

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE
ON MONDAY, 8 JUNE 2020

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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	Robin Richmond
Cora Sharp	Paul Tarling	Nick Walker
	Kevin Witt	

IN ATTENDANCE

Bruce McClure	Cllr J McColm	Craig Hamnett
	Helen Morley	

APOLOGIES

Cllr J McCamon	Jock McDowall
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1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Cllr Jackie McCamon and Jock McDowall. Sarah Nyland and Cllr David Inglis were unable to connect to the Zoom meeting.

2. POLICE MATTERS

No police officer joined the meeting and no written report submitted. (*Report was subsequently received 9 June 2020 and circulated*)

3 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 May 2020)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that although it had been minuted that no Police report had been received, PC Martin had emailed a report and it had been circulated in the days after the meeting. The minutes were approved, proposed by Cora Sharp and seconded by Paul Tarling.

4 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising not featured later in the Agenda.

5 RESILIENCE GROUP REPORT

Sandra McDowall said that the Resilience Group continued to meet weekly to discuss progress, any issues that had arisen, and the way forward. As part of Volunteers' Week, the Community Council had sent Thank You cards to all registered volunteers to recognise their contribution, posters had been circulated and she had written a piece about Wigtown & District's Resilience Scheme for Third Sector D&G's Facebook page. So far, up to week 10, volunteers had responded to 740 red cards, delivered 225 prescriptions and 290 cash back requests had been processed. The scheme was considered a lifeline by many elderly and vulnerable residents who simply could not manage without it. Given that some volunteers might soon be returning to work or had already done so, the regular checks for red cards had been reduced to twice a day. As always, an update flier had been delivered to every household before the changes were implemented.

Craig Hamnett joined the meeting

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane had circulated a copy of a report outlining movements in the CC's accounts since 1 April. Payments had been made from the Administration Account in connection with the ICO Data Protection registration and a gift for Independent Examiner, Rae McGinn. The total spend for Resilience had increased to £970.27 which included the cost of the ZOOM subscription.

There had been no transactions in the Festivals Account.

b: Consultations WP

There was no Consultation Report as there were no new consultations to be considered.

c: Planning WP.

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting that advised that there had been no new Planning Applications submitted to DGC and gave updates on earlier applications. The plans for a proposed garage with accommodation above at 1 Bladnoch had been approved. The application for restoration and development works at 4 North Main Street had disappeared from the planning portal and Nick would investigate. The Council's plans to instal LED floodlights around the County Buildings had been delayed as they had been asked to provide additional drawings that provided more detail and which had been subsequently provided on 1 June 2020. There had been no progress with 3B's proposed plans for housing in Southfield Park.

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

d: Town Square Development Working Party Update

Sandra McDowall reported that she had been in contact with SPEN but there had been no start date set as yet for the proposed underground cabling works. Grant Coltart of DGC had been in touch to confirm he was keen to work with the Community Council to explore the possibility of installing Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure and the funding that might be available. SPEN had confirmed to him that they were more than happy for the project to piggy back on the work that would be carried out in Wigtown as it could reduce civil work cost and further inconvenience.

It was agreed that Grant would be invited to meet with the Working Party via ZOOM to discuss the project when he would outline the options available and look to clarify issues such as target users for the charge points, type of units and locations. Sandra would liaise with Grant to agree a meeting date and inform the Working Party members.

7 CORRESPONDENCE, ETC

- a. **Baldoon Airfield** – Light Rock Power had contacted the CC to ascertain ownership of the Airfield as they were investigating the possible installation of Solar Farm on the site.
- b. **Emma Harper MSP** – the MSP had sent an update on her Protection of Livestock (Amendment) (Scotland) Bill that would see increased powers to deal with owners of dogs that chase, attack and kill livestock.
- c. **PAS (Planning Aid for Scotland)** – Details of a free webinar on 'Best Practices for Community Engagement' had been circulated but Community Councillors that had tried to register to attend had found that the event was 'sold out'.

- d. **Kirklandhill** – Sandra McDowall had been contacted by neighbours of the site concerned that the grass was really overgrown, the roof of one of the old buildings had caved in, and the possibility that vermin was being attracted to the derelict buildings. She had contacted Building Control who would be instructing the owners that they needed to erect a protective fence around the buildings and the owners had strimmed the grass and taken down a boundary wall.

10 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm reported that the Council had started cutting the grass on roadside verges and in graveyards - Wigtown Parish Church's graveyard had been cut twice.

COVID-19 remained the major issue for the Council with provision of education a main priority. All schools had been asked to prepare an action plan for how they could deliver education within social distancing guidelines. It was hoped to have all children attend school 2/3 days per week and at a recent DEHS Parent Council meeting a 2 day and 3 day split was proposed alternating weekly with home schooling continuing. Transportation of pupils would present its own challenges with buses only offering 25% of previous capacity due to social distancing. It was anticipated that pupils' arrival at school would be staggered and, once in school, it would be teachers moving between classrooms rather than the pupils.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Planning – In response to a question about the proposed Black's Field development, it was explained that DGC had established an Ad Hoc COVID-19 Sub Committee that had responsibility for determining all urgent and/or important business relating to issues that would normally be considered by one of the Council's committees that are not currently meeting because of COVID-19, including planning. The committee has nine members. To ensure that the relative planning application was considered by the ad hoc Sub-committee rather than by an officer using devolved powers, there would need to be objections lodged once the application had been received by the Council.

12 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be the Community Council's normal business meeting on **Monday, 13 July 2020** starting at the usual time of 7:30 pm and held online.