

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD in County Buildings, Wigtown**  
**ON MONDAY, 9 MAY 2022**

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

**PRESENT**

Sandra McDowall (Convenor)  
Ada Montgomery

Jak Kane (Secretary)  
Robin Richmond  
Paul Tarling

David McAdam  
Cora Sharp

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Louise Kerr, Free Press

**APOLOGIES**

Kerr Inger  
Cllr David Inglis

David Moran

Jock McDowall  
Cllr Jackie McCamon

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from Kerr Inger, David Moran, and Jock McDowall, along with Cllrs Inglis and McCamon.

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

A monthly report prepared by PC Krystle Martin had been received and circulated to CC members.

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

1. 11/04/2022 – Vandalism to an Excavator stationed within a field adjacent to Harbour Road had been reported. Enquiries were ongoing.
2. 13/04/2022 – Vandalism had been reported at the Quakers Building, Chapel Court, Wigtown. No culprits yet identified and enquiries continued.
3. 03/05/2022 – Vandalism reported, consisting of damage to a fence in Lochancroft Lane, Wigtown. Enquiries ongoing.
4. 04/05/2022 – Theft of motorcycle reported from Agnew Crescent. Enquiries are ongoing.

The report also gave information on Trading Standard Scotland's annual 'Shut out Scammers' campaign on Monday, 25 April and it will run for a period of four weeks with each week comprising a different theme.

It was noted that the report made no mention of the attacks on the ponies on the Glebe nor of the vandalism to the Hide although it was confirmed that both incidents had been reported to the police and the Council's Community Safety team.

**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 RSPB plans, Buses and Grants/Funding Streams.

**4 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 11 April 2022)**

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved, proposed by Paul Tarling and seconded by Sandra McDowall.

## 5 MATTERS ARISING

- a) **Wigtown Bottle Bank** – The Council had been asked if the area around the Lorry Park in general could be cleaned up.
- b) **Whauphill Hall** – The Council had confirmed that they would look to the request to potentially accommodate a disabled parking bay at the Hall. It would need to be added to a legal order to become enforceable and the next scheduled order for the Wigtownshire area was likely to be created in September/October 2022. With regard to the diseased trees, the Council had requested a tree surgeon to inspect and make recommendations re the trees. Further information would be provided by 13 May 2022.
- c) **Damaged farm wall** – Robert Templeton had confirmed that the issue of the wall opposite the Maidland road was “still in the hand of the insurance company”.
- d) **Community Notice Board** – The Secretary confirmed that he had been due to collect the key for the boards from Nick Walker but his face to face meeting had been cancelled because of Covid. Nick was able to advise that Anne Barclay and the Festival Company also had a key.

## 6 UPDATES & REPORTS

### a: Financial Report

There was no Finance Report as the only transactions since the start of the new Financial year had been the purchase of the new Defibrillator cabinet (£595.20) and a fresh supply of dog waste bags (£65.16).

### b: Consultations Report

There were no current Consultations to discuss.

### c: Planning Working Party

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There had been no new applications registered by DGC Planning in the previous months.

The applications in connection with the building of a new warehouse at Bladnoch Distillery and the erection of an extension to form a studio workroom at 236 Bladnoch had both been approved.

It was noted that the retrospective application connected to an agricultural storage building that had been put up at Baldoon Airfield had also been approved. While the Council's Flood Risk Management Team had originally objected to the proposal, they had removed their objection following production of a full Flood Risk Assessment by the applicant.

Cllr Hagmann did not participate in the discussion of planning matters.

### d. Town Square Developments

There had still been no progress with the painting of the embellishment kits on the new lampposts on North Main Street nor the work to control the lights around the McGuffie Gardens. It was agreed that Sandra McDowall would meet with Jak Kane to start to look at the finance aspects of the proposed lighting scheme.

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

Paul Tarling had procured examples for the proposed interpretation boards and had established that they would cost c£2,000 for design and production with a total project cost for signage of c£20,000. Anna Johnson DGC had advised that she had submitted an application for a grant from Improving Public Access fund that could potentially cover some of the costs involved with the new boardwalk to the Martyr's Strake, the Goose Stones picnic area and the link path between the car park and the Bird hide.

## David McAdam joined the meeting

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

Paul Tarling confirmed that the Whauphill tree was scheduled to be officially planted on 5 June with the Wigtown tree coinciding with the Wigtown event. He was still striving to identify a location for the Kirkinner tree.

It was agreed that the CC would lead on providing an Jubilee Afternoon Tea in the McGuffie Gardens on 4 June.

### g. Machars Action (MA)

There was no written report but Robin Richmond advised that MA was working with Matt Kitson on the production of a Wigtown newspaper that would be issued six times a year.

### h. Borderlands Place Programme

There had been no progress reported from DGC and it was suggested that Cllr Jackie McCamon be asked to chase again.

## 7 CORRESPONDENCE

a) **Memorial Bench** – Sandra McDowall had attended a meeting to discuss the installation of a bench to mark the life of Willie McCartney. The Templetons had agreed to donate a large granite boulder that would be carved to form the bench and the work involved fabricating the bench and its inscription was estimated to cost in the region of £1,500. Machars Action had pledged £750 with the Community Shop and Masonic Lodge contributing £200 each. Public donations to cover any shortfall would be sought with posters and a collection box at Machars Action. It was agreed that the Community Council would also donate £200.

## 8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

There were no Councillors present at the meeting.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**RSPB Crook of Baldoon** – Paul Tarling explained that the RSPB were applying for funding that would cover the cost of bringing a large excavator for the next development phase of Wetland Enhancement work at the Crook of Baldoon Reserve. RSPB Site Manager Crystal Maw would be looking for a letter of support for the grant application and it was agreed that the CC should continue to support their work and provide the letter.

**Bus Timetable change** – Robin Richmond said that he had been told that the timetable for buses from Newton Stewart to Wigtown had been changed with the last bus no longer running. The Secretary would query the change.

## 11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council would be the Annual General Meeting to be held in the County Buildings, Wigtown on **Monday, 9 May 2022** at the regular time of 7:30 pm followed by the regular monthly business meeting thereafter.