

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BLENDED MEETING HELD in MACHARS ACTION and ONLINE
ON MONDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2022

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)
David Moran
Robin Richmond

Jak Kane (Secretary)
David McAdam

Kerr Inger
Jock McDowall
Paul Tarling

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllr Jim McColm

Elaine Milven, Whauphill
Community

APOLOGIES

Ada Montgomery

Cora Sharp
Cllr Jackie McCamon

Cllr Katie Hagmann

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Ada Montgomery and Cora Sharp as well as Cllrs Hagmann and McCamon.

2. POLICE MATTERS

PC Andrew Osborne had provided a Police Report and it had been circulated to CC members.

The report detailed the local crime incidents that had been reported since the previous report in February 2022 including:

1. On 19 February, a male had been arrested at the Galloway Bar for possession of a knife;
2. On 26 February the Police had received a report of a potential poaching incident on farmland near to Wigtown and suspects had been stopped and checks carried out with insufficient evidence to proceed;
3. On 10 March there had been reports of a fraud and a minor Road Traffic Collision and enquiries were ongoing.

PC Osborne noted that the problem with speeding cars on Southfield Lane had been recorded in the minutes of the CC's February meeting and he said that he would make the Divisional Roads Policing Department aware of the issue.

3 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ANOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved with the addition of Whithorn CC complaint review and Galloway National Park Association.

4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 14 February 2022)

It was noted that Paul Tarling should have been included in the Working Party established to look at a Queen's Jubilee event in paragraph '*6f Plant a Tree for the Jubilee*'. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved subject to this alteration, proposed by Paul Tarling and seconded by Jock McDowall.

5 MATTERS ARISING

- a) ***Speeding in Southfield Lane*** – The SLOW markings promised by Tony Topping, DGC Roads had been marked on the road.

- b) Verges – Ballgreen to Martyrs’ Stake Car Park.** DGC Roads had agreed to arrange more frequent verge cutting on the north side of the road down to the foot of the hill with cutting to start in April.
- c) McGuffie VC Gardens (Removal of Shed and Picnic Tables)** – The items had been removed from the gardens and the grass appeared to be recovering.
- d) Wigtown Shindy** – The information on the proposed event had been recirculated and it was agreed in principle to sponsor the ‘Volunteer of the Year’ award category.
- e) Wigtown Bottle Bank** – It had been advised that the Bottle Banks were serviced weekly and there had been only two recorded reports of the bins overflowing. The site will be monitored and, should this become a persistent problem, they will place additional bins on site. It was also confirmed that there are no level alert sensors on these bins.
- f) Kirkinner Hall AGM** – Ada Montgomery had attended the meeting and had subsequently circulated an information note.
- g) Climate Change Petition** – The relative email had been recirculated and it was agreed that the information could be added to the CC Facebook page with a note that it was for information only.
- h) Mining Exploration at Blackcraig** - Sandra McDowall had attended a public meeting that had been convened by JDH to update the community on its plans for mining at Blackcraig via Zoom. She had prepared a note of the meeting and had circulated it for information.
- i) Core Path at Bladnoch Distillery** – Bladnoch Distillery had been contacted re their investment plans and asked if they could review the decision to block the Bladnoch path. Dr Savage had replied that it was not possible because of the significant higher level of health and safety on the site required by its new COMAH status. However, he suggested that they could look at potentially holding an ‘event’ style walk but general access would not be possible. He suggested a meeting and it was agreed that Sandra McDowall and Jak Kane would attend.
- j) Graffiti** – The Council had advised that the product used by Community Assets was not available for use by the general public and, as the walls were in private ownership, public resources could not be used anyway. It was agreed that, if the resident of the property in Southfield Lane could be identified, a way of dealing with the graffiti could be discussed.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

No written report had been prepared with the only transaction on the Admin Account being a payment to Machars Action for Admin (£36.64) and Room hire (£30). A cheque for £150 had been issued from the Festivals Account to cover the cost of Creetown Silver Band playing at the Xmas event.

b: Consultations Report

There were no current Consultations to discuss.

c: Planning Working Party

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Two new Planning applications had been notified by DGC Planning. One was in respect of an extension to the rear of 26 Bladnoch to form a Studio/Workroom which would be used to produce handmade prints. The building would mainly be built using stone from a previous building on the site with the same width, height and roof line as the existing extension. The primary usage of the new part would not be a location for sales. The other was for the

erection of a telecoms mast at Barvernochan Farm, Whauphill that would provide improved 4G mobile connectivity.

There were no updates on other outstanding applications.

Cllr McColm did not take part in the discussions around the planning issues..

d. Town Square Developments

The embellishment kits to the new lampposts on North Main Street had been installed but were still due to be painted black. The work to control the lights around the McGuffie Gardens remained outstanding.

e. Martyrs' Stake/Old Railway Line

Sandra reported that the fallen tree at the Goose Stones had been removed and that she and Paul Tarling were looking for costings for the interpretation boards.

f. Plant a Tree for the Jubilee/Bank Holiday Celebration

Jak Kane reported that he had spoken to the Council re the proposed locations for planting the community trees. Billy Broll, DGC had agreed the Wigtown and Whauphill sites but asked that the CC meet with him to discuss the specific location on the Wigtown site. The preferred site in Kirkinner was owned by DGHP and they had been contacted to ask permission for planting a tree there. Paul Tarling confirmed that he had spoken to both Whauphill and Kirkinner communities to identify the type of tree that they would prefer.

Paul Tarling said that he had also made initial contact with Anne Barclay and Matt Kitson re the proposed Bank Holiday event.

g. Machars Action (MA)

A copy of the had monthly report on MA activities had been received from Carol Lochrie, Manager and it had been circulated.

h. Borderlands Place Programme

Chris Churms, DGC Economic Development (ED) Officer had advised that ED staff would give the Place Programme their full attention once their work on the Covid 19 business support was concluded over the "coming weeks".

7 CORRESPONDENCE

a) Whauphill Hall – Elaine Milven, Chair of Whauphill Association had written asking for problems with the mature trees around Whauphill Hall to be addressed. She was in attendance and was invited by the Convenor to speak about the issue. She explained that the mature trees around Whauphill Hall were showing their age and had numerous limbs that have died or fallen off during recent storms, with one very large limb narrowly missing a parked car and numerous smaller branches coming off and landing in the children's play area. A number of large trees had dead limbs and were showing signs of dying. These trees were all within falling distance of the hall or the houses on the Main Street or Sorbie Road. This was a major concern for the occupants of these homes, hall users and road users. The trees closest to the main road had dead limbs which overhang the Scottish Power lines and could potentially blackout the village and make the ground around them 'live' when they fall. The CC Secretary confirmed that he had written to DGC to ask them to look into what could be done.

The Association was also looking to have the Council establish a disabled parking space outside the Village Hall and it was agreed that the Secretary would also raise this with DGC.

- b) **DGHSCP Participation & Engagement Strategy** – An invitation had been received for a Teams meeting at 2:30pm on 27 April that would allow Community Councils to be consulted on the draft strategy.
- c) **Wigtown Riding of the Marches** – A ‘Notice of Proposal to Hold a Public Procession’ had been sent by DGC re the annual Riding of the Marches which was planned for Sunday, 10 July 2022.
- d) **DGC Visitor Management Strategy** – DGC was hosting a series of Community Conversations to share information on their plans to welcome visitors to Dumfries and Galloway, and to hear the views and priorities of local communities and stakeholders to maximise the opportunities of the tourist season and minimise any problems.

8 COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES

Cllr McColm said that a short list of applicants for the post of DGC Chief Executive had been drawn up and interviews would be held in early April. Local Authority elections were due to be held in May and Cllr McColm advised that he would be standing down and not running for re-election. The Council would be holding a consultation on the D&G Open Space Strategy and it was considering the establishment of a Citizens Panel to liaise on the Climate Emergency.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Cllr Inglis had suggested that the Wider Machars Federation of Community Councils be re-established with the support of Melinda Dolan, DGC Ward Officer. It was agreed that Wigtown CC would confirm its support for the proposal in principle.

Matt Kitson had produced a survey relative to the development of Wigtown Bowling Pavilion and councillors were encouraged to take part.

Robin Richmond advised that he had joined a Review Panel that had considered a complaint against Whithorn CC and the Panel had decided against the complaint.

Sandra McDowall explained that Galloway National Park Association was looking for members and she encouraged people to consider applying for membership.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be an in-person meeting held in the County Buildings, Wigtown on **Monday, 11 April 2022** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.