

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BLENDED MEETING HELD in MACHARS ACTION and ONLINE
ON MONDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2021

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)
Ada Montgomery
Jock McDowall

Jak Kane (Secretary)
David Moran
Robin Richmond

Kerr Inger
David McAdam
Paul Tarling

IN ATTENDANCE

Louise Kerr, Free Press

Helen Morley

APOLOGIES

Cora Sharp

Cllr J McColm

Cllr J McCamon

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

There were apologies for absence received from Cora Sharp, and Councillors McCamon and McColm.

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 Police had been asked to join some meetings either online or in person in the office of Machars Action as the CC had introduced blended meetings. PC Martin said that unfortunately there would not be any attendance from Police.

The report detailed the local crime incidents that had been reported since the previous report of 11 September 2021.

- A child had been hit by a motor car on the A714 near to Potato Mill Road junction. The road had been closed for several hours and Police enquiries commenced.
- A driver had been stopped by Police in Lightlands Avenue and charged with driving with no MOT and no Insurance. The vehicle had been recovered and a Police report submitted to the Procurator Fiscal.
- A Theft by Housebreaking offence had been reported as having occurred at premises in Agnew Crescent. Enquiries were ongoing.
- A car had been stopped in Bladnoch and due to observed manner of their driving, the driver had been charged with a Careless Driving offence. Police report would be submitted to the Procurator Fiscal and enquiries also ongoing in relation to possible offences under the terms of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

The report also gave info on Police Scotland looking at giving body worn video cameras (bodycams) to more police officers and staff across Scotland and the Police Scotland initiative on 'Student Online Safety'.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with no 'Other' business other than that already included in the agenda. However, the issue of Tree Preservation Orders in Southfield Park would be covered under Planning.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 October 2021)

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

5 RESIGNATIONS

Sandra McDowall recorded the resignations of Community Councillors Nick Walker and Kevin Witt, both of which had been accepted with regret. Both had been valued members of the CC and Nick Walker's lead and work on the McGuffie VC Centenary celebrations had left a lasting legacy for the town.

6 MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Borderlands Place Programme** – Donna Mounce DGC had provided a PowerPoint presentation that gave details about the programme and it had been circulated.
- b) **War Memorial Competition** - The judging panel had visited Wigtown War Memorial and had met with Sandra McDowall who had explained the plans for the site
- c) **Railings: Town Square, Primary School, Windy Hill Monument** – Jak Kane had reported the railings at the Martyrs Monument to the Council and had been contacted by James McCrossan DGC Community Assets Office Stewartry to clarify which Martyrs Monument we were talking about.
- d) **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend 2-5 June 2022** – Information on the 'Plant a Tree for the Jubilee' and the 'Platinum Jubilee Beacons' initiative had been circulated. Community Councillors were asked to think about how the CC should mark this historic event but it was agreed that at least a site for planting a commemorative tree should be identified.
- e) **Remembrance Sunday: 14 November 2021** – Sandra McDowall confirmed that arrangements were being made for the Act of Remembrance and laying of wreaths to be staged at 11am at the War Memorial.

7 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Jak Kane reported that he had ordered wreaths for the CC and other organisations. He had written to the Community Shop asking if they would cover the cost of replacing the cabinet for the defibrillator at Wigtown Surgery and they had agreed to provide £250 towards the cost of £5/600. The CC had paid £83.74 to Machars Action for printing (principally 3 editions of the newsletter) and £64.50 for a fresh supply for the dog bag dispensers.

b: Consultations Report

There was no consultation report but Jak Kane reminded Community Councillors that he had sent information on the Council's Engagement on its Renewal and Recovery Plan, and Budget 2022-2025. The relative questionnaire had gone live on the Council website and another online Community Conversation for Wigtown District had been arranged for 28 October.

c: Planning Working Party

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting and it included three new applications.

- ❖ Extensions to 7 Potato Mill Road
- ❖ Alterations and improvements to 11 Bladnoch
- ❖ Partially Retrospective application for works at Laigh Kirkland including erection of terrace area and storage building

It was agreed that the CC should make no submissions in connection with these applications

The report also contained updates on some of the previous applications lodged:

- ❖ The Council had approved the installation of the ATM and telephone kiosk which had replaced the phone kiosk as the change was considered to have minimal

impact on the setting and character of the locality because the previous kiosk had not been a traditional red phone box.

- ❖ The Council had approved unconditionally the application for the proposed alterations and improvements to 20 Bladnoch.
- ❖ The Council had approved the proposed Wetland Development at RSPB Crook of Baldoon.
- ❖ The Council had again refused permission for the erection of a dwelling house in the garden ground of Edinard, 1 Maidland Place.
- ❖ There had been no final decision on the retrospective application for erection of a large agricultural building at Baldoon Airfield but DGC's Flood Risk Management Team (FRMT) had objected to the proposed development based on the development lying within the Medium Likelihood (0.5% Annual Exceedance Probability) Coastal floodplain as detailed on DGi (information from SEPA).

The issue of Tree Preservation Orders (TPOs) for trees within Southfield Park had been raised by a local resident as she had applied for them to be covered but had been told by planners that it was not considered expedient to pursue a TPO at this time. It was explained that the relevant planning application for the site was due to be presented to the Planning Applications Committee "in the near future" and appropriate protection for the trees could be placed through conditions within the decision of the Planning Committee. However, in circumstances where the planning application was refused, the option of a provisional Tree Preservation Order would be considered at that time.

The Arboricultural Assessment submitted by 3B with their Planning Application suggested that only 7 out of the 23 trees examined were recommended for felling mostly because they suffered from basal and root decay and trunk hollow. Only two trees were deemed to be dangerous and liable to collapse. It was agreed that the CC should write to the Planners affirming its support for retention of all mature trees in the area and in cases where trees had to be felled because of disease and for public safety, replacement trees should be planted. The CC would also confirm its intention to apply for TPOs for the remaining viable trees in the Old Showfield once the Planning Committee had made a decision.

d. Town Square Developments WP

Sandra McDowall had spoken to Sandy Sweetman for an update and he had said that the current cost of the projectors would be in the region of £1,800 each. Paul Siddle had advised that he estimated that the cost of fabricating a metal tree with lights at the old Mercat Cross would be £150-200.

e. Martyrs' Walk/Harbour Project

Sandra McDowall had met with Anna Johnson and Melinda Dolan, DGC and Will Marshall, the artist responsible for the original Goose Stones installation. Will had agreed to cost the renovation of the installation which would not include replacement of the timber posts as they would be retained. Any interpretation board for the site would be placed on the path above the clearing because it was essentially an art installation and Will thought this would work best with his work. He undertook to identify the original contact for the Greenland stone that had been lost. A picnic table had been repaired and would be relocated to the clearing at the stones. Anna Johnson had been asked to provide a cost per metre for replacing the boardwalk at the Martyr's Stake.

f. Shoreline Management Plan Update

Paul Tarling had attended the virtual consultation meeting and had circulated a short report in which he had highlighted the potential threat to the Wigtown Sewage Plant, one of only three sites on Wigtown Bay that had been identified as assets that will be protected as best they can with others being left to be taken over by the sea with "No Active Intervention".

The Final Consultation on the plan was scheduled for Spring 2022 with the Final Plan due to be launched in October/November.

8 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Scottish Forestry** – Consultation on new proposed woodland to be created at Backmoor in the Barrachan Estate, 7 miles South West of Wigtown. The woodland will be native broadleaved trees mainly silver birch and sessile oak and "*not visible to any significant effect from any houses, roads or public vantages*".
- b) **KCBC (Kilgallioch Community Benefit Company)** – KCBC's independent review of its Community Fund was coming to a close and they expected to publish the report on 1 November 2021 and will circulate an electronic copy then.
- c) **DGC Consultation on its Draft Flood Risk Management Strategies and Local Flood Risk Management Plans** - Opportunity to seek advice and discuss the Management Plan with the Flood Risk Management Team with eighteen 30 minute slots available on 6 October.
- d) **Meetings in Council premises** - Jason Ward, Customer Service Team Leader West would be happy to discuss longer term options with the CC but in the meantime, and as meetings are held in the evening, he would be happy for the CC to hold meetings within the Library space where public wifi is available.
- e) **Plant a tree for the Jubilee** – Invitation for a representative from the Community Council to attend an online information session at which the Lord Lieutenant will provide a short overview/presentation on this initiative; to hear about any plans to take part overall in this historic occasion; and to answer questions on any of the key Platinum Jubilee events. The session with Wigtown's Mrs Aileen Brewis, Lord Lieutenant will be delivered via Microsoft / MS Teams on Tuesday, 9 November 2021.
- f) **Getting Ready for Winter Training & Support** – DGC is offering online information and training sessions designed to help communities 'Get Ready for Winter' and that will include topics on Wider Resilience – An Overview; The Role of the Community Resilience Team and Partners; Risk Assessments; and a virtual walk through of a Winter Scenario The sessions will be delivered via MS Teams.

9 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

No Councillors were present at the meeting.

10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Kindling Project – The Community Justice Team had been in touch asking if the CC wanted to again take delivery of free kindling for distribution to elderly and those in need throughout the community. It was agreed that the kindling would be delivered to Scad's shop and would be distributed by David and Jock McDowall.

Beddie Crescent – It was agreed that the Secretary would report the potholes in the part of road leading to Lover's Lane.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be a blended meeting held in the meeting room of Machars Action with limited numbers and online on Zoom on **Monday, 8 November 2021** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.