

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 26 MARCH 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
Ms K Melville Mr D MacIvor
Mr N Munro

In attendance: Mr D Louden - Highland Councillor
Constable Smyth – Police Scotland
Mr J Wallace, Ms S Carroll, Mr J Cowie – Aberlour Child Care Trust

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mrs Mackenzie Ms Mackenzie
2.	POLICE REPORT
2.1	Constable Smyth reported that the incidences in Tain includes 2 disorder offences; 2 shoplifting charges; 4 road traffic offences; 1 drink driving. A number of questions related to shoplifting were raised by members and responded to by Constable Smyth.
3.	ABERLOUR CHILD CARE TRUST
3.1	Representatives of the company had been invited to attend a meeting of the Community Council in response to significant concerns raised previously by the Police over the excessive number of times they had been called out to the premises. Mr Macdonald welcomed the visitors and reminded everyone of the problems being experienced in and around the house on Morangie Road and the wider community area. Mr Wallace confirmed there had been changes to management at the premises and more experienced staff employed. Councillor Louden noted the company’s other premises were at Inverness and Fort William (bigger communities) and questioned whether Tain was not too small a town for the facility. Mr Macdonald asked how children resident at the house could become part of the community if they were not attending school locally. Mr Wallace responded to the effect he considered Tain suitable and efforts were being made to have residents engaging in local community activities. Constable Smyth explained police resources were limited and the obligatory searches for children reported missing were time consuming and potentially wasteful of resources. Mr Macdonald reported the Fire Brigade had been called to the premises 5 times between December and February. Mr Wallace advised a Community Liaison worker had been appointed to work with neighbours, the community, Fire and Police. Elsewhere covers had been put on the fire alarms to prevent accidental activation. Mr Munro asked the Police whether Aberlour were causing difficulties for the service. Constable Smyth responded the care system had a difficult job trying to improve lifestyles without resorting to punishment. This meant sometimes there were no consequences for actions and often situations got worse before they got better. Mr Macdonald thanked Aberlour and the Police for their input and wished the former well in their ongoing service improvements
4.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES

	<p>Mr Macdonald confirmed his understanding Mr Parkes had lodged his planning appeal in respect of his renovation works at Esther Place. The CC stood ready to confirm its support if called upon. Regarding Woody Braes, the Ward Manager had confirmed the need for public liability insurance ruled out the prospect of voluntary effort being used to help minimise planting costs, a problem made all the more difficult by the steep nature of the slope. Tain Development Trust are showing an interest in the temporary utilisation of the former Co-op shop premises on Stafford Street as a base for their operation. It needs some internal works to render it suitable for use and may apply to the BTCWF for assistance on the basis they provide a community wide benefit. Mr Macdonald had met with Ronnie McRae of HSCHT with a view to partnering the CC in the acquisition of the site under Community Empowerment legislation of the former playing fields for a small development of 4 houses. Members agreed the CC should register a formal interest on this basis. Mr Macdonald notified the CC of the resignation of CC member Brian McAngus. The Ward Manager had advised the number of full members was low to the point an election would be necessary should the total fall below 5.5. Any spaces would be open to applications from the electorate and the current co-optees would be obliged to stand should they wish to continue on the CC.</p>
10.	VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT
10.1	Mr Amos reported the areas of Tain were poorly gritted compared to some other towns. The town had not been cleared of the recent heavy snowfalls as efficiently as the likes of Alness but accepted the weather event appeared to have been an anomaly. However it was apparent annual budget cuts had contributed to the Council's inability to respond in a flexible manner to matters of road maintenance. Mr Macdonald offered to write Mr Gilfillan to seek assurances of a better response next time, not just for Tain but Highland wide.
11.	FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT
11.1	Mr Louden circulated an up to date statement of the CC accounts on behalf of Mrs Mackenzie. circulated the up to date financial position. These were noted.
12.	LETTERS - None
13.	PLANNING MATTERS – Glenmorangie Distillery(Proposed Oyster Farm in Dornoch Firth) Discussed and supported.
14.	COMMON GOOD FUND – no discussion
15.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
15.1	

	<p>Facebook – none. Cemeteries Mr Louden continuing to press for tidying up work t the old St Duthus cemetery. Mussel Fisheries – Mr Louden to continue to pursue with relevant officials the current status of the Licence. Website – no discussion Trees and green environment – no discussion</p>
16.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
16.1	Mr Amos produced some samples of sausage rolls prepared by Mrs Amos for the approval of members and for potential use at the next Old Folks Party, as opposed to purchasing from an external source. Members were impressed with the quality and agreed accordingly.
16.2	Mr Macdonald drew attention to the Court House bins which sat permanently at the corner of the Clock Tower beside the public bench. These were unsightly and he recommended he consult with the CH staff to seek their removal to the gravelled area on the Castle Brae side of the building. Members agreed.
16.3	Mr Macdonald suggested that the Improving Public Access Fund might be used to improve the informal path on the north side of Tain River between the Alexandra and Black Bridges, to provide a better circular walking route.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10.30 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 30 APRIL 2018