

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 9 SEPTEMBER 2019**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall *Convenor*
Robin Richmond

Jak Kane *Secretary*
Nick Walker

David McAdam
Kevin Witt

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

Cllr Graham Nicol

Mandy Patterson, DGC
Resilience

Kathleen Hart

APOLOGIES

Willie McCartney

Kerr Inger

David Moran

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from, Willie McCartney Kerr Inger and David Moran.

2 POLICE MATTERS

There was no police presence at the meeting and no report submitted.

3 PRESENTATION – Mandy Paterson, DGC Community Resilience

Mandy explained that she had joined the Council in her post of Community Resilience Officer earlier in the year and she was, along with colleague Diane Irving-Davidson, visiting Community Councils to discuss Community Resilience issues. She went on to give information on various resilience topics including:

- ***Dumfries & Galloway Virtual Operations Support Team (DGVOST)*** - a partnership of the local authority, the emergency services and the NHS that is designed to provide the public with increased situational awareness about ongoing major incidents allowing them to take proactive steps to keep themselves safe. Its Facebook page and website (dgvost.org) is ONLY operational during a major incident such as severe weather, flooding and long term power cuts and is not normally be updated outwith these incidents.
- ***Scottish Power Priority Services Register (PSR)*** - In the event of a power cut, SPR offer extra support to customers who feel they need additional help and are registered on the PSR. Households can join the PSR if they are: over the age of 60; have a special communication need; depend on electricity for home or medical care; have a child under 5 years of age; have chronic illness; or just feel they need a little extra help. Being on the register won't necessarily mean SPR can restore your power more quickly, however they will try to proactively contact you if they know of a problem in your area and keep you advised.
- ***DGC Flood product subsidy scheme*** – The Council offers a subsidy scheme to properties at risk from flooding. The scheme offers various products that could give protection against flood water entering the property by acting as a barrier to water entry points, such as doors, air vents and air brick covers.
- ***The Circuit*** – a new national database of Public Access Defibrillators.

- **Met Office Alert Service** - The Met Office offers a free service that provides subscribers with email alerts of weather warnings. Users can sign up for email alerts [here](#).
- **Household Emergency Lifesaving Plan (HELP)** – The Council has produced this document to help households be prepared for issues like power cuts and have an essential checklist to hand. You can [Download and complete a Household Emergency Lifesaving Plan \[PDF - 194.41KB\]](#)

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

Sandra McDowall introduced Kathleen Hart who had been nominated as a Community Councillor in the upcoming CC Election.

The Agenda was approved with the addition of Community Council elections as other business.

5 **APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 12 August 2019)**

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

6 **MATTERS ARISING**

a. Double Yellow Lines

Shortly after the August meeting, Roads had written to consult on Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO) re 'No Waiting at any time', 'No Waiting' and 'No stopping' orders for roads in Wigtown. The proposed plan was much the same as existing apart from additional double yellow lines at the lane at the back of No 11, North Main Street. It was agreed that the Community Council ask that the TRO be amended to remove lines in front of 21 and 22 North Main Street.

Re Gill Hay's plan for double yellow lines at drop kerbs, DGC Network Strategy and Road Safety had advised that members of the public could not request double yellow lines at drop kerb locations unless there were specific road safety issues, usually brought to the Council's attention by Police Scotland or Elected Members. White H-bar road markings could be requested at dropped kerb locations but they were non-enforceable but could deter people from parking there.

b. Wigtown Primary School

In response to 3B's application for planning permission for 43 new houses in Southfield Park, DGC Education Services had confirmed that the School Roll was 101 against the school's capacity of 98 and, if the development was to proceed, that the developer would be required to make a Developer Contribution of just under £1,750 per house. Jim McColm advised that there was a standby plan in the school for part of the stage to be used as a fifth classroom. Larann Foss was scheduled to attend the next meeting of the Parent Council.

c. Bird Hide

There was no progress to report on the repairs to the bird hide.

d. Bladnoch Phone Box

A replacement pane of glass had been bought along with frame sealant and would be installed in the kiosk door.

e. Wall at Lorry Park

The Council had confirmed that the repairs to the wall were scheduled for repair but nothing had been done yet.

f. Redundant Electricity Poles Martyrs Stake/Harbour footpath

Kenny McKinstry of SPEN had confirmed that the poles would be removed by their contractor, Keltbray once they had a license to access the site because there was a restriction on mechanical vehicles in the LNR.

g. Granite Pillar in Mercat Square

One of the pillars had been broken, presumably by a vehicle. The Council had removed the upper part of the sett that had been broken off but had yet to grind off or remove the bottom part.

h. Fly Tipping at Lovers' Lane

The old trailer loaded with scrap that had been left at the start of Lovers Walk had been reported to the Council. A Community Warden had visited and was looking into the issue. He had explained that if the fly tipping was deemed to be on private property it was down to the landowner to deal with it and not the Council. The Warden would be contacting the police to try and identify the owner of the trailer via the registration plate.

i. Streetlights – Kirkland Hill and South Main Street

The faulty streetlights had been reported via the Council website.

7 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting showing figures for the financial year to 3 September 2019. The only expenditure on the Administration Account was £20 for payment to Rae McGinn for examining the CC Accounts and £18.17 for the replacement glass and sealant for the Bladnoch phone box. Closing balance for Administration was £1,237.32 and Resilience £1,023.12.

A final breakdown of income and expenditure for the Summer Festival was also provided. Since the last meeting, Machars Young Farmers had given a donation of £50 and payments had been made to Briars Engravers and Wigtown Bowling Club - £147.31 and £24 respectively. The Festival had made a surplus of £198.81, increasing the Summer Festival balance to £2,421.87.

b: Consultations WP

There were no current Consultations.

c: Planning WP

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. There were two new applications. The first was a proposal to add an extension, a garage and decking to a house in Barrachan, Whauphill and it was recommended that no submission be made. The second was 3B's re-application in connection with the erection of 43 houses and associated works in the old Showfield, Wigtown. When considering the previous iterations of 3B's plans it had been recognised by the Community Council that the community was divided on the desirability of the proposals and no submission had been made, leaving it to individuals to support or object to the plans. It was agreed that the Community Council would not make a submission on either of these applications.

The Report also provided updates on earlier applications but there had been no progress with WBCI's applications in connection with the proposed development of the former Bank of Scotland with the decision now three months overdue. Jak Kane explained that the delay was having an impact on the Initiative's ability to progress fundraising for the balance of funding and Cllrs McColm and Nicol undertook to contact Planning Officers.

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

d: Town Square Development WP

Sandra McDowall had been in contact with Kenny Bowie of Scottish Power. He had indicated that Scottish Power intended to carry out some power supply works in South and North Main Streets following the Book Festival and there might be opportunities for the Community Council's proposed works to be included in their plans. She had also spoken again to Sandy Sweetman of SW Audio as the light units he had suggested were not suitable for permanent exterior fitting. The cost of equivalent fittings that could be permanently installed would increase from £400 to £1,200 per fitting.

8 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Wigtown Bowling Club – Graeme McKie had advised that the Bowling Club was now working on a Business Plan to support its Stage 2 application for a Community Asset Transfer that would see them enter into a long-term lease. The application would need to be approved by the Common Good Committee before progressing to the Council's central Committee.

Agnew Crescent – The Council had replaced the missing road sign that had previously been on the Open Book corner with one further along the road on Well Read Books. The Open Book was in High Street so Well Read was technically the first building in Agnew Crescent.

Shoreline Management Plan Study– The Council had appointed Consultants to carry out the study that would include the Machars – Glenluce to the Isle of Whithorn and the Isle to Carrick Point. The Consultants planned to hold 'engagement days' over the next two years.

Defibrillator – The previous database administered by the Scottish Ambulance Service had been replaced by 'The Circuit' – a national defibrillator network connected to every Ambulance Service in the UK that allows them to direct bystanders to the nearest defibrillator. Jak Kane had registered the Wigtown defib and would continue to carry out the monthly checks and update the database.

Arts Inc – James Galloway had provided an update on progress since their visit to the Community Council. They had delivered two workshops on consecutive Saturdays at Wigtown Market that had been well attended by primary-aged children, their parents and visitors to the town. A Design team had been formed to take the Wigtown project forward.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported that Phase 2 of Dumfries Learning Town had stalled because Scottish Government funding for the project was not in place

With regard to previous discussions re Core Paths he said that the Council's new Economy & Resources Department had recognised that Core Paths need to be maintained but there was still no maintenance budget.

Cllr Nicol warned that with £100M already removed from the Council budget and the need for further savings totalling £50M, the Council could not be expected to maintain services at current levels and major changes would be needed.

10 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

Community Council elections – The Council had announced that there had been 15 nominations for the 14 places on Wigtown & District Community Council so there would need to be an election held on Thursday, 3 October.

11 NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Monday, 14 October 2019 in Wigtown County Buildings.