

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

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Bob Templeton	Kevin Witt	Cllr Jim McColm
Cllr Graham Nico	Louise Kerr, <i>Galloway Gazette</i>	Shona Heaney

APOLOGIES

Cllr Alistair Geddes

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Matt Kitson welcomed all to the meeting. An apology had been received from Councillor Geddes and Joe McKeown had notified that he would be attending the meeting but would be delayed. Urgent other business added to the Agenda for discussion included proposed Parking arrangements in Wigtown Square and South Main Street, the Lorry Park and Barrhill Station.

2 POLICE MATTERS

A Community police officer from Stranraer attended and apologised for no officer being present at recent meetings. She explained that there had been a restructuring within Police Scotland and Stewart McColm had been appointed as the new Galloway Community Policing Inspector with responsibility for the Wigtownshire and Stewartry areas. He will be supported in Mid Galloway by Community Policing Sergeant Colin Scott - based at Castle Douglas Police Station and covering Mid Galloway, Abbey, Dee and Castle Douglas and Glenkens. Two Community Officers would also cover the Machars – Crystal Martin and Billy Dodds.

She reported that a warning had been issued about scam telephone calls and there had been two arson incidents committed in Wigtown and investigation of the crimes was ongoing. The Police were currently consulting on the viability and value of maintaining some police owned buildings including Whithorn Police Station and looking at alternative service delivery options. No decision had been taken as to the closure of any local Police Stations and Newton Stewart was not currently included in the list of facilities being looked at.

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 10 October 2016)

The minutes of previous meeting had been circulated. It was agreed that Jock McDowall should be added to those present at the meeting and noted that Louise Kerr from the Galloway Gazette had attended as well as Tamsin Tyeson of the Free Press. Subject to these amendments the minutes were adopted, proposed by Jock McDowall and seconded by Rob Hartford.

4 CO-OPTION OF NEW COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS

Marie McCann, Cora Sharp, Bob Templeton and Kevin Witt had all been proposed for co-option to the Community Council. Ballot papers were distributed allowing Community Councillors to support as many of the candidates as they wanted. Candidates required support from 75% of Councillors and, following the count, only Kevin Witt reached the required level and was co-opted with full voting rights. After a further vote by show of hands Bob Templeton was co-opted as a non-voting

Associate member. The Convenor undertook to contact Cora Sharp and Marie McCann to ascertain if they too wished to be considered for Associate membership..

5 COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Matt advised that he had been asked by Wendy Jesson of the Council to compile a register of volunteers for the Wigtown community resilience team with contact details including mobile landline numbers. Volunteers from the Community Council included Willie McCartney, Jock McDowall and Robin Richmond. A list of resilience-related assets also needed to be drawn up. The Council would be organising an Awareness Course as well as a training workshop in Newton Stewart.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

1: Consultations WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Jak confirmed that a response to the Review of Public Involvement Scrutiny had been drafted and amended following input from Councillors. The final version would be submitted before the closing date of 24 November. It was agreed that the Community Council should also make a submission in support of the proposed Solway Firth potential Special Protection Area.

2: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. The report was noted and it was agreed that no submissions be made on the new applications listed.

Councillors did not participate in consideration of the contents of the report this discussion.

7 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING.

Derelict Properties – Cllr Geddes, along with Convenor Matt Kitson, had continued to pursue the Council regarding the situation at 24 High Street where the owner continued to take no action.

Happily it was good to note that work had recommenced at the North Main Street property.

Bladnoch Core path - A meeting had been held to discuss the closure of the Core path with Joe McKeown, Willie McCartney, the Manager of Bladnoch Distillery and Brian Scott, the Council's Access Officer attending. The Distillery wanted the path to stay closed for security reasons and the potential for damage. Joe McKeown intimated that he agreed that he could see no alternatives. Brian Scott was also minded for the path to be closed as there was no alternative access route to the path other than through the Manager's House garden. He suggested that there could be a review to identify additional Core paths in the area. After discussion, it was agreed that the Community Council wished to contest the closure of the Core path as it was regularly used and had been for many years and that all avenues should be explored to keep it. **ACTION MATT KITSON.**

Christmas 2016. David Moran outlined the programme for the switch-on of the Christmas lights on 25 November. As the Round Table's Santa Sleigh would not be available, there would be no procession this year and consequently a road closure order would not be required. The community would meet in Square for lighting of Christmas tree and sing some carols accompanied by part of Creetown Silver Band. They would then move to County Buildings for hot drinks and Christmas pies and carols with the full band. It was agreed that Machars Action would print fliers detailing the event and Christmas church services, although there was the possibility of a joint flier with the Festival's Kist.

McGuffie Memorial – Nick Walker reported on progress. Consultation had resulted in a gateway design being selected. Next steps would be the drawing of more formal drawings of gateway including plaque and paving stone leading to full planning application. Once planning was agreed, costings and funding applications can be completed. It was suggested that an application be submitted to the Community Shop for funding to cover initial development costs including planning fee. **ACTION NICK WALKER**

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

DGC Communities Directorate- Jamie Ferguson, Community Development and Empowerment Manager now lead contact for Community Groups looking for information, support and for receipt of formal applications re Community Asset Transfer Requests.

Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway – Connect 2016 annual conference on Tuesday, November 29

at Easterbrook Hall, Dumfries for third and public sector organisations from across the region.

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

The Councillors had no issues to report.

10 OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Parking in square The Council had provided plans showing potential schemes for parking around the square and in South Main Street. It was not clear how parking would be permitted particularly round the monument and it was agreed that the Council be asked to provide more information.

ACTION MATT KITSON.

Barrhill CC – Carpark at Barrhill Station. Request for letter of support supporting the development of car park. This letter to be used by Barrhill Community Interest Company (BCIC) and SAYLSA (the rail CRP) as evidence to local authorities, Scotrail and potential funders. The Community Council agreed to send a letter of support. **ACTION JAK KANE**

Lorry Park - All the recycling containers were not being emptied. **ACTION MATT KITSON.**

11 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 12 December 2016, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.