

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 11 NOVEMBER 2019**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)	Jak Kane (Secretary)	Kathleen Hart
Kerr Inger	Ada Montgomery	David Moran
David McAdam	Willie McCartney	Jock McDowall
Robin Richmond	Nick Walker	Kevin Witt

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

APOLOGIES

Cora Sharp	Paul Tarling	Cllr Katie Hagmann
	Cllr David Inglis	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cora Sharp, Paul Tarling and Cllrs Hagman & Inglis.

2. POLICE MATTERS

There was no police attendance at the meeting nor Police Report received.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved.

4 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 Jock McDowall and seconded by Kerr Inger.

5 MATTERS ARISING

a. Bladnoch Phone Box

Kevin Witt confirmed that he had replaced the glass in the kiosk door.

b. Wall at Lorry Park

There had been no further work carried out at the wall and the Secretary agreed to chase the issue.

c. Mercat Cross – Replacement Granite Pillar/Repointing

The Council had said on 18 October that they expected to receive a replacement granite pillar within a week and would then arrange for it to be installed.

The repointing work on the Mercat Cross was due to be finished by the end of October but had been delayed due to *“some issues with the scaffolding coupled with the cold weather when pointing could not be completed when the temperature is very low”*.

Property & Architectural Services were on site on 7 November and confirmed that the scaffolding and welfare unit would be removed by 14 November.

d. Christmas Lights Switch-on

Sandra McDowall said that Friday, 29 November had been set for the event.

e. Bird Hide

Peter Skimming was due to start the repairs on the hide in November 2019 but Anna Johnson would advise when in November as soon as she know the date(s).

f. Redundant Electricity Poles Martyrs Stake/Harbour footpath

SPEN had confirmed that the redundant poles had been removed.

g. Cemeteries' Grass Cutting

Karen Brownlie advised that the grass in all three Wigtown cemeteries was cut every 2-3 weeks. This season they had been cut 12 times with a further cut planned in November dependent on the weather. Current machinery does not lift cuttings but replacement mowers will be able to cut the grass into smaller pieces that will be less unsightly and mulch down more quickly.

h. Road defects

Pot holes in Kirkland Hill had been reported and the Council had confirmed a repair had been added to its schedule of works. The car parking area in Seaview had also been reported but the area was the responsibility of DGHP and not the Council. A report had been sent to DGHP.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting showing figures for the period to 9 November 2019. Poppy wreaths costing a total of £214 had been ordered for Wigtown & Kirkcubright memorials on behalf of Wigtown CC as well as for other Wigtown organisations. The Masonic Lodge and Primary School had reimbursed the CC. A payment of £15.89 had been paid to Machars Action for printing. The closing balance for Administration was £1,047.13 with Resilience balance remaining at £1,023.12.

A late invoice for £105 in relation to the road closure for the Wigtown Princess Crowning Ceremony had been paid from the Summer Festivals Account and a £140 insurance premium for the Christmas tree, lights and switch on ceremony from the Christmas Festivals Account. The grand total of the Festivals Accounts to £11,139.96. Not included in the report was income of £50 that Nick Walker had collected from the sale of McGuffie VC DVDs and passed to the Treasurer.

b: Consultations WP

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting including a draft response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the 'Scottish Crown Estate: Strategic Management Plan'. The draft response concentrated on the potential impacts of offshore wind farms on the natural resources, wildlife and habitats of areas that are heavily dependent on nature tourism and the advisability of charging less than market value for a lease in connection with a local community initiative such as a Local Nature Reserve.

The Community Council had been asked by DGC to submit a written response to its Budget Options 2020/21 by 4 December 2019. It was agreed that Community Councillors would complete individual responses to the options and provide a copy to Jak Kane who would then try and collate and submit a consensus report for the CC.

c: Planning WP

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. There were two new applications: one for erection of floodlights at Trammonford Park and another for agricultural buildings at Moorpark of Baldoon. It was agreed that the CC would make no submission in respect of these applications.

The Report also provided updates on four earlier applications that had been approved by the Council but there had been no progress on 3B's application re the proposed housing development at the Old Showfield.

Nick also advised that Sandy McCreath was looking at the installation of six holiday pods in the field below the Bayview Nursery in Bank Street and was intending to submit

a pre-application proposal to the Council and would arrange to attend a CC meeting to consult on his plans.

Cllr McColm did not participate in the discussion of the Planning issues.

d: Town Square Development WP

The Working Party had met on 17 October and Sandra McDowall had circulated a report detailing the arrangements agreed for the Christmas tree, lights and the switch on ceremony. .

7 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Waste & Recycling Community Conversations – The Council had sent an invitation to the event that had been held on 31 October in the McMillan Hall, Newton Stewart.

License application – DGC Licensing had provided details of an application from Historic Newspapers in connection with alcoholic gifts for online orders only. Kerr Inger confirmed that this related to a change of address for an existing license.

Traffic Regulation Orders – the Council had provided amended versions of the TROs, Notice and Plan for Wigtown that included to the removal of the double yellow lines in front of the former Bank of Scotland.

DGC Council Transformation – The Council had sent a report that included a Summary of Transformation discussions involving Council staff.

Notice of UK Parliamentary General Election – the Council had asked that the notice be displayed.

'Community Peace Garden' – The Douglas Ewart Advanced Peace Advocates had sent an invitation to an information event about their upcoming Community Peace Garden on Wednesday, 13 November at Douglas Ewart HS.

Wigtown Primary School - The School had sent an invitation to a tour of the changes to the school at an event on Saturday, 16 November.

8 COMMUNITY COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

It had been suggested that a Newsletter should be produced by the Community Council to supplement the information provided on the CC website and notice board. WBCI had secured funding for such a publication from the Galloway Association of Glasgow and was willing to work in co-operation with the Community Council to produce a newsletter that would contain WBCI as well as Community Council and other community news and information. It was agreed that Ada Montgomery, Kathleen Hart and Kevin Witt would work together to draft a newsletter to be printed and distributed through Kirkiner and Whauphill Post Offices and other sites in Wigtown.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm talked about the proposed Budget and explained some of the financial difficulties that the Council was facing. He had reported the broken flagstone on the steps at the McGuffie VC arch as well as a light that had been out for 3-4 weeks in Harbour Road. Nick Walker asked that he also raise the issue of the faulty streetlight near the War Memorial that had been reported but was still not functioning. He said there had been reports of antisocial behaviour with children running through the flats in North Main Street and it was being arranged for security locks be installed to stop them being able to do so.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wigtown & Bladnoch Community Initiative – It was agreed that Jak Kane should continue as the Community Council's Appointed Director on the WBCI Board.

Flooding – The Secretary would report areas near to Carleton in Bladnoch and the corner of Botany Street and High Vennel that were flooding due to blocked drains.

Church Lane/Beddie Crescent – a parked vehicle was causing a problem at the junction of the two roads but it was agreed that, if the vehicle was causing an obstruction, this was an issue that should be raised directly with the Police.

Scheme for Establishment of Community Councils – Graeme McKie had supplied hard copies of the Scheme for Community Councillors.

11 NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Monday, 9 December 2019 in Wigtown County Buildings.

Nick Walker tendered his apologies as he would be on holiday.