

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7.30 PM IN THE COUNCIL
CHAMBER, TAIN**

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

In attendance: Mr Louden/Mr Rhind – Highland Councillors

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mr Macrae, Mrs Mackenzie and Mr Parkes
2.	COMMUNITY COUNCILLOR’S DECLARING AN INTEREST – Mr Mohan declared an interest in Mussel Fishery and Mr McAllister declared an interest in Glenmorangie Distillery regarding receiving hospitality at the Tain Highland Gathering.
3.	POLICE REPORT
3.1	Mr Munro read out the Police statistics for September – there were 3 case of vandalism, drug case - 1, disorder/assault 4, Domestic offences – 5, shoplifting – 4, road traffic offences – 12. It’s been a busy period with Police Officer’s undertaking foot patrols, including in the Rose Garden.
4.	GLENMORANGIE DISTILLERY UPDATE
4.1	Mr A Macdonald, Mr E Thom, Mr Torry and Mr Nelson gave an update on what is happening at the Distillery including the gas plant up and running – this has allowed the environmental footprint to be reduced by 30%. The new part of the Distillery will be operation in January – it’s a space for new innovations of Whisky. Leaflets on the DEEP project were handed out. This project includes introducing native oysters to the Firth, cumulating in 40 hectares of them. The project is led by Herriot Watt University and the Marine Conservation Society. There is an outreach guide post supported by the Marine Conservation Trust. They want to keep the Firth clean and not introduce any bad mater. The representatives would like to encourage a path from the town to the Distillery. After further discussion it was suggested that a path project would be best pursued by the Tain & District Development Trust (TDDT). The Distillery would like to purchase electricity from the Solar Panel project, but it was noted that there are issues to be resolved commercially.
5.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
5.1	The notes of the meeting held on 30 September 2019 were approved by Mr McAllister, and seconded by Mr Mohan.
6.	MATTERS ARISING

6.1	Ref Annual Grant – Mr Louden reported that the annual grant had now been received. The 2 nd part of the grant was paid but the amount is incorrect – it should be higher – Mr Louden to follow up.
6.2	Ref Parish of St John Ogilvy – Mr Munro clarified that he had got advice that there is a strict criteria for accessing funding. Mr Munro to send the email around from Helen Ross. Mr Louden declared an interest in this item.
7.	YOUTH ISSUES
7.1	Mr Munro reported Mr Parkes had no issues to raise this month.
8.	TAIN & DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT TRUST – no report
9.	HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT
9.1	Mr Rhind’s report - Mr Rhind indicated that Sandy was at the meeting to explain about the Christmas Lights. He reported that some of the lights are ok and some are damaged – the lights are 9 years old. The cost of fixing the lights is around £8,000. It is planned to put an application in to the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Company (Liz Mackay to do), plus an application to the Ward Discretionary Fund (Mr Louden to do). Mr Rhind is working with the TDDT on the Christmas Market to advertise local shops. Any thoughts on who should switch on the Christmas Lights to contact Mr Rhind. Mr Louden’s report – Mr Louden is looking at Highland Council’s account, which has a projected overspend, but is trying to be reigned in. There are savings on additional needs, but parents are concerned – teachers are being asked to take on a bigger burden and taking help away. The 3-18 campus has received funding from the Scottish Government, and the site is selected. Mr Louden gave credit to Mrs Robertson and Mr Rhind for all the work they have done on this matter. Mr Louden indicated that there are potholes everywhere, and not a lot of funding to repair them. New poles are going up on the pavements, and there is 1 hour parking in Tower Street. The 2 projects chosen for Tain for Scottish Government funding is improvement works on King Street carpark and reglazing/propping up the floor of the old Picture House. A committee in Inverness has been formed to choose projects to go forward. Mr Louden has visited Knockbreck and Craighill Primary schools, plus Tain Royal Academy. Highland Council pension fund is fully funded. Questions were asked whether Aberlour Children’s Home was closing and parking in Mansfield Estate.
10.	COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY
10.1	Mr Ackroyd spoke to the CC about the parking permits on Geanies Street. Shane Manning, Highland Council parking is willing to attend a Community Council meeting to discuss permits. It was noted that Jamie Stone MP has written to Mr Manning on the parking matter.
11.	CHAIR’S REPORT

11.1	Mr Munro indicated this was the last meeting of the current Community Council as elections are coming up. Thanks was given to Mr McAllister as this is his last meeting as he is stepping down – he will keep Facebook ongoing until a new replacement comes forward. Thanks to Mr Munro as Chair, was given.
12.	VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT
12.1	Mr Amos reported he attended the Beinn Tharsuinn AGM and there was over £3,000 in community funds available. He was contacted by the Press & Journal newspaper for a quote on all the accidents on the A9. It was noted that there is no public meeting on these accidents at present. It was noted that there is a consultation on a 50 mph speed limit on the A9 passed Tain. Progress depends on responses. Repairing the benches is ongoing. The flowerbaskets have been cleared away – thanks was given to Mr Amos for all his work on that. The Senior Citizen's Party will take place on 11 th January – there isn't a price as yet but could be around £150 – he wishes more entertainment.
13	FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT
13.1	An up-to-date financial report was circulated. Part year accounts were circulated.
14.	LETTERS - none
15.	PLANNING MATTERS
15.1	Erection of garage, Highmills, Tain – no comment. Erection of HGV test centre, new access/parking – no comment.
16.	COMMON GOOD FUND – no report
17.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
17.1	Trees and Green Environment – it was noted that the weeds are bad on the pavement and street. Round-up solution no longer used as potentially dangerous to health. Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Company/3-18 campus/Senior Citizen's party – discussed previously. Cemeteries – Gates do not close at the Old Cemetery – with rabbits being a problem. It was agreed to looking at putting ferrets in. Fencing a problem at the Old Chapel and is being looked at. Facebook – discussed previously. Website Development – Mr McAllister will upkeep the site until a new person is appointed. Mussel Fisheries – it was noted that if ever the proposed oysters in the Firth wished to be harvested they would have to pay the Community Council.
18.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS
18.1	It was noted that some public have been saying some of the new LED lights are too bright, and some are saying they are not bright enough. Mr Munro thanked Mrs Mackay for all her work.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS STILL TO BE DETERMINED