

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 28 SEPTEMBER 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

Present: Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr D Louden (Treasurer)
 Mr A Mohan Mr G Amos
 Mr McAllister Mrs C Mackenzie
 Mr Macivor

In attendance: Mr Rhind - Highland Councillor
 Miss Allan/Miss Macleod – Tain Royal Academy
 PC Smyth – Police Scotland

Mr Macdonald paid tribute to Mrs Stone who recently passed away, and a minutes silence was observed as a mark of respect.

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mr Munro and Mrs Robertson.
2.	POLICE REPORT
2.1	PC Smyth apologised for no Police attending the last meeting. He indicated that there had been 3 thefts, 9 road traffic offences, recovered 1 weapon, and 7 disorderly conduct. Vandalisms are up in the Burgh. There have been some thefts in the local Schools and enquiries are ongoing. Complaints about parking at Ankerville/Geanies street were raised, as well as 20 mph speed limits. Concern was expressed about the narrow one way road below Castle Brae on the way to Tesco, and it was noted that 2 lampposts had been knocked down. PC Smyth reported that the Police were raising awareness of doorstep crime by a current operation – if the public have any concerns to phone 101. It was agreed to put a link to this operation on the CC website.
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 August 2015 were approved by Mr Amos, and seconded by Mrs Mackenzie.
4.	MATTERS ARISING
4.1	Item 6.1 ref Cemetery. It was noted that some of the edges of the Cemetery were in a poor state. Mr Rhind is hoping that local experts will help with the rabbit problem. Mr Macdonald indicated that Tesco had been in contact with him with regard to community projects and one put forward was improving the Cemetery.
5.	YOUTH ISSUES
5.1	Miss Macleod/Miss Allan reported that the TRA sponsored walk has recently taken place and it is hoped that it has raised a good amount of money for charity. Some pupils had recently gone to a Conference on how the schools can establish more links with Malawi. The School will undertake the rice challenge – selling rice

	<p>from Malawian farmers which is hoped to raise enough to support a young person through secondary school. The Pupil Council is progressing well, and a large number of 1st years are interested in it, and a junior council was formed. The School is holding an Autumn Ceilidh, and thereafter a charity day.</p>
6.	HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT
6.1	<p>Mr Rhind's report. Mr Rhind mentioned that there was a Nigg Ferry meeting on Thursday night and will update the CC at the next meeting. Work is progressing on the Alexandra Bridge, and the rust mentioned at the last meeting has been dealt with. Mr Rhind noted that the CC had received a letter on the Common Good Fund assets list. Mr Rhind is chasing up whether the fallen trees at the Links had been dealt with. The Service of Consecration is going ahead and a date will be notified. The Contractors are tidying up as per the Cemetery contract. There has been more weed killing completed in the Burgh. Mr Rhind noted that the Ward Discretionary Fund will pay for the repair of the fence as well as the cutting back of the hedge at the Tennis Club. The lamp posts knocked down on Station Road have been repaired. He hopes the noisy manhole cover on Knockbreck Road has been attended too. Mr Rhind is not sure if the repairs to Cunarder Lane have been carried out but and will check it out. The TRA Head Teacher interviews are on Friday. Mr Rhind is not sure whether the All-Weather pitch works have started. He is trying to see what resources are available to improve the local roads. There are ongoing road and pavement repairs as well as some gully emptying. Mr Amos enquired about grass cutting on the other side of the A9 – it was ascertained this is not the responsibility of BEAR Scotland. Mr Macdonald indicated that Common Good Fund sites at Blairliath were sold by RCDC to HRC in 1980 – after discussion it was agreed to enquire whether due legal process was adhered to. Other items discussed were a fence in Duke Street, Alexandra Bridge, dog fouling, design brief for the proposed 3 – 18 year old School campus, and the prospect of political refugees coming to Tain.</p>
7.	COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY – none
8.	OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – correspondence emailed round previously.
9.	CHAIR'S REPORT
9.1	<p>Mr Macdonald indicated that there are a number of consultations on the go at the moment and gave details for those interested in attending. With regard to the Rifle Club and their application for funding from Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Company Community Fund – the Club has 82 members including family memberships and a contribution of £1,000 would help them meet their needs – after discussion it was agreed to give £1,000. Given members include residents in other CC areas within the BTWF area, the Club will be advised of their entitlement to make similar application thereto.</p>
10.	VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – no report

11.	FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT
11.1	Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. As an aside he attended a Community Empowerment roadshow – which was about communities taking on local services. He also attended a Scotland Towns North roadshow – which was intended as a follow up to a charrette. Representatives from the Scottish Government and other organisations were in attendance and explained different pots of funding available. Mr Rhind said Tain may be able to access some funding.
12.	LETTERS
12.1	Easter Ross District Partnership. An email has been received inviting the CC to fill in a questionnaire. Mr Macdonald had completed and sent off on and invited members to do so also, email has been circulated.
12.2	Tillhill Forestry. A letter has been received from this organisation on the long term plans for Morangie Hill. This letter was passed to Mr McAllister, but it was agreed to put a comment in about drainage to try ensure no surface water from the forest makes its way to the A9, a particular concern given recent storm issues.
13.	PLANNING MATTERS
13.1	Smart Meter installation – Quarry Road – it was noted this was the new application for this item. After discussion, it was agreed to put similar objections in as the last time, as little had changed with the proposal other than a minor shift in location. Bestway chemist signs – Mr Macdonald to look at this application and if appropriate circulate it to CC members, but reckoned it had already been dealt with. As an aside members expressed concern about the safety of some of the chimneys in the High Street – Mr Rhind to follow this up.
13.2	HSCHT. This housing organisation is looking for sites for affordable housing and Highland Council has proposed the wildlife garden. After discussion, it was agreed to approach Tesco and see if they would like to support the clearing out/improvement of the wildlife garden.
14.	COMMON GOOD FUND – discussed previously
15.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
15.1	Beinn Tharsuinn – no report. Alexandra Bridge/3-18 Campus/Cemetery – discussed previously. Mussel Fisheries – it was noted that some Mussel loads have gone out. Website – Mr McAllister has put on information about the CC elections Trees and green environment – Mr McAllister indicated that the flower baskets were being taken down tomorrow and volunteers were welcome. There is concern regarding trees on Springfield Road – it was agreed that Mr McAllister would look at it and report back to the CC.
16.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS

16.1	Tain Publicity. It was reported that the Museum has drafted a Street Map of Tain leaflet.
------	--

THE MEETING ENDED AT 9.05 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2015