A red shield with a ship and a crown

Description automatically generated **ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

**MINUTES of meeting held in County Buildings Wigtown**

**Monday 11 August 2025**

PRESENT: Sandra McDowall Convenor, Paul Tarling, David McAdam, Jock McDowall, David Moran, Nicole Court, Cora Sharp and Andrew Pym

Two members of the public attended.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. David Inglis and Katie Hagmann.

**1. Welcome:** The convenor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**2. Notification of AOCB and Approval of Agenda**: The agenda was approved, with three items added to AOB.

**3. The minutes** of the meeting of 14 July were approved. Nicole Court proposed and David Moran seconded.

**4. Matters arising:** None.

**5. Updates and reports:**

a) Place Plan: There was nothing new to report but the team are pursuing the formation of the SCIO to take the plans forward. They will contact SCVO for advice and templates for the constitution and compliance papers.

b) Finance: Only a few small sums have been paid out for necessary expenses. David Moran said that he is to move away on 25 August and he will tender his resignation at the September meeting when he will also hand over the updated records. The Convenor noted the need for a new Treasurer and with no other volunteers, it was agreed that Andrew Pym should assume this role.

The convenor allowed a question from the public to ask whether the number of vacancies in the Council can be increased now that David Moran is to resign. He has not yet resigned so the view was that there will still be seven vacancies but the convenor agreed to ask DGC.

c) Planning: Nothing of note for the community as a whole has been proposed in the past month.

d) Police Matters: No report has been received and there has been nothing of note in the monthly online meeting. The police have offered training to councillors on vehicle speed checking but members agreed that this is best left to the police in a small community.

e) Town Maintenance team:

(i) The railing repairs at Windy Hill are now being done by volunteers without welding. Nothing new has been heard from Scottish Water.

(ii) A bench on the Martyrs’ Path had toppled over when a child climbed on it and the Council has now removed it. It was noted that such memorial benches remain the responsibility of the family who placed it. Members are not sure if this is clear to people when they want to place a bench in memory and the convenor will discuss the point with DGC, and also ask about benches placed when no permission has been sought.

(iii) A litter bin will be requested for Lovers’ Walk.

**6. Council vacancy election:**  Nominations close on 19 August and DGC is dealing with all matters.

**7. War Memorial Competition:**  Wigtown scored 110 out of 110 in the assessment and wion the best newcomer category. It is now in the national competition: the scoring panel has been to view but nothing more is known.

**8. Harbour seating:**  Mr. Jennings had raised questions about the seating at Wigtown Harbour by email. It has been established that neither the owners nor DGC are interested in doing anything to the benches. Mr. Jennings was advised to contact the owner directly.

**9. Correspondence:**

(i) DGC has offered training to all Community Councillors on 20th September at The Bridge, Dumfries. All members were asked to contact the convenor if they wish to go.

(ii) WCC has received a request from Corsock CC to support a resolution of the Highland Council Community Councils to call for a moratorium on all wind farm developments until a comprehensive national strategy for energy has been put in place. It asked for support and for WCC to confirm the number of people we represent, and for a reply by 10 August. It was agreed, after discussion, that WCC cannot support the resolution without calling a meeting to establish the views of the community. Individuals may be able to put their name to the petition but WCC cannot decide for the community without establishing residents’ views. Given that the request came in on 29 July it was agreed to ask for more time to respond and if this is given, a public meeting can be arranged.

(iii) The convenor also reported on several matters raised with DGC through its CC enquiry service:

* some road signs are broken and DGC has siad that replacements have been ordered,
* blocked drains in Bank Street are a concern, as is the general state of gullies on the town: DGC says it cleans them regularly every 6 months and the next visit is due in October. Members believe that the gullies have been in poor condition for a long time but it was agreed to review after October,
* the cladding on Chapel Court is a concern, both for the structure and for its unsightliness. Ownership is now with Wheatley Homes or the residents. The convenor is chasing Wheatley Homes

**10. Councillors’ report:** None.

**11. AOB:**

(i) A telegraph pole straining wire at Fountainbleu Terrace is broken and sticking into the footpath,

(ii) there is a 2’ square and deep pothole by the Youth Garden in Seaview: this will be reported,

(iii) the weeds around the Mercat Cross need to be treated and DGC will be asked to do this.

**Public forum:**  WCC discussed several matters raised by John Jennings for clarification. Members also heard of his experience of the WCC website which he said has only some historic information. There may be confusiuon now that the host has changed and a new website launched; the convenor will discuss the matter with those providing the service.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 8 September 2025 at 7.30pm in The Hub.