

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

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PRESENT

Sandra McDowall *Convenor*

Jak Kane *Secretary*

Kerr Inger

David McAdam

David Moran

Jock McDowall

Robin Richmond

Paul Tarling

IN ATTENDANCE

Craig Hamnett

Louise Kerr, Free Press

APOLOGIES

Ada Montgomery

Cora Sharp

Cllr David Inglis

1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies had been received from Ada Montgomery, Cora Sharp and Cllr Inglis.

2. POLICE MATTERS

The regular monthly report had been received and circulated to CC members and it gave details of a Male that had been charged with an Assault to injury offence which had been the only local crime incident that had been reported since the June 2022 meeting. The report gave information on how people could sign up to receive alerts from the Rural, Neighbourhood and Construction Watch schemes. Police Scotland had also made plans to undertake a proactive approach to antisocial behaviour during the school holidays and would deliver the Stewartry and Mid Galloway ASB and Youth Disorder Action Plan until 22 August 2022.

3 REDESIGN OF THE TOWN SQUARE INFORMATION BOARD MAP

Helen Morley had originally written to offer to redraw the information board map to bring it up to date and asked if the CC could replace the Perspex covers as they were opaque due to weathering. Paul Tarling and Alan McDowall had fitted a replacement cover to one of the Information Boards with some difficulty and had to dismantle it from its frame and this would need to be replicated with the other two. The Community Council would be looking to source Perspex sheets for them.

Helen had since decided that she would not be able to complete the updated map and had asked designer and web developer, Craig Hamnett to take over the project and he had agreed. Craig explained that the principal problem with the existing map design was that it became quickly out of date as businesses changed and new ones were opened. He suggested the way forward would be in two stages. The first stage would be to update the key to the map removing closed businesses and adding new ones. This would be followed by a complete redesign that could include magnetic labels that would make it easier to update. Craig offered to produce a draft design for presentation at the next CC meeting and he was thanked for offering to carry out this work.⁴

4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND ANOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

An Agenda had been circulated prior to the meeting and was approved.

5 APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Monday, 13 June 2022)

The minutes of the previous meeting had been circulated prior to the meeting and were approved, proposed by Kerr Inger and seconded by Robin Richmond.

6 MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the Minutes that were not covered elsewhere in the Agenda

7 UPDATES & REPORTS

a: Financial Report

David Moran reported that a new supply of Dog waste bags had been bought (£70.56) and the £200 contribution to the Willie McCartney bench had been paid. The £105 surplus from the Jubilee celebration event had been deposited. David McAdam had contributed £50 from the sale of Lucky Squares and this was supplemented by donations totalling £85 before deduction of £30 expenses.

b: Consultations Report

The report detailed the latest phase of the refreshed Dumfries & Galloway Shoreline Management Plan where the draft plan will be subject to consultation prior to final publication. It was agreed that Paul Tarling would lead on the review of the draft plan and report back to the CC.

c: Planning Working Party

A Planning Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. There had been only one new application registered by DGC Planning in the previous month and no updates on existing applications.

The new application was in connection to the conversion of a domestic garage at Craigmount, High Street Wigtown to form a bunkhouse for holiday let and it was agreed that the CC should make no representation.

The question of whether the extension to the house at 1 Lightlands Terrace fell within the rules for permitted development had been raised and it had been found that a one storey extension may not require planning permission but one of the conditions was that the extension was located at the back of the house. The Lightlands extension was at the side of the property so the lack of planning permission issue would be raised with Planning. The issue of the replacement tiles on the roof of the Bladnoch Inn was raised again. The tiles had been replaced on a like for like basis but the new tiles appeared to be lifting in places. The situation would be monitored.

d. Town Square Developments

A meeting to discuss the garden's proposed lighting scheme had been held and Paul Sharp was there to explain the technical aspects of the proposed bollards, etc and he undertook to update some of the costings involved.

e. Martyrs' Stake/Old Railway Line

Paul Tarling continued to research the proposed interpretation along the path. Craig Hamnett indicated that he would be willing to contribute some design advice.

f. Machars Action (MA)

Robin Richmond said that the first edition of the Machars Observer was due to be launched. It was proposed that it would become a bi-monthly publication dependent on advertising revenue

g. Willie McCartney Memorial Granite seat

Plans for the fabrication and siting of the bench continued to progress.

h. Borderlands Place Programme

Jackie McCamon had written to DGC Head of Economy and Development, Steve Rogers and Chris Travis DGC Borderlands Inclusive Growth Deal to ask for an update on

progress and the lack of information being passed to the pilot communities. She had then had to chase a response because Steve Rogers was on leave until 4 July.

Chris Travis was able to advise on 21 June that the Place EDOs (Economic Development Officers) are already in contact with community representatives in the other three towns but that “*With respect to Wigtown and Whithorn, Chris Churms will be making contact shortly to discuss how to move forward with the necessary work to support the communities to develop place plans*”. No-one had been in direct contact with the CC as yet.

A separate briefing on a ‘Place Update June 2022’ was distributed by DGC Community Planning & Engagement to all community councils to update them on progress with the Place Plan developments and how the Place Planning Partnership was continuing to work on the development of processes and procedures to allow for the creation of Place Plans for all communities.

7 CORRESPONDENCE

- a) **Wigtown Area Committee Funding** – The CC’s Expression of Interest for the Discretionary Grant for Christmas Decorations and Community Events had been submitted to DGC.
- b) **CCES enquiries** – A vandalised bench at the Windyhills monument had been reported via CCES and a response was due no later than 19 July 2022; trip hazards on the pathway around the Bowling green on the South Main Street side had also been reported and a response was due no later than 20 July 2022.
- c) **‘Time to Talk’** – D&G Heath and Social Care Partnership (DGHSCP) is launching a three-month regionwide conversation focussed on community health and social care and are keen to include Community Councils. CCs were being invited to attend an online chat session to be arranged on MS Teams. The online discussion for Community Councillors would be held at 2pm on Tuesday, 30 August 2022.
- d) **Wigtown Shindy** – A copy of the application for a Public Entertainment Licence for the event (to be held on 3 September) had been sent by DGC for information only.

8 COUNCILLORS’ ISSUES

Again, there were no Councillors present at the meeting. Cllr Hagmann had previously indicated that she would be present at the CC’s July meeting when she provided a copy of her rota following the elections.

9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Wigtown Kirkyard – Sandra McDowall reported that the kirkyard was again very overgrown with waist-high grass that drastically needed cutting. The promised removal of self-seeded saplings in the area that Robert Lowther undertook to have carried out earlier in the year had also not been carried out.

Secretary/Minute Secretary – Jak Kane reported that he would be moving out of the area and would therefore be resigning from the Community Council and in turn, as Secretary and Minute Secretary. He envisaged that he would be moved by the end of August/September so proposed that the August meeting would be his last meeting and he would finish after completing the August minutes and any related correspondence.

11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held in the County Buildings, Wigtown on **Monday, 8 August 2022** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.