

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

**Present:** Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr D Louden (Treasurer)  
 Ms S Weir Mr D McAllister  
 Mr N Munro (Vice-Chair) Mrs Mackenzie  
 Mr McColl (TRA rep)

**In attendance:** Mr Rhind - Highland Councillor

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – Mr Robertson and Mr Mohan
<b>2.</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> – no report
<b>3.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 January 2015 were approved by Ms Weir, and seconded by Mr Louden, subject to 6.2 “Mrs Rhind, should read “Mr Rhind”.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
4.1	<b>Item 4.1 ref Language School.</b> Mr Macdonald indicated that he has been emailing re this visit and is awaiting suitable dates for this, or next week.
4.2	<b>Item 4.3 ref Tain Charette.</b> Mr Macdonald reported that an email had been received regarding another consultation meeting for the Charette on 23 March. It was noted that where possible communities should take on the promotion of the projects highlighted. Mr Rhind indicated this was asking too much of the community and Tain really should have a Project Officer to help realise its aspirations – this was supported by the meeting. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Highland & Islands Enterprise to enquire as to what support may be available to Tain in terms of a Project Officer, and ask for HIE possibly to attend a meeting of the Community Council (CC).
4.3	<b>Item 6.1 ref Asda path.</b> Mr Macdonald reported that he has been in touch with Asda over the poor state of the path, and they gave a positive response.
4.4	<b>Item 14.1 ref Common Good Fund.</b> It was noted that there has not been a meeting with regard to the Common Good Fund due to holidays of an official. Mr Macdonald trying to progress this matter.
4.5	<b>Item 12.2 ref Lunch Club meeting.</b> Mr Louden reported he had attended the Lunch Club meeting. The group is talking to the Free Church who may take this project on. including the cooking. Someone with a food and hygiene certificate needs to be involved.
<b>5.</b>	<b>YOUTH ISSUES</b>
5.1	Mr Jamie McColl, Vice Captain, reported from Tain Royal Academy (TRA) that the S3 parents evening had been held and the S4 and S5 ones were happening soon.

	<p>The Options information event was being held this week. There are plans for an Easter Ceilidh. There are quite a few pupils in charge of the Year Book. Hoodies are being organised for the leavers. There are plans for a cross-country event. The pre-lims have just finished.</p>
<p><b>6.</b></p> <p>6.1</p>	<p><b>MORANGIE ROAD A9 JUNCTION</b></p> <p>This agenda item was put on as there were 3 car crashes in the space of a week recently. Concerns have been expressed to the Police, and the correspondence is ongoing with Transport Scotland, as these types of incidents can not be allowed to continue without comment. The response will be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <p>Discussion took place regarding the intrusion of a vehicle onto the grassed embankment at the Links above the play park. It had been noted Roads did not consider a safety barrier necessary. Maybe, however, a planted barrier could be introduced to prevent access at this point by vehicles unknown. Mr Rhind to investigate.</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p> <p>7.1</p>	<p><b>HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b></p> <p><b>Mr Rhind's report.</b> Mr Rhind reported that the trees have not yet been cut back on the A9 by-pass. Updated proposals have not been forthcoming with regard any move of the Post Office. The Committee report of the 3-18 year old School Campus was agreed. The next stage is to set up a stakeholders group to progress the project. The TRA Rectors post has been re-advertised. There is a report on the Alexandra Bridge going to the Resources Committee – one of the recommendations is that more money is allocated out of the Common Good Fund, and a decrease in the amount from the Capital Discretionary Budget. The balances that can be used in the Common Good Fund are higher than first thought. It was noted that the CC were not consulted on this matter, and that procurement rules say that the contract for the repairs has to be awarded within the next few days or it would have to go out to re-tender again. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Maxine Smith, who is the Chair of the Committee, and Mr Rhind indicated that he would try to arrange a meeting with Mrs Robertson/Mr Stone with a view to making an amendment to the report. Mr Rhind is not sure whether the broken cover at Shandwick Street has been fixed. The repairs to the Murray Monument are being dealt with. Mr Rhind has asked that the repairs to the Old Academy wall be fixed. The portacabins have been put by Duthac House – they may be used elsewhere. Mr Munro indicated that a tree rootball needs to be taken away at the Woody Braes – Mr Rhind will get someone to look at this. Recent storms had caused much damage at Woody Braes this Winter and maintenance falls upon the CGF. It was noted that the Mussel fishing boat hasn't been dry docked for some time – Mr Rhind will get an update on this. Concern was raised about the ability of the CGF to cope with the imminent demands of Alexandra Bridge, Mussel Boat and Woody Braes. Mrs Mackenzie asked that a dog waste bin be placed at Camore Drive – Mr Rhind to process.</p>
<p><b>8.</b></p>	<p><b>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY</b></p>

8.1	<p>Ms Williams indicated that there has been a plea for the junction at Tomich to be improved. It was confirmed representations had already been made in respect of the inadequacies of the junction at the time of the Incinerator planning application and it was competent for Tain CC to take an interest given it was a route used regularly by Tain residents. I was noted that the pavement at the electricity sub-station on Scotsburn Road is being restricted by overhanging shrubs and dead branches. Castle Brae by the Collegiate Church often looks neglected (although cut recently). It was suggested that the Street Cleaners could vary their route to include this area. Mr Rhind to progress this item. Arising out of this item was a discussion on the maintenance of the lower garden of the Collegiate Church. It was agreed that Mr Macdonald and Mr McAllister would look at the item under the Green Environment agenda item.</p>
9.	<p><b>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE</b> – correspondence emailed round previously</p>
10.	<p><b>CHAIR’S REPORT</b></p>
10.1	<p>Mr Macdonald reported that the ‘Mussel Man’ has been saved and a permanent home is being sought. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Morangie Distillery to see if they were interested in displaying the artwork, in view of their recent Dornoch Firth environmental project. Mr Macdonald remained concerned Highland Council still were not taking the community’s concerns seriously over the design and layout of the 3-18 Campus and hoped they did not proceed to produce an ‘off the shelf’ design solution. He expressed the hope the Highland Councillors would be able to keep on top of officials to ensure an appropriate end result. There is a Ward Forum meeting on 18 March in Invergordon– the subject being Windfarms.</p>
11.	<p><b>VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT</b> - none</p>
12.	<p><b>FINANCE AND TREASURER’S REPORT</b></p>
12.1	<p>Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. A Ward Discretionary Grant application is going to be submitted for the Senior Citizen’s Party and the Christmas Lights.</p>
13.	<p><b>LETTERS</b></p>
13.1	<p>Creative Scotland are funding a “Scone of Destiny” play. It was agreed after discussion to contact them with a view to seeing if they would do an event in Tain in April/May – along with the Pipe Band and Highland dancers.</p>
14.	<p><b>PLANNING MATTERS</b></p>
14.1	<p><b>Proposed Windfarm – Hill of Nigg.</b> It was noted that the CC had previously put in an objection to this development. After discussion, it was agreed to repeat the previous objection in so far as the development might affect the Tain area..  <b>Proposed alteration and extension to house, 12 Morangie Forest, Tarlogie –</b></p>

	support.
<b>15.</b>	<b>COMMON GOOD FUND</b> – spoken about previously.
<b>16.</b>	<b>UNEXHAUSTED REMITS</b>
16.1	<b>Beinn Tharsuinn</b> – no report. <b>Alexandra Bridge/3-8 Campus</b> –discussed earlier. <b>Mussel Fisheries</b> – some years of losses. Noted some orders going away. <b>Website Development</b> – Mr McAllister put up emergency numbers last month. It was suggested to have a photo of the Mussel man on the website. <b>Green environment</b> – The Task Force had a clean up of the Pond. Some trees down as a result of the storm. <b>Cemetery</b> – the landscaping has gone ahead and is maintenance free. Wish for trees around some of the boundaries. Arising out of this item was a discussion on dumping by the Links.
<b>17.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>
17.1	<b>Poster.</b> Mr Macdonald circulated the proposed wording for the poster warning the public of the cost of parking on the zebra crossing and the zig zag lines.
17.2	<b>Snowman Rally.</b> It was noted that this event went well. There were around 300 cars parked, so fewer cars parked on the road.
17.3	<b>Duthac Centre.</b> It was noted that the funding for the Duthac Centre is being reduced, and may be reduced further in forthcoming years.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 10 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS TUESDAY 31 MARCH 2015**