

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 31 MARCH 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

Present: Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr G Amos
Mr D Louden (Treasurer) Mr D MacIvor
Mr N Munro (Vice-Chair) Mr Mohan
Mrs C Mackenzie

In attendance: Mr A Rhind – Highland Councillor
Constable R Mackenzie – Police Service of Scotland

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms Weir, Mr Torrance, Mr McAllister, Mrs Robertson and Mr Stone.

2. POLICE REPORT

2.1 Constable Mackenzie reported that during the month of March that were a couple of drug searches, lots of road traffic offences (no seatbelts, using mobile phones whilst driving, etc). Alness/Invergordon area has come back with the Tain area. Questions were asked and answered regarding parking at the Bargain Centre, cars going through the zebra crossing, spinning cars at the Links football pitch car park Tower Street traffic, tree planting at the Links, jack knifed lorry at the Dornoch Bridge, and the opening hours of the Police Station.

3. CATRIONA GRIGG – SECTARIANISM IN THE HIGHLANDS

3.1 Ms Grigg indicated that the Community Safety Research Programme was Government funded. There are 44 projects across Scotland, with only 1 in the Highlands. The Project is run by Highlife Highland through the Brora Community Learning Centre. Ms Grigg is going round talking to the clergy, to Community Councils, the community groups, football clubs and book clubs. One of the aims of the project is to prepare young people for inappropriate sectarianism behaviour and if encountered to stand up against it. At the end of the Project a report will be published. The mood of the meeting was that sectarianism was not now nor in the past a problem in the local area.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 24 February were approved by Mr Amos and seconded by Mrs Mackenzie.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 **Item 5.5 ref the Foodbank.** Mr Louden reported that he had met Mr Nutt again, and the idea of

purchasing a piece of equipment with the £200 was put forward. As the sole purpose of the grant was to buy food, Mr Nutt is considering the options with regards to possible alternative sources of equipment funding. Mr Louden will report back at the next meeting.

5.2 **Item 3.1 ref Saipem.** Mr Macdonald reported that following the presentation he wrote to Mr Yorston and confirmed the support, in principle, of the Community Council for the development.

5.3 **Item 5.4 ref Fire Brigade presentation.** Mr Macdonald reported that the presentation went well, and staff were appreciative of the gift. A report on all the incidents the Fire Brigade attended during the last month was circulated. The Local Fire Officer agreed to provide monthly briefings of call outs. This was welcomed.

5.4 **Item 7.1 ref Castle Brae wall.** It was noted that the workmanship of the repaired wall on Castle Brae was excellent.

6. YOUTH ISSUES

6.1 Mr Smith and Miss Moffat reported that the exams are coming up soon. There was a Youth Philanthropy Day where Year 2 pupils chose a charity they wished to support. They undertook a presentation to say why their chosen charity should win. The winner was “Made in Tain” – the prize being £3,000. During the month Lord Marinkelly and a holocaust survivor visited the School to tell their stories. Spring Fling summer dance happening this week. The Rector Mr Macleod is retiring soon. It was agreed that if Mr Smith or Miss Moffat required a reference to help with future employment opportunities to contact the Community Council.

7. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR REPORT

7.1 **Mrs Rhind’s report.** Mr Rhind reported that the Youth Philanthropy Day was funded by the Ian Wood Family Trust. The Town Centre Charette will take place on 23/24 April – details out soon. There is an amended plan for the Service Point of consulting the communities affected. There is a Working Board looking at this with delegated powers. The snagging work with Asda has been completed. The Cemetery extension will be started on 14 April. The collapsing manhole has been fixed. Whilst the walls at Castle Brae have been repaired, the pointing work has to be completed. The damaged road signs on the A9 have been repaired. Concern about most of the road signs on the A9 have been expressed – Mr Rhind to discuss this with BEAR Scotland. Mr Amos reported that some cats eyes have been removed – Mr Rhind to mention to BEAR. It is hoped that a planning application will be lodged soon for the cabins for the St Duthus School. Mr Rhind still pursuing regarding the tress at Hartfield Gardens. Helen Ross is preparing a Common Good Fund report on the budget for 2014/15 for the Ross & Cromarty Area Committee – budget may be around £12,000 for the year. The Mussel Fishery doing quite well at present and Mr Hamilton confident that the figures will not be in the red. The boat requires some work and a boatyard and costings are being investigated. A Common Good Fund application from the Youth Café has been received, but the costs will be covered by the Discretionary spend monies. In addition, a Brownie trip will be covered by the Discretionary spend also. A Common Good application from the Golf Club for the purchase of a motor machine may come before the Community Council in future. The tenders are in for the repair work at the Alexandra Bridge – Mr Rhind will report the outcome at the next meeting. There are new lights and kerbs at Glebe Crescent. Highland Council are upgrading the path at the Links from the car park towards the boating pond as they have access some funding for this. The

manhole cover at Duthac House is deteriorating/holes at Shore Road wall – Mr Rhind to investigate.

8. COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY - none

9. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - the outgoing correspondence list was noted.

10. CHAIR'S REPORT

10.1 Mr Macdonald reported back from the Community Council training – there was a presentation on the planning system. Mr Macdonald noted that there was no structure in place for feedback to the CC for its comments disregarded.. As a Community Council (CC) we could benefit from a response, as a collective objector. Twice recently we have had requests to withdraw our objections to allow applications to be dealt with under delegated powers. Best Mr Jones could offer was for the CC to read the Planners reports and talk to him if not happy with the way the CC representation was handled. Mr Macdonald and Mr Amos visited the new Care Home to look at the bin provision and access for uplift with the site foreman, and all looked ok. The approved plans had been superseded by appropriate works on the ground. The Scottish Court Service Listed Building Consent planning application had been approved by the Planning Committee, and the planning application withdrawn as it was deemed un-necessary. After discussion, the CC expressed their disappointment at the decision whereby we were unable to influence the listed building concerns – protection of the bell rope, internal fittings, tower access and the Mercat Cross. The anti-social behaviour on the street remained a huge concern and the preferred option was for the SCS to consider relocation to the old Duthac House. During the training there was mention of associated members of the Community Council – this was discussed and it was agreed Mr Macdonald would investigate this further. Mr Macdonald highlighted that people need to get from the High Street to the new Health Centre. The new supermarkets had each been asked to make substantial financial contributions to ensure the provision of a local public transport system. After discussion Mr Rhind agreed to check the bus times and routes as these had been changed to meet the needs of the Health Centre only recently. As an aside it was noted that some buses speed along St Vincent Road.

11. VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – none

12. FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

12.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date finance report. He reported that the school donations monies had been taken out of this year's funding. The plaque for the Fire Brigade gift cost £25. The accounts are being finalised in preparation for the audit.

13. LETTERS

13.1 **Thank you letter.** A thank you letter has been received from Mrs Stone for the flowers given following her recent illness.

13.2 **Beatrice Off Shore Windfarm** – granted by the Scottish Government. **Active Communities in Scotland Health Trust event on 3rd April** – note. **Interim Survivors of sexual violence in Highland information poster** – to be passed to the Service Point. **Keep Scotland Beautiful**

information – pass to David McAllister. **Green Transport Strategy** – David Macdonald to look at and report back if required. **Coastal Communities Fund re-opened** – David Macdonald to look at eligibility criteria, and report back at next meeting, if appropriate. **People’s Millions open for Business** – pass to the Tain and Easter Ross Civic Trust. **Service Points** – noted amended position.

13.3 **Tain and Easter Ross Civic Trust Hidden Tain project.** A request has been received from Tain and Easter Ross Civic Trust to provide a letter of support for a revised Hidden Tain project – this was agreed.

13.4 **Fifth Reviews of the Local Government Electoral Arrangements – Publication of Proposals for Councillor Numbers** – it was agreed to send a letter of complaint regarding any drop in Councillor numbers.

13.4 **Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Ltd.** An application has been received from Tain Golf Club for the purchase of a new sprayer – requesting £2,000. After discussion, it was agreed to support this application.

14. PLANNING MATTERS

14.1 **2 houses at Bogbain** – noted approved. **Consultation of a biomass boiler, 1 Scotsburn Court** – support. **15 house plots, Craighill** – support. **Shandwick House, Chapel Street – conversion to Guest House** – support.

15. **COMMON GOOD FUND** – not heard any update re £800 refund – Mr Rhind to follow up.

16. UNEXHAUSTED REMITS

16.1 **Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm** – there is a meeting to move the Windfarm Company to 100% community run. It was agreed to suggest to have Mr Louden as an alternative Director. Mr Macdonald will report back from the meeting. **Mussel Fishery** – discussed earlier.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 **Community Windfarm** – Mr Louden confirmed we are still awaiting information on this matter.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.45 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 28 APRIL 2014