

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER,  
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**Present:** Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr D Louden (Treasurer)  
Mr G Amos (Vice-Chair) Mrs C Mackenzie  
Mr A Mohan

**In attendance:** Mr Rhind - Highland Councillor  
Miss B Morrison/Miss L Munro – TRA  
Constable G Elliott – Police Scotland

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – Mrs Robertson, Mr McAllister and Mrs Matheson .
<b>2.</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b>
2.1	Constable Elliott reported that people had been charged with – 3 people for disorder, 3 people for drug offences, 1 serious assault and 9 road traffic offences. There has been a request from residents in St Vincent Road to carry out speed checks which will be happening in the near future. It was noted that vehicles are still parking on the zebra crossing. Constable Elliott indicated that people had been fined for this, including someone who was fined £1,800 and got 6 points on their licence. It was indicated that the speed limit for small goods vehicles is 50 mph, and for lorries it is 40 mph. Constable Elliott brought to CCs attention that the Nigg round-a-bout is sometimes icy, and to drive accordingly.
<b>3.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 February 2017 were approved by Mr Amos, and seconded by Mrs Mackenzie.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b> – none
<b>5.</b>	<b>YOUTH ISSUES</b>
5.1	Miss Morrison and Miss Munro reported that they had passed on the request to get the pupils views on the new school - it was deemed the best way to do this was by having assemblies. However, due to the fact that they did not have up-to-date drawings, it was felt better to wait until they are available. The Malawi trip has been cancelled – the fundraising money will be used for the benefit of the school there. There is a ceilidh on Thursday and a pupil/teacher softball match soon.
<b>6.</b>	<b>HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b>
6.1	<b>Mr Rhind’s report.</b> Mr Rhind reported the yellow lines and the disabled bay on the High Sreet have been completed. Street signs to be put up in due course following the Road Order. Extensive damage to the public toilets happened 2-3 weeks ago. CCTV cameras aren’t allowed to fix on the toilet entrance. All 3

	<p>recommendations for the Mussel Boat went through the Committee meeting – the Boat will be marketed soon. The work on the Woody Braes start today, with a road closure for 3 weeks. The Council will be writing to householders in this area not to throw garden waste over onto the Brae. The bad state of repair of the wall at the Collegiate Church has been looked by HC. Scottish Water have completed the repair on Scotsburn Road, and the Hydro have attended to the repair at the Mansfield. A taxi bay has been mooted but this would take away a parking place. The southside entrance wall has some fencing around it – Mr Rhind wishes the Police would notify HC when there is damage to this area, for insurance purposes. 3-18 year old campus – Mr Rhind to pursue getting up to date drawings for the school. The planning application will be in shortly.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY</b> - none
<b>8.</b>	<b>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE</b> – correspondence emailed round previously.
<b>9.</b>	<b>CHAIR’S REPORT</b>
9.1	<p>Mr Macdonald reported he had received a response from Steve Baron thanking us for the comments on 3 – 18 year old campus, but refusing to budge on the question of the Asda site. Mr Macdonald has drafted a reply - ready to go. Problem with PAN notice not being served on CC. Wrote to say we would waive that as it would set Council back 12 weeks but asked about residents meeting specified on application, but not carried out. No response - CC will carry out meetings for residents to help them understand the application and how it might affect them once it is lodged. Confirmation the Portmahomack road will be 24/7 closure for 3 weeks for Woody Braes work, but hopefully less. Meeting on Wednesday am with HC officials and Mr McAllister – the meeting will focus on the replanting proposals, cost not yet known. The felling cost is £18,700. Confirmation received from HC that any damage to gardens above will be covered by Council insurance. Mr Macdonald had attended a meeting at Nigg Energy Yard - Fabrication subsea equipment for Angola, tidal turbines for Pentland Firth, and maintenance of various offshore vessels (120) carried out last year. 2-300 people working on site at present but always looking to diversify and optimistic difficult period for oil and gas sector will pass. Hoping to get rig decommissioning work. Global has acquired the 3 hectares of land comprising the former Dunskaith House adjacent. Currently marketing the Yard as a multi-use site. Applying for Harbour status – Harbour Empowerment Order withdrawn as they had acted upon the wrong legal advice. New application forthcoming and will involve a 42 public consultation period. This will give Global power to operate on a level playing field with the Port Authority. The new status gives more control over their own activity. Nigg Skills academy – its diversifying too - offering a Foundation Apprenticeship in Engineering for 5 and 6 year pupils. Local Democracy Forum – new date to be arranged. Environmental Garden in Care and Learning Account, problems with lack of maintenance, discussion with HSCHT (still not responded to Mr Macdonald’s letter about looking again at alternative sites). Discussions with Big Lottery re funding for Development Officer - at first said they could fund a DO via the Community Led Activity Fund - wages and capital costs office etc, but on the second contact this was contradicted. Dog mess – Clifford Smith responded about the app being developed by HC. CC should wait and see what transpires, meantime hold on to its own ideas for now.</p>

<b>10.</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT</b>
10.1	Mr Amos reported that the Pond had been cleared out and litter lifted. Mr Amos proposed a new pair of waders for Mr McAllister – after discussion it was agreed that Mr Rhind would speak to Tain Task Force about this matter and report back.
<b>11.</b>	<b>FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT</b>
11.1	The financial statement was circulated to the meeting. Mr Louden reported that he thought the £1000 funding from Groundworks for the benches in the Rose Garden would be in the bank – if it is, it will be passed on to Tain Task Force. The grant money from the discretionary spend is in for the Senior Citizen's Party, and the Christmas Lights events. The prize giving money has been handed over to the schools.
<b>12.</b>	<b>LETTERS</b>
12.1	<b>Easter Ross Community Partnership</b> – query over date – whether 3 April or 3 May – Mr Macdonald to clarify date with Helen Ross.
12.2	<b>Email from a member of the public regarding ancestors.</b> Despite Mr Macdonald enquiring about the ancestors from locals, no concrete information was gleaned. After discussion, it was agreed to pass this query to Jason Ubych at the Museum.
<b>13.</b>	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>
13.1	<b>Proposed Children's facility, Stepping Stones Nursery, Victoria Road.</b> Mr Macdonald declared an interest in having had advised the landowner on another matter. Application discussed – it was agreed to support the proposal, assuming the planning authority is able to content itself over matters of vehicle access.
<b>14.</b>	<b>FACEBOOK PAGE</b>
14.1	It was noted that the CC facebook page has 243 followers. After discussion, it was recommended to put on information early evening as it may reach more people.
<b>15.</b>	<b>UNEXHAUSTED REMITS</b>
15.1	<b>Common Good Fund</b> - £18,000 + to be being taken out of the Common Good Fund to pay for the environmental works at the Woody Braes. <b>Cemeteries</b> – no word about the repairs on the wall of the new cemetery. Extensive tidying up work has been carried out at the old cemetery. <b>3-18 campus</b> – discussed previously. <b>Alexandra Bridge/Website Development/Beinn Tharsuinn</b> – no report.
<b>16.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b> - none

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**THE MEETING ENDED AT 8.57 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2017**