

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

contact@WigtownCC.org.uk

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

Cllr Jim McColm

Louise Kerr, Free Press

APOLOGIES

David McAdam

Jock McDowall

Cllr Jackie McCamon

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. POLICE MATTERS

A Police Report had been received from PC Krystle Martin prior to the meeting and it had been circulated

to members. The report detailed three local crime incidents reported since the previous Community Council (CC) meeting: 21/06/2021 – a single vehicle Road Traffic Collision on the B733 with ongoing enquiries to establish the cause and ascertain if any offences had been committed; a two vehicle Road Traffic Collision at the junction of the B7005/B733 with the male driver of the offending vehicle charged with Careless Driving; and a male has been charged with Threatening and Abusive Behaviour and Resisting Arrest and was being held in police custody pending appearance at Stranraer Sheriff Court. The report also provided information on Rural Watch – the neighbourhood watch scheme for rural areas.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with the addition of the Wigtown Cash machine, Murals in the Town and Wigtown Book Festival.

Nick Walker joined the meeting

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 14 June 2021)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

a) *Honey fungus/Kirkyard Project* – Nick Walker reported that he had met with Robert Lowther (DGC) Alec Craig (Wigtown in Bloom) and Stuart Brown (WBC Greenkeeper) to discuss the Honey Fungus issue. Robert Lowther is to arrange for an arboriculturist to test the Beech tree opposite New Road. With regard to digging out of the fungus spores and disposal of the contaminated land, Robert is to research the methodology of the work and the relevant costs to gauge feasibility. There could also be a residual risk of damage to the retaining wall while digging to be considered.

The group then moved on to the Kirkyard with members of the Kirkyard Group replacing Stuart Brown. There had been recent negative feedback on social media about the wilding of the graveyard and it was agreed that more detail of The proposed project should be included in the next edition of the newsletter. DGC would be cutting pathways to key graves with information online and will also look to remove self-seeded saplings and the Council archaeologist visited the churchyard to look at fallen stones.

b) *Community Fridge Project* – Kevin Witt said that he had not heard of the outcome of the relative funding application yet but Wigtown had been added to the Co-op's list of groups.

c) *Summer event – 28 August 2021* – Sandra McDowall reported that she had attended a meeting where the event was discussed and it had been decided that the Parent Council would organise a School Fete in the school grounds from 11 am till noon. This would be followed by the main event, the Wigtown Shindy from 2pm till 10pm in the McGuffie VC Gardens with an extended market in the square. The event was being organised to celebrate coming out of lockdown and to thank the Wigtown community and resilience volunteers for all they had done to help. Dumfries & Galloway Council had awarded a grant of £3,000 to support the event. It was suggested that the £300 Festival grant that the CC received from the Council could be used in connection with the event. Sandra invited councillors to volunteer to join the organising committee.

d) *Borderlands Place Programme* – Wigtown had been confirmed as one of the first towns that will benefit from the programme but no contact had been received since the decision of the Council committee had been made. It was agreed that the Secretary would contact the Council for update information.

e) *Granite stubs at Mercat Cross* – A risk assessment had been carried out by Wigtown Community Promotions who organise the Market and the stubs will now be coned off while the market is on.

f) *Roadworks at Jubilee Terrace* - Paul Tarling confirmed that the roadworks had been completed.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane confirmed that payment had been received from the sale of McGuffie VC books mentioned by Nick Walker at the previous meeting and payments of £21.22 and £68.22 had made for printing and dog bags respectively. An expression of interest had been submitted to the Council in respect of an award for Christmas Lights and Community Events.

b: Consultations Report

A report had been circulated giving details of the Scottish Government consultation on '*Use and Sale of Fireworks in Scotland and tackling the misuse of Pyrotechnics*'. There were four specific requirements that SG was looking to introduce and it was agreed that

all four should be supported. Jak Kane would draft a response for approval at the August meeting in line with the closing date of 15 August.

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: a new house and garage in Main Street, Kirkinner; an extension to the house at 4 Main Street, Whauphill; and the full planning application for alterations to Old Maltings Buildings at Bladnoch Distillery linked to the Listed Building Consent application considered previously.

The report also provided updates on previous applications with three receiving consent and the application for the formation of five houses at Carsegowan active again after completion of bat surveys. Cllr McColm did not participate in the discussion of the Planning issues.

d. Town Square Developments WP

Sandra McDowall had spoken again to blacksmith, Paul Siddle who had agreed to create stylistic additions to the light holders around the McGuffie VC Gardens that would blend with the Archway. A WP meeting would be organised to discuss the proposed lighting scheme with Anne Barclay (WFC), Alex Craig (WiB) and Craig Hamnett invited to join.

e. Martyrs' Walk/Harbour Project

Sandra McDowall and Paul Tarling had walked the path with a map on which they identified sites for viewpoints along the path where there would also be information/interpretation boards. Anna Johnson, DGC had spoken to Will Marshall, the artist responsible for the original Goose Stones installation and he was eager to be involved in the project that would see the site refurbished and developed. A meeting to discuss was to be arranged. Anna had also been to the Boardwalk to mark out parts that were slipping and had put up warning signs.

f. Resilience

It was agreed that, with Scotland emerging from lockdown restrictions, the need for the Covid Resilience Group to be active had passed and a final meeting would be organised. Notices would be sent out to provide that update and remind householders to retain their cards for future resilience emergencies including weather and power outages.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

 **Occasional Licences** – The Galloway Barr had reapplied for Occasional Licenses to cover its temporary outside drinking area from 4 – 31 August.

 **Ward Officer** - Interim Ward Officer Kerren Walker had written to advise that her secondment was ending and that from 8 July the new Ward Officer for this Ward would be Melinda Dolan: 07712 666903 – Melinda.dolan@dumgal.gov.uk. The Secretary had replied and thanked Kerren for the help provided during her tenure and wishing her well back in her old post.

 **War Memorial Competition** – The Council was organising the competition to mark the Royal British Legion (Legion Scotland) 100th Anniversary and Armed Forces Week, thus showing the region's support for the Armed Forces and Veterans. A grant of up to £200 was available to make improvements to the memorial and it was agreed that the CC should enter the competition and apply for the grant funding.

 **Wigtown ATM** – Cardtronics had been contacted re the reported faults with the new cash dispenser. They had advised that, since being installed in April 2021, the ATM has only run out of cash on one occasion. The ATM did experience some dispenser faults before and after this which were resolved by their engineering team and this may have been mistaken for the machine running out of cash. They gave an

assurance that they monitor their machines closely for cash levels and faults. It was agreed that the contact details for Cardtronics would be included in the next edition of the newsletter.

9F COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm confirmed that three of the four places selected to lead in the Borderlands Place Programme were from Wigtownshire. He thought that going forward, the process would be led by officers from the Economy & Resources Department and he agreed to contact them for updates. He also said that there had been a discharge incident reported at Wigtown Harbour with effluent released from the pumping station into an incoming tide. Finally he reported that the five Councils in the Borderlands Partnership Area will submit a joint expression of interest in becoming the UK City of Culture 2025. For the first time, the UK City of Culture competition will be open to areas and places with a clear focus and the Borderlands bid will be lead by South of Scotland Enterprise (SOSE).

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Murals – The Festival Company is in discussions with the owners of No 11 North Main Street and Grace Crichton on the opposite New Road corner on a project to instal murals on the gable walls on the entrance to the square. The CC noted that any proposal will be subject to Planning due to the Conservation Area status and would await the relative consultation.

Wigtown Book Festival 2021 – This year's Festival will be held from 24 September to 3 October. The Festival will go ahead this year in Hybrid form with no marquees but events held in existing venues like the County Buildings, Church Hall and the McGuffie VC Gardens with visitors encouraged.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be held online on **Monday, 9 August 2021** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.