

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL  
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE  
ON MONDAY, 14 DECEMBER 2020**

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[www.WigtownCC.org.uk](http://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 Katie Hagmann	Cllr David Inglis	Louise Kerr, Free Press
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**APOLOGIES**

Jock McDowall

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Cllr McColm and were tendered on behalf of Jock McDowall who was unable to access the online meeting.

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

PC Jamieson had emailed a written report which had been circulated to the councillors. Two crimes had been reported to Police Scotland via its crime recording platforms since 9 November: a sheep worrying incident at Broadfield Farm and the theft of two garden chairs from Kirkland Terrace. Enquiries were ongoing with both.

The Report also provided details of a planned temporary road closure of Riverside Road in Newton Stewart and a new website created by the Police Scotland Cyber team that provided details of the latest internet scams and guidance relating to cybercrime. The monthly CyberScotland bulletin will provide information about the latest threats, scams, news and updates covering cyber security and cyber resilience topics.

<https://Cyberscotlandweek.com/news>

**3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The Agenda was approved with no additional business notified

**4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 9 November 2020)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting with the date of the meeting shown as 11 November. The minutes were approved, subject to this correction, proposed by Nick Walker and seconded by Willie McCartney.

**5 MATTERS ARISING**

***Kirkinner School Zone Warning lights*** – An electrician had visited the site and fixed two of the lights with a part needed for the third faulty light. One of the repaired lights had since stopped working along with the only light that had been working before any work had been done. Consequently, there was again only one of the four warning lights in operation. The Secretary remained in contact with Bob Green, Roads Department about the issue.

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

**Mercat Cross** – Robert Lowther had again been asked to pursue the issue with the Council’s Clerk of Works as there had been no progress.

**Public Toilets** – It had been suggested that the Council be asked to arrange for the public toilets to be closed at 21:00 every night to prevent anti-social behaviour and petty vandalism in the facility. It was agreed that the CC should monitor the situation as depriving all people of access to the toilets because of the behaviour of a few seemed disproportionate. Cllr Hagmann advised that other communities were experiencing similar problems.

**High Vennel Corner** – The CC had contacted the Council re problems with traffic on High Vennel and difficulties pedestrians sometimes had using the pavements. The Council had responded that there was “*no evidence to suggest that there was a road safety issue and as such no justification for further investigation*”. The pavement problem was subsequently reported via CCES as suggested by DGC’s Tony Topping. Cllr Hagmann undertook to contact Mr Topping to see if she could arrange an on-site meeting with residents including CCllr Ada Montgomery. The Secretary would provide a copy of the DGC response to Cllr Hagmann. If a resolution was not found in the interim, the CC resolved to address the issue at the next review of the town’s Traffic Regulation Orders.

**Young People** – A response from DGC’s Service Manager Young People advised that the Council’s Youth Work Services would resume in Wigton as soon as they could do so safely, within the guidelines set by the Scottish Government for indoor youth work. It was agreed that Youth Development Worker, Laura Kiltie would be asked to attend the CC’s January meeting

**Bladnoch Traffic Calming** – The issue had been raised with the Council on behalf of local residents who had signed a petition asking for the introduction of measures in the village. The Council had again advised that there was “*no evidence to suggest that there was a road safety issue and as such no justification for further investigation*”. Having said that, the Council said that the village would be added to the work package of temporary data surveys to monitor speeding.

**Ballgreen Verges** – The Council had been asked to investigate the verges on the road leading to the Martyrs Stake Car park. The Council confirmed that, following an inspection of the road, they considered that no defects had been categorised as needing repair, but they would continue to monitor the road during routine inspections.

## 6 UPDATES & REPORTS

### a: Financial Report

The CC had paid £250 for the town’s Christmas tree and £89.60 for the relative insurances. The CC had also purchased two cabinets to house the new wiring arrangements in the McGuffie Gardens.

### b: Consultations Report

There were no current consultations to consider.

### c: Planning Working Party

Prior to the meeting Nick Walker had circulated a report that included details of two new applications. One was a simple application for the erection of a two storey extension to Knockann Farmhouse, Kirkinner for which the WP recommended no submission. The other was in connection with the installation of five replacement UPVc double glazed windows in Craigmount, High Street Wigton. Although the building was C Listed and in the Conservation Area, the windows were all in the modern extension to the rear of the building and were replacing like for like. It was agreed that the CC would make no submission on either application. The CC had previously submitted comments on an application on the proposed development at Carsegowan which had included the question of whether the impact on bats and other wildlife needed to be considered. A

subsequent bat survey had been lodged but it was dated September 2014. It was agreed that the CC would write asking if a more recent survey was needed. The updates on the other past applications were noted including the contents of the response to the Black's Field development from the Council's Archaeologist.

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

#### **d. Town Square Developments WP**

Sandra McDowall reported that there had been delays in the SPEN work to underground the power lines in North Main Street and provide the community power supply in the McGuffie VC Memorial Gardens following the contractors striking rock in the first phase and it would now be February 2021 before the work was completed. She had spoken to Tom McLellan re complaints received re the length of time the work was taking and the level of disruption. He had advised that it was hoped that the current trenches would be infilled by the end of the week. He had maintained contact with the shopkeepers including the chemist and they appeared relatively relaxed on how the work was affecting them. He had raised the question of replacement street lighting with the Council as the electricity poles were scheduled to be removed in February but had received no meaningful response. Cllr Inglis undertook to raise this with the relevant department. Sandra reported that she had also attended a meeting with Tom McLellan and the Manager at Wigtown Surgery regarding arrangements during the next tranche of work which would involve works from the phone box and past the Surgery building. It had been agreed that access to the disabled parking spaces would be maintained and the Surgery would seek permission to use the Church Hall for parking. SPEN had said that High Vennel although restricted would remain open to traffic all day during the works.

Sharon thanked everyone involved with the erection of the Christmas tree and putting up the lights while giving due regard to Covid regulations. This year's tree was not as tall as in previous years but this was due to the need for equipment to instal and Health & Safety rules which dictated that anything taller should have a protective fence.

There had been a suggestion that additional trees should be planted around the Town Square gardens. It was agreed that a meeting with the Council should be convened to devise a replanting scheme including representatives from the Council, Wigtown CC (Nick Walker, Paul Tarling), Wigtown in Bloom and Wigtown Bowling Club.

A letter had been received from one of the residents of Chapel Court the CC to support her request to DGHP that they commission repair works to the harling on the building's exterior. It was agreed that the CC would write to DGHP asking that they consider what could be done by them as factors of the building.

### **7 COMMUNITY PAYBACK – KINDLING**

The Community Payback Team had provided the Resilience Group with 30 free bags of kindling for distribution to households in the community. It was agreed that the Secretary would liaise with David McAdam.

### **8 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a. *Community Resilience Plan* – the Council had provided a revised version of the plan to reflect Covid and the CC was being asked to return an updated copy to qualify for additional resilience funding.
- b. *Discretionary Grant* – The Council had provided the documentation that would allow the CC to apply for the Admin grant for the year from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021.

**Cllr Inglis left the meeting**

### **8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES**

**Cllr Hagmann** said that the papers for the upcoming meeting of the full Council were now online and it was a packed Agenda with 26 items including important items relating to:

Covid response, preparations for Brexit, vaccine rollout and the Council's budget for 2021-22.

**9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business to be discussed.

**10 NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Community Council would be on **Monday, 11 January 2021** starting at the regular time of 7:30 pm and held online.