

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY COUNCIL OF THE ROYAL BURGH OF TAIN  
MEETING HELD ON 31 AUGUST 2015 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TAIN**

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

**In attendance:** Mr Rhind/Mrs Robertson - Highland Councillor

<b>1.</b>	<b>APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE</b> – Ms Weir and Mr MacIvor.
<b>2.</b>	<b>POLICE REPORT</b> – no report.
<b>3.</b>	<b>APPROVAL OF MINUTES</b>
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 May 2015 were approved by Mr McAllister, and seconded by Mrs Mackenzie.
<b>4.</b>	<b>MATTERS ARISING</b>
4.1	<b>Item 6.1 ref Nigg Ferry.</b> Mr Rhind reported that there had been a recent meeting Re the Nigg Ferry. The procurement process will start in October, with a view to the service running next year. It is hoped that the service may be extended in other ways. It was noted that there are still notices up advertising the Ferry despite asking them to be taken down – Mr Rhind to pursue this. Mr Rhind to enquire about the fare structure.
4.2	<b>Item 5.2 ref Foodbank donation.</b> Mr Louden reported that the £200 donation had now been made to the Tain Foodbank.
<b>5.</b>	<b>YOUTH ISSUES</b>
5.1	Mr Chalmet, Acting Rector, TRA introduced Ruth Allan, one of the 2 School Captains (the other being Aileen Macleod). Miss Allan reported that a Senior Leadership Team has been established instead of Vice-Captains. A charity day is being organised with monies going to the links in Malawi. There is interest in getting the Pupil Council up and running. There is a strong bond wanted through the buddy system. A Prefect system has been established for helping the 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> years. The process for establishing how the School Captains were chosen was discussed. There was an offer from Miss Allan with regards pupil help taking down the flower baskets – she is to be sent an email advising the details.
<b>6.</b>	<b>HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</b>
6.1	<b>Mr Rhind’s report.</b> Mr Rhind mentioned that the CC had been sent a letter on the old Cemetery state of repair. He had a walk-a-round with the Director of the Service and discussions are ongoing, although he is still shares the CC concerns about the state of it. The steel pillars from the Alexandra Bridge are back on site.

6.2	<p>The contingency funds have been dipped into. The Tain leaflets from the pupils of Craighill Primary School have been photocopied as promised. The Common Good Fund asset list is not completed but it is hoped that it will be ready for the next meeting, if not before. The signs on the A9 down due to the bad weather are still waiting to be being dealt with. The gully emptier was being used in Tain before the bad night of flooding. Mr Rhind will check whether the fallen trees on the Links have been dealt with. The contractor has been back to the New Cemetery – the faulty pillars may not have been built to the proper specifications. May have to carry out the service of consecration before the pillars are done. The landscaping has to be maintained for a year as part of the contract so Mr Rhind is following this up. It appears accepted the wrong type of plants had been selected in terms of minimal maintenance. Weeds in the Burgh are causing an issue, and the grass cutting is not the standard as witnessed elsewhere. Questions – hedge by Tennis Club is growing out on the pavement – HC wrote to landowner and asked to cut. Two signposts by Tesco had beenknocked down and repaired. Mr Macdonald advised a manhole cover on Knockbreck Road outside the end house makes a loud noise, disturbing residents, when a vehicle goes over it – Mr Rhind to pursue this item. Mr Munro reported that there were some rust showing through the paintwork and some of the lattice is missing on the Alexandra Bridge – Mr Rhind to look into this. It was noted that the weeds/nettles are very bad at Cunarder Lane – Mr Rhind to progress this item.</p> <p><b>Mrs Robertson’s report.</b> Mrs Robertson reported that there has been some interest in the TRA Head Teacher recent job advert – hope to have someone appointed by October. The All-weather pitch at TRA is going to be re-surfaced. There is a seagull nesting problem at the pitch – and it is hoped to have it a seagull deterrent in place by the end of September. There is a District Partnership meeting in Alness on Friday, where there is a presentation from the Tain After School Club. There is a possibility of a Family Centre coming to Tain and venues are being looked at. Mrs Robertson has asked that the nomination papers for the forthcoming CC elections are widely circulated and would be available from the website. The 3-18 year old stakeholders group should be formed soon – a representative from the CC will be invited to join the group.</p>
7.	<b>COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY</b> – none
8.	<b>OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE</b> – correspondence emailed round previously.
9.	<p><b>CHAIR’S REPORT</b></p> <p>9.1 Mr Macdonald indicated that he had discussions with Planning on signage on the High Street – it was noted that the RBS signs are being changed to heritage signs. There was a discussion on the recent flooding in the Burgh, and it was noted the Highland Gathering went ahead as normal the day after and was very successful. There had been questions about the trees being removed at Craighill Primary School – upon raising the matter with Planning it was found the new car park has been included at a late stage as part of the portakabin planning application. This was a peculiar procedure with poor justification which precluded the opportunity for public comment and didn’t reflect well on the Council. Mr Macdonald thanked</p>

	Mr Louden for attending the by-pass meeting in his absence.
<b>10.</b>	<b>VICE-CHAIR'S REPORT</b>
10.1	Mr Munro wanted to thank the Police for their quick action in having speed checks at Knockbreck Primary School after he had mentioned them. It was noted that the passport service previously available at the Post Office is no longer available. It was commented there was a problem with lack of space and queuing in the new premises.
<b>11.</b>	<b>FINANCE AND TREASURER'S REPORT</b>
11.1	Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. It was reported that the annual renewal for the website had been paid as was the website invoice. The £200 donation to the foodbank had been recorded. Mr Louden reported that the figures on the Annual Grant award was out by 1p.
<b>12.</b>	<b>LETTERS</b>
12.1	<b>Old Cemetery.</b> A letter has been received from Highland Council re the state of the Old Cemetery advising that the majority of the maintenance is carried out over the winter months, and the action plan was included. Whilst the response was welcomed, the Cemetery is still in a poor state. After discussion whereupon it was agreed the maintenance regime was failing the community it was agreed further visits would be made to the cemetery and appropriate representations made to the Council by way of response to the letter. It was also discussed whether it might be possible to arrange a one-off community maintenance effort to bring the cemetery up to a decent state of repair.
12.2	<b>Local Government Boundary changes/Workshop on Digital Engagement 30/10/15/Foundation Scotland – Achieving Impact with Community Benefit event 29/9/15/Date Protection Act – HC acting as an umbrella organisation –</b> noted.
<b>13.</b>	<b>PLANNING MATTERS</b>
13.1	<b>Smart Metre installation – Quarry Road</b> – it was noted that there is a new application on its way for this item and a pre-application consultation had been. After discussion, it was agreed given little had changed to advise the applicant the CC would be repeating its objection on behalf of the residents and the hotel. <b>Demolition of extension and erection of new extension at Carringtons, Morangie Road</b> – no comment. <b>Installation of external plant and AC, roof replacement and change of colour to frontage at 14 High Street</b> – agreed to note meantime but to wait with interest the anticipated signage application. <b>Revised applications for Signage at the two chemist shops</b> – after discussion it was agreed to object to unsatisfactory aspects of the proposals in particular blanking out of windows which had a detrimental impact on the listed buildings and the conservation area. It was noted that there is now a Listed Building Officer in post and it is hoped his specialist skills will influence the applicants to progress a more satisfactory solution.

<b>14.</b>	<b>COMMON GOOD FUND</b> – discussed previously
<b>15.</b>	<b>UNEXHAUSTED REMITS</b>
15.1	<b>Beinn Tharsuinn</b> – Board meeting and AGM due on 22 September. <b>Alexandra Bridge/3-18 Campus/Cemetery</b> – discussed previously. <b>Mussel Fisheries</b> – it was noted that there is a meeting soon – update at next meeting. <b>Website Development</b> – no update. <b>Trees and green environment</b> – noted that the Japanese Knotwood plant is back at the rear of the Chip Ship – Mr Rhind to mention this to the owners. Reply forthcoming on the criticism over the tree maintenance work on the by-pass.
<b>16.</b>	<b>ANY OTHER BUSINESS</b>
16.1	<b>Tain Publicity.</b> Mr McAllister circulated tourist leaflets from Dornoch. After discussion it was agreed that in order to take publicity further it required a group to progress items so funding could be attracted. Ideally this should be a project for Tain Initiative Group. Questions were asked about its current status and Mrs Robertson advised it was in the process of being moved from a Company Limited by Guarantee and a registered charity to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, with an AGM likely in November. The benefits of having a Project Officer was discussed possibly with the assistance of ScotGrad but funding would require to be found. There was a shortage of members at present and means of encouraging new members was discussed. It was agreed that using the information provided by the Charrette process might be useful in helping attract funding.
16.2	<b>Beinn Tharsuinn Community Windfarm funding application -.</b> The Rifle Club wish funding for heating and lighting. After discussion where it was advised the fund could not afford that amount, it was agreed to establish if they do not get all the funding (£4,800) then would the project fail. Thereafter a decision will be made on a grant and the amount. Tain Tennis Club have also asked informally for the likelihood of more funding for resurfacing following their grant received in April 2015. After discussion it was agreed to advise the Club had received all the Tain pot of the BTCWF could afford at the time and that position hadnt changed.

**THE MEETING ENDED AT 10.40 PM**

**THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2015**