

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 10 JUNE 2019**

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PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Katie Hagmann	PC John Jamieson
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APOLOGIES

Kerr Inger	Jock McDowall	Free Press
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1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Jock McDowall, Kerr Inger and the Wigtownshire Free Press.

2 POLICE MATTERS

PC John Jamieson gave an update on the lack of road closure and diversionary signs following the incident on 9 May and explained that responsibility for this rested with the Council's Roads Department and they identified the preferred routes to be used when the A714 needed to be closed.

He reported that there had been a local incident on 27 May when a female had been arrested for threatening and abusive behaviour and a separate incident where a circa £2,000 banking fraud had been attempted.

A temporary road closure had been applied for in connection with the Riding of the Marches. He also said that the Police were looking for sightings of a dark coloured Mercedes/Jaguar in connection with a murder enquiry involving Kilmarnock woman, Emma Faulds.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

VE Day Anniversary was 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 Nick Walker and seconded by Kevin Witt.

6 MATTERS ARISING

a. Wigtown Primary School – Nursery Alterations

Matt Kitson had arranged a meeting with Finlay Carson MP to discuss the School issue and the lack of meaningful consultation on Friday, 14 June. Sandra McDowall and a representative from the Parent Council would also attend. Since the Council had consistently failed to adequately respond to requests for information on the options appraisal and process whereby the Council made their decisions around the reduction of pupil capacity and number of classrooms, Jak Kane had submitted a Freedom of Information request. A response could be expected by the date of the next CC meeting.

b. Parking at Mercat Cross

Sandra McDowall said that she had raised the issue of parking during the Book Festival with the Festival Company and they had agreed to investigate control options. David Moran agreed that he would participate.

c. Bird Hide

Confirmation had been received from the Council's Environment Planner, Anna Johnson that she would engage with community representatives on the refurbishment of the hide. She had already procured a couple of quotes for the work and would be approaching some local joiners for a price also. She hoped to have a contractor appointed by the next CC meeting date.

d. Station Road resurfacing

The Council's Roads Department had advised that Station Road was on its programme for the current financial year but they had been experiencing difficulties regarding procurement for surfacing. However, this was almost sorted and a re-programming of the works will be scheduled and Station Road would be one of the first to be resurfaced.

7 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting showing figures for the financial year to 1 June 2019. Expenditure on the Administration Account included £12.48 to Machars Action for printing etc., a £20 donation to Heartstart and £100 to Wigtown Primary School for Eco-projects as agreed at an earlier meeting. The only movement on the Festivals account was receipt of £82.50 from McGuffie VC book sales.

b: Consultations WP

There was no Consultations Report circulated but Jak Kane had sent information on the Scottish Government's Consultation on unconventional oil and gas development in Scotland (in other words fracking). It was agreed that no response was required as the Scottish Government's preferred position was not to support onshore unconventional oil and gas development in Scotland.

c: Planning WP

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

He explained that it was proposed that it was recommended that a submission be made on only two of the applications.

The first was re an amendment of a previous application for the erection of industrial buildings at Duncan Park in which Convenor Sandra McDowall declared an interest and took no part in the discussion. Nick Walker explained that a previous application had been approved after changes had been made to address concerns re a number of issues including appearance. This application however reverted to the original proposal for the walls to be covered with agricultural cladding. It was agreed to submit an objection in line with the CC's previous stance that the walls should have a rendered finish rather than metal cladding.

The other application would see the replacement of uPVC windows and doors on the shopfront of Wigtown Pharmacy with wooden windows and doors and a new sign. It was agreed that the CC should support the application which would better fit with the building's status as a Listed Building within the Conservation Area.

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

d: Community Festival WP Report

Sandra McDowall confirmed that arrangements had been moving ahead and a draft programme agreed.

e: Town Square Development WP

No date had been set for the next meeting but Sandra had met with SW Audio to discuss options for light systems at the square. Matt Kitson had a proposal for developing the bowling pavilion that would see an extension to the rear of the building to provide a stage area facing the gardens. It was agreed that Matt would join this Working Party.

8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

South of Scotland Enterprise – May & June newsletters had been circulated. The SSE Bill had been passed by the Scottish Government and the new Agency would be established by April 2020.

NHS D&G – NHS D&G had given 4 days' notice for Non-Executive Director Recruitment.

Wigtown Primary School –The School had planned a Ground Force Day for the end of May when the CC's £100 donation would be used but it had been cancelled due to bad weather forecast.

Graham McKie – Graham had provided an update on the Derelict Buildings pilot. It had been agreed that the final meeting of the group would be deferred for 3-6 months as there remained some actions to be followed up.

Graham McKie – Regional launch of the Neighbourhood Champions Initiative would be held somewhere in D&G, some day and some time in mid July. The Council were gauging interest before deciding on venue based on feedback and currently the suggested dates were 3 July, 12 July and 18 July.

South of Scotland Economic Partnership – Consultation events on role of the new Enterprise Agency had been scheduled for 6:45 pm at Newton Stewart, Creebridge House on 17 June and Stranraer College on 2 July

Glasgow Science Centre (GSC) Tour – A 33% reduction discount was available for a weekday event in July or August 2019 from GSC with interactive hands-on exhibits, engaging science shows and expert science communicators. Starting at £500+VAT for a whole day before discount, £400 after.

Scottish Government – Empowering Communities Fund – Launched 7 June with closing date of 14 June.

9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Cllr Hagmann said that the new arrangements for the Area Committee Discretionary Grant Funding totalling £62K had been agreed. There would not be an application process as before but funds had been allocated and organisations would be invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EofI) in delivering the funded activities identified. The Community Council would be able to submit an EofI in respect of Christmas Lights and Community Galas & Events. Funds had also been allocated to Wigtown's Big Bang Festival and the Riding of the Marches. There would be calls for applications for funding from the Anti-Poverty funding of c£200K across the region, with 25.2% allocated to Wigtownshire based on SIMD statistics.

The Council was already planning for the setting of next year's budget which would involve earlier release of information and engagement. A further reorganisation of the

Directorate structure was planned and the proposals should be published at the end of June.

Matt Kitson asked about the issue at Wigtown Primary School where iPads were provided but could not connect to the Network and if there had been any report on the impact of the system failure at the Library. Katie explained that a new system had been introduced and there had been issues with the transfer.

10 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

VE Day 75th Anniversary – |Matt Kitson advised that the traditional May Day Holiday on the first Monday in May will be moved in 2020 to Friday, 8 May as part of the celebrations that will take place over the weekend to celebrate the anniversary. Matt suggested that the Community Council should lead in the organisation of a street party and it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged for the community to discuss.

Wigtown- Bladnoch footpath – Willie McCartney highlighted that there were weeds growing alongside the path which were intrusive. It was noted that the Council had been spraying weed killer recently and that should remedy the situation.

Minutes on Notice board – Nick Walker agreed to display the CC minutes on the notice Board if they were produced timeously and the Secretary agreed to expedite production. Having said that, as Jak was due to leave the country on holiday before the end of the week, he said that it would be likely that the July minutes would be the first.

10 NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Monday, 8 July 2019 in Wigtown County Buildings.