

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

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|----------------|
| Sandra McDowall (Convenor) | Jak Kane (Secretary) | Kathleen Hart |
| Ada Montgomery | David Moran | David McAdam |
| Willie McCartney | Jock McDowall | Robin Richmond |
| Cora Sharp | Paul Tarling | |

IN ATTENDANCE

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| Cllr Katie Hagmann | Louise Kerr, Free Press |
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APOLOGIES

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| Kerr Inger | Nick Walker |
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Sandra McDowall started the meeting by marking the death of Cllr Graham Nicol who had been of great service to the Community Council over the years he had served. She advised that a card sending condolences on behalf of the Community Council had been mailed to Mrs Nicol.

She also welcomed former Galloway Gazette reporter, Louise Kerr back to Community Council meetings as she had recently been appointed as a reporter for the Free Press.

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Kerr Inger and Nick Walker.

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 with no other business notified.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 November 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 David Moran.

5 MATTERS ARISING

a. Mercat Cross repointing/replacement pillar

The Council had been contacted re the unsatisfactory state of the Mercat Cross .after the repointing work had been done, highlighting that the contractors had not followed the recommendations included in the report prepared by the Council's Property and Architectural Services (PAS). This included: all joints should be repointed other than joints with tight beds; constant temperature of above 5°C should be maintained round the work area; and mortar should be protected with hessian sheeting and kept damp. The site had since been visited by three separate people inspecting the work and Karen Brownlie had confirmed that the work had not been signed off by PAS. She had asked them to provide a report on their findings and she would send it on to the CC when received.

The Council had said that they expected a replacement pillar to be received before the end of October but, since it had not been installed, the Secretary had chased it and had

been told that it would be checked and made safe or repaired prior to the weekend (Friday, 13 December).

b. Christmas Lights

Sandra McDowall thanked everyone involved in pitting up the tree and Christmas lights as well as those responsible for organising the light-up ceremony and the post event in the County Buildings where the Community Shop delivered refreshments and the Creetown Silver Band provided music.

c. Dumfries & Galloway Council Budget Response

Jak Kane said that he had received feedback on the Council's Budget Options 2020/21 from six Community Councillors. He had submitted their comments as individual responses as well as sending a Community Council response highlighting concerns with cuts to the Education and Roads maintenance budgets as a common theme.

d. South Back Street

The Council had responded re the car park area and said that they would arrange for it to be trimmed and tidied up and they would be looking at finding a long term solution. Kathleen Hart said that a local resident had carried out the work and, in the absence of the Council doing it, he would tidy up the area,

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane said that he had not prepared a report as the only movement on the Accounts had been the annual £20 payment to DGC for the CC's Lottery Licence, which was needed for fundraising activities linked to the Summer Festival.

He also said that, as he had expected, payment of the CC Admin Grant from the Council for the year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020 had still not been received. He had submitted the application with supporting documentation on 15 October. The Council had then sent out reminders to Community Councils on 13 November (including Wigtown), asking them to submit the grant paperwork. Jak had responded by confirming that Wigtown CC's claim had been submitted and asking if there was something missing that was holding up the payment. No payment or response to that email had been received since.

Cllr Hagmann undertook to contact Wilma McKeown.

b: Consultations WP

There were no current consultations for the CC to consider but there were two consultations on Early Learning and Childcare in which the Scottish Government was looking for responses from those with pre-school children. One was an Evaluation for existing users/families to review Early Learning and Childcare Services in the area and a Future Needs questionnaire for those with a child aged 0-4 who will make use of the provision.

c: Planning WP

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. The only new application received was for Planning in Principle for a new dwellinghouse to be built in the grounds of Edinard, 1 Maidland Place. Edinard had originally been built as a single house on two building plots and the proposed site formed part of the associated private garden. The current owners had no interest in maintaining the second plot as a garden and proposed building a modest house on the infill site. Nick suggested that the Local Development Plan would assume in favour of this type of application. A neighbour had made a representation about the possibility of his private garden being overlooked if the house was to be more than one storey. On the basis that the Community Council would

have a further opportunity to comment on any future detailed Planning application, it was agreed that the CC make no submission at this time.

Updates on earlier planning applications were noted.

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

d: Town Square Development WP

Sandra McDowall said she would chase SPEN who had said that they would be providing a map detailing the proposed work on North and South Main Streets and the Square.

e: Newsletter

Ada Montgomery distributed a draft newsletter for comment and it was agreed that the font used should be large to make it easier for older community members to read which would possibly mean that it would be larger than a four A5 page double-sided document. The group would now look to work on a first edition with a copy being submitted to the Convenor and Secretary for approval before printing.

7 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

South of Scotland Enterprise – Communications Update confirming that the Enterprise Company would operate on a hub and spoke model with offices across the South of Scotland but no indication if this simply meant Stranraer and Dumfries for D&G.

Launch of 'Tackling Poverty through Participatory Budgeting Phase 3' – DGC had launched the latest phase of this funding with a closing date of 31 January 2020. In 2019 grants of up to £20,000 had been available but, in this phase, grants would be restricted to £100 - £5,000.

Police attendance at CC meetings – PC John Jamieson had been in contact to ascertain contact and meeting details for the CC. He wrote that the Police would hopefully attend all if not most of the meetings.

Free Press – Nick Dowson had written to advise that he was leaving the paper and Louise Kerr had been in touch to advise that she was his replacement.

DGC Council Budget 2020/21 – the Council had sent details of an online webcast to be held on 2 December 2019.

Notice of Election – following the death of Cllr Nicol, the Council had given notice of the election process to appoint his successor. The deadline for delivering Nomination forms was 16 December and, if the election is to be contested, the poll will be held on 23 January 2020.

Transforming Wigtownshire – The Transforming Wigtownshire Leadership Team wanted to revisit the CC to provide an update on the work of the programme and discuss how the two could work together to achieve its aims. It was agreed that they should be invited to the January or February meetings.

DGC Community Councils Newsletter – the Newsletter had been circulated.

Wigtown Common Good Fund – the Council had advised that there was £530 available to groups in 2020 from the Common Good Fund. The next Committee meeting to consider applications was scheduled for April 2020 or earlier if need be.

Local Electricity Bill – A letter had been received from Power for People asking if the Community Council would agree to provide a letter of support for the Local Electricity Bill. The Bill was being supported by a cross-party group of 115 MPs including 20+ Scottish MPs. Although it was thought unlikely that Wigtown Community Council would use the legislation or benefit, it was agreed that it should support the proposed Bill to give other communities that could benefit the opportunity.

Anti Social Behaviour – The elderly mother of a local resident had been experiencing difficulties with young people throwing stones at her windows helped to some extent by a faulty streetlight in Kilquhirn Road not being repaired despite family members reporting it a number of times. The Secretary had raised the issues with the Council and the following day the light had been fixed and a member of the Community Safety Team had been in contact with the family to offer support.

There had been increasing reports of anti-social behaviour both from pupils bussing to DEHS in the morning and from children of all ages (primary and secondary) who were engaging in vandalism and malicious mischief during the darker hours after school. It was agreed that the Convenor would contact the Head Teacher of the High School to highlight the issue and clarify the role of Council worker, Shaun Dodds who was in the town when buses were leaving and overseeing the young people in some capacity. The Secretary would contact the Community Safety Team, Youth Services and the Police to see if they could engage the young people to resolve the problems.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Hagmann joined with the Community Council in expressing her regret at the sad news of Cllr Nicol's death. She said that he was a hard working colleague that will be missed. Cllr Hagmann said that she had attended the recent D&G LEADER Rural Awards 2019 ceremony and was pleased to note that five of the seven awards were won by businesses and projects in Ward 2 including the Wigtown Festival Company picking up the Legacy Award.

She said that the Council Budget had been going through the consultation process with Community Conversations, the online webcast and the request for responses to the Council's Budget Options. The Council's political groups will be meeting next month to discuss the budget and will have access to the consultation responses which will also be published if permission had been given. However, the process will be delayed as the Scottish Government was due to set its Budget in November but cannot do that until the UK Government decides on the Scottish settlement which will not now be announced until late January/February.

The management of the revenue generated from the Scottish Crown Estate's marine assets had been devolved to Crown Estates Scotland. Formerly released through the Coastal Communities Fund, coastal communities will now benefit from 100% of the revenue with each local authority receiving an allocation based on their share of the adjacent sea area. A new DG region wide 'Coastal Benefit Fund' will provide just over £300k per annum to fund and support local projects and initiatives. Councillors have still to agree the criteria and timescales for the fund.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wigtown Chip Shop – It was queried if the wrought iron sign on the gable end of the new chip shop had planning consent. It was agreed the Secretary would investigate.

Wigtown Primary School – Cora Sharp advised that the Parent Teacher Association had introduced a voluntary one way system for parents dropping off and picking up their children at the school.

Offshore Wind Plan – The recent Consultation document on the Draft Strategic Management Plan for the Scottish Crown Estate mentioned Marine Scotland, undertaking the preparation of a draft Offshore Wind Plan. It was agreed the Secretary should ask when the consultation would be launched

11 NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Monday, 13 January 2020 in Wigtown County Buildings.