

**Minute of the meeting of the Community Council
held in the Council Chamber, Tain
at 7.30 PM on Monday 25th March 2019**

Present: Neil Munro (Chair), George Amos (Vice-chair),
Gerald Holdsworth, David McAllister, Alan Mohan, Clifford Piper

In attendance: Derek Louden (Highland Councillor)

1.	Apologies for absence
1.1	Liz Mackay (Secretary), Sarah Mackenzie, David Macrae
1.2	The Chair announced that he had received a letter of resignation from Caroline Mackenzie. She was resigning both as Treasurer and as a member of TCC for family reasons. He had sent a letter thanking her for her excellent service to TCC.
2.	Community Councillor's declaring an interest (if required) None
3.	Police Report No police were in attendance but the Chair had received The Police Report for the Tain Area for 25 th February to 25 th March by e-mail from Sergeant Joanne Thomson. Incidents: Vandalism 3; Drug Offences 0; Disorder/Assault 3; Domestic Offences 1; Shoplifting 4; Road traffic offences 3. A number of people were cautioned and charged with road traffic offences due to pro-active spot checks. 2 persons charged with speeding offences. A reasonably settled month. 3 of the shopliftings had been detected. Diesel /had been stolen in the industrial estate. The persons responsible had not been identified.
4.	Approval of Minutes of meeting of 28th January 2019 Proposed: Clifford Piper Seconded: George Amos
5.	Matters Arising
5.1	ASDA path – there were still flooding problems. Flooding also ran from the path onto Knockbreck Road.
5.2	Health Centre Bus Stop The Chair had contacted James Mooney (Manager at Inverness). He would take up the matter of the lack of associated service with the commercial team. The major problem was the turn from Manse Street into St.Duthus Street which is too tight for a bus which had come down Craighill Terrace. We had suggested turning up Scotsburn Road and then turning to come back down. The Chair had had no response to phone call and e-mail today. Cllr. Louden would also take up this matter.
5.3	Bins at the Clock Tower The Chair had spoken to the new Sheriff's Clerk, Christina Phiri. She had checked the previous e-mail correspondence and discussed matters. They had the following reservations: unsuitable surface, no light and unclear who owns the land as they required permission from the landowner. They would also require an assessment from the Fire Service that it was safe and not obstructing their access to the back of the building. We believe the Fire Service has already been consulted but that could be checked. Members also pointed out that the area that the Court Service were using for storage of their bins (the pavement) was not their land!

<p>5.4</p> <p>5.5</p>	<p>Community Fridge Lyndsey Gilmore from the Community Fridge was present and the Chair invited her to speak now rather than under Item 10.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The idea had been introduced through discussion with Carrie Affrin (TDDT) • The Fridge operates out of the Tain Guide Hut on Sutherland Street. Lyndsey organises the group and they have 20 volunteers who help with staffing it. • Food is obtained at the moment from Morrisons, Alness and the Coop, Tain. Food is useable but unsaleable due to company policies e.g. multipacks which have been damaged but most of the items OK but not saleable as separate items. ASDA Tain had been approached but company policies made it difficult for local excess to be distributed. • Open five times per week. • Not about food poverty but waste reduction. However it can help in food poverty situations and both the Service Point and Health Centre are cooperating with the initiative. Important for community contact for some people. • In the longer term may develop community meals and they were interested in finding a Community Growing Space. <p>The Chair thanked Lyndsey for her contribution and for the work they were doing for the community. There followed discussion of suitable land for a possible Community Growing Space. TCC offered to provide letters of support where needed and the Chair raised the possibility of a little financial support through the Ben Tharsuinn fund.</p> <p>Play Parks Lyndsey was also involved with the group which had been set up to oppose the removal of play equipment from local play parks without consultation. This had happened in a number of areas locally and there was considerable anger in the town about the removal of equipment from the Glebe Crescent park in the last week. There would be a meeting to discuss the situation in the Guide Hut on Thursday (28th March) at 11:00 am. Cllr. Louden would attend if the group felt that was appropriate. He explained that Play Ireland were the independent assessors for such equipment in the Highlands. If they deemed items to be unsafe they could remove them immediately without notification to the Council or the local community. There was considerable discussion of the situation. It was felt that it was very unlikely the Highland Council would replace equipment, as they did not have a statutory obligation to do this and in the present financial climate non-statutory obligations were very low in priority. The legal situation regarding the developer's obligation to provide play parks was questioned. Cllr. Louden said that there were discussions regarding this in a number of the places where equipment had been removed.</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Youth Issues No report received.</p>
<p>8.</p>	<p>Tain & District Development Trust No report received.</p>
<p>9.</p> <p>9.1</p> <p>9.2</p> <p>9.3</p> <p>9.4</p> <p>9.5</p>	<p>Highland Councillor's report – Cllr. Derek Louden</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Mackenzie and Lachie Stewart had joined the Tain Heritage Trust board. The most urgent work at the Old Cinema was replacement of one of the pillars and work on the floor. • A9 junction work should have started this evening. • Post Office – there had been very positive discussions with David Duff (Area Network Change Manager). The PO would reopen under new management on 23rd April. In the interim there would be a PO Van available in Tain 2 days per week. • Play equipment removal – discussed above. • Rose garden wall – HC had agreed that they were responsible for the wall. It would need to be stripped down and repointed but the stone was in very poor condition and some would need

<p>9.6</p> <p>9.7</p> <p>9.8</p> <p>9.9</p>	<p>replaced, All three councillors were on the case. A price for the work had not been decided yet.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3-18 Campus – This would come before the May Care & Learning Committee and they would rule on site selection. Members expressed concerns that the original TRA site was still in the mix despite the considerable local opposition. • Capital Budget – this would be finalised in April. • Croft Arthur – there were offers in under the Starter Farm scheme despite the fact that local councillors had been discussing other outcomes for the land with HC officers. • Education Changes – members expressed concerns about the proposed changes to the structuring of support for pupils with additional support needs designations. Cuts to additional support needs (ASNs) teachers and pupil support assistants (PSAs) seemed to be aiming cuts at the most vulnerable in the school population. Cllr louden said that the Chief Executive, who had a background in education, had done a comparative study of support in Highland compared to other regions. We were paying more for poorer outcome. TCC expressed grave doubts about the possibility of improving all classroom teachers ability to support such pupils could be achieved in the 3 year time scale proposed. The Area Education Manager for Easter & Mid Ross was Derek Martin and concerned parents should contact him.
<p>10.</p>	<p>Community Opportunity Dealt with under §5 above.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Chair's Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A letter had been received from Kevin McKechnie (Strategic Road Safety Manager for BEAR Scotland) outlining the work to carried out at the Tain A9 junctions and possible future works. • Tim Stott (Development Plans Team) had proposed attending the next TCC meeting to outline the planned changes in the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan. It was agreed that he should be invited. • Gavin Ward had updated and expanded the “Discover Tain and Easter Ross” he produced for Tain Initiative last year. This is an important contribution to putting Tain on the tourist map and TCC would send thanks to him for the work he puts in on behalf of the town. 10,000 copies were being printed of this year’s booklet.
<p>12.</p> <p>12.1</p> <p>12.2</p>	<p>Vice-Chair's Report</p> <p>When checking the Rose Garden wall (see§9.5 above) George had also checked the benches he had refurbished last year. All were in good condition. However he noticed that a rock had been thrown into the fountain damaging the grill and money had been removed. He had straightened the grill and re-secured it.</p> <p>He had noted a problem with a car parked on the zig-zag at the pedestrian crossing almost leading to an accident. Attempts to report this on the Police 101 line were unsuccessful!</p>
<p>13.</p>	<p>Finance and Treasurer’s Report No report</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Letters Already covered in various items above.</p>
<p>15.</p>	<p>Planning Matters None</p>
<p>16.</p>	<p>Common Good Fund The hoped for lease of the Market Street Stalls had fallen through.</p>

17.	Unexhausted Remits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Facebook items The agenda for this meeting had been posted on the Facebook page. This would be done in future.
	- Beinn Tharsuinn Community Ltd
	- Cemetery
	- Mussel Fishing
	- Website development
	- Trees and Green Environment
	- 3-18 School Campus
	- Senior Citizen's Party
18.	Any Other Business
18.1	The pothole at the Geanies Street-Stafford Street junction was raised by two members. This had been fixed by HC several months ago but had completely collapsed again. While there are many potholes around the town this one is situated where it could cause damage or possibly an accident by drivers trying to avoid it.

The meeting ended at 10:15 pm.