

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 7.30 PM IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, TAIN**

Present: Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr G Amos (Vice-Chair)
Ms K Melville Mr A Mohan
Mr D McAllister Mr D MacIvor

In attendance: Mr Louden - Highland Councillor
Mr A Borland, TRA

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mrs Mackenzie, Mr MacAngus, and Ms Mackenzie.
2.	POLICE REPORT – no report
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 October 2017 were approved by Mr McAllister, and seconded by Mr Mohan.
4.	MATTERS ARISING - none
5.	YOUTH ISSUES
5.1	Mr Borland as Vice-Captain of TRA gave the two Captains’ apologies for the meeting. First tasks for the Captains/Vice Captains had been to organise the sponsored walk and Ceilidh – the money raised from both went towards funding an outward bound trip for the leadership group. Various events happening – Highland Hospice Young Enterprise, Christmas dances, Kids Fit, and a maths challenge. There is also a Youth Philanthropy event, and the School is looking for sponsors for the prize money (to be given to the charity of the winning team). The Prefect team who carry out the hall monitoring has been praised by Mr Jones. With regards the new house system – they have had a bake-off competition, inter-house quizzes and sports events. There has been mixed success for the sports teams. Pre-lims have been moved from February to January. Mr Borland was asked if there was consultation yet over the new 3-18 campus site selection process – but there had not been. Previously the CC had requested Highland Council to engage the pupils and take account of their views.
6.	HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR REPORT
6.1	Mr Louden’s report. Mr Louden reported that the next meeting of the 3-18 campus stakeholders group on 18 January. He had asked that the Minute of the meeting on 24 October be amended as there are were a number of inaccuracies. 4 sites are being consulted on, TRA; Kirksheaf; Craighill; and Asda. Mr Louden noted that there is still a dog poo problem on the path between Craighill PS and

	<p>Scotsburn Road, but some work has been done on clearing the nettles. Still a work in progress and needs regular visits. The bollards at the Woodie Braesortmahomack Road are going to be realigned on the embankment to catch any slip from the bank above. Whilst he had secured a commitment to paint the railings outside the new Cemetery, and have the gates working again at the old Cemetery, this has not been done – he will follow up but austerity measures across the Highland Council was making it difficult for officials to respond quickly. Whilst the grass on the roof of the Old Academy has been cleared, it has not been done on the side extension. The railings at the Rose Garden have not been attended to either. Knockbreck PS are looking for funding for a polytunnel and he is hoping to assist them in achieving that. Mr Louden has helped a number of members of the public with title deed issues. Talks have broken down with Albyn Housing over the lack of play equipment. They are proving very difficult to deal with and claiming lack of funds despite their accounts saying different. There is talk of a possible service charge for tenants, but quite a few houses are bought and it could mean the tenants subsidising the house owners. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Callum MacAuley re the play equipment and the service charge to see whether an alternative arrangement might be possible. It was also agreed to contact Planning to see what the situation is with regard to conditions re maintenance of open space and play equipment provision. The town centre wifi project is progressing, but no date for installation as yet though imminent. Parts of Knockbreck Avenue footpaths are crumbling. Rotting leaves are blocking some gully's at Mansfield Estate, also some drains are blocked by Home Bargains. It was noted that the Duthac Centre car park is pot-holed. He will work on all of these. The Ward Discretionary participatory budget event will take place c. end of January – the CC will be getting information about this change in the manner of disbursement. It will present an opportunity for community groups to try and secure funding up to £1,500.</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p>COMMON GOOD FUND APPLICATION FROM TAIN INITIATIVE GROUP</p> <p>The Common Good Fund application for £61,000 was returning before members.</p> <p>A request had been made from both the Ward Manager in relation to the health of the CGF and past awards from the fund to the TIG. A limited response had been received figure. A request of the TIG for substantially more supporting information had largely been denied and the CC's motivation for making the request had been questioned. Accordingly, the CC found deliberation of this application difficult especially in the vital areas of Job Description, Business Plan, project priorities and intended management of the grant.</p> <p>After a lengthy discussion on what is the biggest CGF application in the experience of the current CC membership, with due sensitivity being afforded the moratorium on community grant aid currently in place and recognition for rapid depletion of the fund in recent times also the fact the application represented a 25% drawdown from the total useable reserves, the CC questioned the sustainability of the application.</p> <p>In the absence of detail, research had revealed approx. 62% of TIG grant income over 14 years had come from local funds, either CGF or HC with only 38% being</p>

	<p>attracted from external sources. This was not considered a particularly impressive track record though the CC appreciated the effort ‘in kind’ from individual members in bringing environmental improvements to the town.</p> <p>The CC determined to support in principle the appointment of a DO for the town but, if the HC was prepared to release such funds from the CGF then it should be on condition,</p> <p>a) A full time, professional DO based in Tain and accessible to and working for all its umbrella community organisations, and should not be within the ‘ownership’ of one single group.</p> <p>b) Work should be on projects which demonstrate community wide support and can be shown to generate or at least have the potential to influence future revenue streams for the Common Good Fund. Until the CGF recovers its sustainability this ought to be made a condition of all TCGF applications.</p> <p>As an aside, the CC noted the recent emergence of Tain and District Development Trust, intent upon promoting social, economic and environmental improvement within the community, and available to assist local groups with funding applications, including Tain Initiative Group.</p> <p>The CC resolved to respond to the Ward Manager on these terms.</p>
<p>8.</p> <p>8.1</p> <p>8.2</p>	<p>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY</p> <p>Ms Williams indicated she had been told that at least one of the gully cleaners didn’t work in icy conditions – Mr Louden to follow this up. Ms Williams reported that she had not heard the educational benefits of a 3-18 campus. Mr Macdonald replied the CC had been afforded no opportunity to comment on the principle of 3-18 but was confident it could work on a generous sized site, suitably laid out. CC drop-in sessions to kick-start community interaction on the site selection were provisionally arranged for 14/15 and 28/29 December, to be held at the Council Chamber. Mr Macdonald circulated a draft survey sheet aimed at generating feedback on the basic elements of Location, Design and Layout. Information gathered from the drop-in sessions would be fed to HC to help with its own. It was suggested to contact Duncan Mackay, ex Craighill PS as he had previously advised one the education benefits of a 3-18 campus. Ms Melville suggested she could do some academic research on 3-18 campuses – Mr Macdonald to put her in touch with Bob Christie, ex TRA and Scot Gov advisor who is a well-respected source of knowledge on the subject.</p> <p>Mrs Skinner indicated the Mr Macdonald had not forwarded Beatrice Windfarm information to her – Mr Macdonald to follow up.</p>
<p>9.</p>	<p>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – correspondence emailed round previously.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>CHAIR’S REPORT</p>

10.1	<p>A first meeting with Tain and Easter Ross Civic Trust had taken place re the collaboration to provide sketch layouts to help the public understand how each potential 3-18 Campus site might be capable of working. The intention of the joint initiative was to stimulate the community into providing useful feedback for the HC and would restrict itself to generic subject matters such as Location, Design and Layout, also to explain the principles of 3-18. The initiative was in line with the purpose of CC's as set out in the Scheme for Establishment of CC's and would go some way to re-assurance residents the project was still moving forward.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald reported that the Asda path is still suffering from flooding. Asda had confirmed to him they would fix the problem if the footpath had not been adopted by the HC. Waiting for word on that.</p> <p>Jamie Stone MP and Gail Ross MSP had both agreed to take up the matter of Tain, Inver and Portmahomack's exclusion from the list of communities eligible for funding.</p>
11.	<p>VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT</p>
11.1	<p>Mr Amos reported that vehicles are still parking on the zig zag lines of the zebra crossing. He noted that the town centre resident owner of a car that had been parked in King Street car park for only 2 days had been accused by the Police as having abandoned it – Mr Louden to follow this up to clarify the situation.</p>
12.	<p>FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT – no report.</p>
13.	<p>LETTERS – letter taken in private session, due to it saying “private and confidential”</p>
14.	<p>PLANNING MATTERS</p>
14.1	<p>Harry Gow, High Street- new signage – respond to ensure Planning are satisfied of the need for a sensitive design solution, given the Conservation Area status. 12 Tower street – room division, LBC application note (if any concern Mr Macdonald to email around CC members).</p>
15.	<p>COMMON GOOD FUND – spoke about previously.</p>
16.	<p>UNEXHAUSTED REMITS</p>
16.1	<p>Cemeteries/3-18 campus – discussed previously. Website development – new CC members to be included. Windfarm Community Company –Mr Amos's details (as Alternate Director) to be passed to Alex Macmanus, Company Secretary of Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Company. Green environment – the first new seats for the Rose Garden are going in soon.</p>
17.	<p>ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none</p>

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10.30 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 29th JANUARY 2018