

Tarbat Community Council

Draft Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4th December 2013 (Not yet approved)

1. Present: Secretary Steve Carroll, Helen Fleming, Hamish MacKenzie, Jock Munro, Neil Ross, Treasurer Janet Wilson, Chair Billie Wood. **In attendance:** Cllr. Alastair Rhind, George Terry, Muriel Vass, PC Alex Smyth **Apologies:** none

2. Police Report PC Alex Smyth reported that during the past two months the Tain Police had received 672 calls of which 9 had originated from Portmahomack. However, none of these calls related to any criminal matter. He warned that the public should be vigilant with respect to thefts of fuel and telephone 101 if there is any suspicious activity. There is no news of any proposal to close Tain Police Station. Billie Wood thanked PC Smyth for his attendance at the meeting.

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

4. Matters Arising from Minutes

4.1 Play park Steps. Steve reported that Simon Young of TECS had agreed to make a site visit on Tuesday 10th December to assess the drainage in the area. **ACTION Steve**

4.2 Road Repairs Campbell Stewart has responded to our concerns regarding repairs to the Tarrel/Arboll Road. He plans to repair 600 metres of road from the New Geanies junction towards Portmahomack in February/March 2014 subject to availability of funds. It was decided to send a message of thanks to Campbell Stewart. **ACTION Steve**

4.3 Portmahomack Playing Field Billie Wood reported that the litter bin at the field is still not being emptied. Cllr. Rhind queried whether local residents were using the bin to offload their excess rubbish. George Terry gave his opinion that fortnightly rubbish collection was inadequate for households with large families. Cllr. Rhind gave his opinion that fortnightly collection is adequate if people recycle some of their waste but offered to pursue this matter. **ACTION Cllr. Rhind**

4.4 Jean Bridgeford Memorial and Well Renovation Project A meeting has been held with representatives of Highland Council and modified plans are being submitted for approval by Planning.

4.5 Dog Fouling Jock Munro asked why the Dog Warden visited Portmahomack recently at about 4.30 (after dark) and left Portmahomack shortly thereafter. What benefit was obtained by this visit?

4.6 Provision of activities for Young People

4.6.1 Billie Wood spoke of a recent successful meeting with Julie Cleghorn of HiLife, who was optimistic of action on obtaining a skate park for young people. After discussion, it

was decided to arrange a site meeting at the Playing Field to identify a suitable area for a play park and send a map/plan to Julie Cleghorn so that she can further this matter.

ACTION Steve and Billie

4.6.2 Billie Wood reported that 2 sessions for young people had recently been organised by Youth Worker Rob Parkes at the Carnegie Hall but the attendance had been poor despite extensive publicity. It was agreed to ask Rob Parkes to try again early in the New Year. In addition, there had also been problems in arranging a suitable time slot for these sessions at the Hall. **ACTION Steve**

4.7 The Fountain It has been established that the Fountain is a Listed Monument and it was decided to ask Highland Council who is responsible for its maintenance. **ACTION Billie**

4.8 Proposed Wind Turbine at North Tarrel Billie Wood stated that Hamish MacKenzie had conducted a very good campaign on behalf of the community and the Community Council. Hamish MacKenzie expressed his regret that it had been unsuccessful.

4.9 Broadband Steve reported that he had taken no further action on the matter since he had been absent from home for over a month since the last meeting. It was agreed to pursue the measures agreed earlier to conduct a doorstep survey of the entire community **ACTION The Committee**

4.10 Proposed Wind Turbine at Drumacroy Steve confirmed that he had lodged a reasoned objection on the Planning web site as instructed. He noted that the target date for determination was 25th November 2013 but no decision appeared to have reached at this time. Cllr. Rhind expressed the opinion that a determination will not now be issued until early in the New Year.

5 Councillor's Report Cllr. Rhind stated that he had covered most items in his responses earlier in this meeting.

- Billie Wood asked for sign-age to the Childrens' Play park from the Main Street. Cllr. Rhind offered to speak to Helen Ross about this matter **ACTION Cllr. Rhind**
- George Terry asked Cllr. Rhind if there were any prospect of residents of Portmahomack receiving Brown bins in addition to Blue and Green, as is the case in urban areas.
- A single handrail was erected at the War Memorial in time for the annual Armistice Ceremony. Jock Munro expressed the opinion that the end of the handrail was too long and was in danger of being demolished by a tractor and trailer.
- There is still some rubbish from the restored Portmahomack Harbour requiring removal.

6 Treasurer's Report

Janet Wilson reported that there were no changes to the accounts since that last meeting

Current Account: Balance £4047.93 CR Project Account £154.34 CR

The Committee discussed the purchase of play equipment for the local play park and decided that if there were insufficient room for more equipment at the "Castle" play park, equipment could be installed at the "Knockshortie play park.

7 Tarbat Bequests The responsibility for disposal of bequests for needy people in the community has fallen upon the Community Council, formerly the responsibility of the Community Association. After some discussion it was decided to donate some money to the Over Sixties Christmas Dinner. Steve Carroll declared a personal interest in this proposal and declined to take part in this discussion. It was also decided to contribute to the Childrens' Christmas Party (if such were arranged this year). **ACTION Billie & Janet**

8 Correspondence Steve Carroll reported on a number of items:

- Queens Baton Relay for Commonwealth Games 2014
- Notice of East Ross District Partnership Community Forum at Invergordon Hospital 6th December
- **Inner Moray Firth Development Plan** Steve stated that the deadline for responses to the IMFDP were requested by 31st December 2013. He also pointed out that Portmahomack was not specifically mentioned in the IMFDP, although Nigg, Seaboard and Tain were mentioned. Hamish MacKenzie stated that in his opinion, Portmahomack and area should be included in the IMFDP, that strip development along the road from Portmahomack to Tain should be restricted, and Tarbat Ness should be designated a Special Landscape Area. It was agreed to make a submission along these lines. **ACTION Steve & Hamish**

9 AOCB

Helen Fleming asked if the Community Council could negotiate a discount on heating oil on behalf of the community. It was agreed to contact the Seaboard Community Council to find out how they operated this scheme. **ACTION Steve**

Hamish MacKenzie expressed the view that street cleaning is rather "lax" at present with sand and weeds encroaching on the foot way adjacent to the beach.

Steve Carroll asked for clarification of dates of meetings in 2014. It was decided to meet on the first Wednesdays of February, April, June, August, October, and December at 7.30pm at the Carnegie Hall.

The Meeting closed at 9.25 pm Next Meeting Wednesday 5th February 2014 at 7.30pm at the Carnegie Hall, Portmahomack