

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN
MEETING HELD ON 30 SEPTEMBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

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

In attendance: Mrs Robertson/Mr Rhind – Highland Councillors
Constables Mackenzie/Wylie – Police Service of Scotland
Mr D Smith/Miss I Moffat – Tain Royal Academy
Mr J Newlands/Mr C McEwan/Mr A Macdonald – Glenmorangie

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1.1 Apologies for absence were received from Mr Mohan and Mr Nutt.

2. POLICE REPORT

2.1 Constable Mackenzie reported that there have been 3 accidents at the Morangie junction this year. Since the last meeting there had been 55 road traffic offences including fixed penalty notices and car seizures. There has been 1 anti-social behaviour incident. A discussion took place on parking in the Burgh – including disabled parking bays. It was agreed to monitor the High Street and for Community Councillor's to look at the traffic situation before the next meeting.

3. APPROVAL ON MINUTES

3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 26 August 2013 were approved by Mr Amos and seconded by Mr Louden.

4. MATTERS ARISING

4.1 **Item 2.1 ref 101 non-emergency phone number.** It was noted that there had been some instances of the public not being able to get through to the Police on the 101 non-emergency number.

4.2 **Item 4.1 ref Fire Brigade presentation.** Mr Macdonald reported that Mr Whiteley had not finished the presentation to the Fire Brigade. It is likely to be finished by October.

4.3 **Item 4.3 ref Chapel Road.** Information has been received from Highland Council regarding the speed survey on Chapel Road. There is an average of 313 return vehicle trips per day on Chapel Road with an average speed of 20.5 mph. After discussion, it was agreed to contact Mr Smith and welcome the proposals of 20 mph signs and slow markets, and monitor the situation.

- 4.4 **Item 5.1 ref Glenmorangie Distillery planning application.** Mr Macdonald reported that he had not had a response from the Director of Planning regarding planning laws and loopholes on major applications. It was agreed to bring the matter of splitting planning applications into small multiple sites in order to by-pass the requirement for pre-application community consultation to the attention of the Chief Planner of Scotland.

5. GLENMORANGIE DISTILLERY PLANNING PRESENTATION

- 5.1 Mr McEwen intimated that there had been a pre-meeting with Mr Macdonald, Mr Louden and Mr McAllister of the Community Councillor, with a view to the Community Council withdrawing its objection on road safety grounds. Mr McEwan presented an indication of the development plans for the Distillery until 2018, and confirmed the landscaping works intended would leave the fields looking very much as they are at present. He believed traffic generation might even be less than at present owing to the operational changes the proposal would help deliver. As part of their Corporate Responsibility for public safety they may look at a coastal path between the town and the Distillery. There is an average of 28,000 public visitors a year. Mr Macdonald indicated that the Community Council were supportive of the development and distillery expansion generally but had concerns about road safety, the existing junction to which all current and future traffic is proposed to be taken is considered inadequate and unsafe, and there may be more suitable alternatives available, discussed at the pre-meeting. Mr McEwan dismissed the alternatives and advised improvements to the existing junction may be something that could possibly be looked at, but not before 2018. Commitment for any such works would have to come from Glenmorangie's Board of Directors. Members considered some commitment was vital if the objection was to be withdrawn. Mr Macdonald explained that withdrawing the objection at this stage would leave the Planning case officer free to approve the application, in effect, leaving the Community Council morally responsible for having declared the existing junction safe, despite members fears to the contrary. Leaving the objection in place would pass that responsibility more appropriately onto the Planning Committee of Highland Council. He asked Mr McEwan for confirmation of Glenmorangie's intentions on access improvement as a means of establishing whether they could offer the Community Council some comfort on the matter. Mr Andy Macdonald, Distillery Manager invited Community Councillor's to view the works and the new warehouse. Mr Macdonald re-affirmed his previously held opinion that much of the problems at the Glenmorangie junction stemmed from the speed of northbound traffic coming off the downslope of the town by-pass and intended to raise once again with Transport Scotland the need for a roundabout at the Morangie Road junction, not only to improve safety at that point but also to help alleviate traffic speeds at the distillery.

YOUTH ISSUES

6. **Tain Royal Academy.** Miss Moffat reported that it had been a quiet term so far, with the first years settling in. There are inspections happening at the School at the moment. Some pupils have travelled and others will be travelling to the Auschwitz Concentration camps. There is a buddy trip to 10-pin bowling in the next few days. Gizzen Briggs recently supported a Runrig concert which was a tremendous accolade. There is a new Home Economics department.

HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR'S REPORTS

7. **Mrs Robertson's report.** Mrs Robertson reported that she had a list of potential 20 mph zones

- 7.1 from Highland Council. It was agreed to circulate the list to Community Councillor's for consideration at the next meeting. It may take up to 2 years to implement the zones. The Alexandra Bridge has now opened, and the initial investigations are complete. The weeds in the Mansfield Estate have been dealt with. The new units for St Duthus School are not in place as yet, and are subject to a planning application. A timeline when the units will be in place has been promised. It is dog-fouling fortnight soon, which will highlight the prospect of fines for offenders. Tain rated very high in the medals for the reading challenge with took place over the summer. The proposed lighting plan for the Mansfield Estate was circulated. Mrs Robertson and Mr Rhind are pushing for the new lighting to be part of the Capital Plan.

- 7.2 **Mr Rhind's report.** Mr Rhind reported that the Director of TECs looked at the state of the wall at Castle Brae and the Collegiate Church. He is still pursuing the development brief for the Health Centre, once vacated. Contacts at Asda have changed and he is still pursuing remedial works at the Tennis Club. With regard to the grass cutting situation at the Catholic Church, he is in discussions with Highland Council. Mr Rhind asked that any items to do with the Mussel Fisheries are brought to the attention of George Hamilton, the Fisheries Officer. The Senior Citizen's Party is due to take place on 11 January – locations were discussed. The switch on of the Christmas Lights is 30 November – names to be forwarded to Mr Rhind. The costs of the Christmas Lights this year will be minimal. Arising out of questions Mr Rhind to contact Planning re the notices at the Nigg round-a-bout. Discussion took place on an official Tain flag and it was considered this may prove difficult to secure and may be unsuitable in terms of design, also expensive, if the Lord Lion requires to become involved. It was agreed nevertheless the Rose Garden would be the location for any such flag. Mrs Mackay to ask Helen Ross for Highland Council's flag protocol. It was noted that there is no crossing patroller at the Craighill end of Scotsburn Road. The paths are in a bad state of repair at Quarry Lane and Provost Ferguson Drive – Mr Rhind to pursue.

COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY – none

8. **OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – noted.**

9. **CHAIR'S REPORT**

10. Mr Macdonald circulated amended wording for the Fire Brigade presentation, which was agreed.
- 10.1 Mr Macdonald met with representatives from Glenmorangie prior to the presentation at this monthly meeting. Mr Macdonald was attending another meeting which ran on, so was unable to attend the Beinn Tharsuinn windfarm AGM. He attended the Highland Small Communities House Trust AGM – there were discussions on various types of successful shared equity schemes, and innovative ideas for introducing rural individuals to social housing, some of which may be appropriate for Tain.

VICE CHAIR'S REPORT

11. Mr Munro reported that there is a Warrior exercise at the Bombing Range next week. The public can watch and it was agreed to put this information on the website.
- 11.1

FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT

12. Mr Loudon circulated an up to date financial report. Website payments have been made.
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12.1

LETTERS

13.

13.1 **Grass cutting – Catholic Church.** A letter has been received from Fr Reese re the grass cutting. After discussion, it was agreed to write again thanking him for his letter and that the Community Council understands that negotiations are continuing with Highland Council.

13.2 **Senior pupils ringing the town bells.** Mr Mohan enquired why senior pupils no longer rang the town bells. It was noted that a private individual was hired to do this now and had been doing very well for some considerable time.

Licensing board overprovision – noted.

14.

PLANNING MATTERS

14.1

Court House – internal alterations. After discussion, it was agreed to object to this application due to the potential intensification of Court House use which was already manifesting itself in serious amenity problems on the High Street. It would be unsuitable to have people congregating around the door to the Tower, and there were also a number of practical problems with using the stair access to the tower. A suggestion was made that the Court may best be located to Duthac House when it is vacated. **New Care Home – proposed no 1 day space and 6 bed extension –** Mr Macdonald to get information on this application and circulate it was a view to responding to Planning by the end of the week. **Conversion of existing disused railway to restaurant –** it was agreed to support this application. **Installation of air source heat pump, 2 Provost Ferguson Drive – note.** **Change of use from Garden Centre to restaurant and hot food take-a-way** (Mr Macdonald declared an interest and vacated the Chair for this item, leaving the Chamber for the duration of the discussion) – it was agreed to support this application.

COMMON GOOD FUND

15.

15.1 It was agreed to leave this item until the next meeting. With regard to Common Good property/land, there is some dubiety on what is Common Good and what is Highland Council's land at Blarliath, in particular – Mr Macdonald checking with Helen Ross the apparent assignation from CGF to Reserved Fund the site of the TECS depot.

UNEXHAUSTED REMITS

16.

16.1 **Cemetery –** Mr Rhind indicated that the new extension may start in October. **Green Environment –** no report. **Website development –** Mr McAllister reported that the public had been commenting on the lack of updates on the Tain Community website. It was noted that money to develop the community website may be able to be accessed from the Beinn Tharsuinn Community Windfarm Fund. **Mussel Fisheries –** spoke about earlier. **Beinn Tharsuinn windfarm –** noted that there was £6,253 in the budget for Tain – only payment this past year was for floral displays.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

17.

17.1 **Tain Christmas card.** It was noted that Tain Christmas cards are sold at the Museum – to be advertised on the website. It was suggested that a competition to send in photos of Tain winter

scenes for a Christmas card could be advertised on the website.

17.2 **CCAST Highland.** Mr Nutt has invited Community Councillor's to look round CCAST Highland. It was agreed that Ms Weir would contact Mr Nutt to a view to going along.

THE MEETING CLOSED AT 10.45 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 28 OCTOBER 2013