

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 8 JULY 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 Moran
David McAdam	Robin Richmond	Nick Walker
	Kevin Witt	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Jim McColm	James Galloway	John Gardiner
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**APOLOGIES**

Jock McDowall	Cllr David Inglis
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**1 APOLOGIES**

Apologies had been received from Jock McDowall and Cllr David Inglis.

**Arts Inc Community Interest Company**

Sandra McDowall explained that James Galloway and John Gardiner, Directors of Arts Inc CIC had asked if they could come to the CC meeting to explain about the group's 'Roon the Toon' project. They had been in touch previously asking for a letter of support from the Community Council but it had been felt that there was insufficient information given at that time.

James explained that the group was based in Creetown and was looking to bring creative expertise into Care Homes and Schools in Dumfries & Galloway. Following a pilot project in Newton Stewart Arts Inc had secured Lottery funding for a project that they took into four care homes and, working with residents, they had produced a dementia friendly game loosely based on Monopoly and focusing on the local area. They were now looking to expand into the Machars and had secured funding that would allow them to concentrate a Wigtown project. They were looking for local groups to work with and were keen to extend it to all ages as the project would work across generations and with individuals from all ability ranges.

They had contacted Wigtown Primary School and the October Club but had no response. It was agreed that the Community Council would lend support to the proposed project by spreading the word Matt Kitson would raise the issue with the Primary School and its Parent Council.

**2 POLICE MATTERS**

There was no police officer in attendance nor report received.

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

Items of 'Other Business' included .Bladnoch – Wigtown footpath, electricity poles on the Martyrs Stake- Harbour footpath, access to the Martyrs' Stake, wall at the Lorry Park, verges in Bladnoch and lights in the Bus shelter.

**4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 10 June 2019)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved subject to correction of typos, proposed by Kevin Witt and seconded by Nick Walker.

## 6 MATTERS ARISING

### a. Neighbourhood Champions Initiative

It had been reported that the launch of the Neighbourhood Champions Initiative would be held somewhere in D&G, some day and some time in mid July with potential dates given as 3 July, 12 July and 18 July. Graeme McKie had been contacted for an update and he said he had heard “*nothing further at present*”

### b. FOI Response – Wigtown Primary School

A response to the Freedom of Information Request was due from the Council by 8 July 2019 but it had not been received to date. In response to an email sent on 8 July, the Council’s FOI Unit said that they were chasing a response but it was unlikely that anything would be received before the end of the day.

### c. Bird Hide

The Council’s Environment Planner, Anna Johnson had hoped to have a contractor appointed by the next CC meeting date but had experienced difficulties with the Council’s procurement process. She was chasing up two of the local contractors that Kevin Witt had provided details for, to give them the opportunity of quoting for the work but they were currently not responding to her telephone messages. She had been in Wigtown on 8 July and intended knocking on their doors to make contact.

### d. Wigtown Primary School

Matt Kitson confirmed that he had met with Finlay Carson MSP to discuss the Council’s decision making process on the school’s pupil and the lack of meaningful consultation. He had been in contact with the Council and had been given the stock response received earlier by the CC and the Parent Council. The MSP had since written questioning whether or not Early Years funding could be used to provide classrooms or only nursery facilities as claimed by the Council.

## 7 UPDATES & REPORTS

### a: Financial Report

Jak Kane said that there had been no movement in either of the CC’s Bank accounts since the last meeting.

### b: Consultations WP

With no relevant consultations launched recently, there was no Consultations Report.

### c: Planning WP

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. Nick explained that there were two new applications to be considered.

The first was in respect of an extension to be added to a house in Potato Mill Road. Although the property would almost double in size, there had been no indication of concerns in the local area and no submission was recommended.

The second application was for 24 North Main Street which it was proposed would be developed as a Hot Food Takeaway with an externally illuminated timber sign advertising the Wigtown Chip Shop. Close neighbours were not concerned with the proposed change of use given the plan to vent the cooking smells via a flue run through the existing chimney. The Community Council were minded to support this application subject to the proposed opening hours and the potential antisocial impact on neighbours. It was agreed that Nick Walker, before submitting a response, would clarify if proposed opening hours could be covered by planning conditions or if they could only be a licensing matter and then respond accordingly.

Updates were given on other current applications including a number of approvals that had been granted.

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

**d: Community Festival WP Report**

Sandra McDowall confirmed that the programme had been agreed, printed and distributed. Matt Kitson asked that posters be produced for the Karaoke and Paper plane/rubber band cars events. Jak Kane confirmed that he would have them produced and passed to David McAdam for distribution.

**e: Town Square Development WP**

Sandra McDowall advised that no date had been set for the next meeting of the group but she would circulate notes from the previous meeting. The three dead trees had been cut down but the Christmas lights on one of them had to be cut off. This highlighted to her the importance of having a more flexible and manageable lighting system. A number of options on lighting around the square including the installation of better uplights on the County Buildings had been mooted. There was the possibility that the existing lights could be adapted to provide external sockets. The damaged wall across from No 11 had been repaired and Karen Brownlie was still looking to quantify the cost of repainting the entire wall surrounding the Town Gardens. She had indicated that some level of match funding might be required and Nick Walker confirmed that there was a possibility that the balance of McGuffie grant funds could be used. Sandra had asked that, when progressing the proposed lease of the bowling pavilion and green to the Bowling Club, the Council should retain control over the land surrounding the green to provide access for the Community Council's plans. Matt Kitson reported that he had emailed Wigtown Bowling Club re the proposed extension to the Clubhouse and had been told that they would discuss the plan at a meeting at the end of June.

**8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

**Community Council elections** – Community Council elections were scheduled for 3 October 2019 and the Council had written asking for the nomination of a Returning Officer (RO) and confirmation of First meeting arrangements. It was agreed that the CC should nominate Ward Officer, Graeme McKie and that we should advise that the first meeting should be arranged for 14 October 2019. Anyone needing a nomination form could get one from Jak Kane and although Electoral numbers were asked for they could be added by the RO.

**School Uniform Banks** – Information had been circulated about this Council-led scheme. However, the nearest donation and collection points were in Stranraer.

**Bank of Scotland** – The Bank had written asking the Community Council to sign a formal Car Parking Agreement which outlined the arrangement Bank whereby the Mobile Branch parked on the Market Square. Jak had advised them that the Community Council did not own or control what they referred to as the 'car park' and was therefore not in a position to enter into any formal Car Parking Agreement.

**Community Conversations** – The Council was organising a series of Community Conversations where they would be looking for opinions on current public toilet provision across Dumfries & Galloway and face to face Customer Services (Libraries). The local sessions would be held on Thursday, 18 July in the County Buildings, Wigtown from 2 until 4 pm and in Newton Stewart Library from 6 until 8 pm.

**Community Councils Newsletter** – The latest newsletter had been circulated.

**Bladnoch Phone Box** – Rosie Higginson, Visitor Centre Manager at Bladnoch Distillery had emailed to advise that the Visitor Centre was due to open in July 2019 and asked if the phone box could be refurbished/cleaned up before then. Kevin Witt had arranged to buy paint and would arrange to deal with this. The Community Council had already decided to allocate up to £100 towards the phone box but it was agreed that Jak Kane would respond to the email and ask that the Distillery contribute help to Kevin or towards the refurbishment costs.

**Area Committee Discretionary Funding** – Jak had submitted Expressions of Interest in connection with the Community Festivals and Christmas Lights funds. He had also passed the information about the new process to Kirkinner Hall Committee and Whauphill Community Association so that they could apply for their villages' Christmas Lights funding themselves direct without the funds having to pass through the CC first.

**Glass Recycling** – A letter had been received from DGC outlining the planned new arrangements for recycling of glass and other recyclates that should be in place by Autumn 2020. Jak Kane had written to the Council asking if there were any plans to place a 'communal bring point' for glass in Kirkinner and Whauphill. He was asked to ascertain from the Waste Collection Service how often the bins would be emptied.

**Festival Fireworks** – A notice had been received advising that Wigtown Festival Company had applied for a Fireworks Licence for a display on Friday, 27 September.

## 9 COUNCILLORS ISSUES

Cllr McColm said that many of the issues he had intended to raise had already been covered earlier. He reported that there had been a review of Day Centre funding and, based on the Council's 'statistical information', there would be a transfer of funding from West to East that would see a 25% reduction in funding for Wigtownshire Day Centres. The Council also had another financial problem as claims for £2.89M submitted to Transerve for work carried out on trunk roads in the Region had been rejected by Transerve.

## 10 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

**Bladnoch – Wigtown footpath** – David Moran reported that pram and wheelchair users of the path from Wigtown to the Cemetery were being impeded by brambles and hedge growth. Jak Kane said he would raise the issue with the Templetons who owned the adjacent field and had responsibility.

**Access to the Martyrs' Stake** – David McAdam reported that the ramp and steps to the Martyr's Stake boardwalk was also blocked with brambles, etc. The Secretary would submit a CCES request to have the work done.

**Wall at the Lorry Park** – Sandra McDowall reported that a part of the wall at the entrance to the Lorry Park from Southfield Lane had collapsed perhaps due to the earlier impact of a fallen tree. The Secretary would submit a CCES request to have the wall repaired and the rubble removed.

**Verges in Bladnoch** – Willie McCartney reported that a car had sustained scratches from brambles growing on the verge in Bladnoch village on the south side of the street. Keven Witt volunteered to cut back the offending growth.

**Lights in the Bus shelter** – Sandra McDowall explained that an electricity supply had been installed adjacent to the bus shelter to provide power to a light and real time bus service information but neither of these facilities were being provided. The Secretary would submit a CCES enquiry to ascertain if the work could be completed.

**Redundant electricity poles on the Martyrs Stake- Harbour footpath** – Scottish Power had installed underground cables which had rendered several poles along the path as redundant. They had been asked to remove them but nothing had been done. The Secretary would contact Scottish Power to chase up.

## 10 NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Monday, 12 August 2019 in Wigtown County Buildings.