

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 28 MARCH 2016 AT 7.30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,
TAIN**

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

In attendance: Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson - Highland Councillors

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Miss Allan/Miss Macleod – TRA.
2.	POLICE REPORT - none
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 February 2016 were approved by Mr Munro, and seconded by Mrs Mackenzie.
4.	MATTERS ARISING
4.1	Item 6.1 ref Potholes. It was noted that some pothole repairs had been carried out around the town. Mr Macdonald reported the Scotsburn Road was in a poor state of repair, especially the road edges but that sadly this was fairly typical of the roads leading into Tain. He accepted the town centre had to be the priority for any repairs.
4.2	Item 9.1 ref. proposed Development Officer for Tain. It was noted that a potential pot of money for the proposed Development Officer is no longer available from DTAS. Mrs Robertson indicated that she has application forms for the 2 CC members to join Tain Initiative Group. She advised the next meeting of the Group is 9 May and reminded members this was not a public meeting.
4.3	Item 6.2 ref. Cemetery. It was noted that the works on the wall is still to happen, but requires better weather. Mr Rhind advised the new grass had been cut, after prompting, but hoped it would be maintained to a good standard each time. Mr Macdonald questioned the quality of the grass seed mixed used. Mr Rhind to check on this.
4.4	Item 11.1 ref. Free Wifi. Mr Macdonald reported that the Dornoch Development Group had indicated that town centre free wifi is cost prohibitive, and of limited availability to users. It was considered mobile technology is expected to overtake free wifi as a viable service at some point in the near future.
5.	YOUTH ISSUES – no report
6.	HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT
6.1	Mrs Robertson’s report. Mrs Robertson reported that King Street, Queen Street and Stafford Street are being resurfaced soon. The public should report potholes to

6.2	<p>HC. HC prefer wheelie bins as opposed to steel ones for the town centre to fit inside attractive covers. Mrs Robertson to forward designs to the CC for viewing. Mr Amos reported that with this bin design there is a space between the bin and the cover which holds litter and these are not very practical. Mrs Robertson to contact Catriona Taylor about this matter. The webcast on the Common Good Fund Officer was circulated by Mrs Robertson – the potential cost to the CGF would be £850 annually. After discussion, it was agreed to contact HC and, amongst other concerns, if a contribution had to be forthcoming it ought to be on ability to pay ie revenue based. The fine for dog fouling has increased from £40 to £80. It was not believed anyone had ever been fined, the fine seen as a deterrent more than anything else.</p> <p>Mr Rhind’s report. Mr Rhind reported he had spoken to Asda in connection with replacing the rubbish bin and the litter. He has been speaking to Alison Clark about the disabled access and lack of some forms at the Post Office, available though at Invergordon. Mr Macdonald reminded members that all the weaknesses of the new PO location identified by the CC and pointed out under consultation had come to pass. If the public have any complaints they should telephone 0345 722 3344 to raise them direct with the Post Office. This may be a more effective way of expressing concerns. The extra money required for the Alexandra Bridge will come out of the capital discretion fund. Mr Rhind reported that a bolt had broken and a steel rope stay worked loose – however it has been fixed. Members recalled concerns had already been raised over the manner in which the stays had been returned to the bridge. He is not sure whether the Nigg Ferry tender deadline has passed yet. HC staff have been working at the Old Cemetery to improve it. The A9 has been cleared of litter. The litter bin at St Mary’s Well will be replaced as it has been damaged. There has been a cut in the youth funding for this year, however funding has been secured for the Youth Café posts for 3 years.</p>
6.3	<p>Questions were asked and answered on the proposed re-structure of HC but not much was known at this stage.</p>
7.	<p>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY – none</p>
8.	<p>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – correspondence emailed round previously.</p>
9.	<p>CHAIR’S REPORT</p> <p>9.1 Mr Macdonald reported that he and Mr Louden had attended the 3-18 year old campus meeting and it appeared officials were taking on board points that were raised. Further issues to be discussed include the size of the school, pupil mixing, external play areas and canteen arrangements, and where the works commence first. Mr Macdonald attended a meeting re the Mussel Fisheries with HC. The HC propose to cease current fishing practices, selling the boat and the licence, as the operation continues to make a loss. The HC officials responsible for Fishery management have been given voluntary redundancy creating a skills void. A discussion took place on the future of the Mussels and its potential for sustainability. Mr Rhind will meet with local interested people. The CC wished clarification on the sale or lease of the licence believing it could not and must not be sold. Mr Macdonald will prepare and pass the CC’s concerns onto HC.</p>

10.	VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT
10.1	Mr Amos reported that there had been 19 accidents at the Morangie Road A9 junction since the give way priority had been changed. It was suggested yet again that roundabouts here and at the Knockbreck junction should be pursued and a 50 mph speed limit inbetween would help the situation. It was agreed to invite the Police to the next meeting to discuss this matter.
11.	FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT
11.1	Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. Thank you letters from all the schools re donations has been received. A discussion took place on spending any spare monies. After discussion it was agreed to get in touch with Tesco over environmental improvements as they are still looking for projects. It was agreed to carry over money to next year for projects offering community wide benefit.
12.	LETTERS
12.1	Guides/Brownies/SOAR applications. 3 applications have been received for monies from the Beinn Tharsuinn windfarm community fund. After discussion, it was agreed not to support the applications due to their not demonstrating sufficiently wide community benefit and having regard also for the very limited level of funds available to the CC.
13.	PLANNING MATTERS
13.1	Glenmorangie Distillery pre-application for 5 new warehouses – supported but views expressed again about the inadequacy of the A9 road junction, the impact on the landscape, and the safeguarding of the Highland Games sportsfield. It was considered some thought should be given to emergency fire access and that the Company should consider in this regard looking at taking an access to the Blarliath Industrial Estate road. This all to be communicated to the applicant.
13.2	Extension to house at 5 Thornhill, Chapel Street – no comment.
14.	COMMON GOOD FUND – discussed previously
15.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
15.1	Website – not completely up to date. Mrs Robertson reported that the community website is being developed. The Facebook page development should be revisited. Trees and green environment – it was noted that some trees came down at the Woody Braes due to storm damage. Alexandra Bridge/3-18 Campus/Cemetery/Mussels/Beinn Tharsuinn – discussed previously.
16.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
16.1	Tain Initiative Group. It was agreed that Mr Macdonald and Mr Munro will go

	forward as CC representatives on this group.
--	--

THE MEETING ENDED AT 9.45 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 25TH APRIL 2016