

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 27 OCTOBER 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

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

In attendance: Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson - Highland Councillor's
Constables Munro and Stephenson – Police Service of Scotland
Mr Bremner – TRA School Captain

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – none received

2. POLICE REPORT

2.1 Constable Munro reported that since the last meeting there were 7 incidences of disorderly and anti-social behaviour, 5 incidences of vandalism, 18 incidences of road traffic matters, 4 assaults, 5 thefts, and 11 fixed penalty notices. Questions were asked and answered re the recent fire at the Grove, road accidents, especially on the A9 (Mr Rhind/Police to ask for Traffic Police to monitor junctions), Police numbers in Tain (Police to provide), vandalism (Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson to progress getting CCTV coverage for the Rose Garden)

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2014 were approved by Mr Mohan, and seconded by Mr McAllister.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Item 8.2 ref 3-18 Campus.** Mr Macdonald apologised for not been able to invite Duncan Mackay due to the school holidays. Mrs Robertson to forward briefing paper by Mr Mackay on the 3-18 Campus to Mr Macdonald for circulation. It was noted that there was no letter back from Highland Council regarding Mr Macdonald's request for additional information in terms of the Statutory Guidance (other than an acknowledgement). After discussion, it was agreed to pass on the previously considered list of concerns/comments plus to ask Highland Council to consider keeping the land at Craighill Primary School as a potential site for the proposed swimming pool/community facilities, should it be found the existing TRA site is not big enough for the overall development bearing in mind a reasonable allowance for anticipated expansion.

5. YOUTH ISSUES

5.1 Mr Bremner reported that the TRA Rector's post is to be re-advertised in the Spring. The Drug Awareness event went well and despite the poor weather. A meeting was held about the 3-18 year Campus. The charity drive was well supported with various events. There is a drive to involve more 5th year in the School, ie Social Prefects – this initiative has proved successful. The Pupil Council is being set up shortly. David McAllister, on behalf of Tain Task Force intimated their thanks for the pupil assistance with the taking down of the flower baskets. Ms Weir reported that the Fling film festival went well and is happening next year with

other events happening in-between.

6. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

6.1 **Mrs Robertson's report.** Mrs Robertson reported that the Community Services meeting is being held on 29 October at 6.30 pm which is a public forum providing information on TECs/Housing and proposed budget cuts. The Craighill Primary School Head interviews are being held soon. TRA now have in place a Youth Link Officer, who will assist with truancy in the school – it is a one year pilot. The tender for the repairs on the Alexandra Bridge is going out this week, and should be a 3 week turn-a-round. The pavements outside the St Duthus hotel have been repaired. The Mansfield Estate Residents AGM will be held in November. There is concern about the lack of progress on the Health Centre move, and Mrs Robertson is going to try and get an update through Helen Ross. With regard to the broken flue at a house at Mansfield Estate due to repair works to the park, it was noted that this house is not Highland Council owned.

6.1 A discussion took place on giving the Freedom of the Burgh to a citizen of Tain, and it was agreed to contact Helen Ross with a view to it being agreed at Area Committee level. It was believed that the repairs to the toilets have not been done. There was a suggestion of a press release to highlight the ongoing vandalism of the toilets and the Rose Garden. There were concerns about potholes in Duthac Centre car park, and questions raised over whose responsibility it was to maintain the surface. It was noted road sweeper equipment is being withdrawn and this is something that can be raised at the Community Services meeting.

6.2 **Mr Rhind's report.** Mr Rhind reported that St Duthus School cabins should complete the planning process soon. The trees at Hartfield Gardens are still ongoing, with yet another offer of a site meeting with BEAR. A possible date for the switching on of the Christmas Lights is 29 November, and the Senior Citizen's Party on 11 January. A discussion on the venue for the Party ensued and it was felt the best location was the Duthac Centre. Remembrance Sunday is 11 November with the congregation to be seated by 10.45 am. There is a contact name for the Burgh's Christmas tree now.

7. **COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY** - none

8. **OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE** – all correspondence copied by email.

9. CHAIR'S REPORT

9.1 Mr Macdonald reported and explained the new protocol for the CC requesting to be a Statutory Consultee on planning applications. The CC will have to be careful to respond before the deadlines.

10. **VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT** – none.

11. FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

- 11.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. It was noted that most of the CC expenditure is to come, ie – Christmas Lights, Senior Citizen's Party and the School donations.

12. LETTERS

- 12.1 **CC planning training package** – Mr Macdonald to circulate to members. **Multi Agency Risk Assessment conference information/Ranger Summer Activities/Milton Woodland Cabins open day** – noted.
- 12.2 **Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Fund.** Tain Bowling Club has applied to this fund for £1,000 for upgrade to the service road and an outdoor patio area. After discussion, it was agreed to support this application. Mr Louden declared an interest in this item.
- 12.3 **Highland Community Gardening Network Day** – Mr McAllister to attend. **Funding opportunity from Highland Cross** – information to be forwarded to Graham Nutt.

13. PLANNING MATTERS

- 13..1 **BT cabinet Academy Street** – a concern was raised about the location of the Cabinet but after a phone call to Planning, it was ascertained that the location is not a problem. **Erection of fence and 2 gates at Castle Hill, Castle Street** – concerns over the visual aspect of this application. It is understood that Planning have asked for a second skin on the fence plus a drop in height. A discussion on the conservation area of Tain ensued and it was agreed to put the conservation area boundaries on the CC website as one option of increasing public awareness. Mr Macdonald to send the details to Mr McAllister.

14. COMMON GOOD FUND

Mr Louden indicated that it has passed the year end for the Common Good Fund accounts for 2013/14 and would wish the CC to see the spreadsheet. It was agreed to ask Helen Ross for the management report from Oracle. However, Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson indicated that they had not seen this information as yet.

15. UNEXHAUSTED REMITS

- 15.1 **Beinn Tharsuinn/Alexandra Bridge/3-8 Campus** –discussed earlier. **Mussel Fisheries/Website Development/Cemetery** – no update. **Green Environment** – it was noted that there does not seem to be a re-appearance of Japanese Knotwood in the Burgh.

16. RESPONSE TO SMITH COMMISSION

16.1 A draft submission to the Smith Commission was previously circulated. Ms Weir raised concerns on some of the items in the draft submission. After discussion, it was agreed that CC members should put any amendments to Mr Louden as soon as possible.

17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.1 **Remembrance Sunday.** Remembrance Sunday is on 11 November and it was agreed to meet at 10.40 am at the Church. It is an open invitation for CC members and their families.

Language School. Mr Macdonald to ascertain a date for visiting the Language School. He will circulate the date once he gets it.

Council Chamber. It was noted that there were only 5 lights working at the Council Chamber, plus one of the curtains was hanging off. It was agreed to contact Helen Ross to progress these items.

THE MEETING ENDED AT 21.40 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2014