

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

**Present:** Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr G Amos  
Mr D Louden (Treasurer) Ms S Weir  
Mr A Mohan Mr D MacIvor  
Mr D McAllister Mr N Munro (Vice-Chair)

**In attendance:** Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson - Highland Councillor's  
Mr A Somerville - Transport Scotland  
Mr M Stretch/Mr T Paterson – BEAR Scotland  
Mr J Coetzee – TRA  
Ms I Carrison – Alzheimer's Scotland

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mrs C MacKenzie</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b>
2.1	No report, but it was noted that they sent a message that they were unable to attend.
<b>3.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 27 October 2014 were approved by Mr Louden, and seconded by Mr Mohan.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
4.1	<b>Item 17.1 ref Language School.</b> Mr Macdonald reported that he has contacted the Language School and hoped to have a date to visit soon.
4.2	<b>Alzheimer's Scotland.</b> Ms Carrison reported the Alzheimer's Group were still in Duthac House. However, they are moving to the Red Cross building within the next 2 weeks. The service in Ross-shire is being expanded. There is going to be a drop in centre and a lunch club. If this event goes well, they want to fund raise for a mini-bus. Ms Carrison invited Community Councillor's to visit the new facility once it is up and running.
<b>5.</b>	<b>WOODLAND MANAGEMENT, TAIN – PRESENTATION BY ALASTAIR SOMERVILLE, AREA MANAGER, NORTH, TRANSPORT SCOTLAND AND BEAR</b>
5.1	Mr Somerville circulated a paper on the proposed woodland management for parts of the A9 on a phased basis. Some trees will be cut and others planted. Future proposed operations to be carried out, and should be completed in a manner that it ensures it develops in a healthy manner and stays in keeping with the location. The scale of the works is needed to secure a properly managed scheme. Discussion on how best to notify the adjacent home owners ensued, and it was agreed that letters would be hand delivered to affected individuals asking for comments and they can be channelled through BEAR, Mr Rhind or Mr Macdonald. It was also agreed that there would be a 14 day consultation period. Mr Macdonald thanked Mr Somerville for the long awaited works to the trees at Hartfield Gardens.

5.2	On another note, it was intimated that the Glenmorangie Distillery and Morangie Road A9 junctions are dangerous and the CC is worried about accidents happening. Mr Somerville agreed to look into this matter and report back. It was also noted that there are works planned for the Morangie junction within this financial year. Mr Amos raised the issue of the lack of cats eyes on the road on the A9, plus the fading white lines. Mr Somerville indicated that there are plans to re-invest in the infrastructure, when the budget permits.
<b>6.</b>	<b>YOUTH ISSUES</b>
6.1	Mr Coetzee reported a recent successful Parents evening, a WW1 play for Remembrance took place, and the School had a 4 minutes silence on 11/11/14 at 11 am. The Christmas Dance, and the cheques from the Charity Day are being organised. Inspectors have been to the School to consult with pupils on the proposed 3-18 year old campus, with a view to listening to the opinions of the pupils and taking these on board.
<b>7.</b>	<b>HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT</b>
7.1	<b>Mr Rhind's report.</b> Mr Rhind reported that the switch on of the Christmas lights will on 29 November. There is some expenditure for the Christmas lights – as much as £1,500. The Senior Citizen's Party is on 10 January. There is a Common Good Fund report going to the Area Committee. The tenders are back for the repairs to the Alexandra Bridge. More information will be available at the next meeting. Mr Rhind circulated a letter with regard to a potential move of the Post Office. There is a Ward Forum meeting on 10 December with regard to Police and Fire plans.
7.2	<b>Mrs Robertson's report.</b> A new Head Teacher has been appointed to Craighill Primary School. The proposed reduction in Primary School hours proposed as part of Highland Council's budget savings have been withdrawn. The weeds have been dealt with in the Mansfield Estate. There is no fence round the play park at Mansfield as yet, and are waiting on quotes. The St Duthus School plan for the mobile units was approved and they are being installed. Tain Task Force are getting a new cover for the polytunnel.
7.3	Questions were asked and answered on the flag in the Rose Garden/Crickety steps and Cunarder Lane steps/fireworks/Hogmanay party.
<b>8.</b>	<b>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY - none</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE</b> – all correspondence copied by email.
<b>10.</b>	<b>CHAIR'S REPORT</b>
10.1	Mr Macdonald reported that as part of the discussions with BEAR the overhanging trees at Hartfield Gardens have been dealt with. There have been problems with the Highland Council website links to the Community Council's own website and it is understood more effective contact details will ensue. The Beinn Tharsuinn Community Wind Farm Fund didn't have enough funding for the grant to the

	<p>Bowling Club, as money has been put aside for the repairs to the Alexandra Bridge. However, more funds are available in January which makes the payment possible. The Charette report went to Committee and has been previously circulated. As a result of the reminder of the Charette, Mr Macdonald contacted the Scottish Court Service as no response had been received to his letter of March 2014. He expressed disappointment the Charette Report saw the Court House use as a positive benefit to the High Street whereas the feeling of the Charrette attendees was the exact opposite. There will be an opportunity to respond to the Report. There are issues with the Bombing Range operating on a 7-day per week basis as an Army firing range, including the blocking of air space for local aviation enthusiasts – Mr Rhind has asked for a meeting with the Range management. There are proposals for the Nigg Port facility causing much consternation around the Cromarty Firth– Mr Louden declared an interest in this item. It was agreed that it was good to be kept informed as to what is happening in the area, and it could be viewed all development in the Cromarty Firth might be welcome in so far as hopefully it might prove beneficial for Tain.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT</b> – none.
<b>12.</b>	<b>FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT</b>
12.1	<p>Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. There are some costs still to come for this financial year. On another note, Mr Louden attended a meeting of the Rural Parliament. At the meeting the CC was presented with sheet music on the occasion of the 1<sup>st</sup> Scottish Rural Parliament. It was agreed to send a letter of thanks. There was a suggestion of bringing the Rural Parliament to the Tain area, with approaches to Glenmorangie Distillery possibly for sponsorship. On a separate note, Mrs Robertson reported that the “Effective Democracy – Reconnecting with Communities” was a very informative document and it was agreed to get copies for circulation. Mr Louden reported that he didn't progress the CC submission to the Smith Commission for the CC. The changes sought by Mrs Weir had weakened the submission and reservations expressed by Mr McAllister served to underline the difficulty is reaching consensus on such a wide ranging subject matter. Accordingly, Mr Louden had lodged a private comment only.</p>
<b>13.</b>	<b>LETTERS</b>
13.1	<p><b>Post Office (PO).</b> A letter of consultation has been received regarding a potential move to the RS McColl's shop on the High Street. After discussion wherein much concern was raised over the proposal, it was agreed to contact the PO and ask for clarification on a number of points before submitting a formal response.</p>
13.2	<p><b>Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.</b> An invitation to become a member of this organisation has been received. It was agreed to sign up to membership.</p>
13.3	<p><b>Tain Royal Academy.</b> Apologies for not coming to the meeting has been received from the Acting Rector. In his email Mr Chalmet asked that any management issues with the School go through himself or through the weekly drop-in session. This request was noted.</p>

	<b>Ward Forum Meeting – 10 December/Port of Nigg – spoke earlier. Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice questionnaire – noted.</b>
<b>14.</b>	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>
14.1	<b>Erection of house at Tigh Na Griene, Quebec Bridge</b> – Mr Macdonald had previously circulated this application to Members whilst declaring an interest. It was noted this was a MSC application following on from a previous grant of PIP.
<b>15.</b>	<b>COMMON GOOD FUND</b>
15.1	It was noted that the Common Good Fund accounts are in credit. There is an asset register of all the buildings/land for the Common Good Fund and there may be discrepancies – it was agreed to discuss the register with Highland Council in advance of the requirement anticipated through the Community Empowerment Bill.
<b>16.</b>	<b>UNEXHAUSTED REMITS</b>
16.1	<b>Beinn Tharsuinn/Alexandra Bridge/3-8 Campus</b> –discussed earlier. <b>Mussel Fisheries/Website Development/Green environment</b> – no update. <b>Cemetery</b> – meetings happening about the landscaping – it is a requirement that it is maintenance free.
<b>17.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>
17.1	<b>Collegiate Church Wall.</b> It was noted that there is a rose growing through and damaging the wall. Mr Rhind to raise the matter with officials.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 22.10 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 26 JANUARY 2015**