

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 10 DECEMBER 2018**

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

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

PC Crystal Martin	Nick Dowson, Free Press	Cllr Katie Hagmann
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**APOLOGIES**

Matt Kitson	Cllr David Inglis
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**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Matt Kitson.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

Community Policer Officer, Crystal Martin explained that she and PC Jamieson had been in Wigtown for a Community Surgery. The initiative had proven quite successful but they would be looking to publicise future surgeries better, using signage and Facebook.

Within her crime report she said that two men had been arrested in conjunction with the spate of shoplifting of spirits across the region; a man had been charged with driving a tractor with only a Provisional License; and there had been three road traffic collisions, with one with injuries but only minor. Other incidents with Police involvement were weather-related incidents caused by flooding or fallen trees.

Crystal highlighted that the Police would be involved in Festive Initiatives that would see a police presence watching for anti-social behaviour in and around licensed premises and for shoplifting in supermarkets. There would also be the traditional focus on drink driving including drivers still affected the morning after.

Police Scotland had produced a 'Little Book of Scams' which outlined the most current scams and frauds being committed in Scotland. Crystal left some copies and the publication can be viewed or downloaded from <http://www.scotland.police.uk/assets/pdf/174967/the-little-book-of-big-scams?view=Standard>.

Crystal finished by intimating apologies for the January 2019 meeting as there would be no officer available to attend.

PC Martin was asked to investigate the wooden pallet encroaching on the road way. The issue had already been raised with the Police but no action taken as yet.

Sandra McDowall said that the Community Council had paid £100 to the Council for a road closure for the Christmas parade from the Primary School to the Mercat Cross but there had been no police presence and questioned what the payment actually covered. Cllr Hagmann undertook to clarify the issue with the Council.

**Action: Cllr Hagmann**

**3 PROPOSED WASTE GROUND GARDEN SCHEME**

Sandra McDowall explained that Gill Hay had asked if she could make a presentation on a proposed project to the Community Council but she was not at the meeting to do so.

**4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The issue of trees around the Bowling Green was added to the agenda as other business.

**4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 12 November 2018)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Willie McCartney and seconded by Robin Richmond subject to a number of typographical errors being corrected.

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

**a. Thomas Wheatley Gravestonee**

Jak Kane had still to see David Cluckie to ascertain probable cost of restoration of the inscription.

**Action: Jak Kane**

**b. Drains, Faulty Lights and Pallet**

The Secretary had reported the blocked drains, faulty street lights and the pallet to the Council and Police respectively.

**c. Potato Mill Road – Lamp post**

The Secretary had received a phone call from the Roads Department who confirmed that they were aware of the issue. The contractors (from outwith the Region) would deal with the problem when they had enough work to justify a trip to the area. There was no danger posed by the leaning lamp post even if it were to fall completely over and neither would local power supply be affected.

**6 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**a: Financial Report**

Jak Kane had circulated an up-to-date report prior to the meeting. Payments in reimbursement for poppy wreaths had been received from the Masonic Lodge and Wigtown Primary School and the only expenditure on the Administration account was £31.99 to Machars Action for administration expenses. The only movement on the Festivals Account was the receipt of £399 from the Festival Company re sale of McGuffie VC books.

**b: Consultations WP**

There was no report presented with a response still to be drafted by Jak Kane to the Scottish Government's Rural Economy and Connectivity Committee's call for views on the draft South of Scotland Enterprise Agency Bill. The consultation had a closing date of 7 January 2019.

**c: Planning WP**

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting with no new applications notified and with updates unavailable due to DGC website failure. After the report was distributed, an application had been submitted in connection with the building of a replacement for Carradale, the Braehead house that was destroyed by fire. As the proposed structure was a straight replacement for the previous property, it was agreed that there should be no submission.

Cllr Hagmann did not participate in the consideration of the subjects of the report.

**d: Federation of Community Councils**

Nick Walker said that the Federation's AGM had been held on 17 November. Antony Berretti of Cree Valley Community Council had been re-elected as Convenor. Key issues identified as potential topics for 2019 meetings included: Transforming Wigtownshire – Local Health Partnership; Police; Roads; Resilience and Scottish Power Energy Networks. The next meeting was scheduled for January 2019.

**e: DGC Budget Simulator Challenge Drop-in**

The Community Council had organised two sessions on 29 November with the help of Graeme McKie and Jennifer Burns and a letter of thanks would be sent.

**f: Christmas Switch-on**

Sandra McDowall reiterated that there had been no assistance with traffic at the switch-on parade and ceremony from the Police. Special thanks to Willie McCartney, David Moran and David McAdam for their work were recorded.

It was agreed that a meeting would be convened in the New Year to devise a scheme for Wigtown Square that would include parking and new Christmas lights. Community councillors should notify Sandra McDowall or the secretary if they wished to be involved.

**ACTION: All community councillors**

**8 Community Defibrillator**

Nick Walker said that he had been unable to discuss the issue with Practice Manager, Aileen Thomson but he had spoken to Dr Dunnet. Dr Dunnet had explained that the funds passed to the practice for its Equipment Fund was for patient-targeted equipment such as blood pressure monitors and could not be used for maintenance of the community defibrillator or for replacement parts.

After some discussion it was agreed that Kirkcowan and Whithorn Community Councils should be contacted to try to identify the costs involved in maintaining a defibrillator and cabinet including insurance and replacement pads and batteries. It was also agreed that Wigtown Community Shop should be contacted with a view to them agreeing to take over the financial, if not total, responsibility for the defibrillator.

**ACTION : Jak Kane**

**8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

**Joe McKeown** – a letter had been received from Joe intimating his resignation as a Community Councillor. Questions were raised as to the stability of the Community Council under the terms of the Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils. Jak Kane explained that a Community Council would be dissolved if the number of elected CC members fell below the minimum number required which was 50% of the maximum number allowed with fractions rounded up. For Wigtown the maximum number allowed was fifteen, so the minimum required was eight members. Following the resignation of Joe McKeown there remained ten elected members and three co-opted members (Sandra McDowall, Kerr Inger and Kevin Witt). However, a Community Council should terminate the membership of any CC member who fails to attend at least half of the scheduled CC meetings in any financial year (with or without submitting apologies) and this applied to Ann Gray and Rob Harford. Discounting these two members would still leave the Community Council with the required number of eight elected members. Nick Walker pointed out that there was the option to hold a Casual vacancy election with members elected as a result of this process building up the number of elected members with the probable transition of Co-opted members to being elected members.

**Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway (TSDG) Roadshow** – TSDG would be hosting a roadshow in the McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart from 10-3 on 11 December 2018. Information on Funding opportunities would be provided by the Big Lottery Fund, Foundation Scotland and the Holywood Trust.

**Local Development Plan** – The Council had published the 10th Development Plan Scheme and it could be viewed at [www.dumgal.gov.uk/ldp](http://www.dumgal.gov.uk/ldp).

**9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES**

Cllr Hagmann said that the Council's budget remained the main issue being considered by Councillors and there would be difficult decisions to be made to find a balanced budget.

At its recent meeting the Council's EEI Committee had agreed the Dumfries & Galloway Food and Drink Strategy and its associated Action Plan for 2019-2022. The Household waste contract had now been taken back in-house by the Council and they were looking at ways to improve efficiencies and encourage recycling. The Recycling pilot project had still to be rolled out beyond Wigtownshire and the use of side bags for household waste had increased. The rate of recycling remained around 30%.

The Scottish Rural Parliament had met in Stranraer over 3 days in November and had been deemed very successful.

Cllr Hagmann highlighted that Community Councils and communities had the ability to propose topics for Ward events that would be hosted by Wigtown Area Committee.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

It was suggested that Scottish Power Energy Networks be asked to remove the redundant electricity poles either side of the Martyr's stake.

**Louis McGuffie VC Gardens** Robin Richmond had spoken to Ward Officer Graeme McKie re an issue with the trees around the Bowling Club. Graeme in turn had spoken to Karen Brownlie, Community Assets Manager who had offered to meet to discuss with the community. Karen's offer was noted and she would be invited to meet with the working group to be set up to devise a plan for Wigtown Square as a whole once it was established.

**10 NEXT MEETING**

**Monday, 14 January 2019, at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.**