

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE
ON MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 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

Cllr J McColm

APOLOGIES

Jock McDowall

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Jock McDowall who was unable to access the online meeting.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC Jamieson had provided a copy of his written report. The only local incidents reported to Police Scotland via its crime recording platforms in the past month were two Hit & Run (minor damage) Road Traffic Collisions. The first on 14 October occurred either outside the informant's home address in Kirkinner or their place of work in North Main Street, Wigtown with no leads; the second on 24 October occurred in Main Street, Bladnoch but with a positive line of enquiry.

The Report also provided details on the creation of No Cold Calling Zones (NCCZ), a joint initiative between Trading Standards and the Police where the majority of, if not all, the local residents decide that cold callers are not welcome. The Police had also launched their annual Winter Road Safety Campaign to try and ensure vehicles and drivers were prepared for the change in road conditions going into the first of the winter months. As the nights get darker, pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders should also ensure they are visible to other road users.

The CC's report of speeding vehicles in both Bladnoch and Acre Place/Lightlands Terrace, Wigtown had been raised with both the local Roads Patrol Unit Sergeant and Inspector, with the request for the areas to be considered as part of their ongoing weekly action plan by staff as and when duties permit. In the meantime, if the details of specific vehicles suspected of speeding were known, these should be reported to the Police at the time. A petition signed by Bladnoch residents asking for traffic calming measured for the village had been submitted to Roads and was being considered by the Network Strategy and Road Safety team.

The Police stressed the importance of reporting any incidents or concerns as and when they occur throughout the month via attendance at Newton Stewart Police Station, the 101 system, the 'Contact Us' forum on the Police Scotland website, or in an emergency by the 999 system. This would create an official record of the report, allowing it to be graded accurately, provide accountability, and offer the best opportunity for any timely investigation required. .

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with the addition of High Vennel corner, Ballgreen verges, and Young people.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 12 Octoberber 2020)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

Kirkinner School Zone Warning lights – since the repair that had been scheduled was still outstanding the Secretary had written to the Councillors asking them to intervene. Both Cllrs Hagmann and McColm had contacted the Roads Department.

Remembrance Sunday – Following the revised guidance provided by Legion Scotland and DGC, the Community Council (CC) had cancelled the scaled down Act of Remembrance at the War Memorial planned for Remembrance Sunday. Sandra McDowall, Nick Walker and Willie McCartney had gone to the Memorial to lay wreaths on behalf of the CC and the Masonic Lodge with the School planning to attend on Armistice Day.

Matt Kitson had made a film featuring Stephen McGarva, Eric Boyle, Sandra McDowall and Wigtown Primary School pupils and interspersed with music and a two minute silence to enable the Community to virtually join together in remembrance. The video had been posted on You Tube, the CC and the I Love Wigtown Facebook pages. It had been shared 21 times, had 1.5K views and reached 2,225 people. It was agreed that the video should also be posted on the CC website to allow people not on Facebook to find it. Matt Kitson was due a great vote of thanks for his work in organising the making and distribution of the film.

Wigtown Harbour – Signage – The meeting with Alan Wykes and Anna Johnstone was still to be arranged.

Mercat Cross – Robert Lowther had chased the Council's Clerk of Works to see if there had been any progress.

Martyrs' Stake Boardwalk – As promised, the Council Ranger had carried out the necessary repairs once he had returned from leave on 27 October.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

There had been no transactions since the previous meeting.

b: Consultations Report

There were no current consultations to consider but an upcoming Scottish Government Consultation on a possible revision of the Councillor's Code of Conduct would be looked at.

c: Planning Working Party

Nick Walker had circulated a report prior to the meeting containing details of two new applications. One was a simple application for the erection of a Garden room in Maidland Place for which the WP recommended no submission. The other was in connection with the conversion of the steading at Carsegowan to form five dwellinghouses and it was recommended that the CC should make a submission raising the issues of access to/from the A714 and bats/wildlife while supporting the reuse of disused historic buildings.

Nick confirmed that he had submitted a CC response on the SG consultation on Pre Application Consultations based on feedback received and had contacted Planning

for updates on the Blacks' Field and Southfield Park applications with no response yet received.

The CC noted the updates and agreed unanimously to the WP's recommendations. Cllr McColm did not participate in the discussion of the Planning issues.

d. Town Square Developments WP

The Working Party had met via Zoom on 22 October and, subsequently, Sandra McDowall and Jak Kane had met with Tom McLellan re the provision of a community power supply in the McGuffie VC Memorial Gardens. Sandra had circulated a report to CC members providing details of both meetings.

The main points from the SPEN meeting were: the supply provided would be 3-phase with cabinets either side of the bowling club pavilion and the CC providing the cabinets to house the SPEN connections; the provision of a third connection opposite the County Buildings was not an option; work was currently scheduled to begin w/c 23 November.

The WP had agreed that: David Moran would contact Brian Little to see if he would supply and instal the Christmas tree; lighting would be restricted to the Christmas tree and any working lights on the trees in the garden; the lights would be switched on without ceremony on Friday, 27 November with local businesses being asked to participate; the tree lights would be moved from the County Buildings to the Bowling Pavilion for storing and testing beforehand.

Sandra advised that SPEN/Kenny McKinstry had agreed to provide a cherry picker to help with the erection of the lights. Nick Walker, David Moran and Willie McCartney would meet to test the lights. The large sign which was not going to be used this year needed to be moved from outside the County Buildings and this would be arranged.

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CORRESPONDENCE

- a. *Southfield Park* – the Police had received a report on the potential presence of nesting swallows and/or bats within the buildings at Southfield Park around the time of their demolition. PC Colin McMillan had carried out enquiries and currently had found no evidence of nesting swallows or bats in the buildings prior to demolition. A witness had been identified and she had been in touch with PC McMillan with details.
- b. *Lorry Park Signage* – The Secretary had replied to advise that the need for enhanced signage to the Lorry Park would be provided as a result of the proposed EV development.
- c. *October Newsletter* – An October edition of the Newsletter had been printed. Thanks were due to Kevin Witt who had drafted it and Ada Montgomery for distribution
- d. *Public Toilets* – The Council had sent its thanks for David McAdam attending to the opening/closing of the Public Toilets. There had been some confusion when the letter also advised the closure of seasonal toilets from 2 November. When queried, it was stated that although Wigtown toilets were open all year round “in normal circumstances”, the possibility of Wigtown toilets remaining open would be looked at and a solution found. It transpired that the toilets would not be closed.
- e. *Sectoral Marine Plan for Offshore Wind Energy* – the Plan had been published and the draft Plan Option (DPO) that would see an offshore wind farm off the Mull of Galloway was one of only two DPOs that would not be progressed as a Plan Option due to concerns regarding negative socio-economic impacts.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm said that the Council's new arrangements for the roll-out of the new kerbside recycling scheme had started with the delivery of the new wheelie bins and collections would start w/c 16 November. Householders could request the large wheelie bins be replaced with either a smaller bin or hessian sacks.

The Council had also completed the expansion of Early Learning & Childcare in Dumfries & Galloway with 2,250 children eligible for up to 1,140 hours of Early Learning/Nursery provision.

The Council was also looking at Education's need to prepare families for a return to blended learning should local lockdown be required and the provision of virtual desktop technology for schools and pupils.

The investigation into the £3M missing from the Trunk Roads contract was continuing.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

High Vennel - Residents in High Vennel had raised concerns around the safety of the corner on the Vennel where parked vehicles forces traffic to the middle of the road on a blind corner. This was thought to be particularly dangerous for the elderly and kids walking to school when rain causes the pavement to flood, forcing them onto the road. In the winter the pavement can also ice over after rain and becomes dangerous to walk on. Residents have suggested solutions like better drainage, speed bumps, parking restrictions on the corner or a one way system. It was agreed the CC would contact the Council to ascertain if the Council had adopted the pavement and if anything could be done to resolve the other issues.

Ballgreen – The verges on the road leading to the Martyrs' Stake car park was becoming increasingly overgrown and was difficult for pedestrians particularly when being passed by cars, agricultural vehicles, tankers, etc. Council to be contacted.

Young people – While there was no specific anti social problems reported, there was evidence of groups of children roaming round the town and gardens now that the nights had become darker. It was suggested that the Council should be contacted to see if and when facilities and activities for young people are likely to restart in an effort to address the situation before it became a problem..

10 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be on **Monday, 14 December 2020** starting at the usual time of 7:30 pm and held online.