

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 25 JANUARY 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 Macivor Mr MacAngus
Mr McAllister

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

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mr Mohan
2.	POLICE REPORT - none
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3.1	The Minutes of the inaugural meeting held on 30 November 2015 were approved by Mr MacIvor, and seconded by Mr McAllister. The Minutes of the monthly meeting held on 30 November 2015 were approved by Mr Louden and seconded by Mr MacAngus.
4.	MATTERS ARISING
4.1	Item 12.1 ref letter from the member of the public about weeds around the town. Mrs Robertson indicated that this was an ongoing issues and is being worked on all the time. Mr Macdonald to reply accordingly.
5.	YOUTH ISSUES
5.1	Miss Allan and Miss Macleod reported that they started the New Year in Italy on a snow sports trip which was very successful. The Christmas Dance was a success as well. The costs of the Dance were kept low and a profit was made, which goes to the School Fund – Tesco/Adsa both donated. The prelims are approaching. It is hoped to have a Spring Ceilidh. There are workshops being run in remembrance of Holocaust Memorial week. Both pupils are waiting to hear from Universities as to potential placings.
6.	HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT
6.1	Mr Rhind’s report. Mr Rhind reported that they were waiting for the final costings for the Alexandra Bridge, as well as a solution for the panels. He will keep the CC informed of the final costs. The tenders for the Nigg Ferry are now out, and it is hoped to award it in June. The damaged fence at the football field has been fixed, and other fencing put in with lockable gates to prevent unauthorised access. The lights on Knockbreck Road are dim and being replaced by LED’s. Mr Rhind reported that the Christmas lights will now be stored at a rental unit in the Fendom for a reduced negotiated cost, but it is hoped to source permanent storage

6.2	<p>for free. The potholes have been repaired outside the Parish Church, and in other areas of the town. King Street is in a bad state of repair. Another pothole that needs repair is on Bank Street. The Senior Citizen's Party went well and the general feeling was that holding the event in the afternoon should be considered. He gave thanks to the volunteers and Mr and Mrs Amos for their help with the party. Photos of the Christmas Lights have been taken with a view to sending them to a company in England who may be able to repair them. Questions were asked and answered on litter and bins and it was agreed to contact Asda to ask them to clear up the path between the shop and the housing estate. This pathway is very slippery during icy periods and needs maintenance. Stopping the collection of brown bins is being considered as part of the budget savings Highland Council have to make.</p> <p>Mrs Robertson's report. Mrs Robertson reported that litter and fly tipping is a problem in the Mansefield Estate and there was a meeting on this last week. Out of control weeds is also a problem. It is hoped to have a one-off clearing out day with HC providing extra resources. Mrs Robertson to speak to the Residents Group about this initiative. The play park is nearly finished. The recent proposed stakeholder meeting on the 3-18 campus meeting was cancelled, and is waiting for a new date. Highland Council are looking at cutting the budget for 2016/17 by £38.9 million.</p>
7.	COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY – none
8.	OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – correspondence emailed round previously.
9.	<p>CHAIR'S REPORT</p> <p>9.1 Mr Macdonald gave a well done to those who made the Senior Citizen's Party possible. There was a better attendance this year but maybe time to review and replace it with an afternoon or even a Summer party. Scottish Government's Planning Review is asking for 'game-changing' ideas for the Planning system. Following on from the written submissions already lodged, Mr Macdonald indicated that he has been invited to an oral evidence session with the Panel in Glasgow in February. Mr Macdonald has sent an email to Helen Ross re the insurance implications of the Community Council employing a Development Officer. A meeting had been arranged with the Development Officer at Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust to discuss their set-up and experiences. He will report back at the next meeting.</p>
10.	<p>VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT</p> <p>10.1 Mr Amos reported that the craft fair did quite well. The road markings, and cats eyes are poor on the A9 and require attention.</p>
11.	<p>FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT</p> <p>11.1 Mr Loudon circulated an up to date financial report. Mr Rhind gave some invoices for the Senior Citizen's party to Mr Loudon for payment. Donation to the schools for prize giving can be considered at the next meeting. It was agreed that some of the invoices will be put in to the Discretionary Fund for payment, but some can be</p>

	kept back and settled by the CC.
12.	LETTERS
12.1	Dog fouling. An email has been received re very bad dog fouling at the path between the Quarry Road car park and the forest viewpoint– it is believed to be managed by the Forestry Commission. It was suggested more signage should be erected, concentrating on the health ramifications of dog mess and designed to shock preferably. Mr Rhind suggested contacting Helen Ross as she has a contact for the Forestry Commission.
13.	PLANNING MATTERS
13.1	Asda advertising pole – it was agreed to object to this planning application due to visual amenity, traffic safety, lack of justification and precedent. As an aside Mr Rhind to speak to BEAR re tidying up the road signs on the A9. Outline application for a house, Fendom – welcomed the self-build housing opportunity and resolved to offer support. Change from shop to offices, Mansfield Estate – noted. Ship to ship transfer of oil – after discussion it was agreed to object due to potential environmental issues. Mr McAllister to draft letter.
14.	HIGHLAND WIDE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – MAIN ISSUES REPORT WITH DRAFT ONSHORE WIND ENERGY SUPPLEMENTARY GUIDANCE AND LOCAL HOUSING
14.1	Mr Macdonald reported that the response has to be in by 29 March 2016, and that he will compile a submission based on the draft already circulated.
15.	COMMON GOOD FUND – no report
16.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
16.1	Beinn Tharsuinn/trees and green environment/Mussels – no update. Alexandra Bridge/3-18 Campus – discussed previously. Website – Mr McAllister reported that he had updated the website with information on dog fouling. Cemetery – the new Cemetery walls have had the harling taken off and won't be put back until the weather improves. Mr Rhind still to organise the service of consecration.
17.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
17.1	Co-option. It was agreed to co-opt Neil Munro on to the CC. Other spaces on the CC to be looked at again in the near future as the CC moves forward into the new term. Post Office. Concerns were raised re the large queues that build up in the Post Office, as well as the lack of disability access. All of these issues had been raised previously and disappointment was repeated the Post Office had persistently ignored CC warnings. Mr Rhind to discuss this matter with Alison Clark, HC.

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THE MEETING ENDED AT 9.25 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 29th FEBRUARY 2016