

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 28 OCTOBER 2013 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

**In attendance:** Mr Rhind – Highland Councillor  
Sergeant Henderson – Police Service of Scotland

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Mohan Ms Weir, Mr Torrance, Mr Munro and Mrs Robertson..

**2. POLICE REPORT**

2.1 Sergeant Henderson reported that since last month's meeting there had been 370 calls. 21 reports of road traffic incidences other than speeding. 5 speed checks near the local schools. Less anti-social behaviour on nights, other than Saturday in the High Street. 7 incidences of disturbances and 2 incidences of assaults. Drug and alcohol issues still ongoing. Mr Macdonald asked Sergeant Henderson opinion on possible future plans to reduce the speed limit in the Burgh to 20 mph. Sergeant Henderson indicated that it was a good idea. Some roads already have naturally slow traffic as they were narrow. Mr Amos enquired about bike holders on cars being legal if not carrying a bike. Sergeant Henderson confirmed that it was not illegal to do this.

**3. APPROVAL ON MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2013 were approved by Mr McAllister and seconded by Mr Louden.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 **Item 15.1 ref Common Good Land at Blarliath.** Mr Macdonald reported that he was waiting for more information on this from Helen Ross. He expressed concern Highland Council considered itself the landowner as this contradicted the previously provided CGF asset map.

4.2 **Item 4.2 ref Fire Brigade presentation.** Mr Macdonald reported that that he had spoken to Mr Whiteley and that the item for presentation will be ready next week. The plaque was with the Jewellers for inscription. It was agreed that the presentation could possibly take place in December.

4.3 **Item 5.1 re Morangie Distillery.** Mr Macdonald indicated that he had kept the Community Council members informed of the correspondence in regard to the planning permission at Glenmorangie and the decision had been reached on consensus to maintain the CC's objection to

the access planning application.

- 4.4 **Item 17.1 ref a Tain Christmas Card.** A discussion took place with regard to Christmas card and postcards. It was noted that the more post cards ordered the costs decreased. It was agreed to consider this for next year, and to look this Winter for the opportunity to capture interesting images. As an aside, it was noted that there is a broken grill at the very top of the Clock Tower – Mr Rhind to progress getting this investigated and fixed.

## 5. **HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS**

- 5.1 **Mr Rhind's report.** Mr Rhind reported that he is still waiting for the report on the Alexandra Bridge. Still waiting planning permission for the St Duthac School. Still waiting for the wall at the Collegiate Church to be repaired. The Tennis Club road is going to be repaired soon. The Bowling Club is booked for the Senior Citizen's Party at a reasonable price. The switch on of the Christmas Lights is 30 November – pass any names for the switch on to Mr Rhind. The costs of the Christmas lights is minimal. Mr Rhind is waiting for an update on the vacant Crossing Patroller post at Craighill School. A ditch at Provost Ferguson Drive causing problems – Mr Rhind to further investigate. The work to the extension of the Cemetery is only out to tender now. Re-structure of 7 Directors to 5 at Highland Council. The road sweeper machine is getting rid of the weeds and improving the look of the Burgh. It was noted that when you come in from the A9 at the Catholic Church there is a light out – as well as some lights being out at the ring road. The extra planning permission for the extension to the new Old Folks Home has been granted, and it is hoped it will be open by April. After discussion on a Common Good Fund application, it was agreed to put in a joint Senior Citizen's Party/Christmas lights one. The Hogmanay party may not go ahead this year due to problems of disturbance at last years event, a final decision has yet to be made.

6/7 **COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY/YOUTH ISSUES** - no reports

8. **OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE** – noted.

## 9. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 9.1 Mr Macdonald reported that talks with local residents on the speed situation at Chapel Road had been continuing. After discussion, it was agreed that the 20 mph speed signs may help. It was agreed that the Smiley Face speed box could possibly be placed at Chapel Road. Slow down signs to be investigated. Mr Rhind to progress these items. Mr Macdonald couldn't make the RAF community liaison Committee meeting and he thanked Mr McAallister for attending in his place. Mr Macdonald had talked with a Range neighbour who had been complaining about low flying and disturbance to horses, also problems of insurance claims with MOD over damage to boundary fencing. Mr Macdonald had had further contact with Glenmorangie representatives, also the Police who confirmed a recent vehicle collision at the distillery junction with the A9.

10. **VICE CHAIR'S REPORT** – no report

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

11.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. Mr Louden reported that there was

£2,335.83 left in the bank account.

## 12. LETTERS

- 12.1 **Climate Challenge Fund.** An email has been received regarding the Climate Challenge Fund – LED lighting for Mansfield Estate was suggested as a possible project for this fund.
- 12.2 **Flag Protocol.** Helen Ross forwarded the flag protocol. It was noted that the Saltire is the normal daily flag with the Union flag being flown on State and Royal occasions, also Remembrance day
- 12.3 **Tain Over 60's Party.** Helen Ross has emailed to indicate that this event will be funded by the Discretionary Funding, for this year, but limited to £1000 and not the £1250 applied for.
- 12.4 **Community Support Worker.** A new Community Support Worker has been appointed. Mr Rhind reported that he asked him to investigate 2 projects – the tidying up of King Street Car Park, and the development of the Sports Pavilion at the Links upper field. He has asked the Community Council to identify projects – members to consider projects for the next meeting.
- 12.5 **Scottish Water.** Information has been forwarded about keep water running in your area – think before you flush. Other information on taking care over household frost protection before winter has been received. The internet link provided for inclusion in the CC website doesn't seem to be working at present.
- 12.6 **Scottish Court Service (SCS).** Helen Ross has given names of people to contact in the SCS so that the CC suggestion of moving to the Duthac Centre can be passed onto to them, along with community concerns over the detrimental impact Court operations currently are having on the amenity of the town centre.
- 12.7 **Planning - Scottish Government.** A response has been received from the Chief Planner re the apparent loophole experienced at Glenmorangie with major applications being deliberately split in size to avoid the pre-planning community consultation obligation. It appears from the letter that little can be done to close this loophole but the terms were not convincing. Mr Macdonald to explore the matter further with the Chief Planner.
- 12.8 **Inner Moray Firth Development Plan.** This is now available on Highland Council's website, with a hard copy to be sent to the Community Council. There is an open day in Invergordon on 2 December – Mr Macdonald encouraged Community Council members to attend.
- 12.9 **Ward Forum meeting.** The next Ward Forum meeting is on 30<sup>th</sup> October – the subject is local Police and Fire and Rescue Plans. It was agreed that Mr Amos would attend if able to.
- 12.10 **RAF Liaison meeting.** Mr McAllister gave a report from the Liaison meeting including increased noise complaints, windfarm developments, applying for a license for ground use of small arms, and Major McKeown retiring. In future it is proposed to hold the meetings in the community and open to the public. It would appear the use of the Range is changing from RAF to Army.
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**13. PLANNING MATTERS**

- 13.1 **Change of use from Restaurant to house, 11 St Duthus Street** – support.

**14. COMMON GOOD FUND**

- 14.1 It was noted that there were some unexplained charges on the Common Good Fund finance document previously circulated. After discussion, it was agreed that Highland Council would be contacted and asked for more explanation of these charges. Mr Rhind indicated that he would arrange a meeting between the Community Council and Highland Council Accountants to go over costs.

**15. UNEXHAUSTED REMITS**

- 15.1 **Cemetery** – Mr Rhind spoke about this matter previously. **Green Environment** – there may be some cases of Ash dieback but individuals should be on guard against removing healthy trees unnecessarily. The Japanese knotweed has re-appeared behind the oil tank behind the Chip Shop at King Street car park but not evident elsewhere in the town centre. It will require continual monitoring. **Website development** – Mr McAllister reported that there were still some items to put on the website. Mrs Robertson is pursuing development of the Tain Community website. **Mussel Fisheries** – this is going along steady at the moment. **Beinn Tharsuinn windfarm** – no report.

**16. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 16.1 **20 mph speed limit area.** It was agreed that multiple speed limits in the Burgh would be confusing and Mr Macdonald considered that all residential areas and the town's narrow central streets were deserving of inclusion, leaving only the industrial estate roads, Blarliath and Shore Roads to be left at 30mph. However, it was important any reduced speed limits should be self-enforcing and not statutory obligations punishable by heavy fines and penalty points. Mr Rhind checking when the speed limit will commence.
- 16.2 **Remembrance Sunday.** Mr Macdonald reminded members that Remembrance Sunday is on 10<sup>th</sup> November this year. An email with information will be circulated nearer the time.

**THE MEETING CLOSED AT 9.35 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2013**