

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

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)
Kerr Inger
Robin Richmond
Nick Walker

Jak Kane (Secretary)
Ada Montgomery
Cora Sharp
Kevin Witt

Kathleen Hart
David Moran
Paul Tarling

IN ATTENDANCE

Martin Flannighan
Jessie Robertson, RSPB

Sarah Nyland
Cllr David Inglis

Andrew Bielinski, RSPB
Louise Kerr, Free Press

APOLOGIES

David McAdam

Jock McDowall

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were recorded for David McAdam and Jock McDowall who were both unable to access the online meeting.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC McMillan had submitted a written report which had been circulated to Community Councillors prior to the meeting. There had been two crimes reported to Police Scotland via its crime recording platforms since 11 January 2021: CID were investigating a Telephone/Bank fraud in Wigtown where a resident had suffered a substantial financial loss and a Householder in Beddie Crescent had been warned re a noise complaint with an anti-social behaviour referral submitted.

The report also gave warnings about the increase in fraudulent and scam emails relating to COVID Vaccination appointments, parcel deliveries and bank accounts. People should be extra vigilant and never disclose bank account details, PIN numbers or passwords.

3 RSPB CROOK OF BALDOON

Andrew Bielinski, Area Manager RSPB had been invited to deliver a presentation on plans to create a further three lagoons at the Crook of Baldoon Reserve. Andrew explained that the RSPB would be submitting a planning application for the development but were required to carry out pre application consultation because of the size of the project. As well as the visit to WCC they would be hosting another online consultation event for the wider public and details would be advertised in the Gazette and Free Press.

Andrew showed the draft plans for the new layout and explained that there would be additional bird hides and improved pathworks with a view to delivering an enhanced visitor experience.

Sandra McDowall thanked Andrew and his colleague for attending the meeting to inform the CC about its plans for the Reserve. It was agreed that the Community Council would provide the RSPB with a letter of support for the project.

4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with no additional business notified.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 January 2021)

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

6 MATTERS ARISING

Youth Matters – Laura Kiltie had not come back with additional information on youth services being offered by DGC but Kevin Witt had extracted the information and this would be made available on the CC's website and Facebook page.

Honey fungus and replacement trees – Nick Walker confirmed that he would be arranging a meeting with Wigtown In Bloom and Wigtown Bowling Club.

Christmas lights – The Christmas lights had been disconnected and would be taken down by Nick Walker, Kevin Witt and Paul Tarling at the weekend, weather permitting. David Moran would arrange for the lights to be stored in the Bowling Club until such time as access to the County Buildings was available.

Cllr David Inglis joined the meeting at this point

Abandoned Car – the car had been removed from North Main Street.

Planning & Commercial Activity in Wigtown – There had been a considerable amount of abuse on Facebook after the Community Council's decision to ask the Council if the barriers outside the Galloway Bar could be removed during the period of lockdown where the Bar could not operate. It was agreed that the Secretary would ask DGC if a Social Media Policy could be added to the CC Code of Conduct Document outlining how Community Councillors should deal with online abuse.

Dog Fouling – Andrew Hay from DGC's Community Safety Team had supplied copies of posters produced by pupils from Wigtown Primary School and were being used as a Facebook campaign on the CC's Facebook page.

Textile Recycling bin – The Textile bin continued to be a problem with it being refilled almost immediately after being emptied and surplus bags being deposited beside rather than in the bin. The Secretary had asked for it to be removed if they were unable to commit to emptying it on a more regular basis.

Chapel Court – DGHP had confirmed that they were aware of the condition of the render and Chapel Court would be included in their investment program. However, they pointed out that any investment works would be subject to a consultation project with owner occupiers and a majority agreement would have to be obtained before work commences.

Kirkinner lights – Bob Green, DGC Roads had claimed that the electrician had ordered new parts and he "should be" in a position to replace them "next week" (w/c 8 February 2020).

7 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane advised that he had to purchase a replacement battery costing £182.40 for the public defibrillator but had been reimbursed by Wigtown Community Shop who had previously agreed to underwrite the cost of pads and batteries. He had also been notified by DGC that the CC had been awarded a further grant of £1,149.50 for Resilience and he suggested that some of it could be used to purchase two salt spreaders for use in the town as the one supplied by the Council could not be used for Council grit. It was agreed that the machines should be sourced. It was also agreed that it should be investigated if Resilience funds could be used for signage and bag dispensers in connection with the dog fouling problem.

b: Consultations Report

There were no current consultations to consider.

c: Planning Working Party

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting.

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

d. Town Square Developments WP

Sandra McDowall confirmed that the works at High Vennel were now finished and SPEN had moved to the second half of the work on North Main Street. The cable across the road to the gardens was still to be installed but the two cabinets were in place. A meeting of the Working Party would be convened so that the plans for the infrastructure for the new Christmas lighting scheme could be discussed with Sandy Sweetman.

e. Resilience Working Party

Support was being provided as and when required and volunteers had carried out 10 shopping trips and 16 prescription deliveries since 15 January.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- a. *Laigh Kirkland* – Potholes had been repaired.
- b. *Salt/Grit bins* – the bin in Botany was empty and located halfway up the hill making it difficult for residents living at the top or bottom of the hill to access it in icy conditions. The Council had been asked to move it to the top of the hill with an additional bin provided at/near the junction with High Vennel. Bob Green, DGC Roads confirmed that he would arrange for the bin to be filled and one to be moved to a more suitable place.
- c. *Path signage* – A request was received asking for signs on the Martyrs' Stake path advising that the route was subject to flooding. The particular area of concern was suspected to be a result of SPEN's undergrounding of its power cable and the site might benefit from laying down some hard core. DGC would be asked if anything could be done.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Inglis advised that the Council had received additional Scottish Government funding to provide Covid discretionary grants to businesses who may have fallen through the cracks in other support schemes and this would go live by the end of February. The Council was working on its budgets for 2021/22 and there was an estimated funding gap of £2M. The Scottish Government grant had been enhanced to help Local Authorities be able to not increase Council tax rates. The report on the investigation into the Trunk Roads contract that lost the Council £3-4M would be coming to the Communities Directorate.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business and the meeting was closed.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be on **Monday, 8 March 2021** starting at the regular time of 7:30 pm and held online.