

**ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD in County Buildings, Wigtown**  
**ON MONDAY, 8 AUGUST//2022**

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

**PRESENT**

Sandra McDowall *Convenor*

Jak Kane *Secretary*

Kerr Inger

David McAdam

Ada Montgomery

Jock McDowall

Robin Richmond

Cora Sharp

Paul Tarling

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Andrew Pym

Louise Kerr, Free Press

**APOLOGIES**

David Moran

Alison Maxwell, Whauphill  
Community Association

Cllr David Inglis

**1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies had been received from David Moran and Cllr Inglis.

**2. POLICE MATTERS**

A monthly report had been received from PC Jamieson and circulated to CC members although due to problems with the CC's email server it had not been delivered to all.

The report gave details of local crime incidents that had been reported since the July 2022 meeting:

- 13 July - Accidental/non-suspicious wooden fence fire in New Road, Wigtown
- 22 July – Road traffic offences involving a vehicle being driven dangerously on the A714 Glenturk to Baltersan road and failing to stop for police. Suspect identified and enquiries ongoing.
- 1 August – Report received of a hate crime with offensive and inappropriate language used via mobile phone. Enquiries started with a positive line of enquiry.
- 3 August - A male youth was arrested for Threatening and abusive behaviour at Wigtown Show. Report to be submitted to Youth Justice.
- 4 August - A female had made a complaint of assault by another named female at the Wigtown Show dance. Enquiries commenced.

The report also gave information about the 'Your Police Survey 2022-23' which was designed to gather feedback from the public about policing in the local area. Results would help Police Scotland understand what matters to the public and the communities that they serve and could help the police improve service delivery and respond to areas of concern. It was agreed that details would be added to the CC's Facebook page to enable local concerns including the rise of anti-social behaviour to be highlighted.

**3 REDESIGN OF THE TOWN SQUARE INFORMATION BOARD MAP**

Craig Hamnett had hoped to be able to present a draft design for a new map at this meeting but it was not ready. The existing map had been updated with a revised key in the interim and Craig would circulate the draft design prior to the next CC meeting. He estimated that the replacement map for installation in the two Notice boards would cost approximately £240 each.

**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 received by some. They were approved, proposed by Robin Richmond and seconded by Jock McDowall.

**6 MATTERS ARISING**

**a) Replacement Clerk/Minute Secretary** - Sandra McDowall reminded the Community Council that this would be the last meeting that Jak Kane would be acting as Clerk and Minute Secretary as he was moving out of the area.

**b) Co-option of Community Councillors** – In addition to the loss of Jak Kane, Community Councillor numbers had decreased recently with another three vacancies. There was no cause for concern as there were more than enough members continuing to ensure that there would be a quorum at future meetings. It was suggested however that the CC should be looking at potential co-options to strengthen the CC until the next elections.

**c) CCES enquiries** – The Council had provided responses to enquiries relating to Wigtown Bowling Green and the bench at Windyhill Monument. Robert Lowther advised that quotes were being sourced for the repair work to the path next to the bowling green. As soon as a contractor had been appointed, he said that a start date would be confirmed with an updated response by 20 September. Robert had also advised that the vandalised bench at the Monument was not one that came under the Council's service but said that, as a courtesy, when benches are being refurbished and any become spare he would be happy to reallocate to replace this vandalised one. This activity would normally be undertaken during the autumn/winter period.

**d) Wigtown Kirk Yard** – Cllr McCamon had raised the issue of the condition of the Kirk Yard which was overgrown and waist-high grass with Robert Lowther, following the CC's July meeting. This appeared to have been prompted by an article in the Free Press and Louise Kerr was thanked for her ongoing coverage of CC meetings. Robert Lowther had undertaken to check in with the team responsible for tending to the Kirk Yard and advise when they were likely to get back in to cutting the grass.

Sandra McDowall felt that his response missed the point given that Mr Lowther had promised that, over the winter 2021-22, the self-seeded saplings, bushes and ivy would also be removed and work done to some gravestones to make ongoing maintenance easier. As this work had not been carried out as promised and the situation allowed to get worse, she suggested that Cllr McCamon be asked to arrange another on-site meeting with Mr Lowther to agree an action plan.

**7 UPDATES & REPORTS**

**a: Financial Report**

David Moran was not present to deliver a report but it was confirmed that the £654 DGC Are Committee grant for Christmas lighting had been received. The Council had also spent part of the Paths for All grant to buy a Petrol Wheeled Line Trimmer costing £335. It had been used by a recent work detail made up of Jock McDowall, David Moran, Paul Tarling and Allan McDowall with two strimming and 2 cutting.

**b: Consultations Report**

There were no current consultations.

**c: Planning Working Party**

There was no Planning report.

**d. Town Square Developments**

No progress to report.

**e. Martyrs' Stake/Old Railway Line and Lovers Lane**

Paul Tarling said that while the Lovers Lane path had been cut the path was still overgrown with overhanging branches. He had contacted the Council to ask if contractors could be asked to visit the site when dealing with other hedge cutting.

**f. Machars Action (MA)**

Robin Richmond advised that there would be no further editions of the Machars Observer due to lack of sufficient income from advertising revenue. When asked if this meant that there was no point in responding to Matt Kitson's email of 2 August which looked for an article and/or funding support from the Community Council, Robin Richmond advised that the Board would be confirming the decision at its meeting later in the week.

**g. Willie McCartney Memorial Granite seat**

Ross Inger confirmed that the granite seat had been carved and the engraving would be checked before that was started. He expected that the work to instal the concrete base would start soon.

**h. Borderlands Place Programme**

Jak Kane and Julia Muir Watt from Whithorn CC had met with Chris Churms, DGC Economic Development Officer so that he could advise the communities about progress with the Borderlands Place Programme and Jak had circulated a note of the meeting. Mr Churms expected that a dedicated website would soon be launched by the Council to support all communities in D & G who wanted to prepare a Local Place Plan. Wigtown could then register an Expression of Interest and the pilot communities would receive enhanced support from an Officers Group made up of Chris Churms, Melinda Dolan, a Planning Officer and an officer from the Strategic Projects team.

**7 CORRESPONDENCE**

- a) **CCES - Jubilee Tree** – A CCES enquiry had been sent re the removal of a tree guard on the recently planted Jubilee tree and consequent damage by strimming. A response was expected by 12 August.
- b) **CC Annual Satisfaction Survey** – The Council had launched its annual survey asking Community Councils about different aspects of its support. The secretary had responded on behalf of the CC but the Council was also asking individual Community Councillors to take part. Details of the survey had been circulated but it would be resent as it appeared to have been caught up in the recent email server difficulties.
- c) **Police and Anti Social behaviour** – A local resident had written raising the issue of anti-social behaviour and the apparent lack of action by the Police to tackle the offenders. A response had been sent confirming that incidents have been raised with both the Police and the Council's Community Safety Team and highlighting the need for incidents to be reported timeously. It also gave details of the Police's 'Stewartry and Mid Galloway ASB and Youth Disorder Action Plan'.
- d) **Whithorn & Wigtown Common Good Funds Committee** – The Council had written asking for Community Council representation on the Committee. In the past, Wigtown's representative had been Vice Convenor Willie McCartney. It as agreed that Vice Convenor Paul Tarling would take over with Convenor Sandra McDowall appointed as alternate. She would forward the relative forms to Paul for completion and return.
- e) **Isle of Whithorn CC** – Muriel Sneddon, Chair had written advising that the CC needed to arrange a Stage 2 Review of a complaint to the Isle of Whithorn CC. This required a Review Panel comprised of four community councillors from other CCs in the area to be formed and she asked if any Wigtown members would be willing to take

part. Robin Richmond had responded and volunteered his services. David Moran had been accepted as an alternate.

- f) **Caravans in Car Parks** – A resident had written to Cllr Katie Hagmann with concerns around the caravans within the Wigtown Lorry Park and she in turn had raised it with the Road Network Management West team and then shared their response with the CC. The officer had advised that the Council was working on an updated Various Car Parks Order which would give the Council new powers to manage public car parks. Consultation on the new order should be going out soon.

The Secretary had replied to Cllr Hagmann confirming that several times in recent years the CC itself had raised the issue of caravans, trailers and boats being permanently in the Lorry Park and Kirkinner car park and had already been told about the proposed consultation. He explained that there was an argument that the car park could be an acceptable alternative to caravans being parked on the roadway outside people's house but not if they are in poor condition. A caravan that has moved for months, is dirty and unkempt with flat tyres and appearing to have been abandoned by the owner is not acceptable.

## 8 SPEEDING IN WHAUPHILL

Whauphill Community Association had asked that they be able to address the CC to raise the issue of speeding through Whauphill village. Alison reported that the Association had created a petition saying that "We, the residents of Whauphill request the aid of Wigtown Community Council to instal speed reducing measures at the boundaries of Whauphill village". She provided a copy of the petition which had attracted over 50 signatures.

She explained that currently there were 30mph signs at each entrance to the village which contained the request to "Please drive slowly through our village" but there were drivers who clearly and consistently disregarded the signs and the limit. There was also one Speed Indicator Device, but at the centre of the village rather than one of the entrances. This was problematic in that it did not address speeding traffic approaching the crossroads and nearby playpark and village hall.

The principal problem was on the B7085 Port William to Wigtown Road but also traffic using the B7052 Sorbie to Whauphill. The community were asking that DGC look to instal some form of speed calming measures in the village whether that be additional SIDs at the entrances to the village, a 20mph speed limit, road with restrictions, buildouts or any other option that may be effectively introduced.

The Cc agreed to pass on Whauphill's concerns and ask that Roads Department investigate and come up with a solution or support.

## 8 COUNCILLORS' ISSUES

It was noted that there had been no LA Councillor at a Wigtown CC meeting since the elections in May, although Cllr Inglis had again tendered his apologies for absence.

## 9 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

**Remembrance** – Sandra McDowall said that it had been suggested that the CC organise the observance of a minute's silence on Remembrance Day as well as the wreath-laying ceremony on Remembrance Sunday. A local resident and ex-serviceman, Steve Munro had volunteered to lead on the project. She also suggested that the CC look to organise a piper and look at the process of ordering wreaths before Jak Kane left.

## 11 NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Community Council will be held in the County Buildings, Wigtown on **Monday, 12 September 2022** at the regular time of 7:30 pm.