

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,  
ON MONDAY, 13 JANUARY 2020**

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

**PRESENT**

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

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Cllr Jim McColm	Louise Kerr, Free Press	PC Crystal Martin
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**APOLOGIES**

Jock McDowall

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Jock McDowall.

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

PC Crystal Martin acknowledged the CC's correspondence re the Anti-social behaviour (ASB) problems being experienced in the community. She had looked through the police reports for recent months and found that there had been no ASB incidents reported direct to the Police from Wigtown. She stressed that it was vital that incidents should be reported to the Police using 101 so that police officers can attend and investigate even if not immediately. She explained that the Police deliver talks to both Primary and Secondary pupils on Anti-Social Behaviour and Good Citizenship in partnership with Andy Hay from DGC Community Safety Team.

Other reported offences reported in Wigtown included: an assault to serious injury and disfigurement; threatening and abusive behaviour; driving without an MOT; damage to a gate and theft of plant pots; fraud involving misuse of a debit card.

Counter Terrorism Policing were offering members of the public the opportunity to become Counter Terrorism (CT) Citizens through signing up to complete the ACT Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) Awareness eLearning package. The programme teaches CT Citizens how to spot the signs of suspicious behaviour and understand what to do in the event of a major incident and the online learning is available free of charge to anyone who wants to take part. ACT Awareness is made up of seven modules that take a few minutes each to complete. You can pause and re-join at any time and in total it should take just 45 minutes. <https://ct.highfieldlearning.com/register/> .

**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, 9 December 2019)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by David Moran and seconded by Paul Tarling.

**5 MATTERS ARISING****a. Mercat Cross repointing/replacement pillar**

Karen Brownlie had spoken to Property and Architectural Services (PAS) and they confirmed that a section at the bottom of the Cross had been affected by rain and therefore the Contractors had been requested to revisit, remove and replace the affected pointing. A date to complete the outstanding work was still to be confirmed. PAS had also confirmed that the contractors did not remove all the existing pointing as it had too good a hold and they would end up damaging the stone and this was often the case when trying to point a statue (sic) with tight beds. Karen Brownlie would keep the CC updated if she hears anything further.

**b. Newsletter**

Ada Montgomery distributed a second draft of the proposed newsletter laid out as a four page A5 booklet. It was agreed that she should proceed to have an updated version printed and she would distribute it in Wigtown as well as to Kirkinner and Whauphill.

**c. Transforming Wigtownshire**

An email had been sent to Ward Officer, Kerry Monteith on 12 December advising that the CC had agreed to the Transforming Wigtownshire Leadership team being invited to attend either the 13 January or 10 February CC meeting. A response had been received on 6 January advising that she had forwarded the message to Anne Munro at NHS who would be organising dates for the Transforming Wigtownshire Team.

**d. Anti Social Behaviour**

Sandra had contacted Mr Webb, DEHS Head Teacher to outline the Community Council's concerns after the December meeting and to advise him of the desire to work with the school to tackle what was seen as an increasing problem in the town. Mr Webb undertook to have the school's assigned Police Community Liaison Officer to speak to the pupils on her return from illness absence. He also advised that there were ongoing initiatives planned to tackle anti-social behaviour, the first being the release of a school app which would highlight the need for pupils to promote the school by setting a good example and behaving appropriately at all times. There was also a planned initiative where year groups would have special assemblies, focussing on anti-social behaviour through a drama production. The police are involved in that initiative as well

Sandra had told Mr Webb that Ada Montgomery had agreed to monitor the situation on behalf of the Community Council and she would be reporting to the school on a regular basis, particularly with regards to the anti-social behaviour and littering before the school bus arrives.

Jak Kane said that he had emailed Laura Kiltie, Lisa Martin, Police, DGC Councillors and DGC Community Safety. Only response had been from Diane Irving-Davidson, Senior Community Safety Officer who said she would pass the details to her colleague, Andrew Hay who leads on presentations to schools.

Ada Montgomery informed the meeting that she had met with Mr Webb and Shaun Dodds and it had been a positive meeting. She had explained that she would be monitoring the issues around the pupils waiting for school buses in the morning and provide before and after photographs of the site before to show the environmental impact and Health & safety issues. Mr Webb had said he would be contacting parents re the behaviour problems and complaints and he was looking to work together with the community to reduce opportunities. One suggestion had been to move the school pupils' bus stop from North Main Street to New Road but this would need consultation with the Primary School and the bus operators. Due consideration would have to be given to any Health & Safety implications for Primary School pupils walking to school. The Secretary was asked to contact Douglas Kirkpatrick to ask if there was the

possibility of the school buses picking pupils up at the designated bus shelter rather than outside the former Bank building.

**e. Wigtown Chip Shop sign**

The Secretary had contacted the Planning Department to ascertain if a variance had been granted to the Advertising Permission for the external advertisements at the Chip Shop, Wigtown. Planning had visited the site and had written to the owner requesting that they submit a new application for advertisement consent or remove the signs and replace them with the original approved advertisements (ref 19/1064/FUL). It was agreed that the Community Council should be pursuing the Council to ensure consistency with advertising boards within the Conservation Area and should raise the issue of the unofficial signs on the railings on the square with Planners.

**f. Offshore Wind Plan**

The Secretary had contacted Marine Scotland who confirmed it was still their intention to release the draft Sectoral Marine Plan for consultation in 2019. See Consultations Report for more info.

**6 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**a: Financial Report**

A Financial report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Jak Kane advised that there had been no movement on the Administration Account as the CC Admin Grant from the Council had still not been received. An email had been received advising that the grant would be issued before 31 March 2020.

In the Festivals Account Scad had provided £195 from fundraising - £75 Lucky Squares and £120 from the Co-op re Santa's Grotto in the County Buildings. A donation of £125 had been sent to the Bowling Club to cover the cost of the electricity used for Christmas lights. This was down from the previous year due to the reduction in the number of lights and their being lit for less time.

**b: Consultations WP**

A Report had been circulated prior to the meeting highlighting four current consultations:

- i. The Replacement of European Structural Funds in Scotland Post EU-Exit -**  
The Scottish Government was conducting a consultation to seek views on how best to develop its thinking on how any replacement funding vehicle can best meet the needs of Scotland's citizens, businesses and communities post Brexit.  
  
In Scotland, EU Structural Funds have played a vital role in reducing disparities across different parts of the country for over 40 years. It was agreed that a CC response should be sent asking that the proposed UK Shared Prosperity Fund should continue to be weighted towards tackling issues experienced by remote rural and rural communities identified through the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD)
- ii. Planning Performance and Fees –**  
This Scottish Government consultation proposes a new approach to how the performance of planning authorities is measured, the role of the planning improvement co-ordinator and a new structure for the planning fee regime along with the introduction of additional services which authorities can charge for and the ability to waive or reduce planning fees in certain circumstances. The Scottish Government (SG) is keen to hear stakeholders' views on the new categories of

development and method for calculating fees. It was agreed that on the whole the proposals made sense.

**iii. Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy-**

The purpose of this consultation is to seek views on the draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy, the draft Plan Options therein, and the suite of assessments captured under the Sustainability Appraisal. Crown Estate Scotland (CES) has announced their intention to run a further leasing round for commercial scale offshore wind energy projects in Scottish Waters and to inform the spatial development of this leasing round, Marine Scotland, as Planning Authority for Scotland's Seas, is required to undertake a planning exercise and the draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind aims to identify the most sustainable options for the future development of commercial-scale offshore wind energy in Scotland.

A copy of the 'Questions for Consultees' document had been circulated and the most important question was – "Do you support the selection of the following Draft Plan Options (DPOs)?" There was a DPO (SW1) located to the south of the Mull of Galloway and Luce Bay and it was agreed that the Community Council should indicate its strong opposition to this proposed DPO. Community Councillors were asked to provide Jak Kane with written comments that could support this opinion and he would collate a consensus view to add to the CC response.

**v. Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) –**

The Council was reviewing the opening hours of the 12 HWRCs across the region. They said it was "to better reflect their usage and to provide a more consistent service". The Council was looking for individual responses from community members via an online Survey Monkey questionnaire and Councillors were encouraged to complete it.

**c: Planning WP**

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting. There were three new applications for which it was recommended that no submission be made: an extension to Culbae Farmhouse, Whauphill, change of steading to dwellinghouse at North Balfarn, Kirkinner; and an extension to a cubicle shed at Stewarton Farm, Kirkinner. A fourth application was for Listed Building Consent for the installation of LED floodlights at the County Buildings/ It was agreed that a submission in support be made highlighting that the proposed lighting took account of the Dark Skies Park guidance and that the system's shielding would reduce the risk of light pollution impacting on surrounding properties.

Updates on earlier planning applications were noted.

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

**d: Town Square Development WP**

Sandra McDowall said that she continued to contact Kenny Bowie, SPEN re the planned works to underground power lines in the town square.

**7 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC**

**South of Scotland Enterprise** – The new body was advertising six (paid) board vacancies with a deadline of midnight on 10 January 2020 for applications.

**CC Meeting Venue** – Meetings will be held in the Supper Room in April, June, July, August and September and in the Visitors Room on other months.

**Kirkinner School zone** – the 20mph signs for the primary school zone had again been reported to the Council as not working.

**DGC CC Discretionary Grant** – The Treasurer had submitted the completed Annual Monitoring and BACS forms together with a copy of the 2018/19 Accounts to the Council on 15 October 2019. No payment had been forthcoming and no responses to three separate emails sent since October, A fifth email had been sent on 6 January again asking when the grant covering the year from 1 April 2019 might be received and had been advised by Wilma McKeown, Area Committee Administrator that “*They will be issued before the 31 March 2020*”.

**Scotland TranServ** – TranServ had provided details of their initial programme of structural maintenance resurfacing schemes for the 2020-21 financial year which includes 42 schemes in the South West network but only four on the A75 with none West of Kirkcudbright.

**Survey and focus group on future funding after EU exit – TSDG.** Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway had been commissioned to carry out a consultation on behalf of the South of Scotland Economic Partnership to consult with the Third sector on the absence of European funds when the UK exits the EU. There was an Online survey with deadline of Monday, 13 January 2020 and a focus group would be held on the subject 9:30 am till 1 pm on Thursday, 23 January 2020 in TSDG office in Buccleuch Street, Dumfries.

**Local Authority By-Election** – A Notice of Poll had been received re the By-Election for Ward 2 Mid Galloway and Wigtown West to be held on Thursday, 23 January.

**Council Budget 2020/21** – The Council had published feedback and a summary of results of the Council’s consultation on the 2020/21 Budget Options. A report would be presented to Councillors on 17 December 2019 to give them an update on the Budget Process Timetable and report the detailed feedback from the consultation.

**DGC Shoreline Management Plan** - The Council had appointed consultants RPS to carry out surveys of the D&G coastline in order to gather data and evidence to inform a Shoreline Management Plan Study. This study will be a robust, evidence-based and long-term sustainable approach for managing the risk of coastal flooding and erosion along each part of the Dumfries and Galloway coast. The study is expected to take two years to complete. The first of a series of engagement events was scheduled for February 2020 with the nearest option being held in Port Logan on Wednesday, 5 February and it was agreed that Paul Tarling should attend as the CC’s representative.

## 8 COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES

Cllr McColm said that work on the 2020/21 Budget continued. The Council had to identify an estimated £15.5M of savings with £7.75M already in place. Where the remaining £8M of savings could be made had still to be identified through an increase in Council Tax rates or reductions in services. The problem was exacerbated by the Scottish Government’s not yet knowing how much it would receive from Westminster in the Scottish settlement. By law the Council must set its budget in March 2020, so they would have to make decisions on Council tax and budgets by then.

He advised that there were four candidates for the Local Authority councillor vacancy created by the demise of Cllr Nicol. One each from the Conservative, Green, Scottish Labour, and Scottish National parties.

## 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Seaview** – There was a problem with the condition of a pavement adjacent to the car park area in Seaview. The car park area was the responsibility of DGHP as it had not been adopted by the Council and it was suspected that the same was the case with the

pavement. The complainant would be advised to contact their landlord in the first instance.

**Registration Service** – Someone had raised an issue with trying to register a death with a Registrar in Wigtown and being directed to Kirkcudbright or Stranraer because there was only one officer on duty in the Wigtown Service Centre (Library). It was agreed that Cllr McColm would contact the Council to ascertain if there was a way that this situation could be avoided in future.

**Post Office ATM** – It had been suggested that the ATM at the Post Office might be removed at the end of January because of difficulties with Planning consent in connection with its original installation. Several Community Councillors remembered Planning permissions being granted at the time and could not understand why this would be the cause. It was agreed that the Secretary should get in touch with Mary Wallace to see what could be done, if anything, to preserve the facility which was much used, not least when the Book Festival was on.

**11 NEXT MEETING**  
**7.30pm on Monday, 10 February 2020 in Wigtown County Buildings.**