

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 29 JANUARY 2018 AT 7.30 PM IN THE COUNCIL  
CHAMBER, TAIN**

**Present:** Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr G Amos (Vice-Chair)  
Mr A Mohan Mr D McAllister  
Mr N Munro

**In attendance:** Mr Louden - Highland Councillor  
Constables Shepherd/Wylie – Police Scotland

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| <b>1.</b> | <b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – Mrs Mackenzie  |
| <b>2.</b> | <b>POLICE REPORT</b>  |
| 2.1       | Constable Shepherd reported that the incidences in Tain includes 2 disorder/assault offences, domestic physical offences – 2, domestic non-physical – 1 person charged, drug offences – 1 person charged, road traffic offences – 22 people charged. Christmas shoplifting initiative carried out during the weekends on the run up to Christmas and over the festive period resulted in a 87.5% drop in reported theft by shoplifting in the Easter Ross area. Police have received numerous missing person reports from Aberlour care facility on Morangie Road over the last 2 months and were regular visitors there. Members were disappointed Aberlour didn't appear to be living up to the promises of being the good neighbour they promised when they originally sought the CC's support for their change of use planning application. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Aberlour again expressing concern about the drain on Police resources and commenting the residential area of a small town was maybe proving not to be an appropriate location for such a facility. The CC had discussed problems there previously. It was reported that 2 cars are using Shore Road as a race track. |
| <b>3.</b> | <b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>  |
| 3.1       | The Minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2017 were approved by Mr McAllister, and seconded by Mr Amos.  |
| <b>4.</b> | <b>MATTERS ARISING</b>  |
| 4.1       | <b>Item 7.1 ref CGF application for Development Officer post.</b> It was noted that there is a report on going to the Ross & Cromarty Area Committee on 31 January. 4 options will be included – Mr Louden was asked to consider the CC comments on the application which had been to request more information on the project, if he were called upon to comment at Committee.  |
| 4.2       | <b>Item 10.1 ref Asda path.</b> It was noted that Asda are responsible for the path between the supermarket and the Aldie Housing Estate. Despite reminders that the path requires work to stop water pouring over it, nothing has been done. It was agreed that a reminder would be sent to them.  |

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| 4.3 | <p><b>Item 6.1 ref play equipment.</b> Mr Louden indicated that some of the play equipment in the Burgh may be disappearing due to poor condition.</p>   |
| 5.  | <p><b>YOUTH ISSUES</b> - none</p>  |
| 6.  | <p><b>HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR REPORT</b></p>   |
| 6.1 | <p><b>Mr Louden's report.</b> Mr Louden reported that the Community Cash event is on 24 January. It was noted that around 40 local organisations will be taking part. It was suggested that Tain supermarkets could be approached with a view to donating funds for a future similar event. Mr Louden reported about cuts to groups of Education staff, and he read out a letter from the Highland Children's Forum. He reported that Knockbreck Primary had received funding for a polytunnel. It was noted that a possible 20 mph speed limit may come into effect in Tain.</p>  |
| 7.  | <p><b>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY</b></p>  |
| 7.1 | <p>Ms Williams reported that she held a resident's event in respect of the proposed 3-18 campus. She noted that residents indicated that there was a lack of communication on this project from Highland Council (HC). She wished a discussion on how that might be improved. Mr Macdonald responded that the CC has held a drop in event for the 3-18 campus precisely for this reason, to maintain a semblance of momentum to keep the community involved especially since the focus of attention had returned to site selection and the HC appeared to be dragging its heels on the matter. Survey responses received from the session would be kept by the CC and ways would be looked at adding to them by an online presence. When the time came the public responses would help inform the CC in its responses to HC. As no satisfactory answer had been given re the reasons for the HC sisting the planning application, Mr Louden advised he was continuing to query that point.</p>   |
| 8.  | <p><b>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE</b> – correspondence emailed round previously.</p>   |
| 9.  | <p><b>CHAIR'S REPORT</b></p>   |
| 9.1 | <p>Mr Macdonald reported that the Senior Citizen's Party was affected by the flu bug that had hit the community. Thanks were given to George and Becky Amos for their contribution to the Party and to all the helpers who had made it possible. The January 3-18 campus Stakeholders meeting had been postponed, awaiting it appeared the outcome of the HC budget meeting on 15 February. The drop in session had been a success and very busy between 2 and 6pm. Thanks to Lachie Stewart for TERCT for attending. With regard to the survey responses, – location came top as a priority consideration, design second, and layout third. The Craighill site was the most popular location by far, Asda second, Kirksheaf third and TRA fourth, the latter by quite a long way distant. 38 surveys had been received from approx. 90 attendees (included couples and families reducing the chance of a 100% response). We would look at ways to gather more opinion online. Tain is now eligible to apply for Beatrice windfarm funding, along with Inver, Portmahomack and Edderton. The work on the Woody Braes has gone out to tender. Discussion on an alternative way to carry out the work was discussed in the event the HC proposed plan proved expensive for the</p> |

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|                               | <p>CGF. It was agreed to see what the tender amounts came in at. Concerns raised over possible theft of young trees, their presence highlighted by their protective covers. Double the panting rate with no covers might be cheaper and at least if not more effective. It was suggested to plant ivy across the area most affected by slippage in the hope that might help stabilise the ground conditions. Members of CC had attended an informal presentation at Glenmorangie Distillery where two prospective planning applications were unveiled : 1. construction of loading bays, drainage, process kit and gas storage to enable the use of compressed natural gas to supply the Distillery, and possible future supply to Tain. 2. A new stillhouse adjacent to the existing intended to act as a visitor attraction and future proof the distillery's foreseeable production demands. A footpath between the Distillery and the Burgh was discussed. This was still on the cards but the distillery expected it to be a community led project. It was agreed to support the first planning application as the second was yet to be submitted. An email was previously circulated from Mr Rob Parkes about house improvements in Ester Place refused retrospective planning consent. The CC had previously supported this application. After discussion it was agreed to provide a letter of support for the applicant's appeal to the Scottish Government, the CC being very much of the opinion the work did not impact upon the quality or the character of the Conservation Area by reason primarily of the house location, also that HC was acting unreasonably with excessive demands for reinstatement works and dismissing suggested adjustments by Mr Parkes. The CC was disappointed not more regard had been had by officials and the Planning Committee for community opinion. Mr Macdonald was instructed to offer the support of the CC during the Appeal process, if called upon. There have been some complaints regarding people being turned away from the Civic Amenity Site with various items such as empty plastic drums as it may not be known what the previous contents had been. The CC worried this might lead to an increase in fly tipping. Mr Loudon to follow this matter up.</p> <p>Mr Macdonald had drawn Mr Loudon's attention in the preceding week to two potentially dangerous potholes on Scotsburn and was pleased to note the HC had acted in placing warning signs around the largest. It was hoped repairs would proceed promptly.</p> |
| <p><b>10.</b></p> <p>10.1</p> | <p><b>VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Mr Amos reported the areas of Tain were poorly gritted, as compared to some other towns. He indicated that some of the roads are in a terrible state with potholes, as well as some drains. Mr Amos reported that bin lorry drivers are given the opportunity to drive gritters but for this to work they need to have a forklift ticket to allow self-loading – Mr Loudon to follow up on this. It was noted that there is rubbish and leaves on Ankerville Street – Mr Loudon to follow up.</p>  |
| <p><b>11.</b></p> <p>11.1</p> | <p><b>FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT</b></p> <p>Mr Loudon on behalf of Mrs Mackenzie circulated the up to date financial position. It was noted that the hire of the Duthac Centre for the Senior Citizen's party was being paid for by a donation. Mr McAllister indicated that he would be carrying out a street sale to raise money for the 2019 Party. It was agreed to add the Senior</p>  |

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|            | Citizen's Party to the Unexhausted Remits agenda item. It was noted that Becky Amos could make and supply more of the food items thus helping to reduce costs.  |
| <b>12.</b> | <b>LETTERS</b>  |
| 12.1       | <b>Easter Ross Community Partnership.</b> It was noted that the next meeting in on 30 January in Invergordon. The meeting is coming to Tain on 21 March.  |
| 12.2       | <b>Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Co.</b> Tain Golf Club have applied to this fund for £12,343 for work to the practice areas. After discussion, it was agreed not to support this application as there is only around £2,000 available in the Tain portion of the fund, also that a decision had been taken by the CC previously that applications would be favoured by projects which would provide a high degree of community wide benefit – the applicants will be encouraged to be put in touch with Tain Development Trust and also to let them know about the Beatrice fund.   |
| <b>13.</b> | <b>PLANNING MATTERS</b> – discussed previously  |
| <b>14.</b> | <b>COMMON GOOD FUND</b> – discussed previously  |
| <b>15.</b> | <b>UNEXHAUSTED REMITS</b>   |
| 15.1       | <b>Facebook</b> – got a query re the 3-18 campus and Mr Macdonald let them know of the postponement of the Stakeholders meeting until the HC budget ramifications are known. <b>Cemeteries</b> – it was noted that Ingrid Jamieson is the current contact for Cemeteries. There may be a possibility of upgrading the cemeteries with a lottery fund – Mr Louden to follow up with Mr Macdonald. <b>Mussel Fisheries</b> – there is a report going to the Ross & Cromarty Area Committee on the Common Good Fund. The report mentions the fishing Licence and the potential value of leasing out the Licence but that the value will be dependant on stock levels and quality – Mr Macdonald reminded Mr Louden to speak to Helen Ross about the license potentially being used by fishermen and boats away from the Dornoch Firth as it was not restricted the local area. <b>Website</b> – Mr McAllister to look at putting on the CC's 3-18 campus display material and the survey form. Mr Macdonald to provide appropriate supporting text. <b>Trees and green environment</b> – It was noted that some trees are coming down at the Mansfield Estate – Mr Louden may know of funding available to replace them. |
| <b>16.</b> | <b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>   |
| 16.1       | Mr Amos indicated that the Rose Garden railings are still rusted and decaying – Mr Louden to follow up.   |

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 10.30 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 26<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2018**