

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

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Matt Kitson <i>Convenor</i>	Willie McCartney <i>Vice Convenor</i>	Jak Kane <i>Secretary</i>
Rob Harford	Kerr Inger	David McAdam
Jock McDowall	Joe McKeown	Robin Richmond
	Nick Walker	

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm	David McKay <i>Wigtown Free Press</i>	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>
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APOLOGIES

Ann Gray	David Moran	Cllr Alistair Geddes
Cllr Graham Nicol		

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Matt Kitson welcomed those present to the first Community Council meeting of 2016. Apologies were noted from Ann Gray, David Moran and Cllrs Alistair Geddes and Graham Nicol. The only item put forward to be discussed under Other Business was the issue of dog fouling.

2 POLICE MATTERS

Jak Kane advised that he had been contacted by the Police immediately prior to the meeting to advise that they would be delayed as they were due to interview an individual but they expected to be able to attend before the end of the meeting. (*No police presence later in the meeting*)

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 14 December 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

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting (see Appendix A). Jak Kane had provided additional information on the proposed development of Southfield Park and Nick Walker said that he had written to the Planning Department to ask for an update on the status of the original application as the e-Planning site on dumgal.gov.uk had the status marked as withdrawn. He suspected that planning approval was never finally given due to conditions not being fulfilled and that any proposal to develop the site (albeit designated for housing in the development plan) would require a new application. It was agreed that a letter be sent to 3B Construction to ascertain their plans and related timescale for the site. **ACTION JAK KANE**

The Scottish Government's **2015 Consultation on Management of Inshore Special Areas of Conservation and Marine Protected Areas** had originally been scheduled for Summer 2015 but had been delayed until Winter 2015/16

B: Planning WP

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

Nick said that, following the previous Community Council meeting, he had contacted DGC's Planning Department re the reported issue of a bright light emanating from the California Windfarm met mast. It transpired that this was a non-issue as the damaged met mast had still to be replaced

so there could be no associated light.

C: Louis McGuffie VC Commemoration Working Group

Nick Walker advised that the next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for 26 January 2016.

6 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Derelict Properties – 24 High Street: No progress to report. It was agreed that a letter be sent to Alistair Speedie asking that the Council take immediate action to move this issue to a positive resolution.

Broader Machars Federation – The next meeting of the Federation was scheduled for 13 January.

Community Resilience – It was agreed that the costs of purchase of a new container and installation of insulation and boarding out, lights and solar panels should be identified. Nick Walker would submit a preplanning application or the temporary siting of the container. **ACTION – NICK WALKER**

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Wigtown Community Shop/PoppyScotland– A letter had been sent to the Committee of the Community Shop enclosing the certificate that recognised the community's contribution to the annual collection and adding the Community Council's thanks to the Committee for taking over responsibility for the collection. The letter also sent the Community Council's thanks for the Community Shop's recent £500 award towards the Christmas Lights.

DGC - Chewing Gum Removal within Wigtown Area – a response had been sent as per previous meeting's decision that, while Wigtown's inclusion in the project would be welcome if funding could be found, it was felt that it would not necessarily eradicate the problem as the culprits would most likely reoffend.

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

- Changes to Wigtown Post Office - a letter had been received advising of proposed changes to the Post Office including: services being offered from a low-screened service point integrated into the retail counter; and extended opening hours allied to the newsagent's opening hours including lunchtime and Sundays. There will be no reduction in the Post Office services and products on offer except for the seven days when the facility will be closed while the refurbishment work was being carried out in March/April 2016 and the Newton Stewart Post Office would be the nearest alternative. The Post Office was asking for stakeholders to tell them what they thought about the proposals including the 'new-look Post Office' but no floorplans would be available before the work was carried out. It was agreed that the Community Council was in favour of the proposals re increased hours and improved accessibility but the priority needed to be that nothing should be done that would reduce the profitability and future viability of the overall business.
- The Secretary had circulated a digital version of DG Change's Winter 2015 newsletter which included general news and information about the new General Hospital project. Hard copies were made available at the meeting.
- DGC's Area Framework Service Manager had sent details of two forthcoming Wigtown Area Committee Community Meetings: 'Mental Health Services, Darataigh and Respite Services' on Wednesday, 27 January 2016 – 7.15pm - Main Hall, Stranraer Academy; and 'Dental Services in Newton Stewart' on Thursday, 11 February 2016 – 6.30pm – Douglas Ewart High School, Newton Stewart.
- It was reported that, despite earlier assurances that no decision would be made pending further consultation, NHS Dumfries & Galloway had written to patients of the Newton Stewart Dental Clinic confirming that its Board had agreed to the withdrawal of services at the clinic with closure in late summer 2016.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm confirmed that he had raised the issue of deficient replacement LED street lighting with the relevant Council Department and problems should be brought to the attention of Street Lighting Team Leader, Colin Edgar who potentially had funding in place for additional lights in areas suffering because of the spotlight effect of the new lamps.

He reported that the Wigtown Area Committee Community Meeting convened to discuss Mental Health Services had been a result of Councillors' reservations about NHS proposals for delivery of mental health provision connected with dementia patients which would see provision at Darataigh redeployed and support given to support patients at home or in local care homes. The strategy does not seem to cover patients with acute symptoms.

He also advised that details of Scottish public spending plans for 2016-17 (normally published in September) had been delayed by several months because the UK government's spending review had not been released until mid-December. This had a knock-on effect on the Council's budget setting and the Council was now looking at possible saving options for 4.5% from its overall budget. However this equated to savings of £21M from circa £150M because the HSCI and Education budgets would be protected.

10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There had been yet another report of problems with dog fouling, in particular on the footpath from the front of Dunure in Station Road towards the start of Seaview and in Smith Terrace. The issue had been raised with the Community Safety Team who had asked for further info such as descriptions of dogs/owners who may be responsible and also times when this is happening, to allow them to be in the area at the right time.

It was noted that the co-option of Kerr Inger as a Community Councillor had still to be processed and Nick Walker undertook to ascertain the necessary details including Electoral Numbers for Kerr and his proposer, Willie McCartney so that the proposal could be considered at the next meeting.

Matt Kitson advised that he had arranged a Community Volunteers day on Saturday 30th January – 10am to 2pm to commemorate 100 years since the introduction of conscription during the First World War. The 'Your Community Needs You' day would see local community groups setting out a stall in the County Buildings and, rather than being conscripted, people would attend, find out about the wide variety of groups and perhaps 'sign up' as a volunteer.

11 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 8 February 2016, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings

Nick Walker intimated his apologies that he would be unable to attend as he would be in New Zealand.

Appendix A. Consultations Working Party Report – January 2016

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

- a) **Opportunity to Suggest New Development Sites** – Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 29 January 2016

The Council is preparing a new Local Development Plan (LDP2) for adoption in 2019. As part of this process, it has launched a Call for Sites and Comments stage where the Council is inviting all members of the public, landowners, developers and any others with any interest in development in the region to send in details of potential development sites that they would like to see included in LDP2. This could be land for housing or business development and must be within or next to the settlement boundaries that are shown in the current LDP.

More details are available at www.dumgal.gov.uk/LDP.

Following the last CC meeting, details of consultation were sent to Andrew Plunkett re Bladnoch Bridge Estate's relationship with the conservation area.

The suggestion was also made at the December meeting that consideration should be given to the status of Southfield Park and Jak undertook to provide additional information. The documents linked to the planning applications are no longer available on the Council's planning portal. 3B

Construction was granted Outline Consent in 1989 for erection of 18 houses on Southfield Park. The scheme evolved and planning permission was subsequently granted in 2008 for erection of 34 houses comprising eighteen semi-detached, ten detached with integral garages, and six detached with detached garage. Nine of the houses would be 'affordable' by being sold at a 15 per cent discount. The 3B board at the site also confirms the provision of a public park that would see a third of its grassland retained to be used as a park which would be maintained throughout the year.

The application was subject to a special meeting of Wigtown and District Community Council back in 2007 and it agreed to raise no objection to the plans, subject to the lowering of three proposed houses' roofs to save the view across the field towards the sea and that it be noted there are parking concerns for Harbour Street.

FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

- a) **2015 consultation on Management of Inshore Special Areas of Conservation and Marine Protected Areas** – Scottish Government. Scheduled for Winter 2015/16

This consultation proposes possible fisheries management approaches for 14 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and 6 Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). This follows on from a similar consultation in 2014. The SACs are protected by provisions in the EU Habitats Directive. The MPAs are protected by provisions in the Marine (Scotland) Act 2010. A number of Special Protection Areas (SPAs) under the EU Wild Birds Directive are also likely to benefit from the proposals if implemented.

Appendix B. Planning Working Party Report For Full Comm. Council 12.10.2015

Members – Willie McCartney, Robin Richmond, Nick Walker

Current applications

- 15/P/1/0300 ALTERATION TO FORM FLAT, UNIT 9 BLADNOCH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE.
Recommend – No submission.
- 15/P/1/0314 ALTERATION TO OUTBUILDING TO EXTEND DWELLINGHOUSE, 5 NORTH MAIN STREET, WIGTOWN. **Recommend** – No submission.

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: Expected Planning Applications Committee 1/2016.
- 15/P/1/0197 ERECTION OF DISTILLERY AND ASSOC. BUILDINGS, SEPTIC TANK, PARKING (10 spaces), ETC., OFF A714, BY BARHILL FARM, NEWTON STEWART. **Update:** Expected Planning Applications Committee 1/2016.
- 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. **Update:** Objection submitted per CC meeting 14.12.2015.

Renewable energy proposals

- 15/P/1/0031 SHENNANTON WINDFARM, NEWTON STEWART. 12 turbines, 100m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc. **Update:** Expected Planning Application Committee 1/2016.
- 15/P/2/0053 CALIFORNIA WINDFARM, CARSLUITH. 7 turbines, 110m to blade tip, structures, etc. **Update:** Nil.
- 13/P/1/0366 AUCHLEAND WINDFARM, WIGTOWN. 7 turbines, 130 m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc. **Update:** Nil.

ACTION

Note report. Agree recommendations.

Nick Walker 4.1.2016