

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 30 JUNE 2014 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

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

**In attendance:** Mrs Robertson/Mr Rhind - Highland Councillors  
Sergeant Sutherland – Police Service of Scotland

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Torrance.

**2. POLICE REPORT**

2.1 Sargent Sutherland reported that since last month's meeting there had been around 12 disturbances in the Burgh, 3 reports of minor thefts, 15 fixed penalty notices (speeding, using mobile phones whilst driving), There have been some burglaries in the area. Questions were asked and answered regarding illegal fishing for shellfish, and CCTV cameras.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 May 2014 were approved by Mr McAllister, and seconded by Mr MacIvor, subject to Mr MacIvor's name being added to the present list, and item 12 – Alexander Bridge, should read Alexandra Bridge.

**4. MATTERS ARISING**

4.1 **Item 12 ref Transport Scotland.** Mr Macdonald will write to Transport Scotland on the safety of the A9 junctions.

4.2 **Item 12 ref David Bremner.** The plate gift is ready to present to Mr Bremner. Mr Louden, on behalf of the Community Council to present the gift for the 42 years' service to TRA in the next few days.

4.3 **Item 16.1 ref Queen's Baton Relay.** Information on the events on the day the Queen's Baton Relay is passing through Tain (11 July) has been received.

**YOUTH ISSUES**

Ms Weir reported that Wim Chalmet has been appointed Acting Deputy Rector due to the retirement of Donnie Macleod. The Rector's post is being advertised. The Head girl/boy is being appointed this week. The exams went smoothly.

## **6. HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

- 6.1 **Mrs Robertson's report.** Mrs Robertson reported that the funding is in place for the Mansfield Estate playpark. Additional funding is required for fencing, and local businesses have been written to with a view to them donating some funds. It was noted the Estate has considerably improved, with less crime. Mrs Robertson has requested that the houses are painted. She attended a Members seminar on better engagement of communities. The revamped Tain website is nearly complete and should be re-launched in mid July. The planning application for the mobile classrooms for the Special School and Nursery has been submitted. The parents of Nursery children are not happy at the prospect of the nature and cost of temporary relocation to the rear of Duthac House and hope this can be avoided pending the planned move to Craighill. Mrs Robertson is trying to see if this can be avoided. Questions were asked and answered regarding the poor standard of grass cutting, steps and pavements in poor state of repairs.
- 6.2 **Mr Rhind's report.** Mr Rhind reported that the Cemetery extension works is going well. No progress on the overhanging trees at Hartfield Gardens. Still looking for the additional funding for the Alexandra Bridge. New bus routes have been introduced to go via the new Health Centre. The 3-18 proposed new campus consultation meeting on today, and it has resulted in some valuable comments though public attendance appeared low with some feeling the consultation was not well advertised. The drainage is going to be improved at the Links. No update on the trees at the Links. It was noted that the trees/hedging beside the path from the Train station at the environmental garden requires to be cut back. Questions raised and answered re Morangie Road, the manhole cover outside the Railway Station, and the roadworks outside TRA.

## **7. COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY**

- 7.1 Ms Denzil Williams indicated that she wished to raise issues about traffic and parking. There are cars being parked kerbside at Blairliath Industrial Estate up the hill towards the Co-op that may cause a traffic hazard – the possibility of creating dropped kerbs and allowing parking alongside but off the road was discussed, as well as creating a car park on the CGF land west of the Council depot. Also, the lack of centre lines present a traffic hazard at the top of Geanies Street, and by the Royal Hotel as there are very faint markings only. It was noted that 20 mph zones are being proposed and different road surfacing for part of the High Street had been discussed at the recent Charrette. With regard to the Alexandra Bridge it was noted that the surface is slippery during icy/rainy conditions during the winter. After discussion, it was agreed to write to Community Services – TECs with a view to ascertaining their views on these matters. Once a response has been received, it will be forwarded to Ms Williams.

## **8. OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE - none**

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

- 9.1 Mr Macdonald reported the statistics from the Fire Brigade for the last month including 8 incidences of alarms going off. With regard to communities taking

over the Beinn Tharsuinn payments, no further developments. However, the Development Officer from the Kyle of Sutherland has offered to take over the admin of the fund for CC's who didn't find it economically advantageous to run the income stream themselves, for an agreed nominal fee. Having a separate Community Council (CC) bank account for the fund was discussed. There is another meeting in the next couple of days. The results of the CC town centre business questionnaire was 78 distributed and 7 returned. The top two items were increasing footfall in the Burgh, and the protection of the historic buildings. The findings will be forwarded to Highland Council. The CC has received an invitation to an open evening of North Highland Language Centre recently arrived in Tain. Mr Macdonald to send out a reminder as to date etc nearer the time.

## **10 VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 10.1 Mr Munro reported that the Tennis Club is putting on events on 11 July for the Queen's Baton Relay passing through Tain. Events include trying sports and a BBQ. The Baton will be at Lidl's at 4 pm on 11 July.

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

- 11.1 Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. It was noted that there is a small reduction in the annual grant due to a rise in the insurance premium. Mr Louden attended the LEADER consultation meeting – it has been suggested that there could be more community involvement in the next round.

## **12 NEW HEALTH CENTRE AND PUBIC TRANSPORT**

- 12.1 Mr Macdonald has received details regarding the public transport for the new Health Centre. £60,000 was contributed from Asda, £30,000 from the new Care Home, and £25,000 from Tesco – all until 2016. There are buses roughly one per hour but will need some tweaking on the timings. Concern remains over car parking being an issue, also pedestrian accessibility between the Health Centre and the High Street.

## **13 LETTERS**

- 13.1 **Annual grant confirmation** – note.
- 13.2 **Railway Station noticeboard.** An email about updating information on the Railway noticeboard has been received. Mrs Robertson indicated that new notices have been put up about taxis and public facilities. Mrs Mackay to respond to the email that the notices have been updated.
- 13.3 **Electoral arrangements for Councillor numbers.** A letter about a review of Councillor numbers has been received. After discussion, it was agreed to respond that the CC would like to see more Councillor's not less, as the more local representation the better for our communities.
- 13.4 **Scottish Rural Parliament (SRP).** A newsletter has been received from the SRP, and a consultation is taking place. After discussion, it was agreed that Mr Louden

would respond that the CCs priority is affordable housing.

- 13.5 **Mock TRA independence referendum.** It was noted that the results from the mock referendum election was : For independence – 310, to stay as part of the UK – 351.

#### **14 PLANNING MATTERS**

- 14.1 **Erection of temporary 4 classroom school buildings for St Duthus Special School** – support  
**Erection of extension, 34 Craighill Terrace** – support.

- 14.2 **Notice of review land 50m north of Morangie Filling Station – planning condition – sandstone pillars** – after discussion over the imposition of conditions which the CC had not been aware of when considering the planning application, it was agreed to support the applicant with his Application for Review.

- 15 COMMON GOOD FUND** – no report.

#### **16 BUDGET CONSULTATION**

- 16.1 Mr Macdonald indicated that it was a poor consultation meeting in Invergordon in terms of public attendance, and the feeling generally that at although there seemed to be an increase in public consultation there was little evidence the public were being listened to. It was felt that the most important change Highland Council could make was with its procurement policy, in terms of using more local businesses at more advantageous cost. As an aside, it was agreed to start a Facebook page for the CC, and Mr Munro to progress this.

#### **17 UNEXHAUSTED REMITS**

- 17.1 **Alexandra Bridge** – Mr Macdonald to look at the de-listing information for the Bridge again. **Mussel Fisheries** – it was noted that there are toxins in the water so there is no fishing at present. **Website** – Mr McAllister reported that the picture on the website had been updated. **Fire Brigade** – it was agreed to take this item off unexhausted remits as Mr Macdonald updated the meeting on this item in his report. **Trees and green environment** – it was noted that the flower baskets went out on 17 June. **3-18 years old campus** – Mr Macdonald and Mr Louden declared an interest in this item and did not take part in the debate. After discussion, it was agreed not to put in a joint CC position, but for Community Councillors to respond individually.

#### **18 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 18.1 **Tain Golf Club.** A thank you letter and receipt has been received for the approval of the grant for the sprayer – it was agreed to pass the information on to Phil Tomalin.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 10.45 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 25 AUGUST 2014**