

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BLENDED MEETING HELD in MACHARS ACTION and ONLINE
ON MONDAY, 10 JANUARY 2022

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)
Ada Montgomery
Robin Richmond

Jak Kane (Secretary)
David Moran
Paul Tarling

Kerr Inger
David McAdam

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

APOLOGIES

Cora Sharp
Cllr David Inglis

Jock McDowall
Cllr Jackie McCamon

Cllr Katie Hagmann

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cora Sharp and Jock McDowall had sent their apologies along with Councillors Hagmann, Inglis and McCamon.

2. POLICE MATTERS

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

The report detailed the local crime incidents that had been reported since the December report had been issued.

1. On 18 December there was a two-vehicle injury RTC on the A714 at Moorpark. A male person will be reported for Careless driving.
2. On 24 December there was a report of a male sleeping rough in Wigtown. He was traced and it was established that was currently cycling around Scotland and everything was in order.
3. On 28 December a male was arrested in Wigtown for Threatening and abusive behaviour), Police assault and resisting arrest.
4. On 30 December a suspicious vehicle was stopped during the nightshift on the A746 at Kirkinner. The car was being used by nominals from Carlisle and although no offences were detected at that time but there was a potential intent on poaching. The same vehicle and persons were apprehended the following night in the Lockerbie area.
5. A Quad bike was stolen overnight on 3 January from Low Barness. Enquiries were ongoing.
6. Also, on 3 January at Low Barness, Wigtown a person was charged with a Contravention to Section 127 of the Communications Act 2003 (Threatening/abusive electronic message) and a Contravention to Section 38 of the Criminal Justice Licensing (Scotland) Act 2010 (Threatening and abusive behaviour).
7. A driver of a motor vehicle will be reported for Careless driving in Wigtown on 4 January.

The report also gave information on Wigtownshire Health & Wellbeing Partnership, Farm Watch Dumfries & Galloway.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ANOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Agenda was approved with the addition of Southfield Lane, the timber shed in McGuffie VC Gardens, Machars Action and verges.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 13 December 2021)

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

5 MATTERS ARISING

a) *Streetlights in Kirkinner* – The two faulty streetlights in Kirkinner had been repaired as promised.

6 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. From the Admin Account, £54.39 had been paid to Machars Action for Admin including £45 for room hire (3 meetings) with a further £20 paid to DGC for the Lotteries Licence. Wigtown Community Shop had increased its award for the replacement Defib cabinet from £250 to £500.

From the Festivals account, £420 had been paid for the Christmas tree and a further £22.99 for light fittings.

Foundation Scotland had written to advise that Kilgallioch Community Benefit Company (KCBC) had awarded a grant of £2,000 to all CCs in Wigtownshire that did not directly benefit from Windfarm Community Benefit. This was a pilot process and the results of this year's process will inform the Board's decision on whether to continue this arrangement beyond 2021-22.

b: Consultations Report

There were no current consultations to consider.

c: Planning Working Party

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting with no new applications registered. Updates on previous applications included:

- The building of a dwellinghouse and garage on land west of 10 Aaron Court in Main Street, Kirkinner. Had been approved with conditions mainly around access, visibility and parking.
- The installation of 5 air source heat pumps at James Gordon, Whauphill had been approved unconditionally.
- The proposed extension at 7 Potato Mill Road, Wigtown had been approved unconditionally.
- The building of a Veterinary Centre with car parking at Kirklandhill Gardens, Kirklandhill, Wigtown had been granted conditionally with issues re window design, vehicular access and parking, external lighting, and landscaping.
- The applications related to alterations to bring about the change of use to form a dwellinghouse at the Red Lion Inn, 4 North Main Street Wigtown had previously disappeared from the Planning Portal. The Listed Building application had been reinstated and marked as Refused
- A partially retrospective application connected to developments at Laigh Kirkland, Wigtown had been registered and Roads Department's consultation response asked that conditions be applied re the access which appears unmade and requires

to be formalised. The access needs to be surface water trapped and drained to an outfall or soakaway and surfaced in bituminous materials for the first 5m from the public road carriageway edge. Any works carried out within the public road boundary will require the issuing of a retrospective road opening permit.

Ada Montgomery had been approached by a resident who was concerned that Andrew Sproat had demolished some of the buildings on Baldoon Airfield. Ada had contacted MOD Planning and Maintenance who had confirmed that they were not concerned as the buildings affected were not Listed and they had no budget to maintain them. They left it to farmers who were tenants of their land to determine what was needed to maintain health and safety.

d. Town Square Developments/Low Vennel Lights

Sandra confirmed that the old poles and overhead lines in Low Vennel had been removed. SPEN had confirmed that they were working on the plans to underground the power supply on South Main Street but it would be a more complicated project. SPEN had also advised that the equipment to regulate the lighting around the Town Square had been given to DGC so they should be able to resolve the issue of the streetlights being permanently on. There had been no response from DGC's Calum Edgar re the addition of the embellishment kits to the new lampposts on North Main Street and Cllr McColm agreed to try and expedite both issues.

e. Martyrs' Stake/Old Railway Line

Sandra said that she would be organising a meeting to identify next steps.

f. Plant a Tree for the Jubilee

It had been agreed that that the Community Council should plan to plant one specimen tree in Wigtown to mark the anniversary and Cllr McColm was asked to ascertain if the tree could be planted on the tract of land opposite the War Memorial. The Secretary was asked to contact Whauphill and Kirkiner to notify them that, if they wanted to plant a tree, Wigtown CC would cover the cost of the tree. The Queen's Jubilee celebrations were scheduled for 2 – 5 June and it was agreed that the CC should look to organise a community event in the McGuffie VC Gardens.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Emma Harper MSP** – end of year report on her work as the local MSP.
- b) **Association for the Protection of Rural Scotland (APRS)** – APRS had invited the CC to affiliate at a cost of £30 pa. Affiliation would entitle the CC to attend a webinar that would cover the recently released draft National Planning m (NPF4). It was agreed that the CC should apply and that Sandra McDowall would attend the webinar. Other Community Councillors that wanted to attend should contact Jak Kane for joining instructions.
- c) **Borderlands Place Programme** – An update on the Programme had been received with further announcements expected in the New Year. It advised that the partner Councils were “*working together to establish best practice and to test the Borderlands approach to supporting communities to develop a place plan*”. Donna Mounce also confirmed that the Scottish Government confirmed its approval of the Programme on 21 December 2021.
- d) **National Park Poll** – The Scots Magazine was conducting a poll to find out where people thought the third National Park in Scotland should be located and details had been added to the CC's Facebook page to encourage people to vote for Galloway.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

Cllr McColm advised that councillors would be meeting with officers in Economic Development to hear about the Borderlands Place Programme and confirmed that

Cumbria Council was at the head of the process with Dalton already having its Place Plan completed. It had been agreed that DGC Economic Development staff would support communities in the development of their Place Plans but were currently involved in providing administration for the grant applications for Scottish Government COVID business support with applications opened on 9 January. Elected members would receive the next update on the programme on 4 March 2022.

He confirmed that no permission for the demolition of buildings on Baldoon Airfield was needed unless it related to the buildings that were listed.

Free bus travel for young people aged 5-21 was being introduced but they would need to apply for and use a National Entitlement Card.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A community member had raised concerns about the issue of 'speeding' cars along Southfield Lane particularly anear the entrances to the Lory Park and Southfield Park. Cllr McColm undertook to ask Tony Topping, DGC Roads to look at the issue.

It had been expected that the Festival Company would have removed their shed and picnic tables from the McGuffie VC Gardens. Sandra McDowall said she would contact them.

The verges on the road down to the Martyrs Stake car park were again overgrown to the extent that pedestrians could not step off the road to accommodate traffic. Cllr McColm would also take this to the Council.

Robin Richmond reminded councillors that Machars Action was looking for suggestions on what additional services could be provided and offered by the company going forward. It was agreed that Machars Action should be added as an ongoing agenda item under 'Updates and Reports'.

1 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, 14 February** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.