

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 9 JULY 2018**

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Katie Hagmann	Cllr Jim McColm	Euan Maxwell, Free Press
	Lesley & David Miller	

APOLOGIES

1 APOLOGIES

No apologies for absence had been received prior to the meeting.

2 POLICE MATTERS

There was no police officer present at the meeting and no report had been submitted. However, Convenor Sandra McDowall explained that Mrs Linda Miller of Fordbank House had asked that she be allowed to address the Community Council re a road traffic issue. If a police officer had been in attendance, they may have been able to address some of Mrs Miller's concerns but she was asked to proceed in any event.

Mrs Miller explained that she had been in communication with the Council in connection with speeding traffic on the B7005 Bladnoch-Newton Stewart Road with particular emphasis where it passed Fordbank House and Potato Mill Road. Other issues were damaged and missing verge marker posts and the traffic signs warning of a junction on bend ahead (Potato Mill Road) needed to be cleaned. Cllr McColm advised that he had discussed the matter with the Council and there was no indication that the 60mph speed limit could be restricted.

It was agreed that the Community Council would write to the Roads Department asking about the possibility of a range of measures: the Council to arrange for traffic on this particular stretch of road to be monitored; that consideration be given to the addition of a 'Concealed entrance' warning sign and/or 'Slow' markings before the bend; and that the existing warning signs and verge marker posts be seen to.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Items noted for discussion under Other Business included: Accessibility at Wigtown Primary School, Weeds and Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 June 2018)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were adopted, proposed by Kevin Witt and seconded by Robin Richmond.

5 MATTERS ARISING

a. Blocked Drains -

Jak Kane said that he had written via CCES advising the flooding problems at the corner of North Main Street and High Vennel and at the junction between High Vennel and

Botany Street, asking that the drains be investigated/treated. A response was expected by 13 July.

b. Park Cemetery

Registers of Scotland (RoS) could find no direct entry which matched the piece of land next to Park Cemetery but had provided a 185 page copy of a search of the Sasine Register and left it to the Community Council to try and identify the deed entry if it existed. Kevin Witt and Robin Richmond had volunteered to go through the document and Kevin had identified mentions of areas of land described as Maidland Shank and Outer Acre which might be in the area. However the descriptions did not exactly match. Cllr McColm said that Ward Officer Graeme McKie had been tasked with investigating the land's potential link to Wigtown Common Good and suggested that he be given the information from RoS.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated his report prior to the meeting and highlighted the movements in the various accounts. In Administration there had been payments to Machars Action £16.38 and Registers of Scotland £20. For the Summer Festival £16.10 had been paid to Briars Engraving for prizes for last year's photography contest and £179.20 for insurance cover for this year's festival. Income had been received for the McGuffie VC celebrations - £10,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund and £261.25 from sales of the McGuffie VC book.

b: Consultations WP

There was no report to consider as there were neither any current nor forthcoming consultations.

c: Planning WP

A report had been circulated by Nick Walker. There was one new application in respect of a garage to be built at Fordbank House, Wigtown and it was agreed that no submission would be made. There were three updates given in the report which were noted.

Cllrs Hagmann and McColm did not participate in the consideration of the subjects of the report.

d: Resilience Committee

Joe McKeown advised that the funding application to Kilgallioch Community Fund had been unsuccessful. They had indicated that, if a further application was to be submitted, they would be looking for a more flexible project solution, a reduced cost and evidence of other fundraising. Joe said that he would now investigate other options in consultation with the Education Department and Ward Officer Graeme McKie. Cllr McColm suggested that the project might be suitable to apply to the next round of Council Participatory Budgeting funding

e: McGuffie Memorial Update

Nick Walker reported that the launch of the McGuffie VC book had gone well with book sales as reported earlier. Work on the memorial archway was progressing with the foundations having been sent to be galvanised. Enterprising D&G were co-ordinating work on the steps, gates, gate posts and flag poles with the planned installation works. The Council had identified funding for the remedial work which could potentially release funds from the project budget for work on the walls and railings.

As part of the McGuffie celebrations there would be a display of WW1 memorabilia in Wigtown Parish Church during the Community Festival with historian Mike Morley on hand to provide information.

The next meeting of the McGuffie Working Party was convened for 17 July.

f: Wider Machars Federation

Nick Walker said that a meeting in Wigtown County Buildings had been arranged for Tuesday, 24 July to discuss viable options and the next steps for dealing with the prioritised derelict buildings identified at the May meeting of the group. Unfortunately Nick would be unable to be there but Willie McCartney and Robin Richmond undertook to attend.

7 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Kilsture Forest - Forest Enterprise Scotland had notified Wigtown and Sorbie Community Councils that they were proposing to sell Kilsture Forest and offering the opportunity to register an interest in acquiring the land under its Community Asset Transfer scheme. Sorbie Community Council had arranged a public meeting to discuss the proposed sale and potential Asset Transfer. It would be held in Sorbie Village Hall on Tuesday, 10 July and Sandra McDowall said she would attend.

Lorry Park - Jock McDowall had reported that two large branches had been blown off trees in the old Showfield, blocking Southfield Lane and damaging a wall at the back of the Lorry park. Jock had cleared the obstruction and the Council advised via CCES that the wall was damaged and leaning. The Council had confirmed they would arrange for the wall to be inspected and repaired as necessary.

Review of the Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils – Links to the report on the Review had been circulated and it would be considered by the Council on 26 June.

DGC Admin Grant – The treasurer had contacted the Council as the form to claim the grant for the year March 2018 to April 2019 had yet to be received. DGC Communities Business Management had advised that the form had not yet been issued but should be ready “shortly”.

Transforming Wigtownshire – Lynda McKie had written as Project Manager for the Transforming Wigtownshire programme, within D&G Health and Social Care to ask if she could attend the August meeting of the Community Council along with John Ross, Independent Chair. They were keen to involve communities and local people in the work they were doing, and would present information, discuss their aims and how people could get involved. They had been advised that they should attend for the start of the meeting with 15/20 minutes allocated for their presentation and another 5 for questions.

A746/Bing Road junction, Kirkinner – a resident had reported a problem with an overgrown nearside hedge on the approach to Kirkinner from the south. As well as causing problems with visibility for traffic emerging from the Bing Road the 30 limit speed sign was also partially obscured. The visibility problem was exacerbated by a dip in the A746 just before the 30 limit speed sign. Reported via CCES with response due by 3 August.

Bing Core Path 468 – An email had been sent to Bryan Scott, DGC Access Team re the Kirkinner Core Path. The section from the A746 to Bing was very difficult to walk with knee length grass on the centre of the track, the ground uneven probably due to cattle having walked on the path while it was wet and cut it up, and with brambles, nettles and other overgrown plants encroaching on the path. It was suggested that this might be something that could be dealt with by the Community Payback Unpaid Work Team.

Proposed Maggie’s Centre D&G – An email from Maggie’s Centres had been circulated with a request that a letter be sent to NHS Dumfries & Galloway expressing the Community Council’s support for the proposed siting of a Maggie’s Centre in Dumfries & Galloway. It was agreed that this was a very worthwhile project that would greatly

enhance the provision of cancer support in the region. A letter in support of the proposal would be sent with the suggestion that the region would perhaps be better served if the Centre was located more centrally, say Castle Douglas, given that DGRI and Galloway Community Hospital already provide cancer support services.

8 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

A report on the Bladnoch Core Path would be discussed by the Council on 13 July and the recommendation would be to retain the Core Path's status in the hope that the access problem might be resolved in the future.

Transport Minister Michael Matheson had been invited to meet with the Dual the A75 pressure group, the A77 Action Group, P&O and Stena Line to discuss the need for road improvements in the region.

CllrMcColm undertook to have signage restored to the public toilets in Wigtown. All three units had been made unisex/disabled so the Gents/Ladies signs had been removed without appropriate replacements being installed.

Cllr Hagmann said she had written to highlight the anomaly that the Southern Upland Way Rangers, to be paid for with funds from SPR Kilgallioch, were to be based in Castle Douglas remote from both the Southern Upland Way and Kilgallioch Wind Farm.

9 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

Wigtown Primary School and accessibility – Sandra McDowall said that the Primary School had been used for the Wigtown Community Festival and there was concern that there was no direct disabled access between the Main and Dining Halls in the school. It was agreed that the CC would raise the issue with the Council.

Weeds – Cllr McColm would contact the Council re weeds in Agnew Crescent and the repointing and weeding required to the Mercat Cross.

Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative – The Electoral Reform Service was currently carrying out an independent ballot to gauge community support for the Initiative's proposed community buyout of the former Bank of Scotland building.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 13 August 2018, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.