

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 13 MAY 2019**

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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	Matt Kitson	David McAdam
Nick Walker	Kevin Witt	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr J McColm	Cllr G Nicol	PS Scott
Martin Gummersell	Caroline Schofield	

**APOLOGIES**

Jock McDowall	David Moran	Robin Richmond
	Free Press	

**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Jock McDowall, Robin Richmond, Jock McDowall and the Wigtownshire Free Press.

**WIGTOWN BOWLING CLUB**

Martin Gummersell and Caroline Schofield had attended the Community Council meeting to update councillors on the position with the Club's plans for the bowling green clubhouse. The clubhouse was on Common Good land but the title deeds are believed to have been destroyed in a fire. The Bowling Club has had a lease in the past but the Council decided that they could not issue a lease in the absence of title so the Club were not paying rent and did not have the security of a lease to satisfy funders. The Committee was looking to improve the clubhouse facilities and had been carrying out repairs/improvements in the absence of the Council maintaining the building. The Club was now looking to formalise its position with a 25 year lease for the Clubhouse. Once in place they would apply for funding to develop the building for community as well as bowling use. It was agreed that the Community Council were supportive of the Club's ambitions and a letter of support would be sent to DGC Estates Officer, Jamie Ferguson.

***Martin & Caroline then left the meeting.***

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

Scott, Community Policer Officer reported that recent local crimes included: the report of a stolen orange Ford Pickup from a local farm on 1 May; and a deception theft of valuable jewellery from a local antiques shop in the late afternoon of 7 May. Enquiries into both incidents were ongoing. Local resident, Gavin Tait who was reported as a possible missing person on 6 April and has been potentially missing since the middle of March remains missing despite extensive searches in the Wigtown area and beyond. The Police continue their appeal for any information regarding Mr Tait.

PS Scott explained that Police Scotland was moving to a new Contact Assessment Model (CAM) to deal with calls to the Police via 101 and 999. There would be a phased introduction of the scheme starting with Dumfries & Galloway and Lanarkshire in early summer prior to a roll out across Scotland. Specially trained frontline staff will make a

dynamic assessment of threat, risk, harm and vulnerability when contacted. This is intended to increase the ability to despatch officers to urgent incidents while non-urgent calls will be dealt with by advice and guidance provided over the phone by experienced police officers or through a personal appointment.

PS Scott agreed to clarify and report back on if there was to be a press release on the new approach and the length and assessment of the pilot phase.

He was also asked to look at the lack of road closure/diversion signs at Newton Stewart roundabout when the A714 between Newton Stewart and Wigtown was closed due to an accident. There had been a recent car accident on the road and the first drivers knew about it was when they were diverted onto the Moss of Cree road. This road was quite narrow and unsuitable for two-way heavy traffic.

### **3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Agenda was approved and Station Road and Parking at the Mercat Cross were added as 'Other Business'.

### **4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday,8 April 2019)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Kevin Witt and seconded by Kerr Inger.

### **6 MATTERS ARISING**

#### **a. Wigtown Bay LNR**

PC Krystle Martin had approached her superiors to ask if they would have any concerns re the LNR's bye-laws being revoked but Police Scotland did not want to comment re proposed LNR closure.

Alister Jack MP had written to DGC re the threatened closure of the LNR and the response he received from the Council iterated that the Council cutting back on its Countryside Services Team "will have little impact on the running of or status of the Wigtown LNR".

Jak Kane had circulated details of a meeting of the LNR Management Committee when it was suggested that the Council will look to step away from management involvement in the LNR and the Management Committee would need to form as a separate organisation. That body would then take over the lease of Crown Estate Scotland (CES) land in the LNR. He had proactively contacted Darren Hirst, Partner with Bidwells who acts as the managing agent on behalf of CES to ascertain how the new organisation would go about taking over the lease and what would be the annual rent, if any.

Darren had explained that the Council currently has a Regulated Lease with CES which is actually coming up for renewal. The regulated lease gives the Local Authority a controlling interest in the land, which it needs to have to be able to declare the LNR and raise the Bye-Laws. CES could grant the Local Authority the Lease because of the statutory status of the LNR but it would not be able to grant a lease to a community body for non-use or non-development purposes. In Darren's opinion (unless the Council could provide legal opinion to the contrary) there is no either/or option. The LNR can only exist if the Local Authority has a controlling interest in the land (through ownership or a lease) and CES can only grant a lease to the Local Authority if there is an LNR.

Jak had met with Anna Johnson, currently DGC National Scenic Area Officer, who had been tasked with taking over the establishment of the new Bye-laws and developing a new management structure for the LNR as part of the remit of her new post as DGC Environment Planner. She was due to meet with the Council's legal adviser on 16 May 2019.

#### **b. Defibrillator Awareness Raising/Heartstart Update**

Sandra McDowall expressed disappointment at the poor turnout to the event that had been organised, particularly when Dr Gurling and David Hirst of Heartstart had made the

effort to be there. It was now proposed that another session would be incorporated within the Summer Festival with Heartstart attending and providing support at a station based in the Surgery Car Park, one afternoon during the week. Heartstart was a local charity that provided training and a £20 donation had been made.

**c. Councillors rota**

It had been ascertained that the councillors were supposed to be still adhering to the same rota as last year and it was simply unfortunate that, despite two councillors being allocated for each meeting, there were occasions when no councillors attended the Wigtown meetings. .

**d. Wigtown Primary School – Nursery alterations**

Sandra McDowall had written to Jeff Lever, Chair of DGC Children Young People and Lifelong Learning Committee raising concerns at the Council's decision to reduce the capacity of the Primary School to meet the needs of the new Nursery provision, the lack of meaningful consultation and the Council's inability to provide details of the options appraisal process prior to the decision being made. Both Cllrs McColm and Nicol agreed to support the Community Council and Parents council in their campaign for a revised decision.

**e. Bird Hide**

A CCES request had been submitted asking for details of who would now be taking over responsibility for the issue of renovation of the Bird Hide. Anna Johnson in her new role as Environment Planner would be the officer taking it forward and had visited the site after her meeting with Jak Kane.

**f. Primary School – Dog Fouling Campaign**

Sandra McDowall had attended the Primary School when the anti-dog fouling posters were put up and, as agreed at a previous meeting, had presented a cheque of £100 for the School's Eco group on behalf of the community Council.

**g. Wigtownshire U3A**

As agreed the Secretary had circulated the May leaflet outlining all the various Interest Groups that make up the U3A (University of the Third Age).

**7 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**a: Financial Report**

Jak Kane had circulated reports prior to the meeting showing figures for the full financial year to 31 March 2019 and for the period since that date.

Between 10-31 March the only movement in the Administration account had been a payment of £16.91 re admin costs. A total of £52.29 had been from the Festivals account in respect of printing and room hire for the 2019 Summer Festival but this would be carried over to next year in the final Accounts.

In the new financial year, the Information Commissioners Office licence had been paid, with the £40 charge discounted to £35 because it was paid by Direct debit.

**b: Consultations WP**

There was no Consultations Report to discuss.

**c: Planning WP**

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Nick explained that there were two new applications to be considered together with updates on earlier applications to be noted.

The first was a proposal for the erection of an agricultural shed for which he proposed there be no submission and this was agreed

The other application had been submitted by Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative for the development of the former Bank of Scotland building. Nick Walker, Matt Kitson, Kevin Witt and Jak Kane were directors of the Initiative and declared their interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion on the application. The remaining Community Councillors agreed that a submission in support of the application should be made and Sandra McDowall agreed to send this to the planning authority.

Cllrs McColm and Nicol did not participate in the consideration of the contents of the report.

#### **d: Town Square Development WP**

Sandra McDowall had met with Karen Brownlie to discuss the dead trees around the square and Karen would also look into the possibility of the installation of 16amp sockets on the poles of the heritage lights around the square which may be owned by the Council. Nick Walker would be contacting the electrician company involved with the Newton Stewart lighting scheme for information on how they went about it. Sandra had also contacted Purple Box to talk about light projection onto the County Buildings and had been referred to another company.

#### **e: Community Festival WP Report**

The next meeting of the Working Party had been scheduled for 20 May. It was confirmed that both the reigning Princess and the Princess elect would be asked to attend the Riding of the Marches.

### **8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

***Kirkland Garage*** – the Secretary had written to Planning advising that, despite the temporary permission granted for the containers being subject to erection of timber screen or their being painted green, the conditions had not been met. The issue had been passed to Planning Enforcement and the containers had been painted.

***D&G Health & Social Care Partnership*** – information had been received advising that the pilot project that saw Sunday opening of one of the chemist shops in the area had ended and would not be continuing.

***DGC Ward event*** – Information had been circulated about a Ward Event about Waste and recycling, held in Newton Stewart on 7 May.

***Galloway National Park Association (GNPA)*** – The Minister for Rural Affairs and Natural Environment in the Scottish Government had visited the area and was presented with a new report from GNPA setting out the case for Galloway becoming Scotland's third National Park. A digital copy of the report had been circulated.

***Galloway Without Pylons – An update*** on SPEN's Kendoon to Tongland pylon project had been circulated

***DGHSCP – Transforming Wigtownshire update*** - A briefing paper had been received advising that the Transforming Wigtownshire Programme was now at the point of implementing changes within health and social care and that positive plans which have emerged from themed working groups are now ready to move forward.

***DGC*** – Information had been circulated on the launch of the Public Protection Website to raise awareness of protection issues and provide info for people at risk or experiencing harm.

***DGC*** – Andrew Hay, Community Safety Team had written about the team's Engagement Day to be held in Wigtown from 2:30 to 4 on Wednesday, 15 May. They would cover antisocial and environmental issues such as dog fouling, littering, fly tipping..

### **9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES**

There were no Councillors present at the meeting and no notifications received.

**10 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

***Parking at Mercat Cross*** – This remained an issue and it was agreed that Sandra would contact the Festival Company to ask what arrangements would be made for the Festival weekends to ensure that last year's difficulties were avoided. It was also agreed that the secretary would write to the Market organisers to remind them that a condition of the licence was that market traders would park their vehicles in the Lorry park once they had unloaded their wares.

***Station Road*** – The council had said that resurfacing work scheduled for March 2019 would be carried out early in the new financial year but nothing had been done. It was agreed that the Secretary would chase for an update

**10 NEXT MEETING**

**7.30pm on Monday, 10 June 2019 in Wigtown County Buildings.**