

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF ORDINARY MEETING  
HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2016**

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

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

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

Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Graham Nicol
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**1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES & CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS**

Matt Kitson welcomed those present to the Community Council meeting. Apologies were noted from Cllr Alistair Geddes and Cllr Graham Nicol. Items put forward to be discussed under Other Business included the current state of the road surface with potholes in Station Road and the commemoration of the Battle of the Somme.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

A police sergeant was in attendance and advised that there were no incidents in Wigtown to report. However, there had been a recent break-in Newton Stewart and he advised that advice on home security is available from Crime Reduction Officer, PC Billy Dodds.

**3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 8 February 2016)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were adopted; proposed by Willie McCartney and seconded by Kerr Inger.

**4 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**A: Consultations WP**

Jak explained that there were four current consultations that were in some way relevant to the Community Council area:

- SWestrans had commissioned research which would include looking at transport problems which affect the Dunragit/Glenluce/The Machars/Newton Stewart area including the possibility of introducing a new railway station to serve the area.
- MarineScotland were consulting on landing controls for the Scottish crab and lobster fisheries that it proposes to introduce around the entire Scottish coast. Having said that, the maps and data included in the document did not include the Solway coast and the western Scottish coast ended at the Ayrshire border. Jak said that he had contacted Marine Scotland to clarify why this would be the case.
- The Scottish Government, via Bòrd na Gàidhlig had compelled Dumfries & Galloway Council to develop a Gaelic Language Plan by early 2016 and the Council was consulting on their draft plan. Jak had contacted Andrew Wilson, a Gaelic speaker, teacher and former Gaelic Development Officer who advised that he had been consulted at an earlier stage, when he had suggested that it might be an idea for the authors to speak to local community group Gàidhlig Dumgal, and the pre-school group Bìodain. There was a

reference to both groups in the Gaelic Plan but no mention in the Action Plans despite their involvement in Gaelic development through organisation of Gaelic days, Fèis days, classes, song classes etc. The document confirms that both "stakeholder groups had been consulted during the consultation process" but Andrew saw no mention or evidence of change as a result of their responses. He suggested that there was no need for the Community Council to respond.

- SNH were consulting on the next 10-year management plan for Cairnsmore of Fleet NNR. Cairnsmore of Fleet National Nature Reserve (NNR). SNH planned to hold two drop in events during the consultation - Gatehouse of Fleet Community Centre on Friday 8 April; and Creetown Gem Rock Museum on Friday 15 April.

## **B: Planning WP**

Nick Walker had circulated a report providing information on new applications and updates on previous applications considered and Renewable Energy proposals. The report and the Working Party's recommendations were approved.

.Nick explained that, despite the Community Council's objection to the installation of an ATM in the Co-op on the basis of over-provision with two ATMs already in situ in Wigtown, the planning application had been approved. Nick had been told that evidence of demand or lack of demand was not a planning issue. He also advised that it was now expected that there could be progress with the Auchleand Windfarm application by May 2016.power line.

Nick also advised that there had been two further applications submitted subsequent to the report being sent out. One from SP Energy Networks related to the replacement of the existing 11,000 volt wood pole mounted overhead line on the Baldoon sector of the Newton Stewart to Sorbie power line. The other related to renovation works to B Listed Dunure in Station Road. It was agreed that the Community Council would make no formal response to either.

Cllr McColm took no part in the discussion on planning issues.

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

Nick confirmed that the next meeting of the Working Group had been scheduled for 21 March 2016. As there had been no response from Steve Dowling re the design and related costs of the proposed gateway to the gardens, Nick had met with local sculptor, Jack Sloan to ascertain if he would be interested in providing a design. Having looked at the existing gateway and the impact of the newly installed bus shelter, Jack Sloan said that the site already looked crowded and he would only be willing to provide a design for a gateway if it was the one opposite the County Buildings.

Regarding the replacement bus shelter, it was agreed that the shelter installed was not the one selected by the Community Council at the consultation stage and it had been installed in the wrong place as it impinged on the gateway to the gardens. It was agreed that a letter be sent to SWestrans asking that these anomalies be rectified. **ACTION: Matt Kitson**

## **5 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING**

**Derelict Properties:** Cllr Geddes had advised that he was pressing the Council to push for exterior work be carried out.

**Broader Machars Federation** – Nick Walker advised that the Federation had met on 9 March when there had a brief discussion about the proposed California Windfarm. It had been arranged that Richard Arkles MP would be speaking at the Federation's AGM end of May/June 2016.

**Community Resilience** – Matt Kitson advised that to date there had only been two names submitted in response to the call for volunteers.

**Dumgal Against Pylons (DAP)**– It was agreed that the Community Council should add its name to the joint letter of objection to SPEN's Strategic Reinforcement Project, although it was noted that DAP's counter-proposal concentrated on minimising the impact east of Newton Stewart - with less regard to the route West.

**6 WIGTOWN WEEK**

Matt Kitson advised that it was proposed to celebrate Wigtown Week on 2-9 July 2016 and it was hoped that the Riding of the Marches could be incorporated around the crowning of the Princess

**7 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

**Area Committee Community Meeting – Zero Waste/Recycling** - A Community Meeting had been convened to discuss the review of the Wigtownshire recycling scheme and the trial of a revised service in the Newton Stewart area. The meeting would be held in the DEHS, Newton Stewart on Wednesday, 23 March.

**Grass cutting in closed Cemeteries** – DGC’s Head of Civic and Local Services had written to advise that from 1 April 2016 the grass in ‘closed cemeteries’ will be cut by the Community Payback Team, overseen by the Council’s Criminal Justice Service. The cemetery at St Kennera Church in Kirkinner was the only cemetery affected in the local area.

**HM Queen Elizabeth II 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Commemorative Medal for Schools and Councils**– Tower Mint Ltd offered to sell copies of a collector medal at a cost of £1.99 each with a minimum order of 50.

**8 COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES**

Cllr McColm advised that Dumfries and Galloway Council had reduced the revenue budget available to SWestrans for the provision of “socially necessary local bus services” by £315,000. SWestrans had subsequently considered ways to achieve the required savings and it was proposing to reduce some local bus services (including the 415 Machars – Newton Stewart service) by removing all Sunday journeys and all Monday to Saturday journeys after 6pm and by cancelling the Stranraer to Cairnryan service.

Cllr McColm also advised that there had been a Transport meeting to discuss the condition and ongoing closures of the A75 and A77.

**9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

Kerr Inger highlighted surface condition issues the length of Station Road.

Nick Walker had circulated copies of email correspondence re Wigtown Fairtrade Group and, while it appeared that there was sufficient activity and interest, there was a need for the activities to be collated to provide the monitoring and feedback information required to maintain the Fairtrade status.

Matt Kitson advised that he had suggested a meeting to organise a vigil to commemorate the centenary of the Battle of the Somme. The event could comprise readings from War time diaries and newspapers, and look at some educational way to commemorate the event – like recreating a WWI trench experience in the County Buildings’ Viewing Room. The Battle started on 1 July 1916 and there will be vigils held across the country on 1 July 2016 to coincide with a major memorial event in France.

**10 NEXT MEETING**

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

Appendix A. Consultations Working Party Report – March 2016

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

CONSULTATIONS WORKING PARTY – March 2016

**CURRENT CONSULTATIONS**

a) Transport Surveys – SWestrans. Closing date – 27 May 2016

SWestrans (the Transport Partnership for Dumfries and Galloway) has aspirations for rail station re-openings for the Thornhill, Eastriggs, Dunragit/Glenluce./Newton Stewart/The Machars and Beattock areas. Peter Brett Associates have been commissioned to undertake Sustainable Transport Options Studies and the initial stage in the appraisal involves identification of transport problems which affect the area and the surrounding communities on a day to day basis. They are also looking at the potential opportunities that could be realised through improved transport.

Peter Brett Associates is currently analysing evidence of transport problems and identifying future opportunities across the areas. They would like the opinions of the local community to supplement their research.

Individuals can complete one or more of the online surveys.

- [Eastriggs transport study](#)
- [Thornhill transport study](#)
- [Dunragit/Glenluce/The Machars/Newton Stewart transport study](#)
- [Beattock transport study.](#)

b) Consultation on landing controls for the Scottish crab and lobster fisheries – Marine Scotland. Closing date: 20 May 2016

<https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/marine-scotland/crab-lobster-landing-controls>

Scotland's brown crab, velvet crab and lobster fisheries are of great importance to many coastal communities with landings worth £32 million being recorded in 2014. The Scottish fishing industry has expressed growing concern at the health of these fisheries and called for their management to be improved. The island communities of Orkney, the Outer Hebrides and Shetland have already introduced individual management arrangements for their crab and lobster fisheries. Marine Scotland is seeking views on landing controls that it proposes to introduce throughout the rest of the Scottish coast.

These measures are as follows:

- increasing the minimum landing size for brown crab, velvet crab and lobster
- decreasing the maximum landing size for female lobster and introducing a maximum landing size for male lobster
- prohibiting the landing of berried (egg bearing) velvet crab
- prohibiting the landing of 'crippled' lobsters (those missing one or both claws)
- introducing prohibitions on sale and carriage to match any landing prohibitions that are implemented on a uniform basis across the entire Scottish coast

Calls for new landing controls have been made from right around the Scottish coast. However, Marine Scotland is aware that some fishermen may feel that the proposed measures may not be appropriate for their respective areas. They have therefore provided opportunities in the consultation for respondents to suggest areas where any new arrangements should not be introduced. Having said that, the maps and data provided in the consultation document do not include the Solway fisheries and the western Scottish coast seems to stop at the Ayrshire border.

c) Gaelic Language Plan – Dumfries & Galloway Council. Closing date: 18 April

This consultation is a part of the process of developing DGC's Gaelic language plan, now in draft form. An official letter of notification from Bòrd na Gàidhlig has been received by the Council, asking that they develop a plan by early 2016. Under the Gaelic Language Act (Scotland) 2005, there is a statutory requirement for all public bodies in Scotland to draw up such a plan.

-  [Read the Gaelic language plan in English \[286kb\]](#)

Appendix B. Planning Working Party Report 14.3.16

**ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
PLANNING WORKING PARTY REPORT FOR FULL COMM. COUNCIL 14.3.2016**

**Members** - Willie McCartney, Robin Richmond, Nick Walker.

**New applications**

**16/P/1/0023 ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE** (planning in principle), SUNNYBRAE, HIGH STREET, WIGTOWN. Note prev. application 15/P/1/0280 was withdrawn; CC had opted not to make a submission at that stage. This proposal is similar but gives greater detail and includes off street parking for the proposed house and the existing house on the property. Note two objections from neighbours.

**RECOMMEND** – Consider proposal and whether to make formal submission; suggest again no submission at this stage.

**16/A/1/0002 & 16/P/1/0019 REPAINTING AND ERECTION OF NON-ILLUMINATED SIGNAGE, PLOUGHMAN HOTEL, WIGTOWN.**

**RECOMMEND** – No submission.

**16/P/1/0028 ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE, ETC., CRAIGMOUNT, HIGH STREET, WIGTOWN.** New house at site of former United Presbyterian Church. Concerns about possible burials in churchyard with proposal for archaeological assessment prior to development if consent given. Concern with previous application to address conditions on planning in principle granted on appeal (12/P/1/0292) about shared access from entrance to Craigmount from High Street / Fountainblue, effect on surrounding trees and impact on approach to conservation area from Trammondford Park, but CC decided to make no formal submission; D&GC approved that application but no development has taken place. This is a new proposal which has similar access and other issues.

**RECOMMEND** – Consider proposal and whether to make formal submission.

**Update on applications**

**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** – Planning Application Committee approved 23.2.2016.

**Renewable energy proposals**

**15/P/1/0031 SHENNANTON WINDFARM, NEWTON STEWART.**

12 turbines, 100m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc.

**UPDATE:** Appealing to Scottish Government. **RECOMMEND:** no submission, as neutral submission made to D&GC which will be included in documents provided to Reporter.

**15/P/2/0053 CALIFORNIA WINDFARM, CARSLUTH.**

7 turbines, 110m to blade tip, structures, etc.

**UPDATE:** Appeal in process. CC submission to Scottish Government per CC meeting 8.2.2016.

**13/P/1/0366 AUCHLEAND WINDFARM, WIGTOWN.**

7 turbines, 130 m to blade tip, ancillary structures, etc. **UPDATE:** Nil.

**ACTION**

Note report. Agree recommendations. Consider specific applications.

**Nick Walker 8.3.2016**