



ROYAL BURGH OF WIGTOWN AND DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
MINUTES of the meeting held in County Buildings, Wigtown
Monday 11 May 2026

PRESENT: Paul Tarling (Convenor), Anne Barclay, Grace Crichton, Shona Herries, Ian Lovell, David McAdam, Jock McDowall, Dawn Revie, Cora Sharp. Councillor David Inglis; Councillor Richard Marsh.

APOLOGIES: Nicole Court, Andrew Pym, Tracey Warman.

IN ATTENDANCE: No-one.

1. **Welcome:** The meeting opened with apologies, recorded above.
2. **Notification of AOCB and Approval of Agenda:** The agenda was approved, with two items added to AOCB.
3. **Declaration of interest:** None.
4. **Minutes of 13 April 2026:** These were approved without change. Proposed by Jock McDowall and Ian Lovell.
5. Matters arising:
 - a) Registration with the Information Commissioners Office has been completed. Registration number ZC134414.
 - b) Agendas had been placed in Kirkiner Post Office and Whauphill notice board.
6. **Updates and reports:**
 - a. Place Plan (2024-2034): Anne Barclay explained that the title of this item has been updated to avoid confusion. The Place Plan was developed under the Community Council umbrella with support from Dumfries & Galloway Council. The Wigtown & Bladnoch Town Team SCIO is a separate entity which does not directly report or link to WDCC. It is important to use the correct references to avoid confusion.
 - I. Play Park: Shona Herries advised that the park is now complete and that a formal opening is scheduled for 30 May 2026. **PT will ask AP to arrange PLI on his return.** The park is being used daily by families, childminders, nurseries, schools. Only challenges are the lack of public toilet facilities with the public toilets currently closing at 4pm; and litter as there are insufficient bins. **Cclr Marsh to request an additional bin be installed.**
 - II. Coastal Path: Still awaiting information on Coastal Benefit application. Cclr Marsh advised this is on the Committee Agenda for 12 May 2026.
 - III. Active Travel: Paul Tarling attended a forum on 29 April 2026 and provided a brief report. Nine Active Travel Hubs are currently being developed across the region. Paul has requested a visit from an officer to review existing services in Wigtown with a view to upgrade options.
 - IV. Borderlands Town Investment Plan: There was no further update from the last meeting - applications remain with the Consultant for scoring. A stakeholders meeting will be called in the next few weeks for feedback on the submissions.
 - b. Finance Report: In the absence of the treasurer it was agreed to defer the report to the next meeting, which will cover two months.

- c. Planning Report: Dawn Revie reported that no new applications had been received. One application had been approved since the last meeting.
- d. Police Matters: It was reaffirmed that Police no longer attend CC meetings and instead a representative is expected to attend a monthly online forum for updates. The next is 26 May 2026. No historic updates (Feb-Apr) are available. Cclr Inglis noted ongoing concerns around the lack of connection with communities due to non-attendance. **WDCC to email concerns to Cclrs Inglis and Marsh to raise on our behalf.**
- e. Resilience Report: Updated to amend those named within the plan. **Paul to circulate to all members.**
- f. Town Maintenance Team Report: The benches outside the County Buildings have been cleaned and painted - thanks was noted to Wigtown In Bloom. The dirty school warning sign has been reported and the response advises cleaning is not a priority. Grass cutting will begin soon.
- g. WCC Comms – website and email: wigtowncommunitycouncil.org went live on 11 May 2026, including approved Minutes to April 2026. Work will be ongoing on contents for the blog and gallery.
- h. Roads and Pavements: Limited progress has been made with many areas of concern remaining dangerous - this includes North Main Street where the carriageway is particularly bad between lowered kerbs on North Main Street and the central square, making access for wheelchairs, mobility scooters, buggies particularly difficult.

7. **Neighbourhood Watch:** Ian Lovell advised there was nothing new to report.

8. **Correspondence:** One item of correspondence had been received from Machars Action with a statement detailing the formal closure of the company. There were no comments.

9. Councillor's Report

a) Councillor Marsh

- i) Temporary closure of High Street for resurfacing from 9am 18 May until 3pm 19 May 2026. Pedestrian and emergency access will be retained.
- ii) Bank Street pavement and High Street parking issues previously advised have been raised but not resolved. **Follow up.**
- iii) The issue of town centre parking in the carriageway between North and South Main Street has been raised. The DGC response advises that this is not a formal parking area. Members advised level of high risk with school busses dropping children off and regular narrowing of the carriageways which would not enable emergency vehicle access.
- iv) In reply to public queries raised at the February CC meeting (lining and carriageway issues coming into Wigtown via High Street) Cllr Marsh's Council Officer response suggested these issues would be addressed on review of the Traffic Regulation Order for Wigtown, prior to commencement of DPE (Decriminalisation Of Parking Enforcement) coming into force within the region.

Under the Road Traffic Act 1991 parking offences are criminal matters and as such are dealt with by Police Scotland.

As such Scottish Government (SG) must pass a specific piece of legislation called an SSI (Scottish Statutory Instrument). This transfers power to enforce from Police Scotland to the Council.

For this to happen the Council must submit a formal application to Transport Scotland (TS). TS review the Business Case presented, as the Councils' DPE must be self-financing.

Scottish Ministers would then approve and if no objection raised within 40 days the law becomes active.

The lengthy delay in this happening may be partly due to the Election we have just had on May 7th, but also largely due to Transport Scotland's rigorous check of the Councils DPE business case, as Scottish Government won't pass the legislation until the Council proves the scheme won't lose money.

Unlike Glasgow and Edinburgh who will have numerous wardens and D&G will only have 6. A much more difficult task in raising the revenue required to make the scheme financially viable.

The suggestion is that we would not see wardens on our street until late 2026, but more likely 2027.

b) Councillor Inglis

- i) Wigtownshire Area Committee met last week to agree the discretionary, poverty and inequalities budgets.
- ii) No applications have been received this year to the Wigtown Common Good Fund. It was agreed that Paul Tarling would apply towards Christmas Lights. Paul Tarling also advised that he has made application to site a container in the Lorry Park for storage of Christmas Lights - no response yet received.
- iii) Members were advised that a meeting can be requested with DGC Senior Officers to explain how decisions are made on priority areas eg potholes, sign cleaning etc. Members agreed this would be beneficial.

10. **AOB:** Several matters were tabled in advance and more were added:

- a) Christmas Lights: volunteers have assessed the existing lights and **nine** are broken beyond repair. Plastic has been recycled and metal work sent to Kings. This means we are several pieces short for the 2026 display. Paul Tarling requested some support from a small group to make a design and a plan. Members agreed communications with the community early are vital. **Paul Tarling to apply to Common Good Fund. Anne Barclay/Cora Sharp to apply to Wigtownshire Area Committee; and to look at costings and a plan to bring to June meeting - in conversation with the fundraising group.**
- b) Wigtown Bay LNR Advisory Management Committee: Paul Tarling gave a brief update following their recent meeting advising that a good season had been had and that they are working with BASC on a new shooting code of practice.
- c) Southfield Park: it was noted that something had hit the wall at the entrance to the field opposite Smith Terrace and the wall is unsafe and at risk of collapse. **WDCC to advise landowner.**
- d) Website: A member of the public had requested that WDCC develop a site for Wigtown to promote tourism. It was agreed that this was not within the remit of WDCC and recommended that they visit wigtown.scot.
- e) Riding of the Marches: Jock McDowall advised that stewards are needed for RoM on 28 June and asked members to advise if they are available.

11. **Public Forum:** None.

Date of next meeting: Monday 8 June 2026 at 7.30pm in The Hub, County Buildings.