

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY 11 MAY 2015 AT 7.30 PM**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT		
Robert Harford	Nick Walker, <i>Convenor</i>	David McAdam
Willie McCartney	Matt Kitson	Robin Richmond
IN ATTENDANCE		
June Robinson, <i>Mins Sec.</i>	Cllr Graham Nicol	Curtiss Wilson, <i>Free Press</i>
Joe McKeown	Nicola McFadzean, <i>Police Scotland</i>	Cllr Jim McColm
APOLOGIES		
John McDowall	Carl Davis	Jak Kane
David Moran	Gail Plunkett	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
Cllr Alistair Geddes		

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Nick Walker welcomed all to the meeting and noted apologies. Other business was intimated: impact of “Kist” markets; banners on railings.

2 POLICE MATTERS – Nicola McFadzean

Several crimes were reported since the last CC meeting. These were: vandalism to furniture and the roof of Wigtown Primary School; vandalism to the bird hide at the harbour; theft of chewing gum by shoplifting from Wigtown Co-Op (a positive line of enquiry is being followed); theft of money and alcohol from Wigtown Ploughman Hotel (for which three people have appeared in Court); and theft of fuel from farms (again charges have been laid in this case); Machinery and fuel theft, and shoplifting are prominent across rural Galloway at present; please be vigilant.

Minor antisocial behaviour in Wigtown reported at April CC meeting has abated.

Operation Zenith, national campaign to encourage improved motorcycle safety, is continuing.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS (13.4.2015)

Corrections were noted in item 2 (Operation Zenith was inadvertently referred to as Operation Senna), and item 4B (Wigtown Riding of the Marches date is Sunday 28 June 2015, not March as circulated).

Subject to these corrections, the minutes are adopted: prop. Robin Richmond, sec. David McAdam.

4 UPDATES & REPORTS

4A Annual General Meeting

Betty McGowan cannot now attend on Wednesday 3.6.2015, so agreed to hold AGM on Monday 8.6.2015, prior to the ordinary business of the June CC meeting. The presentation to Betty could happen at that meeting or on another occasion depending on her availability. Nick Walker reported that Briars Engravers is progressing with Betty's presentation gift.

AGM preparation of accounts is not yet complete, but Treasurer, David Moran, to circulate accounts to CC by email ahead of AGM / June meeting. **ACTION DAVID MORAN**

4B Finance & Resources WP

David Moran not present to report.

4C Community Festival Committee

Wigtown Week (11-17.7.2015) will have a similar number of events to 2014, with some other groups providing additional sessions. Further volunteers would be welcome. NEXT MEETING 14.5.2015.

The Common Riding (28.6.2015) arrangements are progressing well. Noted Area Committee approved funding towards this event from Wigtown Common Good Fund. NEXT MEETING 12.5.2015.

Nick Walker has approached insurers to quote for additional cover for Festival events.

4D Consultations WP

Jak Kane was not present. The four recent/current consultations were considered briefly.

Solway Flood Risk Management Plan – No additional comments.

Local Development Plan Supplementary Guidance – No additional comments.

Good Practice principles for shared ownership of onshore renewable energy developments – All encouraged to read document and pass comments to Jak Kane by the end of May, as response due 9.6.2015. Some comments have been passed on to Jak already. The importance of sound principles for working with developers to maximise benefits to the community for any projects which go ahead (irrespective of community views on projects' desirability) was emphasised.

Wigtown Bay Local Nature Reserve bye-law changes – Only comments were about motor vehicle access across the Crook of Baldoon which the proposed bye-laws appear to ban. Clearly there may need to be exceptions to this, such as utility providers, land-owners and emergency vehicles gaining access when necessary. This should be explicit in the bye-laws.

4E Planning WP

Report circulated prior to CC meeting:

Current applications

15/P/1/0070 EXTENSION TO HOUSE, TORHOUSEMUIR LODGE, WIGTOWN. Addition of second storey and extension to rear, with addition of porch.

Recommend – no submission.

Update on proposals

Nil

Wind farm proposals

15/P/1/0031 SHENNANTON WINDFARM.

Neutral submission completed per previous CC meeting.

15/P/2/0053 CALIFORNIA WINDFARM.

Objection lodged per previous CC meeting (copy previously circulated).

13/P/1/0366 AUCHLEAND WINDFARM. 7 turbines, 130 m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc. - Ongoing exchanges with statutory consultees.

Recommendations

CC approve report and its recommended actions.

Report was approved.

5 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Youth Representation – No update.

Community Resilience – Grant application noted at April CC meeting is for equipment storage. There is still no clarity about the Resilience Plans for the CC area. Agreed to invite Wendy Jesson to attend future meeting to update (possibly July).

Parking & Bus Stop – No update. Matt to pursue. **ACTION MATT KITSON.**

FOISA / DPA Issue – Nothing further has been received. No action required.

Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator – No offers received. Poppy ordering likely needed over summer. All encouraged to identify possible Appeal coordinators.

Derelict Property – 24 High Street, Wigtown – Alistair Speedie has provided an update indicating that the owner has agreed to visit, make water-tight, and consider plans for restoring to habitable state.

Alistair has agreed to maintain communications between the owner, and Cllr Geddes and Wigtown CC.

Teaching Support – The decision to cut Additional Support for Learning staff by approximately 11% over the next 3 years remains a concern to schools, parent councils, communities and CCs across Wigtownshire. The Broader Machars Federation of CCs agreed to ask the Education Dept to attend a meeting with CC delegates, Parent Council delegates and Elected D&G Cllrs, but the request was declined and appears non-negotiable, based on “previous consultation”. What consultation there was gave no meaningful information about the process or potential impact for individual areas. Cllr Nicol indicated that the Education Dept plan had been explained to Cllrs and that he had asked for an assurance that communities receive clear information about the changes. As this is not happening, CC resolved to ask Cllrs Nicol, Geddes and McColm, and the Area Framework Team to arrange an Education focused Area Committee (Community) meeting for Wigtownshire as soon as possible.

ACTION NICK WALKER

6 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, etc

Trees at Whauphill Hall – Rooks & jackdaws in trees cause problems during nesting. DGFirst agreed to prune back trees after nesting season.

Wigtown Public Toilets – D&GC has this on the list for future capital development. CC to ask for update on likely timing, and to seek assurance of direct involvement in plans.

70th Anniversary of VE Day – Notice of beacons across UK was received too late and too lacking detail to be of any use.

Lightlands Play Park – Some parents have asked if this area will be upgraded. D&GC could be approached about this, as part of the annual checks on play areas. As an alternative, a Playground group could be formed to develop plans and apply for funding for an upgrade; this is happening at Whauphill, and Whauphill CA may therefore be able to offer advice. Complaints of litter in the area and at the MUGA were noted. Litter is the responsibility of those who drop it, and Community Wardens may fine people for littering if apprehended. Reporting regular litter-bugs may help, as they could be contacted and reminded of the impact of their actions, even when evidence does not allow for a fine. DGFirst will attend to grass cutting in the area, and may gather litter at that time.

Beddie Crescent Play Park – A seat has been offered for this area and may be installed if D&GC is content that it is up to standard. There are reports of parents requesting a bench to use when accompanying children to the area. There is still one item of equipment out of use. Agreed this needs to be chased up. **ACTION MATT KITSON**

7 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Nicol reported that new doors are to be installed at Whauphill Hall, and that D&GC has agreed that the community may upgrade the toilets also.

Cllr McColm reported on recent Area Committee (Community) Meeting attended by Jeff Ace, Chief Executive, NHS D&G. After recent inspections of Galloway Community Hospital, several concerns about paperwork and care planning are reportedly improving. The Health Board sees GCH as having great potential and is addressing problems with appointment systems, etc. to ensure that people can attend there rather than at Dumfries where clinical issues do not warrant the more specialist DGRI environment. The Scottish Power Forum met in February 2015 and reported renovation of local electricity infrastructure continues on schedule. There are concerns though about lack of grid capacity to support renewable energy projects.

There had been some communications about a Fun Fair coming to Wigtown and using the lorry park, as the proposal to use the Riverside Carpark in Newton Stewart was turned down in the end. D&GC Cllrs were contacted by Nik Lane, D&GC Let Property Officer, but the CC was not contacted despite the advice that we should be. David Moran (Treasurer, but not a CCllr) was contacted; Carl Davis was

contacted as a local business person. Both recommended contacting the CC office bearers. The situation was somewhat urgent, but was not handled through established channels well known within D&GC. It gave the appearance of seeking agreement by stealth. CC resolved to make a formal complaint. In regard to the Fun Fair itself, CC noted mixed views and on balance agreed that having the Fun Fair in the town was a reasonable suggestion, potentially helping local businesses. However, there was widespread concern about the unsuitability of the lorry park as a venue; it is limited in size and may not accommodate the Fun Fair; it is surrounded on two sides by residences which are likely to be disturbed by noise (and possibly litter and antisocial behaviour) from the Fun Fair being present; there are recycling bins and “lock-up” garages in frequent use by residents and visitors; the Baptist church and the Quaker meeting house are accessed via the Lorry Park; there is considerable pedestrian traffic through the Lorry Park throughout the day, every day; and lorries use the Lorry Park at time too. Thus, CC resolved to oppose the Fun Fair being in the Lorry Park, and agreed to communicate this to D&GC, also noting that we would be supportive in principle if a suitable site was identified.

8 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Several comments had been received about posters, etc. on railings around the centre of Wigtown. CC was reminded that temporary notices about events are allowed (for a few weeks before the event) but ought to be removed within two weeks after the event. This is the responsibility of the event organisers and those who put up posters, etc. Anyone finding “expired notices” should contact the organiser and let the CC know.

Some comments have been received about events such as the Kist drawing business away from local retailers, especially on holiday weekends. Recently when this occurred the weather probably contributed too. Events such as the Kist do also bring people into the town. Businesses might consider forming an association to negotiate on such issues.

9 NEXT MEETING

AGM FOLLOWED BY BUSINESS MEETING:-

Monday 8 June 2015, at 7.30 pm, Wigtown County Buildings

Subsequent meetings:

13.7.2015; 10.8.2015; 14.8.2015; etc