

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 8 JUNE 2015**

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PRESENT		
Robert Harford	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	David McAdam
Willie McCartney	Matt Kitson	Robin Richmond
Jak Kane	Jock McDowall	

IN ATTENDANCE		
Joe McKeown	Cllr Alistair Geddes	David McKay, <i>Free Press</i>
June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>	Cllr Jim McColm
David Moran	Peter Smillie, <i>Port William Community Council</i>	David Bythell
Rosemary Bythell	Michael Todd	Shona Todd

APOLOGIES		
Police	Cllr Graham Nicol	

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Matt Kitson welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies.

2 POLICE MATTERS

No Police Attendance.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday 13 May 2015)

Minutes were adopted, prop. Willie McCartney, sec. Robin Richmond.

4 MOSS OF CREE FORESTRY

Members of Carty Port Community Company in attendance. A report on the background of the situation being experienced by the Company was circulated and read out by Mrs Shona Todd. In summary, around two years ago the Forestry Commission stated their intention to extract timber from the Moss of Cree Plantation, close to the properties lived in by members of Carty Port CC. After consultation between the Forestry Commission and members of the local community and others, various terms were agreed to allow this extraction, including subsequent re-planting in hardwood for amenity purposes. It now transpires that the Forestry Commission plan to market this forest and the local community residents are concerned that the terms of the agreement for extraction will not be enforced on the new owner.

CC agreed to write a letter to the Forestry Commission stating our support for members of the community and asking for an assurance that the Forestry Commission will enforce the terms of the original felling agreement as a condition of sale on the new owners. Copies of letter to be issued to James England Timber Transport Office D&G, Dr Aileen McCleod Minister for the Environment, Service Director @ D&G Council and Carty Port Community Company. **ACTION MATT KITSON AND JAK KANE.**

5 UPDATES & REPORTS

5A Wigtown Week WP

All going well. Dates confirmed from Sat 11- Sat 18 July. Wigtown School being asked this week if they can provide a princess. Once a princess has been found programmes will be issued. Insurance of approximately £300 to be divided between Wigtown Week activities and Common Riding. **ACTION DAVID MORAN AND NICK WALKER.** Old photo of Common Riding to be on front cover of Wigtown Week programme. It is hoped that the Common Riding will be able to be held during Wigtown Week next year. Thanks was expressed to Andrew Wilson for resurrecting Wigtown Common Riding and also to Wigtown Week organisers.

5B Consultations WP

Report previously circulated by Jak Kane. Report approved by CC.

Consultation on further extension of coverage of the Freedom of Information(Scotland) Jak Kane commented that CCs are currently not included within the FoI(S) at present.

5C Planning WP

Report previously circulated by Nick Walker. Report approved by CC.

Jak Kane previously circulated a report of the last meeting of the Shennanton Community Liaison Group (CLG). The earliest planning decision date is expected to be September/October 2015.

6 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Education Issue- It is proposed to hold an Area Committee Community Meeting to discuss Government cuts in Learning Support staffing hours over the next three years, however it's scope has been broadened to include the employment and retention of teachers in the west of D&G. Parents want to know what impact these cuts will have on their children and the number of hours of support which will be lost to their children. Nick Walker to attend meeting. **ACTION NICK WALKER.**

Fun Fair- Nick Walker has received an apology from D&G Council for their poor communication with Wigtown CC regarding possible siting of fun fair within Wigtown. It was hoped that Wigtown may be considered as a site for future visiting fun fairs.

Youth Representation- Rob Harford to ask pupils in his Driving School if interested. **ACTION ROB HARFORD.** Matt Kitson to ask Wigtown Book Festival's new Youth Co-Ordinator for assistance. **ACTION MATT KITSON.**

Community Resilience- Wigtown to be awarded approximately £1600.

Wigtown Parking & Bus Stop- No update.

Derelict Properties- 24 High Street, Wigtown to be discussed at meeting on 22 June 2015.

There are many derelict properties in D&G and there has been a meeting with the Chief Executive about a more consistent and robust approach.

Bulb area around Wigtown Bowling Green- Matt Kitson to speak to D&GC and ask for grass to be cut after liaising with Wigtown in Bloom. **ACTION MATT KITSON.**

Poppy Appeal Co-Ordinator- It was agreed to approach Val Spornagel of Wigtown Community Shop to ascertain whether volunteers at the Shop may be willing to take on responsibility for Poppy Appeal and whether a volunteer to be the co-ordinator may also be forthcoming. **ACTION NICK WALKER AND DAVID MORAN.**

7 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Road Closure for Riding of the Marches – South Main Street, Sunday 28th June, 7pm to 9pm. No objection.

Day of the Region 2015- No participation as the date clashes with the Wigtown Book Festival.

Funding & Information Roadshow- Thursday 2nd July There will be an opportunity to meet with major funding bodies. Councillors asked to feedback if they attend.

Wigtown Area Committee (Community) Meeting – On tourism and D&G Chamber of the Arts will be held at the Ryan Leisure Centre on Thursday 2nd July starting at 6:30pm.

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COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported on the following:-

Offer of Seat for Beddie Crescent Play Park- The original seat was found to be unsuitable by D&G

Council. Alan Bradley, D&GC has offered an alternative plastic seat and will advise when it can be installed.

Toilets- Space to be increased in Gents. Disabled Toilet to be upgraded.

Tree- needing attention in the town gardens. D&G attended but were unable to locate the problem.

ACTION Nick Walker and Jock McDowall to photograph and advise the Council.

High Voltage Power Line- 400kV line with 275kV in West proposed. Will pass north of Newton Stewart.

Meeting on Thursday 11th June 2015 at the McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart between 2pm and 8pm. Matt Kitson to attend meeting. **ACTION MATT KITSON.**

Beddie Crescent Play Park- Piece of equipment requiring repair has been fenced off. Cllr Jim McColm to approach D&GC to ask whether repair will be completed soon. **ACTION CLLR McCOLM.**

9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Wigtown CC are in possession of an old brass plaque and stamp found by Elizabeth Tyndall, D&G Council Countryside Ranger, in her office. Wigtown CC to contact Wigtown museum with a view to the museum holding the items. It was suggested that perhaps a display could be made to compliment them.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 July 2015, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings