

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 13 March 2017**

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Alistair Geddes	Cllr Jim McColm	Cllr Graham Nicol
Tamsin Tyeson, <i>Free Press</i>	Police Scotland	Cora Sharp

APOLOGIES

1 WELCOME, APOLOGIES AND CALL FOR URGENT OTHER BUSINESS

Convenor Matt Kitson welcomed everyone to the Community Council meeting. Cora Sharp from Wigtown Primary School was present to update Community Councillors with plans for the school grounds. Flooding in Bladnoch village was also noted as Other Business.

2 POLICE MATTERS

A Police representative attended and gave the following updates on previous issues: an 11 year old boy was being investigated in connection with the fires in Kirkinner; the cases of fire-raising in Wigtown were ongoing; the Police may need to look at enforcement against parents parking on the zigzag lines outside Wigtown Primary School when picking up/dropping off children if there is a Traffic Regulation order in place but they would prefer to try education first.

Recent local crimes included an arrest for possession of Class A drugs, the report of a smashed window in New Road and speeding in Braehead.

There had been reports of scams in the area with telephone calls purported to be from Microsoft agents and scammers gaining access to personal computers and extracting credit/debit card details.

Police Scotland had launched a consultation on 'Policing 2026' to establish a strategy for policing in Scotland to meet emerging and projected need over the next decade. The consultation will run until 8 May 2017.

The Dumfries & Galloway Mature Driver Scheme for drivers aged over 65 had been relaunched. The programme is designed to improve road safety by addressing the driving standards and driver confidence amongst the older generation. Anyone interested in taking part in the scheme should contact John McNaught on 01671 404267.

The report ended with a reminder that there were now increased penalties for those caught driving whilst using a mobile device.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 13 February 2017)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and it was pointed out that the reference to 'arson' within the Police Matters section should more properly refer to 'fire-raising' which is the common law offence under Scots law applicable to deliberately starting fires with intent to cause damage to property as opposed to the offence of arson charged in England and Wales. The minutes were adopted, proposed by Jock McDowall and seconded by David McAdam.

WIGTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Matt Kitson then asked Cora Sharp if she would like to proceed with her presentation so that she did not have to remain through the whole of the meeting.

Cora explained that she was a teacher at the Primary School and the school had been successful in securing a £10,000 Lottery grant from Awards for All Scotland to develop a project, "Creating a healthier and more active Wigtown". The project would see the development of the school grounds to incorporate a football pitch, an exercise area with equipment and a walking trail. She distributed copies of the layout showing the various elements. The school would also be participating in a pilot project on physical literacy training led by Building Healthy Communities.

Matt Kitson thanked Cora and her colleagues for the work involved in identifying the project and securing the funding required and wished them well in the delivery.

5 DROPPED KERBS – NEW ROAD and HIGH VENNEL

Matt Kitson had contacted the Council's Community Council Enquiry Service (CCES) to query if tarmac ramps laid at the dropped kerbs at the junction of New Road/North Main Street and High Vennel/North Main Street were a temporary measure and if the dropped kerbs would be properly addressed in the near future following a complaint from a local resident and wheelchair user that the ramps were not fit for purpose.

Graeme Alison of the Council's Economy, Environment and Infrastructure Team advised that members of staff had met with a wheelchair user to discuss the area in question and it had been agreed to carry out the works as a temporary measure. Resurfacing work in the area was currently planned for the new financial year and at that time the drop kerbs would be dealt with.

Nick Walker pointed out that the financial year lasted 12 months and it was unsatisfactory for proper disabled access to be delayed for an indeterminate period. It was agreed that the Council should be asked to commit to a defined timescale. **ACTION: Matt Kitson.**

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

1: Consultations WP

Jak Kane had circulated a report on Current Consultations.

DGC was undertaking a review to ensure that the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils is effective and meets the needs of the Council and its Community Councils - closing date 19 May 2017. The Scheme details how Community Councils operate including elections, meetings, boundaries and finance. Jak explained that the consultation allowed a line by line critique of the Scheme rather than just a summary response. He proposed, and it was agreed, that a specific meeting be arranged so that all Community Councillors have the opportunity to be involved in the consultation and to allow individual input. **ACTION: Jak Kane.**

It was also agreed that Nick Walker would collate any responses to the Scottish Government's Consultation on the Future of the Scottish Planning System. Community Councillors should send any comments by email before the end of March to either Nick Walker or Jak Kane.

2: Planning WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There were two new applications: Internal Alterations and Extractor Installation at 31 South Main Street; Replacement windows and Sun Porch extension at 37 Main Street. It was agreed that no submission be made to either case. The updates on other applications were noted and the report approved.

Councillors did not participate in the consideration of the subjects of the report

3: Resilience Committee

Joe McKeown advised that he had met with the Council's Estate Manager re the siting of an emergency community generator at Wigtown Primary School and storage of other equipment. The Council's Clerk of Works would provide details of power requirements needed to identify the power output required from the proposed generator. The Resilience Committee would be submitting a revised bid to the Council's Community Safety Fund which would require 50% match funding and it needed to be submitted by 28 March. It was suggested that Wigtown Common Good was a potential source of match funding and Joe undertook to submit an application.

4: Wigtown Week

A meeting of the organisers had been held and an initial draft programme for the 2017 event had been drawn up. Wigtown Week activities would be integrated with the Riding of the Marches and Wigtown Food Festival.

5: Parking at Market Cross

Mark Kitson had circulated the text for a proposed letter inviting community members to participate in the design of the junction between North and South Main Streets and related parking. A discussion followed on whether the community should be given this opportunity or whether the three schemes preferred by the Community Council should be presented as the final options. A show of hands on which of the two options should be adopted decided that the issue should be opened to the community to contribute to the design. Matt would revise the aforementioned document based on any comments submitted by Community Councillors and a revised version presented before the next meeting. **ACTION: Mark Kitson**

7 TASKS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

Derelict Properties – Work on the North Main Street property continued. Further to last month's update on the issue of 24 High Street, no response or communication from the property owner had been received by the Council. The Council had consequently now served a Maintenance Plan with a list of works to be completed by the end of April 2017. The Council will inspect the property in May 2017 and, for any work not completed, the Council will arrange for it to be carried out and invoice the property owner for the cost plus administration fees.

The Council's Area Committee were convening a Community Meeting to discuss the issue of Derelict Properties in Wigtownshire.

Core Paths – Bladnoch – The Council had advised that a letter had been sent to Bladnoch Distillery advising that the Core Path must be reopened and, if they wished the path to be closed, they would have to submit a formal request to the Access Authority to follow due process in accordance with legislation.

McGuffie Memorial – Nick Walker had distributed the minutes of the group's latest meeting. He explained that issues had been delayed by a perceived reduction in support from Local Authority officers which was delaying submission of the planning application. Community Councils are eligible for a 50% discount of the relevant Planning fee but it was unclear if the online figure of £102 included the discount or not. It was agreed that the Community Council would underwrite this cost if not covered from Wigtown Common Good. Five or six funding applications for various aspects of the celebrations had been drafted subject to final costings being identified. The draft commemorative publication had been drafted and circulated for editing.

8 COMMUNICATIONS, CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Survey of Information Literacy of Community Councillors – Jak had circulated details and a link to a research project survey by Edinburgh Napier University. He advised that completion took around 10 minutes.

Scottish Community Councils – Details of a Community Council Twitter Hour on 7 March and the subsequent report.

Fairtrade Fortnight – Regional Steering Group meeting proposed for Monday, 27 March 2017.

Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway – Nominations sought for 2017 Volunteers Awards.

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Cllr McColm advised that the Council now had a 2017-18 Budget in place with substantial savings made including £1.8M from integration. An increase in Council Tax had been agreed for the first time in 9 years but income from this source would contribute only 15-16% of the Council's revenue. He reported on the Area Committee Community Meeting on the A77/A75 trunk roads that had highlighted issues around condition, delays and landslips.

Cllr Geddes had taken up the issue of vegetation encroaching on the roadside opposite the houses on Fountainblue Terrace and Council officers would be chasing the owners of the land involved.

Cllr Nicol said that he had been frustrated that the officials that had attended the A77/A75 Community Meeting had been messengers and not decision makers as it would have been more

productive otherwise.

OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

Willie McCartney reported that an area of road opposite 2 to 7 Bladnoch was subject to flooding that could be caused by a blocked drain.

Matt Kitson reported that the BT cabinet to provide access to superfast broadband had been installed in Bladnoch and Richard Arkless had asked BT Openreach to ensure that the facility should benefit local residents as well as the businesses in Bladnoch Bridge Estate.

Matt had asked Planning, on behalf of a resident, for clarification on whether or not permission was needed for the installation of satellite dishes on the front of buildings in Bladnoch, a conservation area. There were already two properties in the village with such installations.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 10 April 2017, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.