

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ONLINE
ON MONDAY,14 JUNE 2021

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)
Ada Montgomery
Cora Sharp

Jak Kane (Secretary)
David Moran
Paul Tarling
Kevin Witt

Kerr Inger
Robin Richmond
Nick Walker

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Katie Hagmann

Cllr Jackie McCamon

Jennifer Jones, Free Press

APOLOGIES

Kathleen Hart

David McAdam
Cllr David Inglis

Jock McDowall

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Kathleen Hart and Cllr Inglis. David McAdam and Jock McDowall were both unable to access the meeting as it was online.

2. POLICE MATTERS

A Police Report had been submitted by PC Krystle Martin and it had been circulated prior to the meeting. There had been three local crime incidents reported since the previous Community Council (CC) meeting: a Road traffic Collision near to Kirvennie Farm with the driver charged with failing to stop and report collision; a female charged with being Drunk and Incapable in a public place; and a female charged with Threatening and Abusive Behaviour. The report also provided information and advice on dealing with Vans and Tool theft, Holiday Fraud and Labour Exploitation.

5 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with no any other business notified. However Sandra McDowall introduced Matt Kitson who had asked if he could speak to the Community Council re a suggestion he had made that might provide additional seating for outside eating and drinking for tourists and locals.

Matt explained that he had mooted the creation of a temporary pedestrianised area on South Main Street where outdoor seating could be provided for food and drink to potentially increase custom for local cafes, restaurants and bars while there remained indoor restrictions on these premises. Two of the three options that had emerged from discussions on Facebook would see parts of South Main Street closed to traffic but concerns had been raised at the loss of parking spaces, emergency access and bus services.

With the current timetable for relaxation of Covid restrictions it was agreed that the issues, wider consultation on the proposals and then the timescales needed for getting permission for road closures did not exist to justify the pedestrianisation options and it was agreed that the third option that would see picnic tables provided within the town gardens would be the most workable solution to provide the additional seating spaces. Planning would need to include how to deal with any additional litter and cleaning that would be needed on the site.

6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 10 May 2021)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

- a) Honey fungus/Kirkyard Project**– Nick Walker said that a site meeting had been arranged with Robert Lowther and a few of his colleagues to discuss both projects. Nick and representatives from Wigtown in Bloom would be there for both projects, Paul Tarling would join for the Honey Fungus project and the Kirkyard Project Group would be there for their project.
- b) Dog Fouling – Dog waste bag dispenser** – An additional bag dispenser had been sourced and installed at the town end of Lovers' Lane. Sandra McDowall reported that there continued to be heavy use of the bag supply from the dispenser at the Martyrs' Stake Car park and it might suggest that the unit should be moved further along the path to make sure they were being taken by dog walkers using the path.
- c) Roadworks – Lightlands Avenue** – It was confirmed that the roadworks had been completed with the road surface restored and barriers removed.
- d) Textile Recycling Bin** –The replacement textile bank, which was larger with almost double the current capacity, had been installed in the Lorry Park.
- e) Community Fridge Project** – A funding application had been submitted to the Co-op Community Fund. Cllr Hagmann suggested that Kevin should look to the Council's Anti-Powerty funding for support.
- f) Summer event** – Matt Kitson had been notified that, although the assessment panel for DGC's Community Events Fund had scored the relative applications on 13 May 2021, recommendations would not be presented to Elected Members for approval until 29 June with awards not confirmed until 2 July. He was concerned that the 10 week period from closing date to decision date curtailed planning and booking times, the planned date of 28 August should leave enough time.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

A financial report had been circulated prior to the meeting showing the up to date position with the CC's finances. The only transaction on the Accounts was the purchase of the aforementioned dog bag dispenser at a cost of £125.40. However, the expense had been offset by the supplier sending a box of bags that normally cost £37.50 by mistake which they then agreed that the CC should keep without payment.

Nick Walker advised that he had sold more McGuffie VC books and issued the relative invoice for payment..

b: Consultations Report

There were no current consultations to consider.

c: Planning Working Party

Nick Walker had circulated a Planning Report prior to the meeting with the recommendation that no submission be made on three new applications: an agricultural building at High Barness; alterations to Old Maltings Buildings at Bladnoch Distillery and an extension to Laigh Kirkland. An amended planning application had also been submitted for a new build at Edinard, Maidland following a previous proposal that was refused by the Planners. The CC had made no submission to the original to the original application and it was recommended that this remain the case.

The report also provided updates on previous applications and issues raised with Planning Enforcement. The content of the report was noted and the recommendations agreed.

It was reported that a large agricultural building was being erected at Baldoon Airfield without the benefit of planning permission. It was agreed that Planning Department be asked to investigate.

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

d. Town Square Developments WP

Sandra McDowall had spoken to Sandy Sweetman who informed her that he had arranged the loan of one of the proposed lighting units and he would arrange to visit Wigtown to have it installed and to demonstrate its use..

e. Martyrs' Walk/Harbour Project

Sandra McDowall had circulated a briefing note on a meeting with Anna Johnson, DGC Countryside Team Leader when she, Paul Tarling, Alan Wykes and Jak Kane had raised issues and discussed proposals for development. During the course of the meeting, Alan Wykes volunteered to repair the three gates as well as reinforcing parts of the boardwalk that needed attention. The boardwalk needs to be wholly replaced rather than just patched up and it was agreed that the CC should look to put together a project to be funded by Coastal Communities funding that would see the boardwalk replaced, additional signage and interpretation installed, development of the Goose Stones clearing, and creation of viewpoints along the path.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence other than what had been covered in Matters Arising.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McCamon thanked Sandra McDowall for recently meeting in Wigtown with her and Fiona Lees DGC Interim Chief Executive. Cllr McCamon said that the Council was looking to continue the Town Ambassador roles that were created last year as part of the Council's Restart and Recovery plan but they would only be placed in the ward if a need was identified. She asked that anyone who had feedback on the need for an Ambassador in Wigtown should get in touch with her, Cllr Hagmann or the Council.

Cllr Hagmann said that she first wanted to mark the recent passing of Graeme McKie who had been the local Ward Officer since the creation of the post and had worked with communities for some 20 years.

As a result of the recent elections, the Council's service committee meetings had been held up and they were now seeing them resuming with huge agendas. On 24 June the Council is due to consider a report on the Place Programme within the Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal that will ask for Elected Members' agreement to the process to identify the initial towns to go forward through the Borderlands Place Programme process – with Wigtown being one of the four towns being put forward for the first phase.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bridge at Braehead – Ada Montgomery had raised the issue of drivers failing to yield in accordance with the Priority signs on the approach to the Bridge from the South. It was agreed that there was sufficient and clear signage to tell drivers that they should give way and although there might have been 'near misses', there had been no major incidents that would justify an approach to the Council for traffic lights.

Granite stubs at Market Cross – A resident had reported that she had tripped over one of the stubs at the base of the Market Cross. Sandra McDowall said that she would look into the issue for more detail and Wigtown Community Promotions who hosted the Market would be asked to carry out a Risk Assessment.

Roadworks at Jubilee Terrace – A trench to house power cables to the proposed new units at Duncan Park across the road and pavements had been backfilled but was still to be made good. It was agreed that the Council be asked when restitution could be expected.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be held online on **Monday, 12 July 2021** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.