

Draft

**TARBAT COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 3rd DECEMBER, 2014**  
**in the Carnegie Hall, Portmahomack at 7.30 p.m.**

**Present:** Hamish Mackenzie (Vice-Chairman) in the chair, Janet Wilson (Treasurer), Neil Ross, Muriel Vass (Secretary).

**In attendance:** Cllr Alasdair Rhind, Ken Graham, Alastair Maclean, George Terry.

1. **Apologies for absence:** Billie Wood (Chairman), Jock Munro., Cllr Fiona Robertson
2. **Local Police Report:** there was no police representation.
3. **Minutes of the meeting held on 1st October, 2014:** an amendment to substitute the words “site visit by the Planning Review Body” for “public consultation” in minute 4.8 was agreed; approval of the minutes as amended was proposed by Janet Wilson, seconded by Hamish Mackenzie and agreed.
4. **Matters arising from the last meeting:-**
  - (1) **Road repairs.** John Mackay informed. **Action:** Cllr Alasdair Rhind
  - (2) **Jean Bridgeford Memorial:** being built without using harbour stone, which appeared to have been taken back to the harbour.
  - (3) **Activities for young people.** Muriel Vass had 50 signatures to a petition calling for a skate park, and suggested a site near the pavilion on the playing field. Alasdair Rhind warned of the limitations on potential Highland Council funding, but gave Muriel a contact for advice and suggested that Fiona Robertson might be able to help with a funding application. **Action:** Muriel Vass.
  - (4) **Fountain.** Recent visits with potential contractors confirmed the damage from rust and the need for repainting. Three estimates were discussed. It was agreed to accept one from Gordon Skinner in the amount of £920 for painting in two colours with masonry paint on the base plus £200 advised verbally for two additional colours (similar to those on the nearly identical Dornoch fountain, thus probably closer to the original). No addition for VAT was required. The Treasurer confirmed that we had adequate funds. **Action:** Billie Wood and Hamish Mackenzie.
  - (5) **Broadband.** Highlands and Islands Enterprise have advised that the next generation of fibre broadband will be “coming soon” to Portmahomack - thought to be mid-late 2015.
  - (6) **Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan.** Alasdair Rhind was awaiting a reply as to whether the omission of Portmahomack from the draft plan could be rectified. **Action:** Alasdair Rhind.
  - (7) **Proposed wind turbine at Drumacroy.** At its meeting on 27th November the Planning Review Body dismissed the applicant’s appeal against refusal.
  - (8) **Give way sign at Tarbatness Road.** Still outstanding. **Action:** Cllr Alasdair Rhind.
  - (9) **Woody’s Memorial Bench.** Alastair Maclean will place this on the harbour when harbour repairs are completed. **Action:** Alastair Maclean.
  - (10) **Loose paving at Harbour.** Still outstanding. **Action:** Cllr Alasdair Rhind.
  - (11) **Wind turbines at Sewage Works.** No planning application has yet been made.
5. **Highland Councillor’s Report.** Cllr Alasdair Rhind reported that the Highland Council budget proposals for next year were scheduled to be voted on on 18th December. A Ward Forum would

be held in the Tain Parish Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. on 10th December, with Fire and Police on the Agenda.

6. **Financial Report.** Janet Wilson reported total balances of £5,268 .46, including £1,500 held for play park equipment and £895.46 due to be paid for repairs to the Slippy at Rockfield. She had received a certificate from Erskine acknowledging the Community Council's donation of £100 in recognition of the World War One Centenary. It was agreed that this should be displayed on the Community Council Notice Board. **Action:** Billie Wood.

7. **Visit of Graham Mackenzie, TEC Services.** Discussion took place on items covered at a meeting which Billie Wood and Hamish Mackenzie had had with Graham Mackenzie on 10th November.

(1) **Play park equipment.** Graham Mackenzie had confirmed that a climbing frame from the Playdale catalogue met Health and Safety requirements and could be installed and said that he would arrange a safety fence between it and the swings.

(2) **Drainage** on the steps beside the play park. Graham Mackenzie had approved the proposed remedial action. It had been pointed out to him that this had been discussed for some 6 years.

(3) **Beach access.** Graham Mackenzie had agreed that access was dangerous at the steps by the telephone box and sometimes difficult at the second car park. He agreed to have concrete plinths installed.

(4) **Coastal erosion problems outside Lamont Lodge.** Graham Mackenzie had agreed that the severe erosion affecting the core path needed attention. This often happens just beyond the end of concrete boulders. He approved the use of spoil from the harbour dredging as in-fill (but this had not in fact happened).

(5) **Coastal erosion and concrete blocks at the end of Balnabruach.** Graham Mackenzie had accepted that this also needed attention.

Graham Mackenzie had said a budget of £50,000 was likely to be available to deal with coastal erosion in the area generally. He had undertaken to advise whether Rockfield and the points at (4) and (5) above might qualify. It was agreed that all the above points should be monitored.

**Action:** Cllr Alasdair Rhind, Billie Wood.

Recent dredging operations at the harbour, which had resulted in spoil being deposited on the sandy beach beside the Slippy, were discussed. It was felt that there had been poor decision making and a failure of consultation by the Highland Council.

## 8. Correspondence

- Global Energy re proposed Harbour Revision Order.
- Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice. Survey discussed and completed. **Action:** Hamish Mackenzie to reply.
- New website for Community Councils.
- The Energy Workshop re 4 proposed 120 metre wind turbines at Fearn Aerodrome. It was also noted that an application for 3 100 metre turbines on Nigg Hill, visible from the Fearn Road and the A9, was expected. Agreed that this would warrant objection.
- Highland MARAC (Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference) re domestic abuse.

## 9. Any Other Competent Business.

(1) **Handrail at Chapel Hill:** still outstanding. **Action:** Cllr Alasdair Rhind.

(2) **Litter at Rockfield.** The Community Council may be contacted re a clean-up of the coastal path.

(3) **Community Council Minutes.** Muriel Vass agreed to look at bringing the information on the website up to date and upgrading the website. **Action:** Muriel Vass

10. **Dates of Meetings for 2015.** The following dates (all Wednesdays), subject to amendment, were agreed:-

- 4th February
- 1st April
- 3rd June
- 5th August
- 7th October
- 2nd December.

It was suggested that these should be displayed on the Community Council Notice Board.

**Action:** Billie Wood.

The dates needed to be booked. **Action:** Muriel Vass

The meeting closed at 9.05 p.m.