Auchleand, Mark Farm, Mindork) – No updates.

Licensing Policy Consultation

Andrew Wilson reported on this as follows: Three areas of Dumfries & Galloway are considered to be over provided with licensed premises (central Stranraer, central Dumfries and Newton Stewart). Licensing Boards would like to see a fall in the number of licensed premises in these areas. The consultation suggests reducing from the current four to one single D&G-wide Licensing Board to give a better overview to licensing decision, since many people purchase alcohol away from their home area. CC agreed Andrew Wilson would respond on our behalf based on discussion, and in favour of the amalgamation of local Licensing Boards (vote – 2 in favour, 5 neutral (abstain), 0 against).

Marine Plan Consultations

Copies available on miscellaneous page in website (www.wigtowncc.org.uk/wigtown/misc.html) for reading and discussion at next CC meeting. Drop-in sessions were held over the past week but were not notified until after they had occurred. This is disappointing performance from D&G Council. More information at www.scotland.gov.uk/marineconsultation

Planning & Regulatory Services Questionnaire

This was discussed and completed in the meeting, for Nick Walker to respond to.

Licensing Forum

Willie McCartney to attend meeting on 11.9.2013 and report issues to next CC meeting.

5 EVENT- ACT OF REMEMBRANCE (10.11.2013)

Time confirmed: 11.00 am. Wreaths have been arranged by Betty McGowan. Andrew Wilson to ask Joel McGarva to pipe at the event. Order of Service to be agreed with clergy and Andrew Wilson to finalise.

Nick Walker confirmed paving stones to be laid in towns/villages UK wide to commemorate those awarded Victoria Cross in WW1. Louis McGuffie's commemorative stone will be laid in Wigtown on 28.9.2018, one hundred years after he earned the award.

6 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Geddes

- Derelict property North Main Street, Wigtown, in process of being purchased.
- Scottish Power meeting – agreed recognition of stakeholder group, and to provide updates on improvement programme throughout the process. Minutes of meeting not yet available.
- Broadband – update at meeting on 12.9.2013, but still worthwhile seeking CCs meeting with D&GC officers and South of Scotland Alliance representation after that.

Cllr McColm

- Whauphill Hall will be taken over by Whauphill Comm. Assoc. from 1.10.2013.
- Kirkinner War Memorial – now in place.
- Park Cemetery – signage appears to have had little effect. SLOW notice on road was agreed but not yet provided. Nick Walker to contact Colin Forbes about this [Note – since meeting SLOW notice on road in both directions]. With regard to car parking, Cllr McColm will get update from D&GC Legal Department. Land-owner to be approached informally by Willie McCartney and Howard Steele about finding a compromise.
- Local farmer reported to John McDowall that hedge at Baldoon was dug up by D&GC when resurfacing road. John McDowall to contact Alan Bradley, DG First, to investigate, and inform landowner.
- Wall at town gardens damaged by vehicle to be repaired as matter of urgency, and tenders now agreed. Hopefully work will be complete in time for Wigtown Book Festival.
- Cllr Jim McColm to investigate and report defective man hole cover and broken kerb near PO.

Cllr Nicol

- Concern about planning department resources, as charges for planning applications are capped at £15K yet large applications (such as wind farms) take up far more resource than that payment allows, and in addition pre-application work is considerable.
- D&GC budget for 2014-15 will require to reduce by a further £10M.

7 OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Litter Free Scotland Consultation

Andrew Wilson reported from this that littering is a big problem in Scotland with half the population admitting having littered. Scottish Government proposes range of measures to address these issues, increasing fines, improving handling of fly-tipping, etc. CC agreed that Andrew Wilson respond per discussions.

Moss of Cree Sale

Now formalised, but as before, CC agreed no response.

Review of CCs Scheme

Nick Walker reported that revised scheme has picked up on many of Wigtown CC's recommendations and is generally a positive, good quality document. He suggested CC responds positively while picking up on some minor issues and the ongoing concern about the investigation of complaints and misconduct, and sanctions linked to this, which remain unclear and unsatisfactory. CC agreed Nick Walker to respond as discussed.

Complaint

Howard Steele confirmed letter of response has been written to William Saunders. Copies available to Community Councillors from Howard Steele.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

Loreburn Housing Association

LHA seeking views on their updated business plan. After brief discussion, CC agreed Andrew Wilson should respond.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

Data Protection Registration

David Moran confirmed DPA registration paid.

Noticeboard / Information Project

David Moran confirmed new noticeboard invoice paid.

Admin. Grant

David Moran confirmed the grant (£575.00) had been received. CC had understood this would increase by £35.00 in recognition of CC paying DPA registration directly rather than D&GC handling this centrally for all CCs. D&GC Cllrs agreed that was their understanding. Nick Walker to seek clarification from D&GC.

Festival Issues

Howard Steele passed on request from Golf Club for tournament prize funding. Agreement had been replica trophies funded from Festival account. David Moran to confirm situation with Wigtown & Bladnoch Golf Club, and pay if appropriate. Machars Action invoice for copying for Festival which appears to have happened after the festival suggesting it was not CC copying. David Moran to seek clarification, and agreed to ask Machars Action to retain one copy of document to include with invoice in future for ease of allocating costs. Also agreed copying, etc. should be sanctioned by CC before being requested.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday 14 October 2013 at 7.30pm, County Buildings, Viewing Room.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 14 OCTOBER 2013**

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

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

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	<i>John Jennings</i>	Curtiss Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>
<i>Police Scotland – two PCs</i>	John Wilson, <i>Whithorn CC</i>	Julia Muir-Watt, <i>Whithorn CC</i>

APOLOGIES		
David McAdam	David Moran	

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. Shannan Lochrie has resigned as Youth Rep. due to College commitments. No suggestions for new Youth Reps but agreed Douglas Ewart HS to be contacted asking if any Wigtown & District young people interested in taking part in CC. June Robinson to contact school. **ACTION JUNE ROBINSON**

1 POLICE REPORT

Police Scotland gave a brief report indicating that anti-social behaviour outside licensed premises in Wigtown remain a priority and complaints are reducing. There have been further tool thefts and it was stressed that people should remain vigilant and report anything suspicious to Police Scotland (tel. 101).

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CALL FOR OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (9 SEPTEMBER 2013)

Minutes of 9.9.2013 meeting were adopted: prop. Andrew Wilson, sec. John McDowall.

4 BROADBAND

Alistair Geddes reported on meeting he had attended where James Pocock, Programme Manager, South of Scotland Next Generation Broadband, and others from the South of Scotland Alliance, presented an update on the broadband roll-out across Dumfries & Galloway, and Scottish Borders. Key people are apparently agreeable to attend a meeting to update communities in Wigtownshire. CC has previously asked for a community meeting via Area Framework team and there was a brief update at recent CC event about Waste Collection reform. No specific broadband meeting has been agreed however. Signing up for broadband interest locally is well behind some other areas, and this may influence priorities for planned improvement. It also remains unclear which areas will not do well out of the programme. Whithorn CC has started some house to house contact to encourage sign up but the whole area being well-signed up is likely necessary for us to be prioritised.

Decided to arrange a Machars community councils and public meeting with key individuals in broadband roll-out to update on the process and plans, demonstrate the level of interest and demand locally, clarify extent and speed of proposed roll-out and areas which may miss out on fast connection, and to establish what we need to do to increase our area's priority. Aim at meeting by early December.

Agreed Nick Walker to arrange a preliminary meeting with James Pocock and Ewan Green to agree meeting date and structure, and establishing whether Gavin Stevenson would attend and who from BT (as the relevant contractor doing the actual work) should be included. Cllrs Geddes and McColm, and Whithorn CC representation to be included in this pre-meeting.

Press asked to ensure that the broadband issue raised in local papers to encourage sign-up for broadband interest. Sign up at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SOSBroadbandRegistration>.

5 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

5A Cllr Jim McColm

Waste Collection

Multi box collections due to start April 2014. Andrew Wilson and Andy Farrington attended recent update for CCs. Intention is for each household to have several boxes to separate types of rubbish and recycling, and the collections will be on a complex programme of certain boxes at certain times. It is assumed DG First will advertise the changes as new bins are delivered early 2014, but CC may need to ensure information is understood locally. Some more remote areas may be exempted from the new procedures.

Licensing Board

Considered issues near local licensed premises and agreed to monitor for now, reviewing in three months.

Police Station public counters, etc.

D&G Chief Superintendent Kate Thomson has apparently written to CCs about closure of Police Station counters, but we have received no such letter. Regarding Newton Stewart, it appears that for now the Police Station were remain in use, but the intention is to close public counter. Most contacts with Police Scotland are by phone anyway. Reduced civilian posts in the Police locally are a cause for concern given the lack of jobs and economic situation in general. Cree Valley CC has an extra meeting on 21.10.2013 to discuss this issue. Agreed Andy Farrington attend that meeting for further information, and feedback to Wigtown Cllrs in case we need to respond formally. The deadline for comments is apparently before our next CC meeting. Nick Walker agreed to contact Police Scotland about not receiving the letter.

ACTION ANDY FARRINGTON, NICK WALKER

Also, Police Scotland intends to stop providing Traffic Wardens. D&GC has yet to decide how to respond to this, but Community Safety wardens may be able to issue traffic violation notices.

5B Cllr Alistair Geddes

Electricity Meeting

Scottish Power continues to work with the community group and is developing a plan for the upgrade work locally. A further meeting, with a schedule of works, should happen early in the New Year.

6 EVENTS

6A ACT OF REMEMBRANCE (10.11.2013, 11.00 am)

Arrangements in place except piper still to confirm. Andrew Wilson to check. Order of service to be finalised with clergy and more required than last year (suggest 100 copies). CC wreath to be laid by convenor, supported by office bearers. **ACTION ANDREW WILSON**

6B CHRISTMAS LIGHTS/ WINTERFEST

David Moran has left word that D&GC has offered £747.00 again for Christmas lights, etc. (£200.00 each for Whauphill and Kirkiner, £347.00 for Wigtown itself); he has indicated that we do wish these funds. Betty McGowan announced that she and the volunteers who have arranged Winterfest for many years wish to retire from this. Howard Steele indicated that light installation volunteers wished to retire also. There was discussion about the lack of new volunteers coming forward each year for events such as this and the Community Festival, but how to encourage interest was not clear, and for Christmas, time is short.

Agreed it was impracticable to make Winterfest arrangements at this notice but worth updating local businesses and other groups in case other arrangements can be made. Agreed lights in trees not to go ahead due to time and cost for cherry picker, etc. and installation. Also agreed Christmas Tree desirable, so John

McDowall and Nick Walker to check about availability and cost of tree, and installation cost. If tree in place, agreed it would be lit.

One suggestion was for a carol service when Christmas tree lights are switched on, coordinated with Santa visit. Andrew Wilson to approach ministers and Creetown Silver Band. Santa arrangements cannot be finalised until clearer what else will be in place, but Nick Walker to contact Round Table about this in preparation. Andy Farrington to approach Wigtown Market, etc. about possible contribution to arrangements.
ACTION NICK WALKER, ANDREW WILSON, ANDY FARRINGTON

7 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

New applications:

13/P/1/0316 Slurry Tank, Whauphill – agreed no submission.

13/P/1/0314 Extension to existing building (with demolition of existing store), Bladnoch Industrial Estate – agreed no submission.

Updates:

No updates on Millairies wind turbines, house and whisky store at Bladnoch, or large wind farms at Airriequhillart, Mindork, Mark Farm and Auchleand. But Nick Walker attended PNE Community Liaison Group (CLG) about Shennanton wind farm proposal, with reps from Cree Valley and Kirkcowan CCs. Proposals have altered number and location of turbines in response to community and professional feedback and assessments. Anticipate planning application in February 2014, with further public information / consultation session in late November 2013, which we will be notified about at the next CLG.

Marine Plans Consultation:

Documents comprise over 250 pages and available only in electronic format; no one had considered the documents in depth. Nick Walker reported that a wide range of marine issues are covered including shipping, fishing, environment, renewable energy, etc. Of main interest to CC, there are two areas in the Solway, off Luce Bay and of the Carrick Shore, designated as possible sites for offshore wind farms, and off Luce Bay for tidal power. The Plans presume in favour of development in designated areas of interest, but recognise possible conflicts with fishing, shipping, landscape, leisure/tourism, etc. Public consultation sessions had happened before we were notified about them, as Scottish Government opted to communicate with CCs via local authorities, and D&GC was slow to pass on details.

Agreed Nick Walker to respond that more time, better notice for local community information sessions and receiving the document in hard copy, would have facilitated meaningful consultation.

ACTION NICK WALKER

Licensing Forum:

Willie McCartney attended meeting last month, but nothing to report.

8 OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Administration Grant:

D&GC confirms that we are due £35.00 more which ought not to have deducted this year, since D&GC stopped central payment for Data Protection Registration.

Community Festival issues:

David Moran had discussed golf competition with Ian Thin, Golf Club secretary. The new trophy arrangements which had been agreed did not go ahead, and the golf club did as in recent years buying prizes and charging CC festival account £30.00 expenses. There was no double cost, so CC has paid. Given low attendance at race-night at Golf Club, agreed £50.00 donation to support the club.

ACTION DAVID MORAN

Machars Action account for Festival copying which happened after the Festival has also been paid (less than £8.00). David Moran has asked that invoices for copying include a copy of the document so that CC can be sure which account to attach costs to. Briars Engravers account not yet submitted, but expected to be less than £150.00, so overall surplus for 2013 Wigtown Week expected to be approx. £300.00.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

9A Book Festival Company

Ticket sales increased significantly compared to last year. Requesting letter of support from CC for future grant applications. This was agreed. **ACTION NICK WALKER.**

9B Change to Bus Stops in Wigtown

DGFirst consultation on bus stops and shelter. Proposal is to remove both existing bus stops and make all buses stop between the Mercat Cross and the Town Gardens, with new shelter where bicycle rack is, and bicycle rack moved to where old shelter is. There were some photos of suggested shelters. On discussion, there were mixed views about whether the proposed location was adequately accessible for larger buses, and there was concern about how multiple buses would manage. But the change would provide additional parking spaces. On balance, CC agreed the change was reasonable, but worth testing with actual buses. Regarding the shelter, an appropriate design to suit the outstanding conservation status of Wigtown would be necessary, and CC keen to see suggested style for further consideration. Agreed to respond in these terms. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

9C D&GC Polling Station review

Polling stations are being reviewed and the views of local residents, especially disabled residents, are welcomed. CC is asked to respond within 4 weeks which is a very brief consultation period. In our area, Kirkinner Hall, Whauphill Hall and County Buildings are usual polling places, and CC not aware of any desire or need to alter these. Disabled access arrangements were questioned but are believed to be in place. Nick Walker to respond that current local polling stations are appropriate. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

9D Information / Training Event on the Common Good

Event for CCs on 23.10.2013, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm, in Castle Douglas Town Hall. No detail of programme available. Cllr Geddes offered to forward details, and Andrew Wilson agreed to attend if programme looks worthwhile. **ACTION ANDREW WILSON**

9E Connect 2013

Event all day 8.11.2013 in Dumfries for voluntary sector, and CC are now invited also. On discussion, decided not necessary to attend and no one able to do so.

9F Area Committee Grant Applications

Notification of changes to timing of grant consideration, and first deadline for 2014-15 financial year is coming up, 6.12.2013. Cllr Geddes and Cllr McColm pointed out that Area Committee grants are to be for "last resort" funding where there is evidence of other funding options being exhausted. CC to consider whether any activities, etc. require application.

9G Celebration of Achievements Evening (Mid-Galloway Community Safety Forum)

Invitation to attend presentation of awards on 17.10.2013. No details available and no one able to attend. However CC would welcome a visit at from the Forum to inform us what they do. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

9H Scottish Land Trust

Announcement of grants available for community land purchase. No interest or capacity for such action at present.

9I ClimateXchange Event

Half day meeting in Edinburgh on 8.11.2013 about community renewable energy and other climate related activities, etc. No one able to attend.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

ATM at Post Office

Apparently the PO cash machine is to be removed at the end of the month. There is a lack of clarity over the

reasons for this, but economic and regulatory issues perhaps contribute. Agreed ATM has been helpful itself and by encouraging more attention by Bank of Scotland to managing their ATM. Agreed CC to write to D&GC and to Bank Machine Ltd stressing the importance and value of this ATM to Wigtown.

ACTION ANDREW WILSON

Wigtown in Bloom

Malcolm Booth (WiB Chairman) asked that CC be aware of this year's achievement of a Silver Gilt Award from Beautiful Scotland, and an additional award for Tourism impact from WiB's work. He also raised concern about DGFirst seeming to have stopped provision of free rubbish bags to support WiB's work in the town. CC and Cllrs McColm and Geddes recalled agreement some time ago from Alan Bradley that bags would be provided partly out of recognition of the work DGFirst is excused from by WiB's activities. CC also noted the progress with bulb planting beside the bowling green for the Field of Hope. Agreed CC to write to Alan Bradley for clarification on bag provision. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

11 NEXT MEETING

Monday 11 November 2013 at 7.30 pm, County Buildings, Viewing Room.

Agreed that Wigtown & District Community Council hold one meeting in Kirkinner and one in Whauphill each year to encourage greater community involvement across our area. Dates to be confirmed.

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2013**

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

IN ATTENDANCE		
Cllr Jim McColm	June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
Nicola McFadzean, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Cllr Graham Nicol	David Mackay, <i>Free Press</i>
Gail Jennings	John Jennings	

APOLOGIES		
John Dickson	Cllr Alistair Geddes	John McDowall

0 WELCOME & APOLOGIES

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting, and noted apologies. Andy Farrington announced his retiral from CC due to recently diagnosed illness. CC expressed sympathies and thanked Andy for his input. June Robinson to contact DEHS to ascertain whether any youth volunteers wish to be co-opted on to Wigtown & District CC. **ACTION JUNE ROBINSON**

1 POLICE REPORT

A brief report was given by Nicola McFadzean, Police Scotland, on recent reported crimes: attempt to steal from parked car in Wigtown; hit and run incident for which a person has been reported. In addition this area is being targeted by rural thieves. All should remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity to the Police. Reports of anti-social behaviour at licensed premises in Wigtown have reduced in the last month. John Jennings had reported an offence to Police Scotland via e-mail and had not heard back. This will be looked into, and people were advised to telephone Police Scotland (tel. 101) for non-emergency reports.

There was discussion about Police public counters closure proposals, with information now available to CC. Police Scotland has agreed to accept late comments having failed to provide CC with information, but they have indicated that significant suggestions for altering plans would not be considered. Discussion followed on the lack of proper public consultation on this and Traffic Warden changes, and on the detail of proposals themselves. Closure of Newton Stewart police station public counter was not considered acceptable as the nearest counters will be Stranraer and Newton Stewart which are far distant for situations where documents or found property need taken to the Police. The lack of meaningful consultation was not considered acceptable either. D&GC has provided similar input to Police Scotland also. Agreed CC to respond in these terms and copy response to MSPs and the Scottish Parliament Justice Committee chairman as the committee has called for evidence of change subsequent to the integration of Police forces. Traffic Warden changes were not considered especially relevant as CC understands there are only two such posts in D&G as a whole. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

Cllr Nicol brought to the attention of CC that the Fire Control Room at Dumfries is being closed without any consultation with the public or with D&GC Police and Fire Board members. CC to challenge this decision and process given risks of error from lack of local knowledge. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

2 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND CALL FOR OTHER BUSINESS

Agenda approved with addition of Kirkiner Community Association update, Bladnoch street light failures, forum for information about independence referendum.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (14.10.2013)

Minutes from meeting of Monday 14th October 2013 were adopted: prop. A. Wilson, sec. B McGowan.

4 ACTIVITIES:-

Act of Remembrance

Nick Walker reported all went according to plan. Joel McGarva to be paid £20 for piping. Thank you to Betty McGowan for sorting the wreaths.

Broadband Rollout

Nick Walker reported that community meeting for Mid Galloway area to be held in Main Hall of County Buildings, Wigtown on Tuesday 10.12.2013 at 7.00 pm. James Pocock and Ewan Green (D&GC) will attend and give presentation on the Rollout Plan. BT and Scottish Government representation expected also. David Mackay and Louise Kerr asked to ensure announcement in papers. Other CCs in Mid-Galloway (Whithorn, Isle of Whithorn, Garlieston, Kirkcowan and Cree Valley) and Chamber of Commerce invited, and asked to invite their constituents.

Christmas

Subsequent to October meeting and reports in local press, several residents and organisations volunteered to contribute to Xmas plans. In view of time scales, and in keeping with CC decision to see if others would take on Xmas activities, there was a meeting of those interested which proposed the following plan: which CC agreed in principle:

COMMERCIAL / FUN EVENTS

Wigtown Kist Xmas Market – hosted by Festival Company (the Kist), with CC and Wigtown Market involvement. Stalls in County Bldgs and on road opposite. Saturday 30.11.2013 afternoon/evening, co-ordinated by Festival Company. CC could arrange and run raffle. Road closure opposite County Bldgs has been approved by D&GC.

Xmas Tree price options considered, with D&GC suggesting £900, but agreed to accept Cotton Little's offer of £350 for tree, erected, including with lights. He can set up on Saturday 23.11.2013 from 9.30 am and would appreciate some volunteer support.

Other Lights – general community view in favour of lights in trees as different from other towns and looks impressive. May be easier and cheaper to arrange with more lights (perhaps 6 rather than 4 strings) per tree, and fewer trees with lights. Cherry picker maybe available at low cost from Craig McClymont. Other options may include lights on front of County Bldgs and at gateway into Bowling Clubhouse opposite New Road. Decision on specifics to wait until cherry picker agreement decided. Again, many volunteers have come forward since last CC meeting. Again aim at installation on Saturday 23.11.2013 from 9.30 am.

Switch on agreed for evening of Xmas market, dependent on lights going to above plan, perhaps with piper procession about 5.00 pm from County Bldgs around North & South Main Streets. General decoration may be possible in windows of shops and houses around Town Gardens.

FESTIVE EVENTS

Carols – around tree, Friday 20.12.2013 from 7.00 pm. This depends on Ministers, but Creetown Silver Band can be available, which is not the case earlier in month. Bookshops offer relevant refreshments. Kirk Hall may be a suitable wet weather alternative venue.

Cookie Party & charity Xmas Tree competition exhibition on Sat. 21.12.2013 arranged by Anne Barclay and Renita Boyle.

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Santa – perhaps only the usual round the Machars Santa visit. But this will need confirmation with Newton Stewart Round Table. **Messy Church Xmas** ginger bread event, maybe Saturday 14.12.2013. **Scad's Xmas for Weans** event, maybe Sunday 15.12.2013. **Wigtown Primary School end of year Kirk service** and carols around the housebound, Friday 20.12.2013 during day. **Carols & Readings service** at Kirk, Sunday 22.12.2013.

5 PLANNING AND LICENSING MATTERS

13/P/1/0333 Carsegowan redevelopment of farm buildings. Agreed to submit letter of support.
ACTION NICK WALKER.

13/P/1/0344 Corhulloch Hill, Mochrum, Port William. Wind Turbine 50m hub height , 76m to blade tip. Agreed to object on grounds of being inappropriate height with regard to surrounding topography.
ACTION NICK WALKER.

Updates

Whisky warehouse and housing, Bladnoch - no update. **Millairies wind turbines** - no update.

Marine Plan - CC submission completed following previous meeting.

Scottish Planning Policy Consultation - Scottish Govt now consulting on change to core principles to bring together principles of economic development and sustainability as previous consultation responses suggested separate apparently opposing principles confusing. Responses due after next meeting, so CCllrs to consider for then. Document available online - www.scotland.gov.uk/Publications/2013/10/3406.

Shennanton Wind Farm - reduced to 8 turbines. Community Liaison Group to meet again January 2014. Public information sessions in Newton Stewart 13.11.2013 and Kirkcowan 14.11.2014.

Airriequillart, Mindork and Mark Farm wind farms - no updates. But **Annabaglish Wind Farm** - new application near Mindork. Agreed to consider at next meeting. Nick Walker to request consultation.
ACTION NICK WALKER.

Auchleand wind farm – this wind farm would be within 5 km of Wigtown, and company now intends to lodge planning application in January 2014. Map circulated showing position of turbines, 7 in total, but no other detail. Agreed to request Community Liaison Group with developer, and Cree Valley CC and Kirkcowan CC, as this seems to work with Shennanton. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

6 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Jim McColm

Park Cemetery – feedback from James McLeod D&GC indicates that there are too few funerals to justify extending car park. Title remains unclear too. SLOW printed on road and additional warning signs to be in place during funerals. There was suggestion that gates could be left open and turning area formed to ease access and egress for visiting vehicles. Cllr McColm to discuss with D&GC.

Cllr Graham Nicol

SWestrans meeting scheduled for 15.11.2013; he will ask that Wigtown bus shelter be discussed.

7 OTHER MATTERS ARISING

Common Good Information Session – Andrew Wilson was unable to attend.

Mid Galloway Community Safety Forum – Donna Hoodless agreed to ask the Forum about attending CC meeting to discuss activities, etc.

Post Office ATM – Letters sent to Planning /Building Control / ATM Company following October CC meeting. Planning responded consent was appropriate. No other replies.

Wigtown in Bloom – Alan Bradley, DGFfirst has agreed to supply green waste bags directly, as needed, free of charge.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

8A Chief Executive Services – £20 due for Gambling Act 2005 (Lottery) licence. David Moran to arrange payment. **ACTION DAVID MORAN**

8B Community Speed Limit Consultation – Maps showing proposed changes circulated. Agreed to request that 30 mph zone be extended towards Bladnoch along A714 to include Woodside. Consider further extension towards Park Cemetery if possible. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

8C Larch Felling Information - information circulated.

- 8D **Cherry Tree Pruning** – DGFirst to prune cherry trees around the bowling green over winter but keen to have CC and WiB input to planning.
- 8E **Crossroads Care Attendant Scheme Information Leaflet** – already circulated to all CClrs.
- 8F **Independent Living Support** – information circulated.
- 8G **Scotways Annual Report** – CC agreed not to renew membership in past. Walks documentation may be useful, but D&GC Access Officers and Core paths information, and Newton Stewart walking festival info. may render Scotways info. redundant. Agreed to check other info. and reconsider Scotways membership.

9 OTHER BUSINESS

9A **Kirkinner Community Association**

Andy Farrington reported on his attendance at the most recent Kirkinner CA meeting. He encouraged attendance at Broadband Rollout meeting. CA happy to have CC meet in Kirkinner once a year. Next CA meeting 21.1.2014 at 7.30 pm.

9B **Street lights Bladnoch**

Willie McCartney reported two lights out in Bladnoch. Agreed to report direct to DGFirst.

ACTION WILLIE McCARTNEY

9C **Proposal for forum for information about independence referendum from John Jennings**

This forum to discuss pros and cons of the Scottish Independence without party politics was discussed but CC concerned that it could appear party political in breach of Community Council scheme and constitution.

10 NEXT MEETING

~~Monday 9 December 2013 at 7.30pm, County Buildings, Viewing Room.~~

Note – since meeting, Howard Steele has tendered his resignation with immediate effect, so CC membership has fallen below minimum, and CC is therefore in abeyance pending by-election. No meetings, decisions, actions can be taken by CC, and assets held in trust by D&GC pending re-establishment.