

Tarbat Community Council

Draft Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 6 June 2018

Present: Martin Dane (Chair), Hamish Mackenzie (Vice Chair), Jackie Thornhill (Secretary), Janet Wilson (Treasurer), Helen Fleming, Jacqui Monro, Cllr Fiona Robertson, Cllr. Derek Loudon, Cllr. A Rhind, Matthew Ravenhill (Police Scotland), Jim Holden (Highland Council)

In Attendance: Jock Munro, Neil Ross, George Terry, Carol Summers, Emma Foster, Maggie Sowerby, Catriona Penman, Margaret Flegg, Reg Flegg, Sheila Sparks, William Patterson

Apologies: No Apologies

Martin Dane, the chairman, extended a warm welcome to all present.

1. Minutes of Last Meeting: The Minutes of the last AGM held on 7 June 2017 were proposed for acceptance by Hamish Mackenzie and seconded by Jacqui Monro.

2. Chairman's Report for AGM June 6, 2018

The last year has been quite a busy one for the Tarbat Community Council with many consultations being put to members by the Highland Council – mostly about bank closures and the knock-on effect of cuts being urgently required on Highland Council expenditure and the reduced funds available for Community Councils.

TCC Thanks

As Chair, I would like to thank all members of the TCC for their input and work. In particular, I would like to thank Hamish Mackenzie for his diligence in sorting out a written agreement about the maintenance of the right of way and land in front of the Dolphin View chalets and for his general guidance and support. The final version of a number of drafts of an agreement has now been accepted by all concerned except Barbara Johnston. She has been advised by her family and her solicitor that she does not have to sign. The rest of the signatories to the agreement have agreed that she will still be asked to pay her fair share of costs towards repairs for any wear and tear to the right of way with the TCC paying in £100 per year as our contribution to keeping access open and in good condition for both local people and tourists. I would also like to thank both Derek Loudon and Fiona Robertson for their support during the last year and for their very sound advice as Highland Councillors. Their attention to our local issues and their lobbying of the Highland Council on our behalf helps enormously. I also would like to pay tribute to the public spirit exemplified by our local farmers in supporting the community in times of trouble with blizzard conditions such as those we suffered earlier on this year. They cleared the roads and opened up the village to the outside world allowing food to come in and traffic to be restored. During the winter months, we had some really deep snow falls with associated drifting which blocked access to the village. The local farmers did a wonderful job of clearing the roads and many residents helped clear the streets and drives for those less able to do this themselves. It was very good to see that one person, who was carrying out a community work sentence, helped in this work and, as a result of this voluntary effort, the authorities cut the time spent from the community work sentence. This has had a good result on the recipient.

Anti-Social Behaviour and Housing

There have been a number of consultations with the police and with the Highland Council about anti-behaviour and housing issues for offenders within the village. The local police have been most helpful to us throughout. As a result of our ongoing concerns, Tim Holden, the Highland Councils' Housing Manager, has kindly agreed to attend this meeting so that the TCC and members of the community can put their points of view directly to him. The TCC and any others attending are reminded that no names are to be mentioned during this section of the meeting.

Local Road Repairs

The bad weather has seriously damaged the local roads and, in particular, the road to Rockfield. This road is now severely pitted and therefore constitutes a danger to cyclists, walkers and vehicles. The Highland Council have been asked to prioritize this repair work as this road is in much worse condition than many other roads which have had temporary repair works carried out on them.

Knockshortie Play Park

During the year, the play equipment in the Knockshortie playpark was examined by specialists employed by the Highland Council and some equipment was condemned and removed on the grounds of safety. The current status of the playpark and plans for the replacement of the play equipment that has been removed is being queried with the Highland Council. It would appear that the Highland Council have been paid, by the developer (Micky Austin), to look after the playpark and maintain the play equipment. Mr. MacKay has promised to look into this matter. We have had correspondence with Mickey Austin and have yet to get a response from Mr. MacKay.

Various Local Repairs

The need for repairs to various fences, benches and notice boards have been raised and have been progressed locally where possible to render them safe and legible. Some are due for proper repair by the Highland Council but have had temporary repairs effected to avoid unnecessary accidents occurring. Repairs to the Fountain in the village are being looked into by Lachie Stewart.

Local Schools

There has been an ongoing debate about the arrangements for a replacement school in Tain covering both primary and secondary schooling. Following public consultation, the planned development in the Tain Royal Academy (TRA) site has been put on hold and a final decision on the site selected (TRA or Craighill) will be made by the Highland council by the end of this year and requests for appropriate funding will be made. (The funding originally set aside for this has now gone to other schools so new funding will have to be applied for). Highland Council planners are still considering the request for a safer path for children to our own Tarbat Primary School. This decision is still pending.²

Closure of Public Conveniences

In the Highlands As part of the Highland Council's drive to reduce expenditure, they have decided to close many public conveniences throughout the Highlands at the end of this August. Our own public convenience is included in this number. Representations about this have been made and a special meeting has been set up for Wednesday 13th June (19:30 at the Carnegie Hall) at which various options will be presented and we will have to make up our minds as to which of the options to go for. We hope and believe that the best option is that we can persuade the Highland Council to keep the toilets open from April through to the end of October with the possibility of the community taking over responsibility for them during the winter months.

Tarbat Community Council Finances

These do give us some buffer against a significantly reduced budget. However, we will have to weigh very carefully what ongoing expenditure we can afford. We already have a number of planned annual expenditures and these must be provided for. Further outgoings, e.g. keeping the public conveniences open during the winter months, would be a very serious undertaking unless we could reduce costs significantly. (It currently costs the HC approximately £12,000 per year to keep the toilets open in Portmahomack)

3. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer produced a balance sheet showing a balance of £3140.94. It shall be noted that £40 was paid for prizes of the poster competition, 372.00 Hire of the hall and a donation to the local Beaver club fees during the 2017/2018 year.

4. **Election of Office Bearers**

Chairman: Martin Dane, proposed by Hamish Mackenzie seconded by Helen Fleming.

Vice Chairman: Hamish Mackenzie, proposed by Martin Dane, seconded by Jackie Thornhill

Treasurer: Janet Wilson Interim till autumn then Reg Flegg will take this role.

Secretary: Jackie has resigned of duties but will continue as a council member, therefore this position will be available after the Election.

5. **AOCB**

Reg Flegg, on behalf of the village, thanked Tarbat Community Council for their work.

The AGM closed at 7.55pm