

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS,
WIGTOWN, ON MONDAY, 11 MARCH 2019**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm	Judith Galloway	Stuart Wood
Gill Hay	Louis Wall	PC Krystle Martin

APOLOGIES

r David Moran

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from David Moran.

2 POLICE MATTERS

PC Martin confirmed that the Police had visited the North Main Street location of the accident reported at the CC's February meeting where the boundary wall and metal railings surrounding Wigtown Bowling club had been damaged. The incident had not previously been reported to the Police but it had now been recorded as a hit and run Road traffic collision (incident number PDG0031290219).

There had been three other incidents reported since the last meeting an offence of Threatening and Abusive Behaviour, one of Stalking and Harassment, and vandalism to a vehicle in Lochanrae Lane with damage to its windscreen wipers. Males had been charged in relation to the first two offences but enquiries were ongoing with the third.

Galloway Police Community staff would be holding Spring Community Police Surgeries in Wigtown, Bladnoch and Kirkcubbin on Tuesday, 19 March 2019. The predominant crime prevention messages during these Spring surgeries would relate to telephone, mail and online/internet scams.

She also mentioned Police Scotland's 'Operation Tambo' that dealt with webcam blackmail or sextortion incidents. Fuller details were contained in her report that she would send to the CC Secretary for onward circulation.

There had been recent reports in the national press that 101 calls were not being answered by the police in the evenings during peak periods of demand. She stressed that this article related to forces in England and Wales and Police Scotland was committed to answering all 101 calls regardless of the time of day and night.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved and GDPR and the Wigtown Bird Hide were added as other business.

4 EDIBLE WIGTOWN PRESENTATION

Gill Hay had asked if she could present information on a proposed 'Edible Wigtown' project to the Community Council. She started by introducing Louis Wall from South

West Railway Adopters Garden Group, whose volunteers maintain gardens at 20 rail stations. Mr Wall would be supporting Gill in the planning and delivery of the project.

The concept of Edible Wigtown would be the growing of fruit, vegetables and herbs in public spaces where members of the community could benefit from the produce being grown by picking when ready. Gill explained that there were already two tubs at the Print Room in Wigtown that contained edible plants. The climate in the Machars was ideally suited for edible gardening which could help make communities like Wigtown more resilient. She had already identified the garden grounds at Machars Action and the former Bank of Scotland as potential sites for large plots but would also be looking to identify smaller plots around the town.

At this stage she was looking for the CC's support in principle for the project and she would be looking to form a core group to take the project forward. Suggested partners included Wigtownshire U3A, Wigtown Horticultural Society and Wigtown in Bloom. It was also indicated that the Council's Education Department was looking to encourage edible planting around schools.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 February 2019)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Jock McDowall and seconded by Robin Richmond.

6 MATTERS ARISING

a. Thomas Wheatley Gravestone

David Cluckie had inspected the memorial and said that the polished granite stone needed a new foundation as it was leaning against the wall behind it. He estimated the cost of relettering and resiting the stone would be £400-500. The Secretary would write to the journalist who first mooted the renovation project and advise the level of support required to finance the work.

b. Community Defibrillator – Training event

Galloway Hills Medical Group had been asked if they could help organise an awareness raising/training event and they had confirmed that they would be able to provide clinical staff to help out with this. The Secretary would liaise with Aileen Thomson to arrange something before the Easter weekend.

c. Pavement outside All Souls RC Church/Post Office

The issues had been reported to Roads Department and the work would be carried out if deemed necessary.

d. Dog Fouling Campaign

Andrew Hay had reported that the school poster was not yet available but he would be in touch when they were ready to put up. Previous posters had been put up using cable ties but this method was being reviewed because of a complaint about the use of single-use plastic.

e. Wall and Railings round Town Gardens

Karen Brownlie had written that the crash damage to the wall had been inspected and it was deemed that there was no need for immediate repair. She would be looking to include the restoration with refurbishment works on the entire wall and railings in partnership with balances left over from the McGuffie VC project.

7 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane said that a Financial report had not been circulated because the only movement in the accounts since the last meeting was receipt of a £200 refund from

BFPS in respect of a second batch of McGuffie VC First Day Covers that had been returned.

b: Consultations Report

There was no report to consider

c: Planning Report

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The report detailed new applications in respect of: a ground source heat pump system at Kirvennie Farm; a house extension and decking at the Haven, Barrachan; and a Forestry road at Clauchrie Forest. The forestry road did not require approval so no opportunity for CC comment but it was agreed that there should be no submission on the other two applications. Updates on earlier applications were noted.

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

Judith Galloway and Stuart Wood were representatives of Kirkinner Community Hall Action Group. The Action Group were looking to establish as a SCIO and take over management of the hall from the Council. They wanted to replace the external Council sign with their own branded sign but had been told that they would need Planning permission and were looking for support from the Community Council. The issue was discussed and it was agreed that Nick Walker would contact Karen Brownlie with the suggestion that the group donate the sign to DGC who could then instal the sign prior to the lease being completed. This would preclude the need to involve Planning as DGC has deemed planning permission for its core function as a public authority.

d: Community Festival (Civic Week)

Sandra McDowall had circulated a note of the Working Party who had met on 4 March. She confirmed that the Festival would start with the Crowning Ceremony on Saturday, 13 July and that Nanette Craig had agreed to crown the Princess. The Riding of the Marches was scheduled to take place on 29 June and would be attend by the current reigning Princess.

Members of the Working Party had been allocated tasks so that the workload was spread across the group and it had been a very productive and positive meeting.

e: Federation of Community Councils

The next Federation meeting was scheduled for 27 March.

8 Wigtown Primary Svchool – Nursery Building Work

Wigtown Primary School Parent Council had written to the Council expressing their concern at planned building works that would deliver nursery expansion at the school at the expense of losing one classroom and limiting the school roll capacity. The CC Secretary had also written asking for details of the plans for the school (including timescales) together with the rationale for the plans and projected pupil numbers for the next 5 to 10 years which presumably justified the proposed changes. It was agreed that a joint meeting of the Parent Council and Community Council should be arranged and representatives from Education Department and Councillors be invited to attend to formally explain and discuss the proposals.

8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Transforming Wigtownshire – The group was looking to attend community events/meetings to raise awareness and had provided a poster for display.

Calor Rural Community Fund – Email distributed giving details of a national competition for 21 grants ranging from £1,000 - £5,000. Grant must cover at least 50%

of project cost. Applications would go through a voting process to get on to a shortlist that would then be considered by a panel of judges. Nick Walker had passed the information on to Gill Hay.

DGC Community Councils – A Community Council Gathering had been scheduled for 9 May from 6-8 in the County Buildings. Topics would include Community Engagement, Support for Community Councils and Changes to the Amended Scheme for Establishment of CCs. Sandra McDowall, Matt Kitson and Robin Richmond agreed to attend.

Third Sector D&G – TSDG would be hosting a Roadshow Plus on Partnership Working in Burns House, Stranraer on 26 March.

Graeme McKie, Ward Officer – DGC was organising a Community Conversation on 'Clean DG – Streetscene' on 10 April at Customer Services (Library), Newton Stewart. It would be a drop-in event with sessions from 2-4pm and 5-7pm. Streetscene is a range of local functions provided by the Council including grounds maintenance, burials, street cleaning, playpark provision and public toilets.

Mandy Patterson, Community Resilience Officer – Mandy has recently been appointed along with her colleague Diane Irving-Davidson and is collating community resilience information. She asked for information including a copy of the Wigtown Community Resilience Plan. It was agreed that former Resilience WP leader, Joe McKeown be asked to provide the latest version. Mandy also asked if we would like them to attend a CC meeting to discuss resilience. It was agreed that she and/or Diane be invited to come to Wigtown.

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported that the prime issue dealt with in the past month had been the setting of the Council budget which had now been agreed. The Budget would see Council Tax rising by 4.79%, producing additional income of c £3.25M. The new budget would see substantial cuts across Council services including the closure of one Roads Depot, the Council's Print Unit, Carlingwark Outdoor Centre and 10 Public toilets. There would also be sizeable reductions in delivery from Countryside Services whose budget had been cut to £120k from £320k.

10 OTHER BUSINESS

GDPR – Matt Kitson had circulated draft GDPR Notes and Privacy Notice that would have to be displayed on the CC website.

Pavement on Wigtown-Bladnoch Road – There was a fence impinging on the pavement leading to Bladnoch and another section where a dyke had been removed by a road traffic collision. The adjoining field was owned by farmer, Bob Templeton who said that the path was the Council's responsibility and the Secretary agreed to raise the issue with the Council.

10 NEXT MEETING

Monday, 8 April 2019 at 7.30pm, Wigtown County Buildings.