

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD IN THE COUNTY BUILDINGS, WIGTOWN,
ON MONDAY, 9 MARCH 2020**

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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	Robin Richmond	Cora Sharp
Paul Tarling	Nick Walker	Kevin Witt

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Katie Hagmann	Cllr David Inglis	Cllr Jim McColm
	Gill Hay	

APOLOGIES

Kerr Inger	Jock McDowall	Police
	Transforming Wigtownshire	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Kerr Inger, Jock McDowall and PC Martin.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC Martin had submitted a written report as a police officer was not available to attend the meeting.

The document told about a member of the public reporting that shots had been fired on 17 February at protected bird species, swans and barnacle geese, in the vicinity of the Crook of Baldoon. The Police had attended supported by RSPB Ranger, Paul Tarling but they could not trace the miscreants.

The Police shared information on an attempted telephone scam where a female in Annan had been contacted by someone claiming to be from HMRC who had asked her to repay an outstanding debt of a four figure sum, The caller threatened that failure to pay would see her arrested and an appearance in court. The Police urged people to follow their Stop and Think advice:

1. Never disclose security details (PIN, Passwords etc)
2. Don't assume an email, text, letter or phone call is authentic
3. Don't be rushed, genuine organisations will not mind waiting
4. Listen to your instinct – you know if something does not feel right
5. Stay in control – Don't panic and make a decision you may regret.

There had been an increase in the number of fake £50 notes being used across the region, including in Newton Stewart and Stranraer. There had also been reports of fake Clydesdale Bank £20 notes in the Castle Douglas area.

Police Scotland had launched a national Hate Crime campaign that would run through March 2020 with a focus on disability hate crime with the aim of improving the awareness, recognition and reporting of disability hate crime. The most common types of hate crime experienced by people with disabilities are threatening and abusive behaviour, common assault and online abuse. The most common places they occur are on public transport, on the street and neighbour disputes.

3 Presentation – Transforming Wigtownshire

Karen Harper, Programme Manager at Transforming Wigtownshire (TW) had emailed to advise that she was no longer available to travel through from Dumfries and TW Chair

John Ross was “away”. It was agreed that they would be asked to attend a future CC meeting.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday,10 February 2020)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

a. Kirkinner School Zone lights

Cllr McColm had written asking that the Council investigate the non-working of the warning lights but nothing had been done and the lights were still out.

b. Marine Scotland Consultation on the Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy

Jak Kane said that he had received input from Sandra McDowall, Paul Tarling and the Galloway National Park Association. He would collate a CC response along with Paul Tarling and circulate a draft before the 25 March deadline.

c. Community Festival – 11-17 July 2020

The dates for the Community Festival were confirmed to coincide with the Wigtown Riding of the Marches (ROM) on Sunday, 12 July. Nick Walker advised that the ROM would be issuing a press release about the event and offered to incorporate details of the Community Festival. A meeting date for the first meeting of the volunteer Working Party would be set and advertised.

d. VE Day 75

It was agreed that the community should organise an event to commemorate the anniversary and the Community Festival working party would be asked to take this on.

e. Great British Spring Clean

Cora Sharp confirmed that the Primary School would be organising an event for the Spring Clean. She confirmed that the school would need adult volunteers to take part and she would advise a date for the event so that it could be advertised in the March newsletter.

f. High Cemetery Entrance

Karen Brownlie had arranged for a team to tidy up the area and had made plans to put down hardstanding on the site.

g. Paper Recycling Skip

It had been identified that the skip missing from the Lorry Park did not belong to the Eco Animal Bedding project and the Council had been asked if they had removed the facility and if, and when, it might be replaced.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane said that he had not prepared a full report for this month. The only income since the last meeting had been £35 from Wigtown Brownies in repayment for a Poppy wreath and the only expenditure being £33.40 paid to Machars Action for printing (including £27 for February newsletter).

b: Consultations WP

There was no Consultation Report as there were no new consultations with only the aforementioned Offshore Wind Energy consultation outstanding

c: Planning WP.

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting

There were two new applications. The first was for the erection of a domestic out-building in the garden of 3 Agnew Terrace, Whauphill. The second was for retrospective Listed Building Consent for changes to the former Red Lion, North Main Street,

including replacement Windows, an extension, internal alterations and change of use. The report recommended no submission on either application.

Cllrs Hagmann, Inglis and McColm did not participate in the discussion of the Planning issues.

d: Town Square Development Update

Sandra McDowall said that progress was being made. David Jones, SPEN had provided a copy of the plan showing its undergrounding project which will go ahead as soon as the funding is in place. It was now proposed that the lighting project be split into two phases: cabling for Christmas lighting and then specialist stage-type lighting to project colour, messages and art work on to surrounding buildings and pavements around the Square. The possibility of securing funding to instal electric car charging points as part of the development scheme would be investigated.

7 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

- a. Cllr Jackie McCamon** – Cllr McCamon had sent a letter of introduction asking for meeting dates, agendas and minutes.
- b. Battle of Britain 80th Anniversary** – Commanding Officer of RAF Spadeadam, Cumbria had written asking communities to mark the Anniversary in some way. It was agreed that the CC would arrange for flags to be flown during the 2020 Battle of Britain week of 7- 13 September.
- c. A Smart approach to Tackling Fuel Poverty** – DGC & Smart Energy GB were holding a round table discussion on a smart approach to tackling Fuel poverty through the use of smart meters and technology. Robin Richmond said that he would attend.
- d. Whithorn Trust** – The Trust had been advertising for new Trustees with a closing date of 6 March 2020.
- e. Participatory Budgeting Phase3** – The Public voting event had been held in Newton Stewart on 7 March but online voting would be available until 4 April. There were 14 projects vying for a share of Wigtownshire's £50,500 and each person could cast three votes.
- f. Wigtown Bay LNR** – There had been two candidates for Chair of Advisory Management Committee and the successful candidate had been Martin Armstrong from Creetown – CC Vice Chair and local landowner looking to establish wetland and woodland just outside the LNR. Anna Johnson, DGC had arranged a Committee meeting on 25 March in the County Buildings.
- g. Association of Wigtown Booksellers** – AWB had written to the CC asking for it to nominate a suitable spot for them to plant a hazel tree in Wigtown in memory of Richard Booth who established Hay on Wye as the first ever Book Town. It was agreed that the issue should be passed to Wigtown in Bloom but AWB would be asked not to connect Richard Booth with the establishment of Wigtown as a Book Town.
- h. Community Empowerment Workshop** – Third Sector Dumfries & Galloway was holding a Free workshop on Wednesday 25 March 2020 in Stranraer focussed on Community Empowerment: Participation requests; Asset transfer requests and community right to buy; and community planning partnerships.
- i. Glass Recycling Points** – New glass recycling points were to be introduced after kerbside collection of glass was withdrawn and DGC was asking for suggestions for siting skips in Wigtown and Kirkinner. It was agreed that the Lorry Park be confirmed as the preferred location for Wigtown. The Council was suggesting that

the Village Hall was the proposed site for Kirkinner and the letter would be passed to the Hall Committee for their views

10 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm said that the recent weather had caused a great many pothole problems with previous repairs being undone due to the amount of rainfall and standing water. With the planned changes to the collection of recyclates across the region the Council would be looking to offer now unneeded recycling boxes free to residents to use for whatever they wanted to prevent them having to go to landfill. At the same time the Council was ordering 26 new waste collection vehicles and 5 for Food waste collection.

Cllr Hagmann highlighted the success of the group looking to develop the New Town Hall in Whithorn in securing £1.3M from the Scottish Government's Community Regeneration Fund. The Council's Interim Budget had been set and had turned out to be in not as bad a position as expected.

The Regional Youth Council had met with Elected Members from Dumfries & Galloway Council. The Youth Council is made up of young volunteers who want to make a positive difference for other young people in the region and there were currently two vacancies for Youth Councillors from Mid Galloway and Wigtown West.

Cllr Inglis said that he would be hosting a Ward Event in September/October jointly with Cllr McCamon and they would welcome suggestions for topics to be included. He had recently raised the perennial problem of dog fouling in Newton Stewart with the Community Safety Team and they had quickly responded by leafleting the area around Douglas Park.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Broader Machars Federation of Community Councils – The Federation's AGM had been convened for 31 March 2020 and Sandra McDowall and Robin Richmond would attend.

Seaview – There had been a complaint about the behaviour of workmen carrying out roofworks on behalf of DGHP including lack of notice, indiscriminate siting of scaffolding and workers walking on the roofs of neighbouring privately-owned properties. The situation was now resolved.

McGuffie Gardens – Council workers had been in the gardens and had severely cut back many of the plants and had not cleared up after themselves. Before the CC complained to the Council, Sandra McDowall agreed to contact Alex Craig, Wigtown in Bloom to ascertain if they had requested the work and/or if they were happy with what had been done and the state of the garden afterwards.

Anti Social Behaviour – Ada Montgomery said that she had spoken to Shaun McGuire and there would be a one month trial where some pupils would be picked up in New Road to try and minimise the problems in North Main Street.

Lorry Park – There were three caravans stored in the Lorry Parks and a resident had asked if this was permitted. It was agreed that the Secretary would ask the Council for its view.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for 7.30pm on Monday, 13 April 2020 in Wigtown County Buildings. However, as this fell on Easter Monday it was mooted that this meeting would be cancelled if there was no urgent business. To be confirmed.