

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 27 APRIL 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

Present: Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr D Louden (Treasurer)
 Mr D MacIvor Mr A Mohan
 Mr G Amos Mr McAllister
 Mr Bremner (TRA rep)

In attendance: Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson - Highland Councillor
 Constable Elliott – Police Scotland

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Ms Weir, Mr Munro, Ms Mackenzie
2.	POLICE REPORT
2.1	Since the last meeting there have been 5 incidences of noise, 7 alarms going off, 1 sudden death, 8 vandalisms, 1 assaults, 2 online frauds, 2 fixed penalty notices for parking on a zebra crossing, 1 vehicle seized, 7 missing of vulnerable people, 2 underage drunk youths, 23 speed checks with 15 people caught. National campaigns on seatbelts and using mobile phones while driving, summer drink driving and bogus callers. Ongoing issue with abandoned vehicles – they are using legal procedures to deal with. Some suspects have been named for the vandalism at the Old Cemetery, and this is being looked into.
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2015 were approved by Mr Amos, and seconded by Mr Louden.
4.	MATTERS ARISING
4.1	Item.8.1 ref fence at Mansfield Estate play park. Mrs Robertson updated the meeting in that the current fence is just temporary, and quotes are being sought for a new one.
4.2	10.1 ref Cemetery's. There has been correspondence regarding the poor state of the Old Cemetery. Mr Rhind met with Mr Mackenzie from Highland Council about this problem. The trees have been cutback, and the rabbit damage is being looked at and dealt with. The sand will be tidied up and work on the paths needs to be done. An action plan will be prepared for implementation. The memorial stones are the responsibility of the families but some family members do not longer exist. The situation is going to be monitored as the jobs are being done. Mr Louden reported Lottery funding may be available to help with cemetery restoration projects. He will explore. With regard to the new Cemetery, Mr Rhind met with the Architect and it is acknowledged the faulty works raised by Mr Macdonald and Mr Louden upon their visit will be repaired by the building contractor. The process for a Service of Consecration is being progressed. It is thought 2 cherry trees could be planted, and the Primary Schools could be involved. Mr Macdonald believed the cemetery extension could benefit from more peripheral planting.

4.3	Item 7.1 ref Murray monument - no progress on repairs.
4.4	Item 4.3 ref Mussel Man - loan agreement sent to Glenmorangie Distillery and Mr Macdonald meeting them tomorrow to discuss.
4.5	Item 6.1 ref Charrette – a letter has been received which suggests links to possible funding streams. It was noted that when communities are applying for funding that can use the Charrette community consultation as evidence of need. As an aside Mr Louden reported that EoN has the lead in community windfarm projects. However, there currently is a problem with grid connections in the North of Scotland, and it looks as though nothing will be progressed until 2020. It was agreed that a Project Officer is needed in Tain. After discussion, it was agreed to go back to HIE as a follow up to their letter – suggest meeting with HIE and Councillors to progress.
4.6	Item 13.1 ref Post Office relocation – no response has been received from the Post Office re challenging relocation. Mr Macdonald to go back and ask for reply.
4.7	Item 13.2 ref RAF range – it was noted that the recent exercise had resulted in excessive aircraft noise and numerous complaints from residents.
4.8	Item 13.3 ref Tain Tennis Club – a thank you letter has been received thanking the Community Council for agreeing to the Beinn Tharsuinn grant.
5.	YOUTH ISSUES
5.1	Mr Bremner reported that the “how to be a student” event was very successful, as was the Ceilidh. The leavers lunch was held recently and credit goes to Miss Murray helping arrange these events. The hoodies have been delivered and are now being worn. The exams are starting soon, and study leave has started. Mr Bremner is most proud of the 5 th year leader initiative. The year book is ongoing, and possible sponsorship for future ones was suggested. As this was Mr Bremner’s last meeting he was thanked for his input during the year and wished well in his future studies.
6.	CHARRETTE – discussed previously
6.1	
7.	HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT
7.1	Mrs Robertson’s report. Mrs Robertson reported that the Scottish Minister’s are looking at the 3-18 year old campus proposal, which will end on 8 May. After this date, if successful, it will move to a stakeholders group to look at the design. Road resurfacing will be carried out in parts of the Ward but resources are limited to attend to all that is needed, the worst areas will be repaired first. Potholes will continue to be filled as needed. On May 11 a site meeting is being held at King Street car park – looking for Highland Council to redesign and resurface it. The Attendance Officer work has made a huge difference to pupils experiencing problems in this regard. Hopefully, the post to continue and funding is being

	<p>sought. Mrs Robertson indicated that Highland Council were moving forward with the Effective Democracy document. A discussion on democracy ensued with an acknowledgement Scotland had the poorest per head of population representation in Europe. Mr Macdonald reminded representatives it was Highland Council who not that long ago reduced the Community Council from 15 to 10 members. On a question on the appointment of a Rector for TRA, Mrs Robertson indicated that professional interviews had not been taken further and it had been agreed to concentrate on supporting the existing team for the time being, pending the return of Inspectors.</p> <p>Mr Rhind's report. Mr Rhind reported that the Common Good Fund meeting has not been held as yet, but information is being gathered. Mr Louden expressed his hope the CGF would not have to bear the cost of research into its management, as had been done before. Mr Rhind confirmed any such demand on the Common Good Fund would have to come before the 3 Ward Councillor's. It was noted that the A9 road signs are still lying down, and should have been dealt with. With regard to the thinning out of the trees along part of the A9, Mr Rhind has only received one negative feedback. There is a litter problem at St Vincent road, which is being dealt with, the consequence of build-up in the undergrowth now cleared. There is a slight delay in the repair works starting on Alexandra Bridge due to insurance issues. Mr Rhind is chasing up Scottish Water on the manhole. The portacabins for the Special School are likely to be ready for the term starting in August. The grass cutting so far is of a good standard. The poster in the noticeboard mentioned at last month's meeting has been removed. It was noted that the wooden fence along St Vincent Road is in a bad state. Mr Rhind indicated that this may be the responsibility of BEAR Scotland and he will contact them to progress.</p>
8.	COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY - none
9.	OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – correspondence emailed round previously.
10. 10.1	<p>CHAIR'S REPORT</p> <p>Mr Macdonald reported that that he has had talks regarding the gas mains coming to Tain, and he has put the Council's consultants and Glenmorangie Distillery in touch with each other. An email from a family in Poland looking for post-war relatives has been received. Mr Macdonald was aware of the family being sought and has helped reunite them. Andrew Blackwood involved with the "Scone of Destiny" play has indicated that it is not going ahead in May. However, he has offered to go ahead with another play on 11 July. The Rose Garden was suggested as a venue, and Mr Macdonald to email photos to him to see if suitable. Planning is introducing charges on 1 May for pre-planning application enquiries, although no information on this has been seen, and certainly no consultation with communities. Mr Macdonald expressed serious reservation about the principle of the public having to pay for local authority advice. He noted it is already commonplace in England and hoped it doesn't extend to Scotland as it could have repercussions for economic development. Highland would be the first authority in Scotland to go down this road. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson</p>

	would find out if this change is going ahead.
11.	VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT - none
12.	FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT
12.1	Mr Louden reported that the draft accounts have been completed and signed, for approval at the AGM. As an aside Mr Louden reported on the Mussel Fishery which Mr Macdonald and he had attended with the Ward Councillors, Helen Ross and George Hamilton. From a range of options presented, and it was agreed to carry on as things are, but monitor the situation carefully and look to save costs where at all possible. A discussion ensued on this.
13.	LETTERS
13.1	GoPlay Ranger fund/Moray Firth Partnership AGM/Seaboard Care Sponsored Walk – noted.
13.2	Beinn Tharsuinn application. An application has been received from Tain Free Church for funding for tables for a weekly lunch club for the elderly. After discussion, it was agreed to support this for £500.
14.	PLANNING MATTERS - none
15.	COMMON GOOD FUND – discussed previously
16.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
16.1	Beinn Tharsuinn – no report. Alexandra Bridge/3-8 Campus/ Mussel Fisheries –discussed earlier. Website Development – Mr McAllister indicated that more CC information could be put on for public consumption. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr McAllister would join the newly formed Tain Community Group on Facebook and report back with a view to seeing if this social medium could be utilised by the CC. Cemetery – discussed previously. Trees and green environment – Mr McAllister indicated that he thought the tree work on the A9 by BEAR was a poor job. They had not stayed in line with the produced booklet. After discussion, it was agreed to contact BEAR – Mr McAllister to draft the letter. The polytunnel is in use for the planting of the flowerbaskets – 262 so far. He welcomes volunteers for this task.
17.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS – none.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 10 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 25 MAY 2015