

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 28 APRIL 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

**Present:** Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr G Amos  
Mr D Louden (Treasurer) Mr D MacIvor  
Mr D McAllister Mrs C Mackenzie

**In attendance:** Mr A Rhind/Mrs Robertson – Highland Councillor  
Constables Cowan/Douglas – Police Service of Scotland

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Ms Weir and Mr Mohan.

**2. POLICE REPORT**

2.1 Constable Cowan reported that since last month's meeting there had been around 200 incidences including various vandalism, car speeders, assaults, thefts, a hate crime, and missing people. Mr McAllister raised the recent serious vandalism at The Grove. It was noted that there was no forensic evidence investigations taken due to damp and dust conditions as a consequence of the house lying empty for a prolonged period. Other items discussed included a car which had crashed into Aldie Burn, and scramble bikes on the bridal path.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 31 March 2014 were approved by Mr Amos and seconded by Mrs Mackenzie.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 **Present list.** It was noted that Mr MacIvor's name was on the Present list of the meeting on 31 March 2014 – however, he was not at the meeting.

4.2 **Item 13.4 ref Beinn Tharsuinn grant to Tain Golf Club.** Mr Macdonald reported that there he had been approached by the Golf Club with regard to the funding being used to purchasing an alternative sprayer in the region of the same price as quoted in the application. This was accepted as being in order. It was noted that the old sprayer had been deemed beyond repair.

**5. YOUTH ISSUES**

5.1 It was agreed to remind Tain Royal Academy that the pupil representatives would be most welcome to attend Community Council meetings from the new School year in August.

**6. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- 6.1 **Mrs Rhind's report.** Mr Rhind reported that the Cemetery extension has still not started and he was concerned about the space available. After discussion, it was agreed to contact the Chief Executive of Highland Council and highlight the concerns of the community in this regard. Better signage for the Burgh on the A9 by-pass was needed as these are dirty and in poor condition. There was a problem also with the amount of advertising stickers applied to the signs. This is being brought up with BEAR. The planning application for the mobile classrooms at the Special School will be lodged in the next week or so. Mr Rhind is still pursuing the matter of the overgrown trees which are affecting the resident at Hartfield Gardens – however, there may be an alternative solution than having BEAR conduct the thinning. The tender price is very expensive for the repairs to the Alexandra Bridge and way in excess of what had been anticipated. It was noted that Mr Macdonald has contacted Helen Ross with a view to laying aside procurement protocol on this occasion and approaching local companies direct to see if a more realistic quote might be forthcoming. It was resolved to await the Area Committee's consideration. It was also noted that the Council's procurement rules were very onerous for local companies. Historic Scotland's stipulations were proving burdensome and they are to be contacted to review the construction detail advised. Mr Rhind reported that he has had no reply as yet to the bus timetable for the new Health Centre. There are many grassed areas in Tain not cut as yet – Mr Rhind to follow up. There are interviews for the Rector's vacancy in May at Tain Royal Academy.
- 6.2 **Mrs Robertson's report.** Mrs Robertson reported that the Tain Charette will take place on 7/8 May. Leaflets for this event were distributed to everyone. After discussion it was noted it would be worthwhile to have an Action Plan for the town. The Tea Party held was well attended – it was agreed to contact Heather Gordon again with a view to her attending a Community Council meeting. The first quote has been received for the play equipment at the Mansfield Estate Play Park – awaiting other quotes. The drainage has been completed. It was noted the communal drying area and some of the pavements are in bad repair. The new Care and Learning Service started today, and the Committee will change its name as well. TECs and Housing Services have also merged. It was noted that the pavements outside the St Duthus hotel are in a bad state of repair – it was agreed to send a letter to TECS requesting these works be done as a matter of urgency. Mr Macdonald noted that the Quarry Lane/Tower Street junction is still causing disruption to free traffic flow and there are periods of the day where it becomes almost gri-locked. After discussion, it was agreed to request TECS to review how fit for purpose this traffic management measure was proving after almost 3 years in place.
7. **COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY** – it was noted a representative from Glenmorangie had made a late attempt to be present and it was agreed to contact them and let them know they are welcome at the next meeting.
8. **OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE** – none, as all members had been copied into them already as they had been released
9. **CHAIR'S REPORT**
- 9.1 Mr Macdonald read out the Fire Brigade call outs in April so far. Mr Macdonald noted that the Community Council links on the Highland Council website are hard to find despite being advised a link was up and running. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Highland Council and ask that the main Community Council link is placed in a more prominent position, preferably on the Home page. With ease of access thereafter. Highland Council have suggested the relevant Community Councils run the Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Company funding
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themselves. If the Community Council does this, it would cost up to approximately £1,000 to run and manage annually, which out of our allocation of approximately £2300 was non-sensical. The feeling from the meeting is that the status quo should remain as no justification had been produced to demonstrate the necessity for change, and if that wasn't possible (due to legal reasons) then to explore if other similar funded Community Councils wished to band together to save costs. With regard to the local vacant house that was broken into – email contact has asked that the Community Council assist with finding the culprits responsible. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr McAllister would go back to the contact and sympathise with the situation but stress the limitations of Community Council involvement. This really is a matter for the property owner who had elected to allow the building lie empty for a prolonged period in such a vulnerable location.

**10. VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT – none**

**11. FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

- 11.1 Mr Louden circulated and presented the audited accounts. The accounts will be forwarded to Helen Ross – however they have to be approved at the AGM before the annual grant is released by Highland Council.

**12. LETTERS**

- 12.1 **Awards 4 All pause for Commonwealth Games/Beatrice Offshore Windfarm – contract award/Ross & Cromarty Disability Open meeting 1 May – noted.**
- 12.2 **Letter re Courthouse.** A letter has been received expressing concerns over the various Courthouse problems. Mr Macdonald had replied to the letter and suggested the writer considers attending the Tain Charette meetings to put forward the very valid issues raised.

**13. PLANNING MATTERS**

- 13.1 **Proposed house site at land north of Morrish Lodge, Fendom – support. Replace existing timber sash and case windows to attic with dormer with new timber, double glazed, reversible windows, Hill Views, Market Street – support.**

**14. COMMON GOOD FUND – no report**

**15. UNEXHAUSTED REMITS**

- 15.1 **Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm** – discussed previously **Mussel Fishery** – noted the boat is out a lot and the fishery appears in relatively good health. **Website** – Mr McAllister has added a page for the Tain Charette, and will add the date information letter. **Green environment** – There were 4,354 plants in 311 flower baskets planted and ready to go out in June. It was not known whether the trees at the Links had been replanted. There was certainly no evidence they had. **Community Windfarm** – still awaiting information which may be due out soon. **3-18 Campus** – Mr Louden and Mr Macdonald declared an interest in the item. Mr McAllister took the Chair. It is hoped that a report will be going to the May Committee, including a recommendation on a preferred site. If approved it will go to statutory consultation. It was noted that the 2 Primary Schools in Tain are considered the worst condition buildings amongst the Highland Schools.
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Mr Macdonald returned to the Chair.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 16.1 **Annual General Meeting.** It was agreed to hold the AGM on 26 May at 7 pm, prior the scheduled monthly meeting.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.45 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 26 MAY 2014**

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