

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 29 FEBRUARY 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 Mohan Mr McAllister

**In attendance:** Mr Rhind - Highland Councillor  
Miss Allan/Miss Macleod – Tain Royal Academy

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – Mrs Robertson, Mr McAllister, Mr MacAngus, Mr Macivor.
<b>2.</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> - none
<b>3.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 January 2016 were approved by Mrs Mackenzie, and seconded by Mr Amos, subject to 14.1 – should read 29 January, not 29 March.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
4.1	<b>Item 9.1 ref proposed Development Officer.</b> Mr Macdonald confirmed that Helen Ross has confirmed that the CC employing a Development Officer would not be the best vehicle for this.
4.2	<b>Item 12.1 ref dog fouling.</b> Mr Macdonald reported that the Forestry Commission were interested in doing signage that highlighted the health issues for children of dog fouling on Tain Hill. The Forestry Commission are happy for the Council's Dog Warden to walk around the site.
4.3	<b>Item 6.1 ref litter at Asda.</b> Mr Macdonald to follow up contacting Asda regarding the waste bin and litter problem on the path between the Supermarket and the housing estate.
4.4	<b>Item 13.1 ref Ship to ship oil transfer.</b> The CC objection to this initiative has been lodged.
4.5	<b>Item 17.2 ref Post Office.</b> Mr Macdonald to follow up writing to the Post Office to alert them that the previous concerns raised re long queues and unsuitable disability access have come to pass.
<b>5.</b>	<b>YOUTH ISSUES</b>

5.1	Miss Allan and Miss Macleod reported that there had been an open evening for parents. The structure of the curriculum is changing from 31 daily periods to 33. This is with a view to the School being closed on Friday afternoon to make energy related budget savings. There has to be a reduction in the teaching staff of 2. Mr Jones and the School Captains are working on a plan to hear better the views of the pupils. The Gizzen Briggs event was very successful. A Ceilidh is being arranged for the end of March. A deal has been signed for the hoodies for pupils.
6.	<p data-bbox="288 495 868 524"><b>HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b></p> <p data-bbox="161 562 1374 1111">6.1 <b>Mr Rhind’s report.</b> Mr Rhind reported that there are still negotiations over the panels on the Alexandra Bridge. There has been an overspend on the repairs but the extent is not yet known. The tenders for the Nigg Ferry are out now. There are big potholes in the town –a new repair machine has done work in Scotsburn Road. Graham Mackenzie (HC) has agreed that the roads are in a bad condition and hopes to apply resources to them. There is a meeting regarding litter soon – some bins in the High Street have been taken away. The brown bins are stillbeing collected despite word they were to be stopped. There will be a clean up day in the Mansfield Estate soon – date to be notified. The Asda sign on the A9 was refused planningconsent. The service of consecration has taken place at the Cemetery. HC set their budget last Thursday and the full consequences will come to light in the next few months. 71 Teachers are to go Highland wide. There is going to be a root and branch review of HC staffing and services. There is no effect on the capital budget. Tain Initiative Group AGM is tomorrow night – the matter of employing a Development Officer will be discussed.</p> <p data-bbox="161 1149 1374 1256">6.2 Questions were asked and answered on the old and new Cemetery and dry stone wall at Scotsburn Road. It was noted that the new playpark at Mansfield Estate is of a high quality.</p>
7.	<b>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY</b> – none
8.	<b>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE</b> – correspondence emailed round previously.
9.	<p data-bbox="288 1480 568 1509"><b>CHAIR’S REPORT</b></p> <p data-bbox="161 1547 1374 2022">9.1 Mr Macdonald reported that he and Mr Loudon meet with the Development Officer for the Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust. The meeting made them aware that the CC would not be the appropriate employer for a DO. KSDT is willing to assist with advice over a DO appointment for Tain. The next meeting of the stakeholders group on the 3-18 years old campus is 22 March. Mr Macdonald and Mr Loudon met with the Civic Trust and they are concerned about the design and energy efficiency of the proposed Campus, assuming it will be similar to the Wick development. Pupils from Craighill and Knockbreck Primary School planted trees at the service of consecration. Mr Macdonald attended the Government Planning Review Panel to discuss changes to the planning system . There are different issues for rural areas as opposed to urban areas. Because of a restriction of time Mr Macdonald had to prioritise what he spoke about – public participation, decentralisation of the planning function, and effective housing delivery. Other</p>

	subjects covered included self-build housing priorities, stopping the pre-planning application procedure, and local Councillor's being allowed to speak to planning applications at CC meetings without prejudice.
<b>10.</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT</b>
10.1	Mr Amos reported that the undergrowth along the A9 that had been cut down by BEAR on the by-pass is growing rapidly again. The A9 litter doesn't seem to be picked up any more. A small litter bin at Morangie (St Mary's Wynd) has disappeared. Mr Rhind to follow this up.
<b>11.</b>	<b>FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT</b>
11.1	Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. A discussion took place on spending any surplus funds – ideas included exploring free wifi for the town centre and/or Crickety Steps repairs.
<b>12.</b>	<b>LETTERS</b>
12.1	<b>Approval of planning application.</b> The planning application for house west of Morrish Lodge, Fendom was approved.
<b>13.</b>	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>
13.1	<b>Conversion of shed to gym, Industrial estate at former Morrisons building - support. Residential development, former Morrison's building Shore Road – support. Hartmount holdings application – support (confirmation already submitted).</b> Mr Macdonald declared an interest in this item.
<b>15.</b>	<b>COMMON GOOD FUND – no report</b>
<b>16.</b>	<b>UNEXHAUSTED REMITS</b>
16.1	<b>Website/trees and green environment – no update. Alexandra Bridge/3-18 Campus/Cemetery – discussed previously. Mussels – it was noted that the winch may be broken affecting February sales. Beinn Tharsuinn – it was noted that some of the Directors have come off this group as they are no longer on CCs.</b>
<b>17.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>
17.1	<b>Tain St Duthus Football Club.</b> It was noted that this Club wishes to get the club house repaired. The toilets at the Links are being looked at with a view to getting them repaired.
17.2	<b>Links Memorial.</b> Further information has been received on the proposed Gordon Highlanders WW1 memorial at the Links. Discussions on the detail are continuing.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 9.20 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 28<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2016**