

ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF MEETING HELD in County Buildings, Wigtown
ON MONDAY, 11 APRIL 2022

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www.WigtownCC.org.uk

PRESENT

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)
David Moran

Jak Kane (Secretary)
David McAdam

Kerr Inger
Paul Tarling

IN ATTENDANCE

Louise Kerr, Free Press

APOLOGIES

Ada Montgomery
Cora Sharp

Jock McDowall
Cllr David Inglis

Robin Richmond
Cllr Jim McColm

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Ada Montgomery, Jock McDowall, Robin Richmond and Cora Sharp as well as Cllrs Inglis and McColm.

2. POLICE MATTERS

A monthly report prepared by PC John Jamieson had been received and circulated to CC members.

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

1. 14.03.22 – Wigtown. A ‘Concern for person’ call had been received and Police assistance was provided with a Vulnerable Person Report (VPR) submitted.
2. 26.03.22 – A disqualified driver had been detected on the B7005 Bladnoch and report to be submitted.
3. 29.03.22 - Damage (scratched) to a vehicle in Seaview, Wigtown had been reported but the complaint was subsequently withdrawn.
4. 05.04.22 – Anti-social behaviour incident involving a verbal altercation and knocking on a resident’s window in North Main Street, Wigtown. A youth was warned in the presence of a parent and an ASB referral and a Vulnerable Person Report (VPR) were submitted.
5. 07.04.22 – There was an Anonymous report received of loud music in High Street, Wigtown but there was no trace on Police attendance.
6. 07.04.22 –. Report received of damage to an excavator (broken window) on Wigtown Harbour between 4 and 5 April. The Police were following a positive line of enquiry.
7. 11.04.22 – Damage to guttering/pipework and door of a property in Chapel Court, South Main Street, Wigtown had been reported. Enquiries commenced.

The report gave information on The Dog Trust’s new initiative, ‘Happy Dog, Happy Home’. The online education programme would provide tips and guidance to dog owners that were about to start leaving their puppy or dog at home alone.

UK police had also launched a scheme to allow people to report information about War Crimes in Ukraine.

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 damaged wall opposite the Maidland Farm opening and use of the Community Notice Board.

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

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were unanimously approved by those present.

5 MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Wigtown Bottle Bank** – The Council would be asked if the area around the Lorry Park in general could be cleaned up.
- b) **Core Path at Bladnoch Distillery** – Sandra McDowall and Jak Kane had met with Dr Savage who had reiterated that general access to the path within the Distillery estate was not possible because of the significant higher level of health and safety on the site required by its new COMAH status. However, he agreed that he would look at potentially holding an ‘event’ style walk and had been asked to consider 3/4 seasonal walks.
- c) **Graffiti, Southfield Lane** – The graffiti on the wall of the property on Southfield Lane had been removed.
- d) **Whauphill Hall** – The responses to the CCES enquiries about the trees around the Hall and the provision of a disabled parking space were due to be received within days and would be shared once received.
- e) **Wigtown Pavilion Open Day** – the Open Day had been held and Paul Tarling had attended as an individual resident. Matt Kitson would be producing a report on the survey results and consulting further on the way forward.
- f) **Wider Machars Federation of Community Councils** - So far only Kirkmabreck, Whithorn and Wigtown Community Councils had expressed an interest in reforming the Federation.

6 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

Draft accounts for the financial year to 31 March 2022 had been circulated. There had been no expenditure in March but the Bank of Scotland had paid compensation of £25 for the inconvenience when updating the signatories on the CC Bank Accounts. The Council had released the grant monies for Community Events (£300) and Christmas Lights (£365.40). The full amount had been allocated against the Winter Festival to cover the cost of the new lights purchased.

There was a balance of £368.73 in the Resilience Account and it was agreed that the cost of replacement dog bags should be charged against these funds. The CC’s subscription to Zoom had been paid from Resilience funds and it was agreed that the subscription, which was due to expire on 4 May, would not be renewed.

The CC had received a £1,500 grant from Paths for All to purchase equipment to maintain local paths but nothing had been purchased yet for a number of reasons: lack of storage facility, need for training, Covid restrictions. It was agreed that Paul Tarling would identify a rough mower and strimmer together with protective equipment which would be bought hopefully within the budget available. The grant received from Kilgallioch would be used to provide the required H&S training for users of the equipment and Paul would pull together a report for the next meeting.

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 applications had been registered by DGC Planning. One was for Planning in Principle for a Dwellinghouse at Low Cotland next to the new Showfield and the other was for the relocation of tanks at Bladnoch Distillery along with the siting of a portacabin to provide canteen and drying room facilities for staff.

An amended design had been submitted in connection with the new house on the Old Church Street site adjacent to Craigmount that would see the property provided with a septic tank and soakaway. The relative application had been refused because the site is located in a publicly sewered area and they were looking to not connect to the public sewer despite a connection solution being available which was contrary to the LDP2 Policy IN9 – Waste Water Drainage.

There were no updates on other outstanding applications.

It was agreed that no submission be made and the content of the report was noted.

d. Town Square Developments

There had been no progress with the painting of the embellishment kits on the new lampposts on North Main Street or the work to control the lights around the McGuffie Gardens.

e. Martyrs' Stake/Old Railway Line

Paul Tarling continued the work in connection with the proposed interpretation boards. Anna Johnson DGC had confirmed that the Council would provide a recycled bench to be located in the Martyr's Stake car park and a new wooden picnic bench next to the Goose Stones area.

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

Paul Tarling confirmed that he had sourced the three trees including an oak tree for Wigtown. He would now need to liaise with Billy Broll, DGC to identify the specific locations and arrange the planting.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Bank Holiday Celebration Sub Group would be convened to pull together planning for the event and bring proposals for agreement at the next CC meeting.

g. Machars Action (MA)

A copy of the monthly report on MA activities had been circulated by Robin Richmond. In his absence from the meeting, it was noted that the two items related to Wigtown Community Promotions had been incorrectly reported and Sandra McDowall undertook to discuss the issue with MA.

h. Borderlands Place Programme

There had been no progress reported from DGC

7 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Memorial/Headstone Safety Project** – DGC had written to advise that the project had recently restarted and they would be progressing an inspection regime across all 215 cemeteries in the region. Officers would be in direct contact with CCs and other organisations within communities when they were due to start an inspection within one of its cemeteries.
- b) **RBLS Best Kept War Memorial Competition 2022** – DGC had invited WCC to enter the competition that was being hosted by RBLS (Royal British Legion Scotland) given its involvement in the D&G Competition in 2021. As Wigtown had not been successful in the D&G competition, it was decided not to enter the Scotland-wide event.

- c) **Echo Dumfries** – Echo Dumfries, a Facebook Group of over 1,300 members from Dumfries and the surrounding area, invited Community Councillors to join the group to share their thoughts on the issues that matter most to the local community in the lead-up to the LA Elections.
- d) **Sandyhills Development** – A residents group from Sandyhill had written to share information on a formal Scoping Opinion exercise being undertaken by the existing Sandyhills caravan park with a view to a very major expansion.
- e) **Funding Boost for Walking, Wheeling and Cycling** – Paths for All will be launching the Ian Findlay Path Fund with full details in June 2022. A local resident had suggested sourcing the fund to establish a path from Braehead to Kirkinner.

Initial info on the Fund suggests that the fund will support path management projects that involve existing paths and the creation of routes to aid the development of 20-minute neighbourhoods. It was agreed that the CC would look to investigate how the Fund could be used once the information had been released.
- f) **Occasional Licences** – DGC had issued details of two Bladnoch-related licence applications: one was for bottle sales and sampling at the Spring Kist and the other was for an event in the Distillery gardens with a garden picnic, bar and musical entertainment. It was agreed that the CC would not comment on the applications.

8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

There were no Councillors present at the meeting.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The issue of the damaged wall opposite the Maidland Farm opening had been raised again and the Community Notice Board. The Secretary would contact the Templetons to ascertain if the repair work to the damaged wall is to be carried out. The Notice Board opposite the County Buildings was the CC's board and the keys had been held by Nick Walker. The Secretary would contact Nick to recover the keys.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be an in-person meeting held in the County Buildings, Wigtown on **Monday, 9 May 2022** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.