

Tarbat Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd October 2013 (Not yet approved)

1. Present: Secretary Steve Carroll, Helen Fleming, Hamish MacKenzie, Jock Munro, Neil Ross, Chair Billie Wood. **In attendance:** Cllr. Alastair Rhind, Kenny Aitken, Rosalind Brooke, Beryl Cotton, Ann Johnston, Ann MacKay, Alistair MacLean, Lesley MacLean, Stanley Mitchell, Jacqueline Munro, Donald Oman, Sheena Oman, Maureen Semmence, Hugh Taylor, George Terry, Muriel Vass, Sgt. George Ewing **Apologies:** were received from Treasurer Janet Wilson Cllr. Fiona Robertson.

2. Police Report Sgt. George Ewing reported that the past two months had been very quiet and there were no crimes to report. He warned that with the coming of the long dark nights, fuel thefts may increase and the public should be vigilant and telephone 101 if there is any suspicious activity. Neil Ross asked if Tain Police Station was likely to close. Hamish MacKenzie asked if there was likely to be any changes in manning or procedures due to the formation of the Scottish Police Authority. Sgt. Ewing was unable to comment as no decisions have been made yet on these matters. Billie Wood thanked Sgt. Ewing for his attendance at the meeting.

3. Minutes of last Meeting The Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Neil Ross, and seconded by Jock Munro.

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1 Playpark Steps. A quotation has been received from R.D. Fraser for £1870 + VAT for drainage work at the steps. Donald Oman stated that the problem of water originated from further up the hill from the steps and that the proposed action would be a waste of money. Jock Munro stated that we should take action or drop the matter completely. After much discussion, it was decided to write to the Highland Council, asking for an Engineering Appraisal. **ACTION Steve.**

4.2 Road Repairs A letter had been sent to Campbell Stewart expressing our dissatisfaction with the lack of action on repairs to the Tarrel/Arboll Road. No reply has been received. It was decided to write again to Campbell Stewart, asking for feedback on this matter **ACTION Steve**

4.3 Portmahomack Playing Field Billie Wood reported that the litter bin at the field is still not being emptied. Cllr. Rhind offered to pursue this matter **ACTION Cllr. Rhind**

4.4 Jean Bridgeford Memorial and Well Renovation Project Kenny Aitken reported a delay in progress as the project has been reported to the Highland Council by person or persons unknown. The Project will be suspended pending approval from Planning and Archaeological departments of the Council.

4.5 Dog Fouling Steve reported that the Highland Council were taking an initiative on this matter. Highland Council Officials, and the Dog Warden will visit areas all over the Region this Autumn, and will visit Portmahomack on October 2nd and October 8th.

4.6 Provision of activities for young people in the area Muriel Vass again stated the need for play facilities for young people in Portmahomack of Primary School age. Alistair MacLean stated that responsibility in this matter lay principally with the parents of these children. Members of the community and the Community Council should give advice and support in their efforts. After discussion, it was decided to arrange a meeting between Rob Parkes and the parents to try to make progress on this issue. **ACTION Steve and Muriel**

4.7 The Fountain It was decided to establish whether the Fountain is a Listed Monument and if so, what body is responsible for its maintenance. **ACTION Billie**

5 Councillor's Report Cllr. Rhind reported on the following issues.

- The last of the storm debris has now been removed from the verges at Rockfield.
- He has been assured that the rubbish bin at the Playing Field is being emptied.
- He asked for advice on further play equipment at the Childrens Playpark, Portmahomack. **ACTION Billie** He will ask for the gate to the Playpark to be made secure against entry of dogs **ACTION Cllr. Rhind**
- He stated that the Portmahomack Cemetery had sufficient capacity for the next 10 years.
- A single handrail will be erected at the War Memorial and the corrosion of the railings will be treated sometime next year.
- There will have to be vigilance to ensure that the rubble at the restored Portmahomack Harbour is removed.

6 Treasurer's Report

Current Account Payment made to MacLean & Sons Ltd for repairs to the fountain - £511.20

Cheque received from Portmahomack Community Association following the winding up of the Association - £1500

Balance £4047.93 CR Note; the payment from the Community Association can be used only for the purchase of or contribution to a piece of play equipment for the local play park

Project Account

£1500 was paid to the Tarbat Community Hall Group leaving a balance of £154.34 CR

7 Proposed Wind Turbine at North Tarrel Steve stated that appeal against the recent refusal of planning permission has been upheld with conditions attached. No details of these conditions were available. Many members of the public spoke up to express their disappointment, and their belief that the appeal process had been flawed. Hamish MacKenzie reported that he had written to the Assistant Chief Executive of the Highland Council on this matter and had he had been advised that the process had been conducted correctly. Cllr. Rhind stated that the application should have been returned to the Planning Committee on receipt of objections from the Community Council and several private individuals. Cllr. Rhind stated that he personally had opposed the application but regretted that there now remained no procedures within the Highland Council's powers to reverse the decision. In his opinion, the best remaining option was to appeal to the Court of Session, although this course of action would be expensive. Strong feelings were expressed at the meeting and it was unanimously decided that some action must be taken. It was agreed to appeal to the Head of Planning at the Scottish Parliament asking for a block on publication of the Decision Notice pending an appeal to the appropriate Ombudsman and the Court of Session. A copy to be sent to MSP Rob Gibson and a Press Release to be issued **ACTION Billie Wood & Hamish MacKenzie**

8 Broadband Steve reported that he had taken no further action on the matter. This was because the average Broadband speed of the members of the community who had responded in the recent survey was above the minimum threshold required for cooperation from Community Broadband Scotland. However, the number of responses was small and it was agreed to conduct a doorstep survey of the entire community **ACTION The Committee**

10 Correspondence Steve Carroll reported on a number of items:

- The new Lord-Lieutenant's Youth Awards Scheme inviting nomination of people aged 11-18 for an award for helping others, the environment, speaking out for young people, achievement in sport and the arts. It was agreed to publicise this on the Community Notice board. **ACTION Steve**
- Notice of a meeting of the Tain Air Weapons Range Liaison Committee Meeting on Wed. 9th October. No-one present was able to attend.
- A reply from the Highland Council explaining that they had erected the new fence at Tarbat Old Primary School for Health and Safety reasons as they had a duty of care to keep pupils safe. It was conceded that some consultation with the local community, explaining reasons for erection of the fence should have taken place.
- Rob Parkes, Youth Development Officer with High Life Highland wishes to visit our area to talk to young people about organising local activities and games. It was decided to invite Mr Parkes to go ahead. **ACTION Steve**
- Notice of a variation in planning consent to erect a wind turbine near Balaldie Farm, which was duly noted.

- Notice of additional information regarding the Licensing Board Overprovision Consultation, which was duly noted.
- Notice of the Ward Forum to be held at Nigg Village Hall on Wednesday 30th October 2013 7.30-9.30pm Agenda - Review of Ward and local policing plans and fire plans. Post on Community Notice board **ACTION Steve**
- Notice of application for erection of a wind turbine near Drumancroy, Portmahomack Case Reference 13/03232/FUL This matter was discussed at length and it was agreed to submit a reasoned objection to this application **ACTION Steve and all interested private individuals**

The Meeting closed at 9.55 pm Next Meeting Wednesday 4th December 2013 at 7.30pm at the Carnegie Hall, Portmahomack