

Tarbat Community Council

Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2013

1. **Present:** Janet Wilson, Hamish MacKenzie, Billie Wood, Helen Fleming, Neil Ross, Jock Munro, Steve Carroll. **In attendance:** Cllr. Alastair Rhind, John MacKay **Apologies** were received from Kenny Aitken.
2. **Police Report** There was no Police representation at the meeting.
- 3 **Minutes of last Meeting** The Minutes were proposed for acceptance by Hamish MacKenzie, and seconded by Billie Wood.
- 4 **Matters Arising from Minutes**

4.1 Playpark Furniture. Cllr. Rhind stated that TEC Services were waiting for good weather to install the promised childrens' roundabout. He also volunteered to liase with Hamish MacKenzie to conduct a site inspection of the water flowing down the steps adjacent to the Playpark with a view to improvement, and discuss signage of the playpark from the Main Street **ACTION Cllr. Rhind, Hamish MacKenzie**

4.2 Village Officer Cllr. Rhind reported that the possibility of a Village Officer for Portmahomack had now disappeared for financial reasons. However, if the Community Council could identify a list of work and a suitable applicant, part funding may be available from the Councillor's discretionary fund. Community Councillors should email the secretary with suggestions concerning this matter.

4.3 Road Repairs It was reported that some of the gullies between Portmahomack and Rockfield Mill had been repaired but some work remained for completion. The problem with loose chippings on local roads has not been resolved pending an engineers report. , Hamish MacKenzie raised the question of the continuing poor state of the Arbolll stretch of the road to Tain. **ACTION Cllr. Rhind**

4.5 Passing places in Tarbatness Road , Hamish MacKenzie reported that he had discussed the question of coach parking at the Discovery Centre with the Board of Management of the TDC. Tony Watson has been in contact with Shearings but this was a delicate matter as TDC do not wish to risk the loss paying visitors to the centre. Hamish MacKenzie wished to emphasise the good work done by the management of TDC.

4.6 Portmahomack Playing Field Development Billie Wood reported that there was a litter bin at the field but that it was not being emptied. **ACTION Cllr. Rhind**

4.8 Jean Bridgeford Memorial and Well Renovation Project John Mackay and Steve Carroll spoke in favour of making a donation towards this project. It was agreed to make a payment of £1500. It was also agreed to ask for a meeting of the Community Association to ask for a donation towards this project

4.9 Dog Fouling continues to be a problem in the area. Cllr. Rhind stated that the Dog Warden will visit the village.

4.10 Provision of activities for young people in the area It was decided to contact Rob Parkes for feedback on this issue and inform him of the date of the next meeting. **ACTION Steve**

5 The Councillor's Report Cllr Rhind stated that work on the Portmahomack pier was progressing well. The estimate for storm damage at Balnabruach was ca. £400,000, and the rock armour at Rockfield required to be restored to its previous level. However, in the current financial climate it was not possible to give any date for commencement work at Balnabruach or Rockfield. Neil Ross expressed his disappointment and emphasised that he expected that the storm defences be reinstated to pre-storm levels.

6 Financial Report Treasurer Billie Wood reported that there existed £1654.17 in the Project Account and £2312.99 in the Current Account.

7 Community Council Scheme Evaluation Steve Carroll submitted his proposed response to the Evaluation and this was approved by the meeting. Hamish MacKenzie made further suggestions for inclusion. Steve and Hamish were authorised to cooperate in order to formulate our final response. **ACTION Hamish and Steve**

8 Annual General Meeting In view of the poor attendance by the public at previous meetings and the last AGM, it was agreed to hold the next meeting and AGM on Wednesday 29th May 2013 without a Guest Speaker. It was agreed that the meeting should be well publicised. **ACTION Steve**

9 Correspondence Steve Carroll reported on a number of items:

- **Fields in Trust.** It was agreed to write to the Council, nominating the Portmahomack Playing Field as a protected area. **ACTION Steve**
- **Visit to HMS Sutherland.** It was agreed to nominate Hamish MacKenzie and Billie Wood as visitors on April 28th. **ACTION Steve**
- **Canoe around Britain Beach Cleanup Charity Request** It was agreed to ignore this request as we were unaware of the costs involved.
- **Planning** 1. Renewal of permission to build a house on Tarrell Estate. 2. Application by Michael Skinner to build at Rockfield Mill. 3. Application by Christopher Gray for installation of a 8kW heat pump system at Knockshortie. Hamish MacKenzie spoke against the approval of new building outside of settlement areas, and against strip development in general. However, the meeting agreed that it would be inconsistent for the Community Council to object since it had not objected to previous similar proposals. The meeting felt unable to comment on the heat pump proposal and it was agreed to discuss the matter with the Planning Officer **ACTION Steve**

Meeting closed at 10.15 pm Next Meeting AGM Wednesday 29th May 2013