

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 25 NOVEMBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

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

In attendance: Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson – Highland Councillors
Constables Clark/Douglas – Police Service of Scotland
Miss I Moffat/Mr D Smith – Tain Royal Academy

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Torrance.

2. POLICE REPORT

2.1 Constable Clark reported that since last month's meeting there had been 200 incidences logged including foot patrols, speed checks, licenced premises checks (increasing up to Christmas). There have been 2 incidences of assault, 5 drink driving tests, 2 incidences of shop-lifting and 2 road collisions. Questions were asked and answered regarding any cuts in Police Officer numbers in Tain (no cuts in Tain), inappropriate behaviour on Court day (Police to monitor), and abandoned car at Links (Police chase up Highland Council)

3. APPROVAL ON MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2013 were approved by Mr McAllister and seconded by Mr Louden.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Item 9.1 ref Mr McAllister.** It was noted that Mr McAllister's name was spelt incorrectly in item 9.1 (6th sentence) – it should read "McAllister".

4.2 **Item 4.2 ref Fire Brigade presentation.** Mr Macdonald reported that the presentation has not been progressed, and now may happen in January.

4.3 **Item 4.3 ref Genmorangie Distillery.** It was noted that the planning application was approved. Safety at the A9 junction remains a concern of the Community Council. As an aside, a discussion took place on the planning application process.

4.4 **Item 12.7 ref letter from the Chief Planner.** Mr Macdonald reported that he is still considering a response letter.

Item 12.8 ref Inner Moray Firth proposed Development Plan. It was noted that the highlighted words should include the word “proposed”.

5. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORTS

- 5.1 **Mrs Robertson’s report.** The ECS Highland Council Committee approved up to £2,000,000 for temporary accommodation for St Duthus School – the planning application is not finalised. The size of the costing was questioned and members expressed some shock. The Sustainable Schools Review is going to public consultation soon – viable sites and design options are being investigated. 20 mph – the Community Council (CC) is going to be formally consulted on this – however it may take up to 2 years to implement.
- 5.2 **Mr Rhind’s report.** Mr Rhind reported that he thought the Clock Tower had been fixed. Helen Ross is pursuing getting a copy of the report on the Alexandra Bridge. Still waiting for improvement works on the Church wall. Asda keen to finish the snagging works from the development including the Tennis Court entrance. The venue of the Senior Citizen’s Party will be the Duthac Centre. Flora Stone is switching on the Christmas Lights this year. The Road Crossing Patroller post at Craighill Primary School is still not filled. No further updates on the Cemetery extension tendering dates. Mr Rhind noted that it was too cold to put slow markings on Chapel Road at present. Mansfield Residents Association would not be able to apply to the Climate Change Fund for the proposed lighting improvements. It was noted that the Community Empowerment Bill indicates that Common Good Funds will stay with Local Authorities – they have to list the assets with Community Council help.
- 5.3 Mr Amos reported that the fence and post at the Civic Amenity site is falling down. Mr Rhind to pursue this. A discussion ensued on recycling and it was noted there appeared to be a high number of repairable bicycles being discarded. It was agreed to contact SEPA to check whether it was possible to intercept these with a view to having them repaired and made available for re-use within the community.

6. COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY - no reports

7. YOUTH ISSUES

- 7.1 Miss Moffat and Mr Smith reported that the S4 pre-lims have commenced. The social events are being organised. Some residents from Duthac House visited TRA to make a holly wreath to put on the War Memorial. The Inspectorate Report is out soon and will be published on the website. After discussion, it was agreed to move the Youth Issues agenda before the Highland Councillor’s report.

8. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – none this month.

9. CHAIR’S REPORT

- 9.1 Mr Macdonald reported that over 40 countries will be attending the World Sheepdog Trials – accommodation will be an issue. Mr Macdonald emailed Easter Ross Association of Community Councils and suggested a register of informal accommodation providers. Discussion took place on a possible reception and mussel feast in the Rose Garden to celebrate this event, as there remained ring-fenced funding in place.
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10. **VICE CHAIR'S REPORT** – no report

11. **FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

11.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. Mr Louden reported that a joint Common Good Fund application has been sent in for both the Christmas Lights and Senior Citizen's Party. It was noted that these items are now being funded out of the Discretionary Grant fund. It was noted that the New Year Party will not go ahead this year, but will go ahead the following year.

12. **LETTERS**

12.1 **Town Centre Charrette.** An email has been received regarding an invitation to put forward ideas for a Town Centre Charrette for Tain. Mr Macdonald had drafted some ideas, which were agreed, and some additional items were suggested for consideration. After discussion it was agreed that improvements (landscaping and redistribution of parking places) to King Street car park and improvements to the Old Picture House were the joint top priorities for the Community Council, equally important to the town centre but possibly representing different funding opportunities.

12.2 **Research on Sectarianism on east coast Highland.** Catriona Grigg has been in touch offering to attend a Community Council meeting before March to give a description of the project. Sectarianism was not considered to be an issue in Tain but it was agreed to invite Catriona to a meeting before March for a 30 minute slot.

12.3 **Dementia Care Café/Brown Bin Collection ceasing/Community Council training dates/Community Safety update** – noted.

12.4 **Review of Polling Districts and Polling Places.** Highland Council are reviewing Polling District and Polling Places. After discussion, it was agreed to comment that it is important the Duthac Centre is retained as a Polling Place.

13. **PLANNING MATTERS** - none

14. **COMMON GOOD FUND**

14.1 It was noted that Mr Rhind had set up a meeting for Community Council office bearers and officials from Highland Council to go over the Common Good fund accounts.

15. **UNEXHAUSTED REMITS**

15.1 **Cemetery** – Mr Rhind spoke about this matter previously. **Green Environment** – it was noted that leaves were blocking some drains at the Mansfield Estate. Mr Rhind noted that Highland Council staff were keeping up with the current environmental workload. **Website development** – Mr McAllister reported that he had started the updates. A Facebook page was suggested. **Mussel Fisheries** – not much happening at present, but it is hoped it will pick up in January/February time. **Beinn Tharsuinn windfarm** – no report.

16. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 16.1 **Inner Moray Firth proposed Development Plan.** Mr Macdonald circulated the Tain section of the proposed Development Plan. Mr Macdonald put forward a number of suggestions relating to the inappropriateness of the Housing in the Countryside Policy in so far as it impacts upon Tain , also comments upon the various development zonings around the town. It was agreed to pass these comments to Highland Council. Mr Macdonald encouraged members to attend the public Development Plan meeting in Invergordon on 2 December and any further points members wished to raise as a consequence to advise Mr Macdonald so further thoughts could be passed around members for inclusion within the final submission to Highland Council, due before 13 December 2013.
- 16.2 **CCAST repot.** Ms Weir spoke to her report regarding the visit to the CCAST office. She indicated that she was made welcome and was impressed by the work they carried out. It was noted that there was a meeting with Blythswood to discuss a foodbank.
- 16.3 **Asda.** It was noted that Adsa's opening hours had been extended. Mr Rhind to clarify the planning conditions regarding the opening hours.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 27 JANUARY 2014
