

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 27 MAY 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

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

In attendance: Mrs Robertson/Mr Rhind/Mr Stone – Highland Councillors
 Constables Elliott/Dalloway – Police Service of Scotland

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Mohan.

2. POLICE REPORT

2.1 Constable Dalloway reported that whilst it had been quite quiet over the last couple of months, there has been an increase in rural crimes such as fuel theft. This is being dealt with by pro-active policing. They are also being pro-active works on road speed checks and a number of people have been reported. Abandon vehicles are being addressed in various locations in Tain. The Mansfield Estate has been relatively quiet during the last month. They are using intelligence-led drug searches. There are enough Police resources for the Gala/Vintage Car Rally. Questions were asked and answered on traffic outside the new Chip Shop, motor bike useage on the path between Hartfield and Scotsburn Roads, and underage drinking.

3. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

3.1 Mrs Robertson took the Chair at this point in the meeting until a Chair was appointed. Mr Munro proposed Mr Macdonald as Chair, seconded by Mr McAllister. As there were no other nominations, Mr Macdonald was re-elected as Chair.

4. APPOINTMENT OF VICE-CHAIR

4.1 Mr McAllister proposed Mr Munro as Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms Weir. As there were no other nominations, Mr Munro was re-elected as Vice-Chair.

5. APPOINTMENT OF TREASURER

5.1 Mr McAllister proposed Mr Louden as Treasurer, seconded by Mr Amos. As there were no other nominations, Mr Louden was re-elected as Treasurer.

6 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

.

6.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 April 2013 were approved by Mr McAllister, and seconded by Mr Amos.

7. MATTERS ARISING

7.1 **Item 12.5 ref Common Good Fund (CGF).** It was agreed that the ceiling amount for CGF applications for each year should be £10,000, and not £10,000 per application as previously indicated.

7.2 **Item 5.1 ref Ward Forum date.** It was noted that the next Ward Forum meeting may not be on 19 June as was reported in the last Minute. Date to be confirmed.

7.3 **Item 4.1 ref litter at Asda.** It was noted that Asda have agreed to upkeep litter collection on the path between the store and the housing estate.

7.4 **Item 9.1 ref Alexandra Bridge.** It was noted that it is not known when the tender for this repair will be advertised.

7.5 **Minute taking.** Ms Weir highlighted the accuracy of minutes and thanked Mrs Mackay.

8. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

8.1 **Mr Stone's report.** Mr Stone reported that he was grateful to Nicola Morris, Community Champion for Asda, and her work in persuading the company in taking responsibility for litter on the path, but it was noted the surrounding ground was not in good condition. It was noted that the litter bin had disappeared.

8.2 **Mrs Robertson's report.** Mrs Robertson reported that there had been a walk-a-bout with officials at the Mansfield Estate and there had been some issues that will be addressed. It was noted that the grass cutting had improved from last year. It was noted that there is no lowered pavements at Scotsburn Court and the Health Centre – Highland Council (HC) looking into this. The first turf has been cut at the proposed new Health Centre. Mrs Robertson asked if the Community Council had a view on proposed use/s of the current Health Centre when it is vacated. After discussion it was agreed to include this as an agenda item at the next meeting. It was noted that the Quebec Bridge roadside repairs have been done, but there was a problem with stones being scattered on the road surface by errant drivers. The drains at the Mansfield Estate are going to be dealt with. Some of the paving stones at the Mansfield Estate are badly broken, and drains outside Outram House are collapsing and need repairing - Mrs Robertson to progress. It was further noted that potholes and part of the Morangie road need repaired, and 3 man-hole covers at the pavement at the top of Shore Road are crumbling. Improved drainage at the Links is required. The Skate park has litter underneath it – it was noted that BMX cycling has come back into fashion and the adjacent off-road bike track may be brought back into use. There is an open drain at the bottom of the Asda car park which had attracted complaints – Mr Stone to address. It was noted that communities may be able to get extra recycling pods from Zero Waste Scotland, as similar to Dingwall – Ms Weir to further investigate.

9. COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY – none

10. YOUTH ISSUES

- 10.1 **Tain Royal Academy (TRA).** It was noted that one of the TRA reps had emailed indicating that they will no longer be attending Community Council meetings. After discussion, it was agreed to send individual letters to the reps thanking them for their attendance and input to meetings.
- 10.2 **Tain Youth Café.** An email has been received from Graham Nutt inviting the Community Councillor's along to the launch of the Gel Information Cards on 4th June. The cards contain drink awareness messages.

11. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - none

12. CHAIR'S REPORT

- 12.1 Mr Macdonald reported he had met with Mr Whitely at TRA re mounting the antique brass standpipe as a thank you for the Fire Fighters at Tain station. Appropriate wording for inscription was agreed. It was further agreed to have the presentation as an agenda item for the next meeting, with an appropriate press release and photos.

13. VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT - none

14. FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

- 14.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. As an aside Mr Louden indicated that he had received a response from the Freedom of Information letter he sent to Highland Council on the subject of the CGF. It was agreed to circulate it prior to the next meeting and it will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

15. LETTERS

- 15.1 **Tain Allotment Group.** A letter has been received from the group informing the Community Council that it is being wound up, largely due to costs. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr McAllister would investigate a successful scheme in Edinburgh.
- 15.2 **Easter Ross Forest Tour.** Community Councillor's have received an invitation for this Tour on 20 June. It was agreed that Mr Torrance, Mr Amos, Mr McAllister and Mr Macdonald would attend.
- 15.3 **Inner Moray Firth Development Plan – Alternative Sites and Uses Consultation.** After discussion it was agreed that Mr Macdonald would report back about this letter at the next meeting.
- 15.4 **Consultation on managing obstructions within adopted roads.** Mr Louden declared an interest in this item. After discussion, it was agreed that a response should go back to Highland Council indicating that good practice advice should be given to businesses/communities, but there should be no need for licensing applications or costs.
- 15.5 **Fairtrade Highland.** A letter has been received encouraging communities to get fairtrade

status. It was agreed to investigate further, and to secure fairtrade status it was noted that you have to have a fairtrade steering group. The website is fairtrade.org.uk. Mrs Weir to examine further.

15.6 **Volunteers for Invergordon Highland Games/Beinn Tharsuinn Community Ltd email to Tain Task Force informing of successful funding/Hazardous substance consent at Glenmorangie Distillery/Data Protection renewal – noted.**

15.7 **1st Tain Guide Common Good Fund application – noted this application now funded by Highland Council's Discretionary funding.**

16. PLANNING MATTERS

16.1 **Erection of house, land to South East of 1 Cadboll Place/Single Storey grocery collection canopy, Asda – no comment.**

17. **COMMON GOOD FUND – no report**

18. UNEXHAUSTED REMITS

18.1 **Cemetery – noted water investigations are happening – Councillor's asked for update. . Green Environment – Mr Macdonald reported that he, Mr McAllister and Dennis Macdonald will be looking at the trees at the Collegiate Church soon. The Japanese Knotweed identified last year does not seem to be too evident at present but should be monitored. Website development – problems uploading certain PDF files onto website. The Community Grants information has been uploaded. The Emergency number information still needs adjustments before going live.**

19. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

19.1 **Tennis Courts.** It was noted that the large pool of water at the entrance, a consequence of the Asda roadworks, still has not been dealt with. Mr Rhind indicated that he will keep pressing for satisfactory resolution.

19.2 **Correspondence.** Mr MacIvor indicated he wished his monthly papers mailed out to him.

19.3 **Asda.** Mr Torrance reported that a community noticeboard will be installed at Asda on 21 June.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.25 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 24 JUNE 2013