

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE
ON MONDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2020**

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)	Jak Kane (Secretary)	Kerr Inger
David Moran	David McAdam	Willie McCartney
Robin Richmond	Paul Tarling	Nick Walker
	Kevin Witt	

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr K Hagmann.	Louise Kerr	Steph Howarth
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APOLOGIES

Kathleen Hart	Ada Montgomery	Jock McDowall
Cora Sharp	Cllr J McColm	

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Kathleen Hart, Cora Sharp and Cllr Jim McColm. Jock McDowall and Ada Montgomery were unable to access the online meeting.

2. POLICE MATTERS

The Police had not provided a report.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with no additional business intimated.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 14 September 2020)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

Bird Hide, Wigtown Harbour – the broken windows at the Hide had been boarded up, temporary viewing flaps installed and replacement social distancing signs replaced.

School Zone Warning lights, Kirkinner – a repair had again been scheduled for the lights but had still to be carried out.

Service Bus – Timetable issues – Sustrans had advised that they would continue to review a return to the normal timetable but could not provide a timescale.

Remembrance Sunday – Nick Walker said that the ceremony on Remembrance Day, Sunday, 8 November 2020 would follow the proposed plan based on the guidance provided by Legion Scotland and DGC. There would be a smaller civic Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial at 11 am, with the public advised that attendance will be restricted due to COVID-19. Wreaths would be laid by the CC and other organisations presented by a maximum of two attendees per organisation, with the Ministers, Sandra McDowall and the piper in attendance, as they had active roles. Nick Walker and David Moran would represent the Community Council on the day.

Wigtown Primary School would arrange something separate with senior pupils during school time on Armistice Day, Wednesday 11 November 2020.

Nick undertook to draft a poster to inform the community of the arrangements and to invite them to visit the War memorial over the week to carry out their own personal acts of Remembrance.

Wigtown Harbour – Signage – A meeting with Alan Wykes and the Council was to be convened to devise a scheme for the Harbour and identify what funding, if any, would be required.

Mercat Cross – Karen Brownlie had advised that the Council's Clerk of Works had confirmed that the contractors had hired a cherry picker which was needed to access and view the issues raised with the Mercat Cross. Karen had also said that she was moving to a new position as Leisure, Culture & Wellbeing Manager with the Council. It was agreed that the Community Council should send a card to Karen to express its gratitude for the help and support she had provided over the past years and to wish her well in her new post.

Kerbside Recycling – As agreed, Cllr McColm had obtained information on the rollout of the new kerbside recycling scheme which had been subsequently been supplemented by a Council information leaflet delivered to every household.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

It was confirmed that the £1,250 grant from Paths for All had been received. The Secretary had also submitted two Expressions of Interest in connection with the Council funding for Christmas Decorations and Festivals respectively.

b: Consultations Report

There were no current or forthcoming consultations to consider other than the consultation on Pre-Application consultation being looked at by the Planning Working Party.

c: Planning WP.

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting that included three new Planning applications. It was recommended that the CC should not make submissions in response to applications relative to extensions to Cornakinnegar, Jubilee Terrace and 8 Lightlands Avenue. Applications for Planning and Listed Building Consent in connection with the installation of replacement windows at 9 Agnew Crescent detailed that the replacement windows would be double-glazed wooden sash windows and it was recommended that the CC should submit a letter of support as the work was sympathetic to the historical nature of the building and the Conservation area.

Application updates showed that three applications had been approved but there had been no progress with those relating to the Red Lion, Blacks' Field and Southfield Park.

The CC agreed unanimously to the three recommendations and asked Nick to also contact Planning for updates on the outstanding applications. There was a discussion on the demolition of the buildings in Southfield Park and the possible impact on nesting swallows and bats from the loss of habitat. Nick would also ascertain from Planning if permission had been sought before the work had been carried out.

The Working Party (WP) had also considered the proposed changes outlined in the Scottish Government's consultation on 'Pre Application Requirements in Planning'. Nick Walker had prepared a draft response and the Planning Report included the comments proposed for submission in response to the key questions in the consultation document. It was agreed that Nick should submit the CC response based on the suggestions.

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

d. Town Square Developments WP

Sandra McDowall suggested that the WP should meet soon to discuss arrangements for Christmas lighting issues like whether they should be restricted to the Christmas tree this year or proceed as usual. The Resilience Group had organised a Halloween Walking trail and it had been suggested that a similar scheme could be encouraged for Christmas. This would perhaps compensate for events like the Carol singing with Creetown Silver Band not being permitted

It was agreed that a Doodle pool would be circulated to identify a suitable date for a Zoom meeting and, as a first step, Sandra would notify Jak Kane of her availability which would allow him to canvas the other WP members.

The Council had confirmed its proposals to instal a total of 13 Electric Vehicle Charge points in Wigtown's Lorry Park which would service 16 accompanying parking bays. The development would be funded through £100,000 of funding from Transport Scotland of which £75,000 would be allocated to fund at least one Rapid Charger and two Fast Chargers. The balance would then be used to try and leverage a further £75,000 to fund the remaining units from the OLEV On-street Residential Chargepoint Scheme. The Wigtown Common Good Fund Sub Committee had considered a report that sought permission to locate the development within the Lorry Park. It had been agreed in principle subject to Council officers investigating and reporting to the Sub Committee's next meeting how the development could financially benefit the Wigtown Common Good Fund, with particular reference on any rental income which could be generated to enhance the Fund.

Jak Kane reported that he had received two emails linked to the development. One suggested that the Lorry Park would be better utilised if there was enhanced signage and it was agreed that the problem would be remedied with better signage to the Lorry Park as a result of the EV development. The second asked for more detail on the mix of EV chargers and suggested that the writer could help the Council with its EV charging station planning. The CC would write to him, explain that the project was being led by DGC and provide Grant Coltart's contact details.

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CORRESPONDENCE

- a. ***Scheme for the Establishment of Community Councils in D&G*** – DGC had considered the revised Scheme at its meeting of 24 September 2020. The new Scheme had been approved and would now act as the Community Council's constitution with effect from 1 October 2020.
- b. ***Public Toilets*** – Karen Brownlie had written to ask if the Community Council would continue to open and close the public toilets with DGC providing daily cleaning and stocking. The Senior Management Team would be considering a paper on whether the facility should be restored to being open 24/7 but she thought this unlikely. David McAdam confirmed that he was willing to carry on with the daily task of opening/closing the toilets and he was thanked on behalf of the CC and the wider community.
- c. ***Martyr's Stake Boardwalk*** – DGC had been contacted re reports of damaged boards where there were at least three areas in need of urgent attention and other individual boards that appeared to be coming loose. The boardwalk was still navigable with care but no longer suitable for wheelchair users. DGC Countryside Development Officer Anna Johnson had quickly visited the site, posted warning signs and put cones at the relative problem areas. She had

measured the timbers required and the Council Ranger (currently on leave) would be on site to effect repairs on 27 October.

- d. **DGC Major Festivals and Events Strategy 2020-21 Research Project** – The Community Council had completed a recent survey into how Community Events might restart in the future and how the process should be managed. Ian Barr, DGC Principal Officer Events had sent a copy of the relative report. He also advised that EventScotland would be adopting a similar approach to events development and within 2-3 weeks they would be launching a 'Community Events Recovery Fund' that would have a total budget of £2.75M.
- e. **Remembrance Poppy in The Window** – As already discussed, Remembrance events and fundraising efforts in 2020 would take a different format to those held in previous years due to the restrictions imposed as a result of COVID-19. DGC was asking people to show their appreciation by displaying a Poppy in their windows in the week running up to Remembrance Sunday and Armistice Day, 11 November 2020. Legion Scotland were also asking communities across Dumfries & Galloway to show their appreciation by them making a small pledge to Poppy Scotland on the JustGiving page for Poppy Appeal 2020.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Hagmann reported that all service committees had reconvened to replace the Ad Hoc COVID-19 Sub Committee which had been established during the Covid lockdown.

Dumfries and Galloway Council has conducted a review of the polling districts and polling places in the Region, in accordance with The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013. While the report included proposals to amalgamate some polling places there was no changes mooted for Wigtown, Kirkinner or Whauphill. The investigation into the Trunk Roads contract was being carried out with an Independent Chair supported by Forensic Accountants and the report was expected to be presented in December 2020.

She informed the CC that Ward Officer Graeme McKie was currently on sick leave and his work would be initially covered by Kerry Monteith (Ward 1) and Ingrid Gemmell (Ward 2) pending a temporary appointment being made. It was agreed that Graeme be sent a Get Well card.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business intimated or discussed.

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be on **Monday, 9 November 2020** starting at the usual time of 7:30 pm and held online.