

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2015**

[contact@WigtownCC.org.uk](mailto:contact@WigtownCC.org.uk)

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

**PRESENT**

Willie McCartney <i>Vice Convenor</i>	Jak Kane <i>Secretary</i>	Ann Gray
David Moran	David McAdam	Jock McDowall
Robin Richmond	Nick Walker	Joe McKeown

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Jim McColm	David McKay <i>Wigtown Free Press</i>
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**APOLOGIES**

Matt Kitson <i>Convenor</i>	Kerr Inger	Cllr Alistair Geddes
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Vice Convenor Willie McCartney chaired the meeting in the absence of Convenor, Matt Kitson.

**1 ADOPTION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL CONSTITUTION**

Jak Kane proposed that the Community Council should adopt the existing Constitution and this was seconded by Nick Walker. There were no other proposals and the motion was carried unanimously.

There being no other Business, the Extraordinary General Meeting was closed. An Ordinary meeting of Royal Burgh of Wigtown & District Community Council continued after the EGM was concluded

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Vice Convenor Willie McCartney continued in the chair.

**1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS**

Willie McCartney welcomed all to the regular Community Council meeting. Apologies were noted from Matt Kitson, Kerr Inger and Cllr Alistair Geddes. The only item put forward to be discussed under Other Business was the security implications of Wigtown's replacement street lighting.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

There was no Police report as Officers were not in attendance.

**3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 9 November 2015)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were adopted; proposed by Jock McDowall and seconded by Robin Richmond.

**4 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**A: Consultations WP**

Jak Kane explained that there were no new or forthcoming Consultations. The **Opportunity to Suggest New Development Sites** for Dumfries & Galloway Council's new Local Development Plan (with a closing date of 29 January) had been included in the November report. While he did not think that the Community Council need take a stance, he would bring the consultation to the attention of Andrew Plunkett & Company who might want to suggest the boundaries of the Conservation Area around Bladnoch Bridge Estate could be redrawn to ease development in the future. Jak had also thought that the consultation might offer the opportunity to have the development status of Southfield Park, the former Wigtown Showground, to be reclassified to ease a potential transfer to community ownership for amenity use. The proposed housing development by 3B Construction had not made any progress since planning consent was given in 2008. Cllr McColm pointed out that the 34-house project would potentially provide much-needed housing development in the town with just under a quarter of the scheme being provided as affordable housing. Jak undertook to bring more information to the January meeting. **ACTION JAK KANE**

**B: Planning WP**

A report had been previously circulated by Nick Walker (see Appendix A). Report approved.

**Erection of dwellinghouse, site adj. to Sunnybrae, Botany Street, Wigtown.** Nick explained that he had been unable to access detailed information on this application from DGC's e-Planning system as it had been shut down due to a security problem. It was agreed that, as the application was only for Planning permission in principle, the Community Council would make no submission at this stage.

**Installation of ATM and display of non-illuminated sign to front elevation, Co-op Store, 30 North Main Street, Wigtown.** The report highlighted a number of reasons on why the proposed installation of a third ATM in Wigtown was not justified and it was agreed that the Community Council should object to the applications for planning permission, listed building consent and conservation area advertising signage approval. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

Following the restoration of the California Met Mast, the associated light was much brighter and more obtrusive across Wigtown Bay. It was agreed that the issue would be raised with the Planning Department. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

**C: Louis McGuffie VC Commemoration Working Group**

Nick Walker advised that the next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for end of January 2016. The resiting of the bus shelter and related works should be going ahead early in the New Year.

**6 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Derelict Properties – 24 High Street:** Robin Richmond was not aware of any progress. Cllr Geddes had contacted DGC's Alistair Speedie on 9 December to ask for another update but no reply had been forthcoming as yet.

**Broader Machars Federation** – Nick Walker had circulated the minutes of the Federation's meeting of 24 November when it had reconvened following the recent Community Council elections.

Four of the nine Community Councils had taken part and agreed a way forward. The next meeting of the Federation had been scheduled for 13 January.

**Community Resilience** – Jock McDowall advised that he had ascertained that the cost of acquiring a large container to provide storage space for resilience equipment would be in the region of £1,000 plus VAT. Nick Walker had been advised by DGC's planners that permission for siting the container would be temporary for a maximum of five years.

## 8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Correspondence received and not already covered previously in the meeting included:

- DGC – The Area Framework Team had provided a copy of the Community Council Handbook and an evaluation form for the DGC Induction training given at the first meeting. It was agreed that Jak should obtain a pdf copy of the Handbook and circulate it to each of the Community Councillors. A response for the evaluation form would be elicited from the new Councillors (viz. Ann Gray, Joe McKeown and Kerr Inger) and a collated reply provided. It should also be suggested to the Council that a longer dedicated induction session should be arranged for all new Community Councillors particularly those representing new reformed Community Councils. **ACTION JAK KANE**
- DGC - Chewing Gum Removal within Wigtown Area. Wigtown Area Committee had considered a report on Chewing Gum Removal in Newton Stewart, Stranraer, Whithorn & Wigtown Town Centres as part of a project with a total cost of £32,000 for work in 13 major settlements across D&G. Funding had not yet been identified but the Area Committee wanted relevant Community Councils' feedback/comment. It was generally agreed that the project was a good idea but would not necessarily eradicate the problem as the culprits would most likely reoffend. **ACTION JAK KANE**
- R Arkless MP – A letter had been received asking the Community Council to confirm that it had no concerns and was supportive of Shennanton Wind Farm. It was agreed that Nick Walker should reply confirming the position already taken in response to the Planning Application. **ACTION NICK WALKER**
- Wigtown Community Shop – A letter had been received confirming that the Community Shop Committee had made a £500 award towards the cost of Wigtown's Christmas lights. It was agreed that Willie McCartney and Jock McDowall would represent the Community Council at the Presentation evening on 17 December. **ACTION WILLIE MCCARTNEY/JOCK MCDOWALL**
- SP Energy Networks – SPEN had held a Drop In Session at Whauphill Hall on 8th December to provide info on a project that would see 11km of overhead powerline replaced. The line runs from the substation at Macher Stuart up through Whauphill Village itself. Ground works will start in December with the major works getting completed in the first quarter of 2016.
- Poppyscotland - A certificate had been received recognising the contribution of £684.42 raised in the recent collection. It was agreed that the Certificate would be passed to Wigtown Community Shop who had organised the collection. **ACTION JAK KANE**

## 9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported that the Wigtown Area Committee had convened a Community Meeting on the Draft Locality Plan for Health & Social Care Integration. The future of Darataigh dementia unit that had been closed temporarily because repairs had to be carried out to the boiler had also been added to the agenda. There was a suggestion that the closure could become permanent, meaning a 75-mile trip to Dumfries for family members wanting to visit, and concern at the lack of consultation into the site's future.

He advised that the Council was concerned that its Support Grant would be substantially less than expected following the Government's Official Spending Review on 16 December. It was feared that the need for Council budget savings could be increased from the current £8m to maybe £19m.

Finally he said that the Council was now looking to implement a redesigned waste recycling system

in response to the project overspend in Wigtownshire.

**10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

The annual grant payment to cover the cost of Christmas lighting in Wigtown, Kirkinner and Whauphill had been received. David Moran would send the relevant payment to Whauphill Community Association. Jak Kane would find out if there would be a Christmas tree to light in Kirkinner given the absence of a Community Association. **ACTION DAVID MORAN/JAK KANE**

It was reported that in areas of Wigtown the light provided by the replacement LED street lamps was deficient, particularly exacerbated by the distance between lamps and the width of North and South Main Streets. Cllr McColm would take the issue up with the relevant Council department.

**11 NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, 11 January 2016, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings**

## Appendix A. Planning Working Party Report For Full Comm. Council 12.10.2015

**Members** – Willie McCartney, Robin Richmond, Nick Walker

### Current applications

- 15/M/1/0004 FELLING 2 ELMS AND 1 OAK, BLADNOCH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE. Linked to 15/P/1/0226 & 0227. **Recommend** – No submission.
- 15/P/1/0280 PLANNING IN PRINCIPLE – ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE, SITE ADJ. TO SUNNYBRAE, BOTANY STREET, WIGTOWN. *Awaiting information from D&GC as e-Planning system inoperative.* **Recommend** – Consider possible submission.
- 15/P/1/0298 ALTERATION AND FORMATION OF FIRST FLOOR ACCOMMODATION ABOVE EXISTING GARAGE, HILLVIEW, MAIN STREET, KIRKINNER. **Recommend** – No submission.
- 15/P/1/0288 & 15/P/1/0289 & 15/A/1/0009 INSTALLATION OF ATM AND DISPLAY OF NON-ILLUMINATED SIGN TO FRONT ELEVATION, CO-OP STORE, 30 NORTH MAIN STREET, WIGTOWN. These applications cover planning permission, listed building consent and conservation area advertising signage approval for an ATM in the window to the left of the main entrance to the Co-op Store in Wigtown. This is a listed building, renovated in September 2014, and is in the conservation area. CC should consider the need for another ATM, since listed building, conservation area development should be in keeping unless justified on the basis of need. Wigtown has two ATMs already. When there was one, it ran out of cash periodically (especially during the Book Festival) and it broke down occasionally. Now that there are two, there have been only rare technical problems (usually related to electricity and telecom services which are likely to affect all systems) and complaints about lack of cash availability have ceased. Therefore there is no indication that a third ATM is needed in Wigtown. In addition, the Co-op is open long hours and “cash back” is available in store when purchasing with a debit card; and a third ATM may have a detrimental effect on the businesses which have ATMs in Wigtown at present, potentially jeopardising Bank and Post Office provision. **Recommend** – submit objection on basis that there is no justification for a third ATM.

### Update on general applications

- 15/P/1/0226 EXTENSION TO WORKSHOP, UNIT 2A, BLADNOCH BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WIGTOWN.
- 15/P/1/0227 ERECTION OF STEEL FRAMED INDUSTRIAL BUILDING, CAR PARKING, STORAGE AREA, BLADNOCH BRIDGE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, WIGTOWN. **Update:** Submissions in support per CC meeting 9.11.2015, with request for heavy traffic diversion to avoid centre of Wigtown and residential area of Bladnoch.
- 15/P/1/0197 ERECTION OF DISTILLERY AND ASSOC. BUILDINGS, SEPTIC TANK, PARKING (10 spaces), ETC., OFF A714, BY BARHILL FARM, NEWTON STEWART. **Update:** Nil.

### Renewable energy proposals

- 15/P/1/0031 SHENNANTON WINDFARM, NEWTON STEWART. 12 turbines, 100m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc. **Update:** Comm. Liaison Group met 23.11.2015. Likely Planning Application Committee consideration in January 2016. Some info. on potential for partial community ownership has been provided. **Recommend:** note; refer Elected D&GC Councillors to CC submission on application; defer further consideration until PAC decision.
- 15/P/2/0053 CALIFORNIA WINDFARM, CARSLUITH. **Update:** Nil.
- 13/P/1/0366 AUCHLEAND WINDFARM, WIGTOWN. **Update:** Nil.
- 15/E/1/0008 SOLAR PANEL FARM, BALDOON. **Update:** nil.

### ACTION

Note report. Support recommendations. Consider response re 15/P/1/0280. **Nick Walker 10.12.2015**