

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2020**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

APOLOGIES

Kathleen Hart	Nick Walker	Police
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1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Kathleen Hart and Nick Walker.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC Rachael Jackson had emailed to advise that the Police were unable to send an officer to the meeting but he provided a written report.

There had been two reported incidents in the previous month: on 21 January there had been a report of vandalism related to £200 of damage caused to a horse box in North Main Street for which enquiries were ongoing; on 1 February an abandoned vehicle had been reported and all relevant agencies had been contacted.

The Police also issued three warnings:

- ♦ Reminder to keep all vehicles secure, do not leave keys within vehicles, keep valuables out sight within vehicles, as well as taking any other precautionary measures to protect property.
- ♦ Warning to business owners of the risk of fraudulent currency as the Police had received reports of counterfeit £20 and £50 notes being in circulation in D&G.
- ♦ With the cold weather drivers should take care on the roads and check their vehicles are roadworthy. Don't drive unless windscreens are fully defrosted/cleared. .

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Agenda was approved and there were a number of items that would be raised under AOB.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday,13 January 2020)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Ada Montgomery and seconded by Willie McCartney.

5 MATTERS ARISING

a. Newsletter

Ada Montgomery advised that the January newsletter had been printed and distributed with additional copies being printed after the initial run of 100 had a 100% take-up. There had been positive feedback on the newsletter and Ada and Kevin Witt would be looking to have the February edition out by the end of the week.

b. Wigtown Post Office ATM

The Secretary had identified that the ATM issue was around lack of Planning documentation re the installation of the machine and he had provided Mary Wallace with the relevant information from the Council's Planning Portal. It has now been reported that, rather than withdrawal of the facility, a new replacement ATM would be installed.

c. Anti-Social Behaviour Update - School Pick Up Point

The Secretary had written to Douglas Kirkpatrick, Lead Officer, Swestrans suggesting that one way of reducing the opportunity of pupils negatively interacting with other pedestrians and drivers would be to move the pick-up point to the bus shelter across the road, effectively removing the pupils from the problem area outside the former Bank. There had been no response received yet. Ada Montgomery had been monitoring the situation and there had been a reduction in incidents.

d. Registrar Service

As agreed Cllr McColm had written to Ailsa Freeman, Communities Directorate's Customer Services Manager to raise the issue of people having difficulty in arranging appointments with a Registrar in Wigtown. The Secretary followed up this contact with Ailsa who provided further detailed information:

- Appointments can either be made at a facility or by calling the Council's Contact Centre Monday to Friday, 8am – 6pm
- Appointments for registration are available in Wigtown on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Friday appointments are available at Newton Stewart and Stranraer, Saturday appointments at Stranraer.
- The longest a person should wait for an appointment is three days. If a death occurred on a Friday, the next available day for appointments with a Registrar in Wigtown currently is Monday.

Ailsa looked into reports that over the festive period relatives had to wait ten days for an appointment and then were made to travel to Stranraer. She could find no incidents of this nature but would investigate if specific details could be provided. It was agreed that as the response would be included in the February newsletter, members of the community would be asked to report any problem with the Registrar service to the Community Council

e. Mercat Cross

The contractors had revisited to remove and replace the defective repointing around the base. The pointing was covered by hessian for a week or so as recommended in the initial report.

f. Wigtown Chip Shop sign

The owner of the new business had confirmed that his architect would be submitting a retrospective application for advertisement consent for the new signs and lights.

g. Kirkinner School Zone lights

The Secretary had reported to the Council on 23 December 2019 that the warning lights approaching Kirkinner School were not working again. He did not receive confirmation until 15 January 2020 that the lights had been scheduled for repair and this was still outstanding. As the 20mph limit was technically only in force when the lights were flashing this was a concern to parents of pupils making their way to and from school. Cllr McColm was asked to contact Roads Department to pursue an early repair.

h. Unconsented Advertising Boards

Planning had been asked to look into the plethora of permanent advertisement boards that had been attached to the railings around Wigtown Square gardens and bowling green and none of which have been given Advertising Permission. The Planning Enforcement Team would investigate and consider it in accordance with the Council's Planning Enforcement Charter which categorised the issue as falling within Group C of

the priority system used. Accordingly a full response or an update in writing detailing the timescales for investigating the matter would be issued within 60 working days.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

A Financial report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Jak Kane confirmed that the CC Admin Grant of £674.75 (2018/19 £678.10) had eventually been received from the Council and Wigtown Guides had paid £35 for the wreath sourced by the CC.

In the Festivals Account the £300 bill from Brian Little for the Christmas tree had been paid (down from £450 last year). Jock McDowall explained that there would be a bill for the hire of the machine used to raise the tree and attach the lights.

b: Consultations WP

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

i. Draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

The Scottish Government was seeking views on the draft Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy and related documents.

Paul Tarling, Sandra McDowall and Cora Sharp had attended a Marine Scotland consultation event and reported that Crown Estate Scotland were keen that communities had sufficient information about the proposals and that they participated in the consultation. It had been revealed that, while some Councils had objected to the proposals, DGC Planners had indicated that they would not comment at this stage and, only if the Draft Plan Option for SW1 located to the south of the Mull of Galloway and Luce Bay was taken up, would they would respond and consider any subsequent planning applications. Paul Tarling pointed out that, in the absence of any DGC deep-water ports, economic benefit from locally based jobs resulting during the offshore wind farm construction and installation phases and from the onshore grid connection points was likely to be based in and around Cumbrian seaports.

Sandra and Paul had prepared responses to the consultation and these together with any additional written comments from other Community Councillors would be collated by Jak Kane into a formal CC response. The Community Councillors present were asked for confirmation that Wigtown & District Community Council should 'Strongly oppose' draft Plan Option SW1. Eleven of the twelve Community Councillors in attendance agreed.

ii. Licensing of Sexual Entertainment Venues (SEVs)

D&G Council is looking for individual responses from community members to a short online survey (<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KCNYWNX>) on whether or not the Council should license Sexual Entertainment Venues, i.e. lap dancing or strip clubs. If the Council decides not to license SEVs, it is important to note that SEVs could still open and operate in D&G but the Council would not be able to regulate them directly under the licensing regime.

iii. Dumfries & Galloway Shoreline Management Plan (SMP)

The Dumfries & Galloway Shoreline Management Plan was originally produced in 2005 and is being updated to further develop the understanding of flooding, coastal erosion, wave overtopping and the current coastal protection along the Solway coastline. Paul Tarling attended the first of a series of engagement events in Port Logan on 5 February as the CC's representative and had been given a copy of maps and other information on the potential impact of future increase in sea levels. He explained that currently DGC's position seemed to be that there would not be any planned infrastructure changes until a problem emerged. It was agreed that Jak

Kane would circulate copies of the maps and related information related to Wigtown Bay.

Jak Kane said that he had only just received notification that the Council was carrying out satisfaction surveys on the Council's Report-it Service and CCES (Community Council Enquiry System). It was agreed that Jak could complete these surveys on behalf of the Community Council on the basis that he was the prime user of the facilities as Secretary of the CC.

c: Planning WP

Jak Kane had circulated a report prior to the meeting in the absence of Nick Walker.

There was a new application in connection with the erection of a dwelling house at Culbae Farmhouse, Whauphill for which no submission was recommended.

Another new application had been submitted re replacement UPVC windows and doors in the derelict property at 24 High Street, Wigtown but the application had been included in the Weekly Planning list on 15 January and approved unconditionally on 7 February 2020. The Delegated Report determined that "*the proposal would not have a materially adverse effect on the character r appearance of the Conservation Area*". It was agreed that the Community Council would normally have considered a submission against the application to show consistency as, in the past, the Community Council had objected to installation of UPVC replacement doors and windows in properties within the Wigtown Conservation Area on the grounds that it risked undermining the wider Conservation Area as well as the heritage value of individual properties. The Council's decision on this application also set a precedent for future applications for replacement windows and doors within the Conservation Area. It was agreed that the Council be advised that WCC was disappointed that it had not had the opportunity to make a representation on the application because of the unexpected timeous decision and the future implications of the Planners' decision to approve.

Additional documents relating to 3B's application had been submitted to address concerns raised by Roads Department and Scottish Water. Updates and decisions on other planning applications were noted.

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

7 Town Square Development WP

Sandra McDowall said that she had spoken to Kenny Bowie, SPEN re the planned works to underground power lines in the town square and he had said that a contractor had been appointed and the work should start in March/April 2020. He had also agreed to remind David Jones to provide Sandra with a copy of the working drawings.

A meeting of the Working Party was convened for 7pm on Wednesday, 26 February at Duncan Cottage, Wigtown

8 Community Festival/VE Day 75 Weekend

The dates for the annual Community Festival were provisionally set for the week commencing Saturday, 11 July which would incorporate the Riding of the Marches that was planned for Sunday, 12 July.

It was also noted that VE 75 weekend would fall on 8-10 May 2019 and it was agreed that initial contact would be made with Steve Hannah who led on the organisation of the Garlieston Military Weekend and Suzie Cowper, Co-op Community Champion to find out if they had any plans for events to commemorate that weekend.

9 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

Christmas Lights Review – DGC Infrastructure had asked for information in connection with arrangements for the erection of Christmas lights/decorations in the

community as they were looking to pull together an up to date picture. It had been decided not to engage as it was unclear why the information would be needed.

Fly the Red Ensign for Merchant Navy Day 3 September 2019 – The Red Ensign had been flown in Wigtown on Merchant Navy Day and a Certificate of Commemoration had been sent to the CC by the Merchant Navy Association in recognition of the town's participation.

Bench in Bladnoch Park - The bench in the play park in Bladnoch had been removed by Council workers in November last year as it was in a poor condition and not repairable. The Council had said that it would be replaced in Spring 2020 and a new bench had now been installed.

Town Twin Requests - COSLA Brussels Office had received a number of requests for town twinning in Scotland.

Great British Spring Clean 20 March – 13 April - Keep Britain Tidy were looking for communities to sign up to sign up to host a clean-up, join a clean-up in their area or pledge to pick. Cora Sharp said that she would take the info to Wigtown Primary School as this could be something that the pupils could participate in. It was suggested that any event might be extended to the wider community and could be advertised in the March newsletter.

Wigtown WWI Commemoration pages – As part of the McGuffie VC project the CC website has pages that list details of soldiers from Wigtown who served in WWI. A message had been received from the granddaughter of Hugh Muir advising that much of the information on her grandfather was new to her even though she had been researching her family history for years. She was very grateful for the info on the website and commended our researchers in their work. The message had been sent to Mike Morley.

10 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

At the January meeting Cllr McColm had reported a gap of £8M in the Council's 2020-21 Budget. He said that the gap was now £5.2M after the reduction in the level of Scottish Government funding had not been as severe as expected. However, this was based on Westminster's interim settlement figures that would not be finalised until 13 March. Councils could increase the Council tax rate by up to 4.8% which, if utilised in D&G, would raise c£3.5M. A Budget report would go to the Finance, Procurement & Transportation committee before being presented to the full Council on 27 February.

Cllr McColm intimated that Gillian Brydson had been confirmed as the newly appointed Director of Education.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

High Cemetery Gates – Ada Montgomery reported that the gated entrances to the cemetery were very muddy and, for older community members visiting graves, very difficult to negotiate. The Secretary would contact the Council to ask that the pedestrian access be gravelled to resolve the problem.

Paper Recycling – The skip in the Lorry Park had been removed. It was noted that this was not a Council facility and it was suggested that it may be that it had been removed for emptying and might be returned.

Christmas Lights – Jock McDowall said that he required help to finish dismantling and storing the remaining lights. Volunteers were identified to help Jock with the work – Kevin Witt, Paul Tarling and David Moran

12 NEXT MEETING

7.30pm on Monday, 9 March 2020 in Wigtown County Buildings.