

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF BLENDED MEETING HELD in MACHARS ACTION and ONLINE**  
**ON MONDAY, 13 DECEMBER 2021**

[contact@WigtownCC.org.uk](mailto:contact@WigtownCC.org.uk)

[www.WigtownCC.org.uk](http://www.WigtownCC.org.uk)

**PRESENT**

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)  
Ada Montgomery  
Paul Tarling

Jak Kane (Secretary)  
David McAdam

Kerr Inger  
Robin Richmond  
Cora Sharp

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Carol Lochrie, Machars Action

**APOLOGIES**

David Moran

Jock McDowall  
Cllr Jackie McCamon

Cllr Katie Hagmann

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

David Moran and Jock McDowall had sent their apologies along with Councillors Hagmann and McCamon.

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

A Police Report had been received from PC Osborne prior to the meeting and it had been circulated to members.

The report detailed the local crime incidents that had been reported since the November report had been submitted.

- On 8 November there was a report of a minor Anti-Social Behaviour incident involving youths at the Lorry Park.
- Police enquiries were ongoing in connection with an assault on 15 November.
- There had been a Road Traffic Collision at the Culquhirk Junction on the A714 and the driver was to be reported.

The report gave details of weather-related incidents and road closures that had been put in place due to the impact of Storm Arwen at the end of November. Police Scotland would be conducting out annual Festive Drink Drug Drive Campaign from 1 December until 3 January 2022 with increased proactive mobile patrols.

The Police had also circulated information that explained that an outbreak of Avian (Bird) Flu confirmed in Scotland and Paul Tarling explained that incidents had been recorded in the Rhins and birds of prey were dying because of feeding on infected birds throughout the region. He stressed that dead birds should be reported to Defra and that people should not pick up any dead or sick birds.

**3 PRESENTATION – Carol Lochrie, Machars Action**

Carol Lochrie had taken over as Manager of Machars Action and was looking to establish a clear channel of communication with all Community Councils (CCs) in the Machars region to ensure that the wider community knew about Machars Action and what it does. The company had recently drawn up a new Business Plan for 2021-24 and it was hoped that the plan would lead to its long-term viability.

Within the plan were two aims that Carol spoke about:

- ❖ The company would be consulting with the Machars CCs re the proposed establishment of a 'filling station' in Wigtown that could give people the chance to buy plastic and package-free products including refillable household cleaning liquids and powders and store cupboard essentials such as rice, pastas, cereals.
- ❖ Machars Action would continue to offer an admin hub for CCs and organisations including Independent Examination of Accounts.

#### 4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ANOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with the addition of no additional business.

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

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

#### 6 MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Railings** – Brian McQuat, DGC Building Maintenance and Safety Service Leader had confirmed that the remedial works on the railings around the McGuffie VC Gardens would be carried out as part of the Council's PPM programmes of works planned for the new financial year. However, the work at the Primary School railings was not currently planned this year, but it would be considered in the PPM works that are due to start next financial year.
- b) **Christmas Lights** – Sandra McDowall said that the evening of the switch-on had been very successful and well attended. She thanked everyone involved including the volunteers who had put up the lights, Creetown Silver Band who had played on the night and the Community Shop who had provided the mince pies and shortbread.
- c) **Bike Shelter** – The CC had contacted DGC re the potential of having a bike shelter provided on the basis that Wigtown had recently benefitted from the installation of the EV Charging park and was eager to encourage other modes of sustainable transport in the town. The Council had written to advise that was currently considering and prioritising shelters across the region, as funding has been allocated by Transport Scotland. DGC recognised that the central location in Wigtown, combined with the adjacent bus shelter, adds value and justification to our request. Wigtown has been added to their list for further consideration.
- d) **EV signage** – The CC had written to DGC asking them to provide additional signage directing drivers to the new charging facility within the Lorry Park. The Council's Fleet Asset Management Team who had responsibility for the facility agreed to take forward the issue with their colleagues in Roads to explore the possibility of additional signage.
- e) **Streetlights in Kirkinner** – Two faulty streetlights in Kirkinner had been reported on several occasions over the past two years and the Secretary had again written to the Council about the issue. Cllr Inglis subsequently had taken up the issue on behalf of the CC and received confirmation that both would be looked at by the relative contractor in the next few days. The contractor would definitely be able to restore one immediately and they would take the second away for repair if it could not be fixed in situ.

#### 7 UPDATES & REPORTS

##### a: Financial Report

A financial report that showed income and expenditure for the various CC funds had been circulated prior to the meeting. With the Admin Account, a total of £140 had been received from Wigtown Guides and Brownies which reimbursed the CC for wreaths purchased for the organisations in 2020 and 2021. Resilience spending included £654 to

cover the purchase of two Grit spreaders and £300 for rental of storage space from the new owner of Wigtown Motor Company.

David McAdam had provided £100 to help pay for the Christmas Lights, £50 of which he had collected in his shop and the remaining £50 from Lucky Squares sold by the Co-op. A further purchase of cables and lights had cost £266.89, Liability Insurance had cost £89.50, and Paul Siddle had been paid £175 to fabricate the metal tree shape around the column in the middle of the McGuffie Gardens.

**b: Consultations Report**

There were no current consultations to consider.

**c: Planning Working Party**

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Kerr Inger declared an interest in the one new application and did not take part in the discussion on the application. The new application involved the proposed erection of a new two storey house on the site adjacent to Kerross in Station Road. The new plans included aspects of design that the Council had not agreed to when considering the Kerross planning application and it was agreed that the CC should write to the Council asking them to maintain consistency by again deciding against development that *"is not designed to reflect the contours and landform of the site or the character and scale of adjacent development; it involves unnecessary and insensitive upfill of land and the formation of retaining walls; and excessive underbuilding to the rear to form a basement floor"*.

The report also gave updates on three of the previous applications lodged.

- ❖ The Council had approved the application to alter the steading at Carsegowan to form five dwellinghouses with conditions mainly dealing with vehicular access and visibility areas.
- ❖ DGC granted permission for the development of 11 Bladnoch with conditions that the roof to be natural slate, the Council were to approve the colour of lime mortar used and the annex must remain as part of the property and could not become a distinct and separate property in the future.
- ❖ Additional post submission documentation had been submitted re details of a new garage to be included within the works at 7 Potato Mill Road.

**d. Town Square Developments WP**

Kenny Bowie from SPEN Kenny Bowie from SPEN had confirmed that he would raise a new project to remove the old poles and overhead lines in Low Vennel and would look to have the issue of the streetlights around the square still being permanently on addressed.

**e. Martyrs' Stake/Old Railway Line**

The missing 'goose stone' had been recovered and removed for safekeeping and Anna Johnson had been asked to advise artist, Will Marshall.

**f. Plant a Tree for the Jubilee**

Paul Tarling had attended an online meeting with the Lord Lieutenant on the 'Queen's Green Canopy marking the 70<sup>th</sup> year of the Queen's reign' and had compiled a detailed report. After discussion it was agreed that the Community Council should plan to plant one specimen tree in Wigtown to mark the anniversary and suggestions for a suitable site would be sought. A tract of land near the War Memorial was put forward as a potential site.

**8 CORRESPONDENCE**

**a) War Memorial Competition** – DGC had written to advise that, although Wigtown had not won, a 'Certificate of Highly Commended' had been awarded.

- b) **Kindling** – DGC Community Payback Officer had advised that additional bags of free kindling was available and it had been arranged for some to be dropped off at Scad’s shop for distribution by David and Jock McDowall.
- c) **Borderlands Place Programme** – Cllr McCamon had advised that the Council would be meeting with the Borderlands team on 1 December and she had expressed the importance of them updating the CC after that meeting. As no update had been forthcoming, Cllr McCamon had been asked to chase one up.

**9 COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES**

There were no Local Authority members present at the meeting.

**10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business

**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, 10 January 2021** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.