

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 27 JANUARY 2014 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) Mr G Torrance

In attendance: Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson – Highland Councillors
Constables Elliott/Maclennan – 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 Ms Weir and Mr Mohan.

2. POLICE REPORT

2.1 Constable MacIvor reported that this month there had been 283 incidences logged. There have been 6 incidences of assault, 1 drink driving, 3 road traffic offences, 4 domestic incidences, 1 theft, 1 breach of the peace, and 5 fix penalties notices. Questions were asked regarding feint yellow road markings, and parking in inappropriate places

3. APPROVAL ON MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 November 2013 were approved by Mr Munro and seconded by Mr McAllister.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Item 12.1 ref Town Centre Charette.** Mr Macdonald reported that Tain had been successful in receiving funding for the Charette, with Highland Council match funding. Mrs Robertson reported a Highland Council meeting had already been held, and it was suggested to have 2 meetings – one for businesses and one for the community, with a view to coming up with improvement ideas for Tain, which could be used for future funding purposes.

5. YOUTH ISSUES

5.1 Miss Moffat/Mr Smith reported that the senior and junior dances had taken place. The pre-lims for S5 and S6 start next week. The issue of younger children in the corridor during lunchtime is being discussed at the School, with a view to keeping them occupied. The Valentine Disco has been moved to April, and will be the Summer Dance now.

6. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

6.1 **Mr Rhind's report.** Mr Rhind reported that the tender documents for the Alexandra Bridge are being finalised and will be out soon. There is further damage to the wall at the Museum, and HC are aware of it. Asda are still saying they will undertake the snagging working – Mr Rhind pursuing this. A Road Crossing Patroller has been appointed, subject to a Disclosure Scotland check. Mr Rhind thinks the extension works at the Cemetery has begun, but is getting an update from Helen Ross. The fence at the Civic Amenity Site has been repaired. There were wind issues with the Christmas Tree, and consideration will have to be given to its placement next Christmas. Senior Citizen's Party went well, and Mr Rhind thanked the Community Councillor's and Becky Amos for all their help. Consideration will be given to the name of the Party. No costs for the Christmas Lights, and minimal costs for the Senior Citizen's Party. There is concern that the Christmas Lights are dim – Mr Rhind contacted the company with a view to them looking at them. The meeting re the Common Good Fund he felt was productive, and any expenditure has now got to go through the Ward Manager. If any legal questions, it will cost the Common Good Fund, so costs will be gotten beforehand. The drains at the Mansfield Estate have been cleaned. The Mussels are ok at present. Asda does not need planning permission for the opening hours. Sad news at the demise of the large Co-op. There are discussions on the yellow lines. William Gilfillan has secured the Director of Community Services post. It is hoped that the new Care Home will have residents in by April.

6.2 **Mrs Robertson's report.** There are discussions on the CCTV monitoring. Knockbreck Primary School have secured more accommodation and should be installed in February. TRA Parent Council are struggling for numbers but with a new Chair person, and it is hoped with their enthusiasm it will be revitalised. It was agreed to invite the new Chair to a Community Council meeting. The drains have been done at the Play Park, and have secured some funding for bark, and can get some equipment.

6.3 It was noted that the lighting application for the Mansfield Estate is ready to go. The manhole at the junction at Shore Road/Academy Street is collapsing, and a drain at Drummond Street also looks like it is collapsing – Mr Rhind to follow up. The footpath tractor has been repaired. The TRA inspection report was discussed and it was agreed to contact the Director of Education and ask what steps Highland Council are taking to address the report. The traffic lights at Craighill Terrace are blinding and dangerous – Mr Rhind to pursue. It was noted that the fence at the Tennis Club has flattened – Mr Rhind to pursue with Simon Young. Water is running down Ross Street and the gutters are full – Mr Rhind to examine.

7. **COMTMUNITY OPPORTUNITY** - no reports

8. **OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE**

8.1 The outgoing correspondence list was noted. Arising out of the letter re the RAF, it was noted that the last minutes were forwarded to the concerned citizen re noise.

9. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

9.1 Switching on of Christmas lights was well attended. Thanks was given to Mr Rhind and his helpers in this event. The Senior Citizen's Party was an excellent community evening – thanks to all the helpers. Mr Macdonald went to view the Local Plan public presentation and discussed points with Planners – the continued dissatisfaction with Housing in the Countryside policy was raised again along with other pertinent comment of the plan content . There was an appeal from Duthac

House with securing assistance with existing refuse collection. After discussion it was reluctantly accepted little could be done given the lack of appropriate sized vehicle and parking on Academy Street precluding clear access to and from the site for the larger refuse truck. It was agreed Mr Macdonald would forward the layout of the new Care Home to Mr Amos to look at the space provision there for refuse collection to try and ensure the problems currently being experienced with collection are not repeated at the new premises. Mr Macdonald attended John Swinney's informative leadership lecture in Inverness. It was agreed to send a former Community Councillor some flowers due to recent illness and wishing a speedy recovery. It was also agreed to send the staff of the Co-op a letter of thanks, via the Manager, passing on Member's appreciation of the excellent standard of service over the years.

10. VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – none

11. FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

11.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date finance report. Mr Louden reported on the meeting with the Highland Council Finance staff with regard to the Common Good Fund and land. Information and maps were forthcoming at the meeting. Mr Rhind was thanked for setting up the meeting.

11.2 Mr Louden reported that there was around £800 in the charitable bequests account. After discussion it was agreed to donate a £200 one off payment to the local foodbank.

12. LETTERS

12.1 **Saipem North Atlantic & Sonsub Division.** This organisation has been in touch requesting to attend a CC meeting. They are reviewing the possibility of re-commissioning the Tain pipeline bundle yard, originally developed by a UK contractor called Land & Marine in the 1990's. They will be attending next month's meeting.

12.2 **Moray Firth Partnership.** A letter inviting the CC to this organisation's AGM has been received. It was agreed that Mr Macdonald would attend this event.

12.3 **Highlife Highland Community Safety Research re Sectarianism in the Highlands.** Another email has been received from this organisation. It was agreed to invite this person again.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

13.1 Installation of air source heat, 8 Springfield Gardens/erection of farm building, Sandwood Hunting Hill/installation of 9 photovoltaic panels on garage roof, 10 Manse Street – it was agreed to support these applications.

14. COMMON GOOD FUND – discussed previously

15. UNEXHAUSTED REMITS

15.1 **Mussel Fisheries** – ok at the moment. **Beinn Tharsuinn windfarm** – no report.. **Green environment** – stolen trees replanted at the Links, and the Police are coming up with a system to mark them – Mr Rhind to ask Helen for update.

16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 16.1 **Community Windfarm.** Mr Loudon reported that there may be news re the community windfarm next month – it is hoped that there will be community involvement.
- 16.2 **Fire Brigade presentation.** Still awaiting the inscription to be finished. It is hoped that a date can be set at the next meeting for the presentation.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.40 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2014
