

Royal Burgh of Wigtown and District Community Council
Minute of Meeting held on Monday 10 June 2024
In County Buildings Wigtown



Present: Sandra McDowall, Convenor, Paul Tarling, David Moran, Ada Montgomery, Cora Sharp, Jock McDowall, Robin Richmond, David McAdam.

Apologies: Andrew Pym, Kerr Inger.

Police Matters: Police Report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Two incidents listed in the Crime statistics, 29.5.24 a Breach of the Peace and 3.6.24 an instance of vandalism. Inquiries ongoing for both.

Notification of Any Other Business and Approval of Agenda: Two items added to agenda. Item 10c. Flags and 10d. Bin outside Co-Op.

Approval of Minute of Meeting held on 13 May 2024: Approved by Ada Montgomery, seconded by Paul Tarling.

Matters Arising from Minute not included elsewhere on the Agenda: None.

Updates and Reports:

Place Plan Update: Convenor urged everyone to read the draft Place Plan online at: <https://communityenterprise.co.uk/news/wigtown-local-place-plan> or in the library and submit their comments or suggestions before the end of the 28-day consultation period. The launch could have been better attended but the feedback from those members of the community who attended had been first class and everyone had taken time to star their priorities.

Housing Need and Demand Assessment Update: Convenor reminded those who had not already done to fill in the survey online using the link on the flyer that had been delivered to every household. Housing is one of the Place Plan priorities, but we need evidence of the number and type of houses needed in the town to enable a project to be developed to deliver on those requirements.

Financial Report: Treasurer advised that last year's administration grant of £574.75 had been received since preparing the end of year accounts. The Community Fridge project had been discussed at the AGM and Ada Montgomery volunteered to speak to Kevin Witt and offer support to progress the project.

Consultations: Convenor advised that this consultation had been postponed until after the general election.

Planning Report: Ada's report had been circulated prior to the meeting and was noted.

W&BCI Report: Convenor advised that much of what was discussed at their meetings was sensitive and she was still not clear about what she could share without breaching confidentiality. Scottish Government has agreed the funding to SLF for this financial year and they are now considering applications. The Community Ownership Fund has had to close until after the election but there is an expectation that, regardless of who wins the election, the fund will not continue in the current form, if at all. It is anticipated that SoSE

will step in to help fund the project as they work closely with SLF. Pete Dobson, Treasurer of the Initiative has already discussed possibilities with his colleagues.

Town Maintenance Team Report: Paul Tarling advised that the old railway line had been cut but not lifted and he had tidied the path afterwards. He also felt that some of the growth should have been left to seed for the birds. Convenor explained that because we now had quite a few volunteers helping with the spring, summer, autumn and winter events and festivals, as well as our volunteer team doing light maintenance and repairs, it had been decided to create a simple volunteer form so that we can hold a register for insurance purposes. David Moran had spoken with the insurance company, and they thought volunteer forms were a good idea, but also advised that we require to carry out risk assessments for each event or activity we organise. It was agreed that we should source a template risk assessment form and Ada Montgomery volunteered to complete one for each planned event. Convenor to ask David Link from Third Sector D&G if they could provide us with a template. Paul advised that the work at the Bird Hide was complete and hadn't suffered any damage to date, but the high tide still covered the new pathway. He agreed to place a laminated notice on the gate at the new Boardwalk asking dog owners to pick up after their dog. It was also agreed to contact Will Gorman again in the hope that the project he was working on was nearing completion as we still want him to design the information boards for the railway line. Paul had spoken to AOC and asked for a price to do a complete scan of the old castle site so that it could be reproduced on the castle information board.

Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Shaping Our Future Service: Convenor left a paper copy of the consultation document on the table and thanked Paul Tarling and Robin Richmond for attending the engagement event.

Community Council Elections: Convenor had booked the Library for 3 October to accommodate an election if necessary. Nomination forms will be available online from 2 July – 3 September.

Altar Piece: It was not yet known if Steve Dowling was prepared to display this artwork in his gallery.

Blair Hill Windfarm: No-one had managed to attend the presentations.

Post Office/Banking Hub: Convenor advised that she had not received an acknowledgement of her letter to the Financial Conduct Authority and hadn't heard anything further from Finlay Carson, MSP. She was unsure if this process would be affected as we're in purdah until after the election. Ada advised that Lou had submitted a letter to the Free Press and it was going to be used as the first question for all candidates in their election edition. She had expressed similar concerns as the Convenor with regards the regulations for 40 businesses and 4000 residents within 1 km, and asked if the regulations will be relaxed in the future to stop rural areas becoming more disadvantaged and isolated.

Convenor advised that she had reported the ATM as it was out of order yet again and had been advised that it requires a spare part which is on order and an engineer will attend as soon as the part arrives. She had also asked who was responsible for cleaning the ATM as the telephone side was really needing a clean.

Correspondence:

Carriageway Lines: Convenor had circulated the response which informed us that most Council's no longer paint white centre carriageway lines.

Pavements and Pothole at Bus stop: On the list to be done when the surface dressing programme is completed, probably at the end of June.

Skip at 1 South Main Street: This had been inspected and moved within days of reporting it.

Abandoned Caravan – A714 Port William junction: DGC would arrange for this to be removed.

Any Other Business:

Community Council Coat of Arms: A request to use the Coat of Arms had been made recently and it was suggested that we should adopt a protocol for granting permission. The Community Council had designed and registered the Coat of Arms in 1996 and no-one has the right to use it without our permission. It was agreed that each application would be considered on its merits but that it should never be used for commercial purposes and any request to do so will be refused.

Community Shop Corner: Convenor had been approached and asked if anything could be done to improve the safety aspect at the junction of South Main Street/Agnew Crescent. Larger vehicles and lorries often mount the pavement as they turn into Agnew Crescent especially when cars are parked at the corner. This is a concern as it puts pedestrians at risk and various suggestions were made to try to improve the situation, including a hatched box on the corner. Convenor to ask DGC if a solution can be found.

Flags: Community Council members had been approached by numerous residents asking why the Union Flag was not flying in the town to commemorate D Day. Convenor circulated the list of dates that had been supplied by DGC the last time we queried the Progress Pride Flag. It was agreed that Convenor would contact DGC asking why it was not considered necessary to include D Day on their list and why, for some special occasions, Wigtown is not one of the towns mentioned. It was strongly felt that we should purchase our own flags and fly them when we consider it appropriate.

Bin at Co-Op: Jock McDowall asked that we request a replacement bin outside the Co-Op as it is leaking badly and staining the pavement.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 8 July 2024.