

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE
ON MONDAY, 12 APRIL 2021

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)

Ada Montgomery

Paul Tarling

Jak Kane (Secretary)

David Moran

Nick Walker

Kerr Inger

Robin Richmond

Kevin Witt

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Katie Hagmann

Sarah Nyland

Jennifer Jones, Free Press

Matt Kitson

APOLOGIES

Kathleen Hart

Cora Sharp

David McAdam

Jock McDowall

Cllr Jim McColm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been intimated by Cora Sharp and Cllr Jim McColm along with David McAdam and Jock McDowall who were both unable to access the online meeting.

2 SUMMER COMMUNITY EVENT/McCARTNEY ARCHIVE

Sandra McDowall welcomed Matt Kitson to the meeting and asked him to outline his proposed summer event in Wigtown.

Matt explained that DGC had recently launched a Community Events Fund that could provide grant support for established festivals/events, as well as new and one-off events, in an effort to bring communities together in the aftermath of the Covid pandemic. The Fund's closing date for applications was Friday, 23 April 2021.

Matt was looking to organise a one-day event with live music and performance entertainment throughout the day on a stage set in the McGuffie Gardens. The music will include a selection of local musicians, singers and bands ranging in genre from brass band to classical to swing and pop. There will be local food and beverage stalls, local business stalls as well as stands for local volunteer groups and organisations to detail what they do and how people can get involved.

He was currently looking at a date at the end of August or beginning of September and he was working with a group of six volunteers but there would be a need for more volunteers to act as stewards/marshals on the day.

The Community Council agreed to support the project as a partner and would arrange for the CC's Liability Insurance to be extended to cover the event.

The family of the late Willie McCartney had contacted Jak Kane to ask if the CC would be willing to take a collection of film and media that Willie had collected over the years. The CC had agreed that it was important that it should look for the collection to be preserved and maintained for the Wigtown community. Matt had been approached and he had agreed to pull together the collection, catalogue it and create some edited pieces that he could put on screenings and show the community. DGC Archives Development Manager, Alison Burgess, had also been contacted so that copies of the archive would be passed to DGC for with access to the material available in the County Buildings.

3. POLICE MATTERS

The normal monthly Police Report had not been received.

4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with the addition of Kirkyard Signage, Harbour Signage and Back Lane/Beddie Crescent added as items of other business.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 8 March 2021)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

a) *Honey fungus and replacement trees* – Nick Walker said there was no progress to report.

b) *CC Code of Conduct* –the Secretary had circulated a copy of the Welsh LGA (Local Government Association) document, ‘Councillors Guide to Handling Online abuse’ to Community Councillors.

c) *Dog Fouling – Signs/Dog waste bas dispenser* - Jak Kane confirmed that Wigtown Community Shop had agreed that part of the Resilience funds that they had donated to the CC could be used to fund the purchase of signs and dispensers. He had subsequently ordered a set of signs and a dispenser for use on the Martyrs’ Stake path. He had contacted Rev EricBoyle to check if he had any problem with the proposed wording on the signs and he did not. However, Eric suggested that a positive version could be produced asking why people were one of the 9 in 10 dog owners who did pick up after their pets rather than the 1 in 10 who didn’t. It was agreed that a set of these signs should be sourced together with an additional dispenser.

d) *Textile Recycling Bin* – the Council had been asked to arrange for the bin to be removed permanently as it continued to be a problem with overflow bags being dumped beside the bin which was proving to be more of a public nuisance than a community asset.

e) *Kirkinner Lights* – the school warning lights had been repaired and programmed and the Secretary had thanked Bob Green, DGC Roads for his efforts.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

A report showing the Income and expenditure for the financial year had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Community Council had received an anonymous donation of £350 to pay for the purchase of two Unknown Tommies stands for use by the CC at commemorative events like Armistice Day and VE Day. They would be used at the McGuffie VC gate or the War Memorial on a temporary basis only. Purchases from the Resilience account included £30.96 for gel for the sanitiser stations, a £50 donation to Cobwebs for their Easter event, as well as the purchase of the aforementioned bag dispenser and signs at £148.50 and £66.10 respectively. Wigtown Bowling Club had been paid £120 from the Festivals Account for electricity used over the Christmas period for lights.

b: Consultations Report

There were no current consultations to consider.

c: Planning Working Party

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting detailing two new applications that had been submitted to the Council. The first application was in connection with increasing the retail space of the former Butcher’s Shop in North Main Street by

extending into the house and the other was to cover combining two cottages at 28 & 30 Agnew Crescent and related works to replacement doors and windows. The CC agreed that there should be no submission with the former and, with the latter, a response should be sent noting the importance of the conservation area and its listed buildings but neither supporting nor objecting the application. The report also gave updates on prior applications that were noted.

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

d. Town Square Developments WP

Sandra McDowall advised that Calum Edgar, DGC Street Lighting Team Leader had been invited to attend a CC meeting to discuss the detailed proposals for the proposed lighting scheme for the replacement lighting columns following the recent SPEN cable undergrounding work. She had also spoken to Planning re the proposed additions to the gaslight fittings around the gardens and they had said that planning permission would not be required if they were temporary fixtures. It was still to be ascertained who should be approached for permission to affix sockets to provide a power source from the lighting columns. In closing Sandra confirmed that work was continuing on the EV charging points and there would be lighting columns installed. Grant Coltart, DGC Roads had confirmed that there would be Charging points for disabled drivers at each end of the array that would provide access to a Rapid and a slower charge point.

e. Resilience Working Party

There was nothing to report other than the items mentioned in the Finance Report .

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) ***Fly Tipping*** – DGC had been contacted re bags containing rotten meat that had been dumped next to the Martyrs Stake path. Ward Officer Kerrin Walker had asked Waste Services to deal with it but they came back to say that the bags would be the landowner's responsibility because they were not on the path itself. The CC had then asked why it was being treated as a fly tipping incident rather than Environmental Health given the contents of the bags and she had arranged for EH to go and clear the bags.
- b) ***Paths in McGuffie Gardens*** – Wigtown Bowling Club had contacted the CC as the paths behind the BC pavilion had been dug up for the electricity cables for the community supply but had not been reinstated. The CC had got on to SPEN and the work was completed the following day.
- c) ***Roadworks at Lightlands Avenue*** – The CC had submitted an enquiry re ongoing road excavations at the corner of Lightlands Avenue. DGC Roads advised that Scottish Water was responsible for these works and have a notice within the Council's system until early April. They inspected the site and whilst they appreciated the inconvenience to residents, the site at time of inspection was safe and the excavation plated. They will monitor the situation, but are hopeful that the works will be backfilled and tarred within the time schedule.
- d) ***Paths for All Update*** – a report had been submitted re the £1,500 grant for purchase of mower, strimmer, PPE and signs for paths in Wigtown. The project had been stalled by COVID restrictions.
- e) ***Shoreline Management Plan*** – Details of an online engagement meeting to discuss the SMP's Policy Options on Thursday, 22 April had been circulated. It was agreed that Paul Tarling would attend on behalf of the CC and Jak Kane would forward the invite to him.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr Hagmann said that the Council was planning a review of towns with Conservation status and had drawn up a timetable with work starting with larger settlements. Wigtown was pencilled in for review and consultation in 2022 with Bladnoch following in 2031/32. The Council had distributed grants from the Coastal Benefit Fund with local awards going to Wigtown Bay Rowing Club and the Whithorn Trust. There had been a £12K underspend and this would be carried over to next year's fund. Cllr Hagmann had attended a seminar on Council Discretionary Funding and it had been agreed that CCs should not have to make separate applications for the grants they receive for events and Christmas lighting.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kirkyard Project – Nick Walker had circulated a short briefing paper re a proposed project that would see improved interpretation and signage in and around Wigtown Church. The project was being led by a small group made up of Jane Carlton, Andrew Wilson and Arthur Scott. The CC agreed its support in principle and Nick Walker was selected to continue as the CC's link to the group.

Harbour signage – Sandra McDowall said there was a need for enhanced interpretation and information boards at the Martyrs' Stake and on the pathway. She had only recently found out information about the 'Goose Stones' of which one had been recently damaged. There was also work needed on the gates leading to the Stake and bits of the path. It was agreed that a project could be pulled together to be funded by the Council's Coastal Community Fund.

Back Lane – The lane linking Beddie Crescent and Church Lane was in need of resurfacing and the CC had been asked to raise the issue with the Council. It was suspected that the road had not been, nor was in a condition to be, adopted by the Council but they would be asked.

Galloway Bar – the bar owner had reapplied for an occasional license for the area in front of the bar pending the relaxation of Covid regulations at the end of April. It was agreed that the CC would support the application but ask that the Council do what they could do to mitigate problems that the blocking off of the pavement area caused to pedestrians with mobility problems particularly during times when the premises were closed.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be on **Monday, 10 May 2021** starting at the regular time of 7:30 pm and held online.