

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 25 AUGUST 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
Mrs C Mackenzie

In attendance: Mr Rhind - Highland Councillor
Constables MacLennan and Leslie – Police Service of Scotland
Mr Chalmet/Mr Coetzee – Tain Royal Academy

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

2. POLICE REPORT

2.1 Constable MacLennan reported that since the last meeting there has been 5 assaults, 1 drug incident, 3 thefts, 7 fixed penalties, and 3 serious crimes (enquiries ongoing). Incidents of cars parking on pavements or vans parked with the back on the pavement were reported. The Police indicated that these incidents should be reported to the Police, and they would speak to the registered keepers. Noisy cars and motorbikes were reported on Tower Street. Police indicated that they have a constant battle with racers.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 June 2014 were approved by Mr Amos, and seconded by Ms Mackenzie, subject to the wording in item 12 being changed to “public”.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Item 9.1 ref Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Ltd.** Mr Macdonald reported that a report on managing the fund is going to the Resources Committee. Most Community Councils wish for the status quo, and this is the recommendation of the report. If the status quo is not possible, our CC wishes the option of the Development Officer of the Kyle of Sutherland providing the admin for the fund at an approximate cost of between £70-£100.

4.2 **Item 4.2 ref presentation to Mr Bremner.** Mr Louden reported that the presentation of the Tain Pottery plate to Mr Bremner went well. A thank you letter from Mr Bremner has been received and was passed round.

5. YOUTH ISSUES

- 5.1 Mr Chalmet, Acting Head Teacher at TRA, and Mr Coetzee (TRA Captain) were welcomed to the Community Council. Apologies were received for the absence of the other TRA Captain. The school is trying to raise awareness of the new standard uniform. The school wishes to promote the local community, and is having an open event drop-in every Monday between 4-6 pm. The appointment of the Vice-Captain's will happen next week. The school is organising a sponsored walk, and a charity day. A 1st year buddy event will be also organised. The 1st years are settling in. The school, the School Board and Police Scotland are organising a drugs awareness event – date to be advised. It was noted that there are around 80 new 1st years. Mr Chalmet confirmed he considered this a healthy figure. Mr Macdonald asked after anticipated school projections and Mr Chalmet reckoned on approx. 10 over the next 4 years.

6. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

- 6.1 **Mr Rhind's report.** Mr Rhind reported that the planning application for the Special School is still ongoing – concerns from neighbours have been expressed. There is a great improvement in the grass cutting. The extension work on the cemetery has been completed. The issue of the overhanging trees at Hartfield Road is still ongoing. There have been positive meetings with regard to the funding of the Alexandra Bridger repairs. A report on the proposed 3-18 years old campus is going to the Care and Learning Committee – the preferred site is the current site of the school. Car parking is an issue, the 200 spaces proposed might not be enough. Mr Macdonald observed this was less than the car parking already serving TRA and the two primary Schools and expressed concerned the development was centred around replacing the existing educational provision and made no allowance for future expansion needs. He asked Mr Rhind if the plans included a swimming pool as this was not at all evident from the specification contained within the Report to Committee. Mr Macdonald also hoped the public consultation would be more effective than the recent open day in Tain. The improvement works to the path at the Children's play area at the Links has been completed. The hedge at the environmental garden has been cut. Substantial white lining has been done, and Mr Rhind is now pursuing having yellow lining done. Mr Amos reported that a flue outside a house in the Mansfield Estate was broken during work on the play park – Mr Rhind to pursue. Mr MacIvor enquired where the Alzheimer's day care is now held – Mr Rhind to clarify the situation.

7. COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY - none

8. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - noted

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 9.1 Mr Macdonald reported that he had attended a meeting of Beinn Tharsuinn Community Wind Farm, covered earlier. Also a function in the Duthac Centre arranged by the Museum for the Clan Ross. The Clan Ross Society has chosen Tain for a base for their meetings. The Highland Games were well attended. Mr

Macdonald took the opportunity to speak to representatives from Glenmorangie Distillery about a public path to the town, and they indicated they may be something happening soon. CC members have received an invitation to see round the Language School on 28 August – Mr Macdonald to put an email round about it. Mr Macdonald still corresponding about Tain Range and noisy jets upsetting horses – an email now sent to Lord Thurso. With regard to the overhanging trees at Hartfield Gardens – Mr Macdonald contacted BEAR and they have indicated that they may be something by the end of the year. Mr Macdonald considered this wasn't really good enough and he would continue to pursue the matter.

10 VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT - none

11 FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

11.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. A bill for the website has been received – not sure if it is 1 invoice a year or 2. Mr Louden to be refunded the money as he paid it. Mr Louden indicated that he had looked at all the information on the Committee report for the 3-18 campus. He indicated that there may be issues with the lack of a play area for 3-12 year olds, access to classrooms for young pupils (as on a higher floor). Mr Louden circulated the current plan and the future plan. Flat roofs, what will happen to the primary schools, concern over attainment levels amidst the disruption of building works, and the seemingly excessive scale of the proposed professional fees were also discussed.

12 LETTERS

12.1 **Highland Small Communities Housing Trust.** A newsletter has been received and it can be accessed online. There is a call out in the newsletter for vacant properties.

12.2 **SSE Energy.** An email has been received promoting the warm home discount scheme. It was agreed to put it on the Tain website.

12.3 **Highland Military Tattoo.** Information has been received regarding the Highland Military Tattoo at Fort George on 5-7 September – noted.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

13..1 **Alteration to 1 & 2 Market Street – supported. Alter internal layout of building: Convert attic to usable floorspace: install attic stair: roof domer and roof windows: Re-instate original window on gable elevation – 1 Geanies Street – support. Change of use from office to residential at The Redhouse Studios, 1 Tower Street – supported.**

13.2 **Munro's Fruit Market –** The Review Panel found in favour of the applicant's request to have the condition re the stone pillars reviewed, these will now be replaced with landscaping. A discussion on The Review Panel ensued and it was agreed that Mr Rhind would speak to Dafydd Jones over the imposition without warning of onerous planning conditions.

14 **COMMON GOOD FUND** – no report

15 **UNEXHAUSTED REMITS**

15.1 **Beinn Tharsuinn** – discussed earlier. **Cemetery** – the landscaping is still to be done. **Mussel Fisheries** – Mr Rhind to clarify whether toxins still in the water. **Trees and Green Environment** – it was noted that the new trees planned for the Links are not planted as yet. It was also noted that visitors had commented on the quality and impact of the floral displays in the Burgh. This praise is to be passed on to the Taskforce.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS** - none

THE MEETING ENDED AT 8.45 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2014