

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2015 AT 7.40 PM IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, TAIN**

Present: Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr D Louden (Treasurer)
Mr A Mohan Mr G Amos (Vice-Chair)
Mrs C Mackenzie Mr Macivor
Mr MacAngus Mr McAllister

In attendance: Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson - Highland Councillors
Miss Allan– Tain Royal Academy
Helen Ross – Highland Council

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none
2.	POLICE REPORT - none
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 October 2015 were approved by Mr MacIvor, and seconded by Mrs Mackenzie.
4.	MATTERS ARISING
4.1	6.1 ref manhole cover Knockbreck Road. It was noted that this cover has been repaired.
4.2	9.1 ref Mayor of Tain-l’Hermitage in France. Mr Macdonald emailed the Mayor back asking how he would like to see the relationship between the two communities developing and the prospective benefits likely to be derived. A copy of the email had been translated into French. Mr Macdonald to forward the email to CC members.
4.3	12.6 ref Mr Torrance’s resignation. It was agreed to contact Mrs Weir to thank her for her time on the Community Council.
4.4	16.1 ref Remembrance Sunday. Mr Macdonald noted the good attendance on Remembrance Sunday.
5.	YOUTH ISSUES
5.1	Miss Allan gave Miss Macleod’s apologies for the meeting. Miss Allan reported that the new Rector Mr Mark Jones was now in post. He has met with staff and pupils to see where they wish see the School go in terms of developing. The Head Puspil have been asked to attend the 3-18 year old Campus meetings. The School is developing links with the University of Aberdeen. The last few weeks have been busy preparing for Christmas and filling in University application forms. Questions were asked and answered on positive things happening in the School, and the University of Aberdeen. It was agreed to forward a welcome letter to Mark

	Jones.
6.	HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
6.1	<p>Mr Rhind's report. Mr Rhind asked that Helen Ross give an update on the Alexandra Bridge. Helen noted that the Bridge was now opened but there are still some items to be done before the re-furbishment is completed. Helen reported on the sway cables and safety of the Bridge in windy conditions, the weight capacity, the side mesh panels and cable fixings. The total cost of the re-furbishment project was asked and Helen is to come back and confirm the costs. In addition to the items raised by Helen, Members expressed some considerable dissatisfaction with the quality of the work, given its very high cost Concerns were raised about the restriction to two of the number of people who could go over the Bridge after the re-furbishment, the apparently slack cable stays, the very poor specification of some of the fittings, the approaches now have a potentially insecure metal plate fixing concrete to wood, problems with rust, lack of landscaping, and the state of the path between the Plaids and the Bridge. Helen agreed to confirm answers to questions and to forward the briefing. Helen indicated that if the CC was thinking about co-option that two thirds present and voting must support a person. The CC can call for unrepresented groups of people to come forward. Mr Rhind thanked her for attending the meeting. Mr Rhind reported the Elected Members was going to meet Tina Luxton to gover items that need attention including both new and old Cemeteries – more repairs are required at the latter and no date for the Service of Consecration as yet. Nigg Ferry tenders are running late. There has been some damage to the fence at the Football field. The All-Weather pitch has been improved and it is hoped the seagull deterrent works. New LED lights are being put in the Christmas decorations. Kerbing repairs have been undertaken following the storms in October. There is the same salting resources for road gritting as last year. The switch on of the Christmas Lights was successful. There has been some interest shown in the Mussels and some orders have been filled. There is money set aside for the Lights in the Discretionary Fund. There are potholes in the road outside the Parish Church, the top of Hill Street corner, outside the Old Academy, the exit to the Bank of Scotland carpark. Mr Rhind to investigate.</p>
6.2	<p>Mrs Robertson's report. There has been a 3-18 year old School Campus meeting and the next one is due to take place on 19 January. St Duthus Special School is now open in the port-a-cabins. It is hoped to keep the port-a-cabins in Tain after the move to the new School campus. There was a meeting with an Architect about environmental improvements to the King Street car park. The Town Centre Plan was approved at the Area Committee – there are concerns where funding will come from. The former Health Centre site has been sold to the Free Church. There is a District Partnership meeting soon. Seaforth Cares is recruiting locally. Mrs Robertson indicated her disappointment that there is no help from HIE for a project officer for the Burgh. A group is needed to lead and employ the officer. After discussion it was agreed that thoughts would be gathered on how to best approach the way to fund a project officer. The Old St Duthus nursery building is to be removed but there are concerns about asbestos on site.</p>
7.	COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY – none
8.	OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – correspondence emailed round

	previously.
9.	CHAIR'S REPORT
9.1	The Highland Council's Main Issues Report, the draft Onshore Wind Energy Supplementary Guidance and the Local Housing Strategy are currently the subject of public consultation. Along with Mr Louden, Mr Macdonald reported he had visited the roadshow in Dornoch. The issue causing some concern for the Tain area was the Housing Strategy. Availability and affordability of self-build plots was considered vital for those in the community who wanted to get on or move up the housing ladder. However a combination of lack of new building, negative planning support via the restrictive Housing the Countryside policy and the proposed increase in developer contributions were threatening the viability of housing ownership and forcing families to leave the community. Mr Macdonald would like to see some more flexibility in the Housing in the Countryside policy and in conjunction with Mr Louden would draft some notes for members for discussion at the next meeting.
10.	VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT
10.1	Mr Amos indicated that he felt that road gritting was poor and a discussion took place on this matter. Generally, it was acknowledged this was an area very likely to be affected by cutbacks and some drop in service was inevitable.
11.	FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT
11.1	Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. It was noted that if a new set of accounts was required then Helen Ross will get in touch. Invoices have come in for the Remembrance Day wreaths, and a Discretionary Grant application will go in for the Christmas Lights. Mr Rhind noted that funding is set aside for the Old Folk's Party.
12.	LETTERS
12.1	Letter from a member of the public. A letter has been received on issues such as dog fouling, and poor state of weeding. After discussion it was agreed to pass the letter to the Highland Councillors. Mr McAllister to put advice as to why the public should pick up and safely dispose of dog poo.
12.2	Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Company. A request for funding has been received from the Language Centre to set up a literacy/web business. It was noted that there is very little funding left at the moment and nowhere near the amount requested by the applicant. After discussion, it was agreed even if funds had been available, the project was more business related and did not demonstrate enough community benefit, and to advise the applicant accordingly.
13.	PLANNING MATTERS
13.1	Demolition of farm buildings – Glenmorangie Distillery – noted application as subsequent letter from Planning had confirmed planning permission was not

	required.
14.	COMMON GOOD FUND
14.1	There is a meeting on the Mussels shortly – date to be notified.
15.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
15.1	Beinn Tharsuinn – it was noted that 2 ~Directors have resigned due to no Community Council forming in Bonar Bridge. Alexandra Bridge/3-18 Campus/Cemetery/Mussel Fisheries – discussed previously. Website – Mr McAllister reported that since last year there had been 1,237 hits on the website. Trees and green environment – no report.
16.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
16.1	Co-option. It was agreed that the CC will co-opt people to get up to the total amount of CC members – 11. It was noted Mr Munro had missed the election deadline and wished to be considered for co-option. It was agreed to put the matter on the agenda for the next meeting for further deliberation.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 8.45 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 26TH JANUARY 2016