

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS**

13 June 2016

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

David Moran	Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Jim McColm
Tamsin Tyeson, <i>Free Press</i>	6 community members	Police Scotland

APOLOGIES

Cllr Graham Nicol

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Matt Kitson welcomed all to the meeting including members of the community who had attended to voice their concerns at the proposed reduction of provision at the Wigtown GP practice following the announced merger with the Merrick and Kirkcowan practices. He indicated that the issue would be added to the agenda after 'Approval of Minutes'. It was noted that Cllr Nicol had intimated his apologies for absence. Issues to be discussed under Other Business included Harbour path and Community Notice board.

2 POLICE MATTERS

Two Police officers attended the meeting and advised that noise complaints at the Galloway Inn had resulted in increased police visits. A meeting had been held with the licensee to discuss noise particularly disturbance outside the premises after hours. They had no further information or incidents to report on.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 9 May 2016)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated and were adopted, proposed by Robin Richmond and seconded by Nick Walker.

*** WIGTOWN MEDICAL PRACTICE**

An issue had arisen following notices being issued to patients registered at the practice informing them of the impending merger of the Wigtown & Merrick practices where patients would only be able to have morning appointments in Wigtown and later appointments elsewhere.

A full discussion followed with contributions from members of the community and the principal concerns were summarised as:

1. The lack of any consultation in the design of future provision of GP services by the new Practice;
2. The impact of these plans on the elderly and other vulnerable members of the community including accessibility issues.
3. The impact on waiting times.
4. The future level of access to other services at the surgery such as the Nurse Practitioner, Midwifery and District Nursing.
5. The long term plans for the surgery.
6. The impact on the local chemist services.

It was agreed that a letter be sent inviting the Medical Director of NHS Dumfries & Galloway, the Health and Social Care Locality Manager and a representative of the Galloway Hills Medical Group to a meeting to discuss alternatives to the current plans as outlined in the aforementioned notice. Local Authority Councillors on Wigtown Area Committee would also be included as they have locus, particularly as Newton Stewart and Garlieston residents currently find themselves without the benefit and support of a Community Council. The officials would be given the option of the next meeting of the Community Council but a separate meeting would be convened if necessary.

(see APPENDIX C for copy of letter sent)

ACTION JAK KANE

4 UPDATES & REPORTS

1: Consultations WP

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting (see Appendix A). Jak explained that no response was submitted to either of the Community Empowerment Act consultations. The only other Government consultations of interest were on the proposed registration of 'Forfar Bridies' and 'Ayrshire Potatoes' as Protected Geographical Indications under the EU Protected Food Name Scheme., t

2: Planning WP

A report had been previously circulated by Nick Walker (see Appendix B). Nick advised that there were no new applications and no updates on earlier applications or Renewable Energy proposals. Report approved.

3: Louis McGuffie VC Commemoration Working Group (inc Parking & Bus Stop) The next meeting of the Working Group was scheduled for July 2016. In connection with Parking and the Bus shelter, Douglas Kirkpatrick, DGC's Service Manager Sustainable Travel had confirmed that his department would be working up parking proposals with advice from Police Scotland and Roads Department and would come back to the Community Council with a report.

6 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Derelict Properties – Alistair Geddes advised that he was still waiting to hear from James Shirazi, DGHP's Director of Investment and Regeneration re the stalled redevelopment of the property on North Main Street and in the absence of a response would be escalating the issue to DGHP's Chief Executive, Zoe Foster. **ACTION CLLR A GEDDES**

No action had resulted in the Community Council's repeated request that the Council issue a Section 179 Notice in connection with a property in High Street despite no timescale being attributed to the contract for the building's alleged redevelopment. Matt Kitson had written to Jim O'Neil, Strategic Housing Officer copying in the Chief Executive. It was suggested that the issue be raised with MP/MSPs.

Machars Federation – Nick Walker said that the Federation's AGM was held on 3 June in the County Buildings. At the AGM the Federation's constitution had been adopted, and a Chair and Secretary had been appointed. The formal meeting was followed by a talk and Q&A session from Richard Arkless MP mainly covering the topic of telecoms and broadband provision. The next Federation would not be convened until after the re-establishment of Cree Valley and Garlieston Community Councils in July 2016.

Community Resilience – No progress to report.

7 WIGTOWN WEEK

Matt Kitson advised that the Community Festival programme was almost complete with the bulk of events concentrated around the first weekend Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 July. Twin sisters from Kirkiner Primary School would be invested as joint Princesses. There would be a variety of other events for the subsequent six days. Once finalised, Machars Action would be asked to compile and print the programme and David Moran would arrange its distribution. **ACTION MATT KITSON/JAK KANE/DAVID MORAN**

Matt proposed that a group of professional musicians be booked to provide two 45 minute sessions

at a cost of £400 max. This proposal was agreed unanimously. It was also agreed that a joint insurance policy would be arranged by the Community Council for the Community Festival and the Riding with the Riding covering the additional premium as per last year.

It was also advised that the Riding of the Marches had convened a meeting for Thursday, 23 June and were looking for volunteer stewards.

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Federation of CCs – Minutes of the Federation’s AGM on 3 June 16

DGC Wigtown Divisional Licensing Board - Notice re Signature Gifts Application for Provisional Premises License. Objections by 6 June

European Movement in Scotland - Panel discussion on EU Referendum in Stranraer on 9 June

Wigtown Common Good – application from Wigtown & Bladnoch Food Festival. Comments by 14 June for meeting in Whithorn on 4 July. Also correspondence re Matt’s appointment and meeting dates.

DGC and Third Sector D&G - Annual Funding Roadshow from 12.00 – 8.00pm on Thursday, 30 June 2016 at the Ryan Centre, Stranraer with over 20 funders (including HLF) in attendance on the day

DGC – Road closure notice re South Main Street for Riding of the Marches

Wigtown Agricultural Society - Social Sunday incorporating Ayrshire Commercial Vintage Vehicle Road Run and Wigtownshire Horse Driving Club Show on Sunday 10th July. Free entry and parking

DGC – re CC grant 2016/17. Application by 5 August along with report and accounts.

Free Press - advice that Tamsin Tyeson will cover future Community Council meetings for the Free Press.

8 COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES

Cllr McColm advised that Scottish Water was currently working in High Vennel in an effort to increase the water pressure in the refurbished public toilets where the pressure in the former Ladies toilet was now insufficient. He also said that a meeting of the Wigtown Bay Management Committee would be convened in July.

Cllr Geddes stated that the Council’s Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Committee will note the approval of the local [Flood Risk Management Plan](#) on 14 June. The plan will see the development and delivery of a flood protection scheme at Newton Stewart. In Wigtown’s community council area Spittal Bridge and Braehead/Whauphill have been identified in the Plan as “Potentially Vulnerable Areas”.

9 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Nick Walker advised that the core path below the sewerage works down the harbour road was blocked again. The Council was looking into it but there was now a question about the ownership of the site. Joe McKeown who had been involved previously was asked to continue with the issue.

ACTION JOE McKEOWN

Nick also said that the Community notice board at the corner of the Town Gardens had been part shoved over and was now at an angle although there was no indication of any impact. He suggested that DG First might be persuaded to repair it.

The following individuals were proposed for co-option as voting members of the Community Council:

- Bob Templeton proposed by Willie McCartney
- Sandra McDowall proposed by Robin Richmond
- David Moran proposed by Jock McDowall

Jak Kane undertook to collect the relative Electoral Numbers and arrange for the notice to be posted at least seven days prior to the next meeting. **ACTION JAK KANE**

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 11 July 2016, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.

Appendix A. Consultations Working Party - June 2016

CURRENT CONSULTATIONS

- a) **Community right to buy abandoned, neglected or detrimental land as introduced by the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 20 June 2016. *No response*

Part 3A of the 2003 Act gives community bodies the right, in certain circumstances, to buy land without a willing seller, when the land is wholly or mainly abandoned or neglected, or the use or management of the land is causing harm to the environmental wellbeing of the local community.

The consultation addresses the proposed procedures and processes that would apply when communities look to exercise their right to buy. The consultation document is available for download at https://consult.scotland.gov.uk/community-land-team/abandoned-land/user_uploads/00497575.pdf

- b) **Asset Transfer under the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015: Consultation on Draft Regulations.** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 20 June 2016. *No response.*

Community ownership or control of land and buildings can make a major contribution to empowering communities. It helps to provide stability and a sustainable base from which a community organisation can develop its activities, and can create a stronger sense of community identity, cohesion and involvement.

This consultation is on the draft regulations for asset transfer, along with an indication of guidance and best practice in certain areas. The Scottish Government is seeking wider views on the proposed procedures from relevant authorities, who will be required to implement them, and community bodies who may wish to use them. [Click here to download a copy of the consultation paper.](#)

- c) **Consultations on applications to register the names "Forfar Bridie" and "Ayrshire Early New Potatoes / Ayrshire Earlies" as Protected Geographical Indications (PGI) under the EU Protected Food Name (PFN) Scheme** – Scottish Government. Closing date: 18/5 August 2016 respectively.

PGI is a designation of the EU Protected Food Name scheme, which highlights regional and traditional foods whose authenticity and origin can be guaranteed through an independent inspection system.

Do you object to the application to register the name as a Protected Geographical Indication (PGI) under the EU Protected Food Name (PFN) scheme? Yes/No. Outline your comments or objection.

FORTHCOMING CONSULTATIONS

No Forthcoming Consultation

Appendix B. Planning Working Party Report

ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL PLANNING WORKING PARTY REPORT FOR FULL COMM. COUNCIL 13.6.2016

Members - Willie McCartney, Robin Richmond, Nick Walker.

New applications

Nil.

Update on applications

Nil.

Renewable energy proposals

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

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

UPDATE: Pending Appeal (ref. PPA-170-2109); target date for decision was 6.5.2016 but extended and no guidance as to when decision expected. Applicant expects late summer – early autumn.

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

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

UPDATE: Pending Appeal (ref. PPA-170-2107); target date for decision mid June 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.

Nick Walker 05.6.2016

Appendix C. CC LETTER TO NHS D&G

Royal Burgh of Wigtown & District Community Council

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

c/o Carleton, Wigtown
Newton Stewart DG8 9AB

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

Convenor: Matt Kitson



14 June 2016

Dr Angus Cameron
Medical Director
NHS Dumfries & Galloway
Crichton Hall
Dumfries
DG1 4TG

Dear Dr Cameron

Wigtown Medical Practice

We write to you in response to your letter announcing the planned merger of the Wigtown and Merrick Medical practices following the failure to attract General Practitioners to fill vacancies in the area. You will understand the dismay of many patients when the first public indication of these plans was the receipt of your letter presenting the fait accompli that, following the merger, only morning appointments would be available in Wigtown.

While we appreciate the partners of the practices have commercial as well as logistical decisions to make, many of the Wigtown community and patients of the local practice feel disenfranchised by the establishment of future working practices without any local consultation.

The issue was discussed at length at the recent meeting of the Community Council with contributions from a number of local residents. In summary, the principal concerns were:

1. The lack of any consultation in the design of future provision of GP services by the new Practice;
2. The impact of these plans on the elderly and other vulnerable members of the community including accessibility issues. A significant number of residents either do not have access to private transport, or would not feel comfortable driving to Newton Stewart. There is a dearth of public transport with only four afternoon buses stopping at/nearby the Newton Stewart Health Centre and, for those

attending the early evening appointments on offer, no service after 17:25. The distance to walk, if you are fortunate enough to get one of the services to the Cree Inn, is at least 3 times further than from the bus stop in Wigtown to the Wigtown Surgery. This situation is likely to be worsened following the review to services at the end of the current bus contracts in 2017. Will this result in an increase in requests for home visits?

3. The impact on waiting times. Currently patients have to wait up to 3 or 4 days for an appointment in Wigtown and given that two doctors are retiring with no additions, and that the Merrick practice is also currently understaffed for Doctors, the waiting times will increase, not only for Wigtown patients, but also for existing patients of the Merrick practice.
4. There is no indication in the communication about the level of access to other services at the surgery such as the Nurse Practitioner, Midwifery and District Nursing. Will these also only be available during morning surgery times?
5. The long term plans for the surgery. There is no indication whether the surgery is intending to continue their efforts to secure replacement GPs and if they are, then whether the surgery hours will return to their current level?
6. The impact on the local chemist services – those able to attend appointments in Minnigaff are more likely to place prescriptions at the chemist at that locality.

The Community Council agreed to invite you, the Wigtown Locality Manager and a representative of the Galloway Hills Medical Group to a meeting to discuss alternatives to the current plans as outlined in your letter. We are also including Local Authority Councillors on Wigtown Area Committee as we are aware they have locus, particularly as Newton Stewart and Garlieston residents currently find themselves without the benefit and support of a Community Council.

The next meeting of our Community Council is scheduled for 7:30pm on Monday, 11 July 2016 but we would be amenable to convening a special meeting at another time and date more suitable to you and your colleague.

Yours sincerely



Matt Kitson, Convenor

cc June Watters, Locality Manager
DGC Wigtown Area Committee