

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 14 OCTOBER 2019**

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[www.WigtownCC.org.uk](http://www.WigtownCC.org.uk)

**PRESENT**

Kathleen Hart	Kerr Inger	Jak Kane
Ada Montgomery	David Moran	David McAdam
Willie McCartney	Jock McDowall	Sandra McDowall
Robin Richmond	Cora Sharp	Paul Tarling
	Nick Walker	

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Jim McColm	Graeme McKie
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**APOLOGIES**

Kevin Witt

***First Meeting following the Community Council Election***

Graeme McKie introduced himself as Returning Officer in the recent Community Council election and explained that he would chair the meeting in the first instance pending the appointment of the Convenor.

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Kevin Witt.

**2 Appointment of Convenor**

Jock McDowall proposed Sandra McDowall be re-appointed as Convenor and, in the absence of any other proposals, Sandra was appointed as Convenor. Sandra asked Graeme to continue in the Chair until the end of the first part of the Agenda.

**3 Appointment of Secretary**

Jak Kane was proposed for the post of Secretary by Willie McCartney and, in the absence of any other proposals, Jak was re-appointed.

**4 Appointment of Treasurer**

It was determined that Jak Kane could not fill both posts of Secretary and Treasurer and that Kevin Witt could not be proposed as he was not at the meeting, David Moran was proposed for the post of Treasurer by Jak Kane and was appointed unanimously.

**5 Appointment of Vice Convenor**

Jock McDowall proposed Willie McCartney be re-appointed as Vice Convenor and this appointment was accepted unanimously.

**6 Amended Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in D&G**

It was agreed that the Amended Scheme be accepted as the Constitution for the Royal Burgh of Wigtown & District Community Council. .

**7 Independent Examiner of Accounts**

It was agreed that Rae McGinn would be asked to continue as the Independent Examiner of the Community Council accounts.

**8 Dumfries & Galloway Community Council Overview**

Graeme McKie explained that the aforementioned Scheme explained the roles and responsibilities of Community Councillors and he could provide hard copies for any

Community Councillor that wanted one. He also referred councillors to the general information provided on the community council's webpage on DGC's website. The Council could provide induction and training for new and existing Community Councillors and this could be arranged via himself. The training could be provided as part of a Community Council meeting or separately at a dedicated session. It was agreed that induction training would be included in the agenda for discussion at the next meeting,

**9 DGC Discretionary Grant**

It was agreed that an application for the annual Admin Grant would be submitted to DGC.

**10 List of Office Bearers and Examiner of Accounts**

Graeme McKie undertook to provide this information to DGC.

**11 Sub Groups**

It was agreed that the appointment of councillors to Working Parties and as representatives to other groups would be deferred until another meeting.

**12 Meetings of the Community Council**

It was agreed that the Community Council would continue to meet twelve times a year in the County Buildings on the second Monday of each month.

**13 Any Other Competent Business**

It was pointed out that a number of Wigtown electors had complained that the election had been poorly advertised and they were not aware that it was being held. Graeme explained that the Council had decided that press advertising was not needed as Election notices had been displayed on noticeboards throughout Wigtown and on the Council's website. He agreed that he would pass on the Community Council's concerns to the Council.

**Graeme McKie left the Meeting**

**BUSINESS MEETING**

**Sandra McDowall took the Chair and passed on to the regular business meeting of the Community Council**

**1 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS**

The Agenda was approved with the addition of other business including: Remembrance Day, Christmas, Wigtown MUGA, Cemetery grass cutting and Flu jabs.

**2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 9 September 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 Nick Walker.

**3 MATTERS ARISING**

**a. Double Yellow Lines**

The Council had produced an amended Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) that included the removal of the double yellow lines in front of 21 and 22 North Main Street.

**b. Wigtown Primary School**

Larann Foss had not attended the Parent Council as originally intimated.

**c. Bird Hide**

Peter Skimming had been contracted by the Council to carry out the repairs on the hide but would not be able to start before November 2019.

**d. Bladnoch Phone Box**

Kevin Witt was not at the meeting to provide an update.

**e. Wall at Lorry Park**

The Council had advised that the repairs to the wall had been carried out but no work was evident and the rubble had not been cleared away.

**f. Redundant Electricity Poles Martyrs Stake/Harbour footpath**

The Secretary would chase an update on the scheduled work.

**g. Granite Pillar in Mercat Square**

The Secretary had written to the Council asking when the pillar would be replaced.

**h. Fly Tipping at Lovers' Lane**

It was confirmed that the old trailer loaded with scrap at the start of Lovers Walk was no longer there.

**4 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**a: Financial Report**

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting showing figures for the period to 3 October 2019. A payment of £30.30 had been paid to DGC for room hire taking the balance for Administration to £1,207.02 with Resilience balance remaining at £1,023.12. Two DGC Grant payments totalling £630.40 had been received - £300 for festival/events and £330.40 for Christmas lights – increasing the grand total of the Festivals Accounts to 11,384.96.

**b: Consultations WP**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting advising that there were no current consultations but DGC had given notice that it was set to consider proposals on how to engage with citizens during November/December in the budget setting process for 2010/21. Paul Tarling highlighted that there was a consultation on the Scottish Crown Estate that included consulting on Offshore Wind Farms. It was agreed that Jak Kane would look to produce a draft response.

**c: Planning WP**

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. There were three new applications: for replacement windows at 9 Bank Street, Wigtown; for erection of Changing Rooms at Bladnoch Park; and a retrospective application for formation of a Box Dormer and a storage shed at Main Street, Whauphill. It was agreed that the CC would make no submission in respect of these applications.

The Report also provided updates on earlier applications with two applications approved but a decision on 3B's application re the housing development at the Old Showfield still outstanding.

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

**d: Town Square Development WP**

Sandra McDowall reported that she and Jak Kane had met with representatives from SPEN to discuss the lighting proposals for the square. SPEN would be undergrounding the power lines on North and Main Streets and proposed that, as part of this work, would provide a power source within McGuffie VC Gardens from which the Community Council could run its proposed lighting scheme. Costs would be covered by SPEN including the electricity used other than provision of a small cabinet (breeze blocks, lockable door and roof) for the electricity connections.

**5 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

***Mercat Cross*** – Karen Brownlie had provided a copy of a condition report and advised that repointing work on the Cross would start on 7 October and finish by 25 October

2019. She had notified the market that the area would be unavailable for the three weeks.

**Wigtown Square** – The Council had repaired and painted the wall surrounding the McGuffie Gardens. Karen Brownlie would be asking for the cost of the repairs and repainting of the railings to be included in the Land Asset Class Programme for 2020/21.

**Galloway National Park Association** – The GNPA AGM was scheduled for 10 October in the CatStrand and would include a talk from Friends of the Lake District.

**Planning Webinar** – The Council had circulated details of a one hour webinar on the new Planning (Scotland) Act passed in June 2019. It was scheduled for 17 October but the information provided said the webinar was open only to Planning Skills members which included the Council but not the CC.

**Local Development Plan 2** – The Council adopted LDP2 on 3 October 2019. A hard copy would be available to consult at Libraries and there was an option to purchase copies at £30 each.

**BBC Our Coast** – The BBC had written to advise that they would be recording a presenter link in Wigtown for an episode on SW Scotland.

**DG Health & Social Care Partnership** – For a trial period there would be an expansion of the ambulatory service and the creation of a 24/7 Emergency Department Observation Unit as part of 'Making the Most of the Galloway Community Campus' initiative.

**DGC Waste Collection** – There had been no direct notification but a DGC Press Release had given information on changes that would be implemented from 28 October. Households would receive information including details of sorting waste and collection days etc. The Council had scheduled a Community Conservation for 31 October in the McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart to "coincide with the changes".

**Liability Insurance** – Keegan & Pennykidd had written asking if the cover would be needed for the Christmas festival.

## 6 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm referred to the forthcoming Budget setting process for the Council which would have to identify budget savings of £14.5M for 2020/21. He said that LDP2 included relaxations in Planning with housing development in the countryside and in the use of UPVC in replacement windows and doors..

## 7 OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

**Remembrance Day** – Remembrance Day service would fall this year on Sunday, 10 November. Wigtown Guides, Brownies and Rainbows would parade from the Church Hall and Community Councillors would fall in line from the County Buildings, meeting at 10:45 am. Nick Walker undertook to liaise with local clergymen and arrange for a piper. Cora Sharp would ascertain if the Primary School wanted to participate in the ceremony as in previous years. Jak Kane had ordered wreaths for those taking part.

**MUGA** – Matt Kitson had asked on behalf of representatives from local child-minding services who owned the MUGA. They were proposing to deliver a child care service from the tarmac area adjacent to the MUGA using port-a-cabins and wanted to know who to contact. It was agreed that the contact would be Karen Brownlie, DGC Community Assets Manager.

**Christmas arrangements** – Sandra McDowall said she would convene a meeting of the Town Centre Working Party to agree when the tree and lights were put up and the

light up ceremony arranged. It was noted that the Winter Kist was scheduled for 22/23 November and the Old Folks Party for the first Wednesday in December.

**Wigtown Surgery** - Kathleen Hart had raised the issue of the Flu Jab clinics, organised originally by the Galloway Hills Medical Group only for Newton Stewart. They had since organised two Wigtown clinics for 23 & 25 October.

**Cemeteries** – Kathleen had also received comments about the level of maintenance of the local cemeteries. Cllr McColm said that the grass was cut regularly but the Council policy for cutting grass in general, including cemeteries, was ‘cut and leave’. The Secretary would contact the Council re the cemeteries’ upkeep.

**Wigtown Primary School** – Cora Sharp announced that the Primary School would be holding an Open Doors Day on Saturday, 16 November so that visitors could see the new nursery in the School.

**Road defects** – The secretary would report potholes in Kirkland Hill and the condition of the car park area in Seaview.

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**NEXT MEETING**

**7.30pm on Monday, 11 November 2019 in Wigtown County Buildings.**