

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
SPECIAL MEETING HELD 15 DECEMBER 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 N Munro Mr A Mohan  
Mr D Macivor Mr B MacAngus  
Mrs M Matheson Mr D McAllister

**In attendance:** Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson - Highland Councillor  
Ms H Ross, Senior Ward Manager  
Mr T Usher, Harbours Manager

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None</b>
<b>2.</b>  2.1	<p><b>THE MUSSEL FISHERY</b></p> <p>Mr Mohan declared an interest in this item. Mr Macdonald reported that it had been agreed to meet for a Special Meeting at the last monthly meeting due to a report going to the Area Committee on the Mussel Fishery. This will include its history, the current situation and options for the future. Mr Macdonald had previously circulated the recently produced Heriot Watt University report on the mussel stock survey to all CC Members.</p> <p>Mr Usher confirmed that the boat and the licence can be separated, in that the boat can be sold and the licence retained. The boat requires around £30,000 worth of repairs. It was indicated that the value of the boat without repairs may be £90,000, and with the repairs £110,000. Mr Usher indicated that he would recommend that the boat is not repaired before a sale as it may not be used for a Mussel boat afterwards and a new owner could scrap the replaced/repaired equipment.</p> <p>Mr Usher further advised future legal changes to the license may allow the licence to be upgraded from Category C to A to include prawns as soon as spring next year. That would have an uplifting impact on the value of the licence.</p> <p>After further discussion, given the circumstances and assurances given, Mr Macdonald proposed and the CC agreed the sale of the Mussel boat to be a sensible way forward. The CC would however request that monies received from the sale received be ring-fenced within the Common Good Fund Account for Mussel Fishery use only, certainly for the foreseeable future, but accepting this caveat could be subject to review in consultation with the CC members.</p> <p>With regards the fishing licence, Mr Macdonald proposed and the CC agreed upon the absolute need to retain the fishing licence, for without it the community's historical right to the Mussel Fishery will be rendered meaningless. The asset should not be classed as disposable. The CC resolved also to request the Council confirm the current status and validity of the licence as a matter of urgency and in due course explore its potential as a tool to raise income for the Common Good</p>

	<p>Fund. The prospect of the Licence becoming a Category A licence in 2017 was considered intriguing and the CC would welcome ongoing news of that change.</p> <p>Given the content of the Heriot Watt stock assessment, the CC considered the only responsible approach for the foreseeable future is to follow the guidance in Option 1 namely, to rest the fishery at least until 2005 levels of stocks are reached again, and to take up the option to conduct a rapid Spring/Summer survey to assess the likelihood of regeneration. Whether this is to be done in 2017 or 2018 can be a matter for discussion.</p> <p>Finally, it was resolved to pass the resolutions of the CC to the Ward Manager for inclusion within the Area Committee report.</p>
<p><b>3.</b></p> <p>3.1</p> <p>3.2</p>	<p><b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b></p> <p><b>Polling Station changes.</b> It was noted that Highland Council wish to change the Polling Station location of the next election in May from the Duthac Centre to the Knockbreck Primary School, for reasons of cost saving. All the schools will be closed on election days for an ‘in-service day thus avoiding visitor conflict. Mrs Matheson expressed dismay the Duthac Centre could lose revenue as a consequence of the shift in venue.</p> <p><b>Curriculum for Excellence.</b> Mr Louden reported that TRA had been reported as having better results than any other Academy in the area. Members expressed their appreciation of the news.</p>

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 9.10 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017**