



ROYAL BURGH of WIGTOWN & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL

MINUTES of meeting held in County Buildings Wigtown

Monday 8 June 2026

PRESENT: Paul Tarling (convenor), Cora Sharp, Anne Barclay, David McAdam, Jock McDowall, Shona Herries, Ian Lovell, Tracey Warman, Dawn Revie, Grace Crichton and Andrew Pym

APOLOGIES: Nicole Court.

In attendance: Cllr Richard Marsh and three members of the public.

1. Welcome: The meeting opened with apologies, recorded above.

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

3. Declarations of Interest: None.

4. Minutes of 11 May 2026: These were approved without change, proposed by Jock McDowall and Ian Lovell.

5. Matters arising: All are reported below.

6. Updates and reports:

a) **Finance:** The Treasurer gave a report for two months, having been away in May. In April dog poo bags had been bought, with thanks again to the Community Shop for the funding. Allan McDowall is kindly putting them out when required. WCC also paid insurance for up to seven events through the year and for the Christmas Lights. In May WCC paid £350 towards the new website and £150 for the first year of hosting, and paid £30 to the Verifier of our accounts. The only outstanding payment due is the IOC registration fee of £52 under the GDPR rules.

b) **Planning:** No applications merited a report this month but it was noted that the application made in 2025 for works at Applegarth had been approved.

c) **Police Matters:** To maximise the use of their resources, the Police now hold a monthly session on-line for Community Councils. Paul reported on the recent one in which three particular matters stood out:

- thefts of heating oil continue, with three tanks emptied in one street in one night in Stranraer; it is recommended to have CCTV installed to protect tanks;
- scam calls are increasing and cash machines can be tampered with so that a false front and slot are installed by crooks to collect card data for use later; and
- e-vehicles were discussed: e-scooters are classed as motor vehicles and should only be used on private land; e-bikes can be classed as electrically assisted pedal bikes if – and only if – the motor cuts out at 15.5 mph, the continuous power output is less than 250W, the motor only operates when the rider is peddling and the rider is aged over 14.

d) **Resilience:** Paul Tarling will circulate a further copy of the approved plan.

e) **Town maintenance:** As usual the team has been busy: road signs have been cleaned and strimmed around, the sign on the McGuffie arch is repaired, and works have been done on the Old Railway Line path. A donation has been received and this was used to buy plants to put round the War Memorial. The A714 bends by the Golf Club are due to be resurfaced this month.

f) **WCC communications:** The new website is up and running. The email address is set as contact@wigtowncommunitycouncil.org. The first blog invited residents to volunteer to help on town works; Tracey Warman will post another blog in the coming month.

g) **Roads & Pavements:** Drainage problems continue and these are being monitored by volunteers; a sink hole in the car park at the harbour was raised.

h) **Christmas Lights and Switch On:** Paul Tarling is to visit the Newton Stewart depot and look at the lights on offer to us. There may be an issue over their weight but Dawn Revie said that they are in fair condition. The Switch On will be on Friday, 27 November 2026. Anne Barclay and Cora Sharp are applying to DGC for a discretionary grant.

7. Neighbourhood Watch: Ian is continuing to develop this initiative in town. He referred also to the oil thefts and scams which have been the main focus of recent posts.

8. Correspondence: There was none.

9. Councillors' report: Richard Marsh talked only about the proposed Visitor Levy which was to be discussed by a DGC Committee the following day. He explained the financial issues which mean that there is no money for tourism initiatives if the levy is rejected and reported on the outcome of the recent consultation – with 1561 responses (from about 145,000 residents) the response was poor but 85% of businesses, 57% of residents and 45% of visitors were not in favour. WCC members made it clear that we remain unanimously opposed to the levy. (It was rejected by 10 votes to 8 in the DGC Committee.)

10. AOB: Several matters were discussed:

a) It was agreed to investigate the installation of notice boards in Kirkinner and Whauphill in conjunction with the Management Committees of their halls.

b) It was suggested that the double yellow lines on the A714 should be extended at the junction of Southfield Lane with Agnew Crescent because visibility is so poor.

c) Andrew agreed to draft the letter to DGC on the Community Fridge.

d) The closure of the Recycling Centre at Whithorn was discussed as it is used by Wigtown residents: there is no ramp to access the skips. Richard Marsh explained that its closure is not currently proposed but the cost of necessary works to bring it up to standard are estimated at £360,000. WCC expressed concern that fly-tipping will increase if the only site in the area is at Newton Stewart.

e) There was a lengthy discussion about the public toilets being closed at 4.00pm as this puts an added strain on businesses with facilities. The closure is to prevent vandalism and it was agreed that the cleaners should not have had to deal with the messes in the building caused by a few. WCC should ask for electronic locks to be investigated. As a side issue, reference was made to the Youth Work which has been very successful in Newton Stewart and it is hoped that their ambition to reach out to other places will benefit Wigtown.

11. Place Plan update:

a) Anne Barclay reported that the submitted proposals are to be updated by the end of May to take account of feedback and they will then be reassessed.

b) The Play Park opening was a great success on 30 May. DGC is trying to source a second waste bin without adding to the total number in the area; it was suggested that one could be relocated from the Martyrs' Stake car park where two are side by side.

c) The Coastal Benefit Fund has allocated £13,000 for works to the Old Railway Line, but they have not agreed to fund the interpretation boards. A height barrier for the entrance to the Martyrs' Stake car park will be investigated by Richard Marsh at DGC so as to discourage overnight camper van stays.

12. Public forum:

a) A lady suggested that the local Food Bank link with the Community Fridge to create a presence in Wigtown. It was accepted that this is a matter for her to discuss with the Food Bank after it became clear that there had been no detailed discussion to date.

b) Another member of the public talked of the Newton Stewart lights and the offer from the NS team to talk with WCC about technical and funding opportunities. It was also suggested that the event could be bigger, and it was agreed that this would be discussed at the next Community Conversations, and that the PTA should be involved.

Date of next meeting: Monday 13 July 2026 at 7.30pm in The Hub.