

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

Present: Mr D Macdonald (Chair) Mr D Louden (Treasurer)
 Mr D MacIvor Mr N Munro (Vice-Chair)
 Mrs Mackenzie Mr A Mohan
 Mr G Amos Mr M Bremner (TRA rep)

In attendance: Mr Rhind - Highland Councillor
 Acting Sergeant Whitehead/Constable Forbes, Police Scotland

1.	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Mrs Robertson, Ms Weir, Mr McAllister
2.	POLICE REPORT
2.1	Sergeant Whitehead reported that over the past month that there have been Community Safety and Scottish Fire and Rescue events at the local schools which have been well received. There has been 1 incident of a bogus caller, 5 vandalisms, 1 fixed penalty for parking on the High Street, 2 thefts by shoplifting, 1 assaults, 2 road safety warnings for speeding, 1 fly tipping, 3 reports of parking obstructions, 2 drug offences, 1 offensive weapons, 6 nuisance calls, and 1 road traffic accident near Fearn.
2.2	There was a substantial discussion on the removal of vehicles as this had taken place recently in 2 locations. If anyone observes cars obstructing the road or pavements to phone 101 to report. The state of the old Cemetery was discussed as there had been some recent vandalism, some burrowing animal damage, flooding and general maintenance issues.
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES
3.1	The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 February 2015 were approved by Mr Munro, and seconded by Mr Louden.
4.	MATTERS ARISING
4.1	Item 4.4 ref Common Good Fund meeting. It was noted that the meeting with Highland Council officials to discuss the Common Good Fund assets has not happened as yet. Officials apparently are making preparations.
4.2	Item 7.1 ref Murray Monument. It was noted that the repairs to the Murray Monument has not taken place.
4.3	Item 10.1 ref Mussel Man. It was noted that the Glenmorangie Distillery have agreed to take and display the Mussel Man. Mr Louden spoke to the Museum on how they deal with loans and a draft document was circulated with a view to something appropriate being drawn for the purposes of formalising the loan of the Mussel Man to Glenmorangie. It was agreed to amend the loan document to reflect the comments made and to lodge the Mussel Man as a Common Good Asset, also to make available the remaining balance in the Mussel account to Glenmorangie to allow minor repairs and make a base.

<p>5.</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>YOUTH ISSUES</p> <p>Mr Bremner reported that as it was coming to the end of the school year the year book was being sent off, and the leaving hoodies are being arranged. An end of year lunch is being arranged. There was an S6 event “Learning to be a Student”. The Easter Ceilidh is taking place tomorrow. The other events held include the subject options evenings, and parent evenings. Questions were asked and answered regarding the Curriculum for Excellence, and remembering World War 1.</p>
<p>6.</p> <p>6.1</p>	<p>CHARRETTE</p> <p>Mr Macdonald read out Mr McAllister’s report from the Charrette, which had discussed shop front enhancements, regular street markets, empty shop upper floors, review of traffic management, improvement’s in car parking, better signage, creating an attractive town centre open space, promotion of the Old Picture House as an Arts hub (Mr Louden declared an interest), promote effective use of the railway station (it was noted that this was being done), community taking over car parks and possible charging, and promoting small units in the BT building. The weakness in the whole plan was the ability to fund the various projects and until funding was made available and a way forward to progress them was devised the Charrette would prove to be little more than a ‘talking shop’. The CC was clear there should be no parking charges and repeated previous requests the reference to the Court House as a positive town centre use should be removed from the Report. It was noted no response had been received yet to the letter sent last March to SCS over the problems being experienced on the High Street through some individuals and groups attending the court. It was resolved to send a reminder to SCS and also to suggest the soon to become vacant Knockbreck Primary School as an alternative court location. It was also resolved to suggest the available open space at the Duthac Centre could be used occasionally for a street market though it was noted this had been tried in the past with limited success. It should also be suggested to the Highland Small Housing Community Trust that they might be interested in turning conversion of some High Street upper floors to affordable housing. As an aside it was agreed to contact HIE and find out what they are able to do to contribute to the items on the Charette, and pass on the aforementioned comments from the Community Council to Highland Council. Mr Rhind suggested that Duthac House possibly could be used as a respite centre. The need for such was agreed and supported as an idea.</p>
<p>7.</p> <p>7.1</p>	<p>HIGHLAND COUNCILLOR’S REPORT</p> <p>Mr Rhind’s report. Mr Rhind reported that the trees are now cut on the A9 bypass. Mr Rhind wrote to BEAR Scotland thanking them for the work and asked that the verges are tidied up. The Post Office is moving to the paper shop on 3 July. There is a meeting on the 3-18 year old campus soon. The repair works on the Alexandra Bridge are starting on 20 April. The ironwork covers on Shandwick Street have not been fixed – they are the responsibility of Scottish Water. The portacabins for the Special School may not be ready until after the summer. The large tree root has been taken away at Woody Braes (Mr Munro thanked Mr Rhind for this). There is a meeting on the Mussels soon. There was a clear up at the</p>

	<p>Castle Brae garden. He had a look at the trees and there appears to be only one problem tree. Yellow line work will be done in the next few weeks. The grass cutting will begin soon – with weedkilling done throughout the year. General road repairs not being done in Tain. There was a meeting on housing allocations. It was noted that the Japanese Knotweed has not appeared but this will be monitored. The vandalism at the Old Cemetery was discussed again and it was agreed to contact William Gilfillan and ask what Highland Council are doing about it.</p>
8.	COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY
8.1	<p>Ms Williams reported that the old fencing around the revamped play park at Mansfield Estate remains in a poor state of repair, jagged with nails sticking out. Mr Rhind to follow up.</p>
9.	OUTGOING CORRESPONDENCE – correspondence emailed round previously.
10.	CHAIR’S REPORT
10.1	<p>Mr Macdonald reported that he had visited the Old Cemetery to examine the vandalism and found there to be even more serious problems with drainage, overgrown trees, rabbit burrows and a general lack of maintenance – Mr Rhind to follow up and William Gilfillan to be contacted as mentioned previously. The Highland Small Housing Community Trust is showing interested in land at Chapel Road and have requested another copy of the location plan. A dayglo coloured religious notice has appeared on the community noticeboard at the railway station taking up half the board and covering community information– Mr Rhind to follow up. It was agreed to have the AGM before the May monthly meeting. Office bearers will require to be appointed at the AGM in line with protocol and not the meeting immediately afterwards as has previously been done. The Scone of Destiny Drama has been provisionally set for 15 May. Mr Macdonald to forward Mr Rhind’s contact details to this group. Who is to do the advertising needs to be clarified. On behalf of Highland Council Mabbett.eu is investigating bringing mains gas to Tain. Mr Macdonald has put them in touch with Glenmorangie distillery and vice versa.. The Community Council’s comments on the Inner Moray Firth Development Plan have been largely disregarded– the detail of this will come back to the next meeting.</p>
11.	VICE-CHAIR’S REPORT
11.1	<p>Mr Munro urged Highland Council to make wise decisions, and to hold proper discussion with the Tain community on the vacant buildings to be left as a result of the 3-18 year old campus. If left unattended they will deteriorate very quickly.</p>
12.	FINANCE AND TREASURER’S REPORT
12.1	<p>Mr Louden circulated an up to date financial report. The school donations have been sent off, and thank you letters have been received from all, except TRA. The grant is in from the discretionary fund. The mussel account can be shut down (discussed previously). Despite of an attempt to do so, no money was taken out of</p>

	the Charitable Bequests account to CCAST for the foodbank as yet. The accounts will be independently examined, and require to go to the forthcoming AGM for approval.
13.	LETTERS
13.1	Post Office. A letter has been received from the Post Office saying that it will be re-located on 3 July to the paper shop. After discussion, it was agreed to write back and express the CC's serious disappointment with the decision which was considered contrary to widely held community opinion, and not the subject of popular support as implied in the letter from the Post Office.
13.2	Tain Flying range. It was noted that a meeting had been held between the flying range management at the local Councillor's. It was agreed that the Community Council's should be consulted and any changes in use or increase in different activities.
13.3	Beinn Tharsuinn Windfarm Community Company. A grant request has been received from Tain Tennis Club for £2,250. After discussion it was agreed to support this application for £1,000 on the basis no more than that could be afforded. Mr Munro declared an interest.
14.	PLANNING MATTERS
14.1	Erection of extension and air source heat pump, 12 Culpleasant Avenue – no observations.
15.	COMMON GOOD FUND – spoken about previously.
16.	UNEXHAUSTED REMITS
16.1	Beinn Tharsuinn – no report. Alexandra Bridge/3-8 Campus/ Mussel Fisheries –discussed earlier.. Website Development – Mr McAllister continually updating the website. Cemetery – the landscaping has gone ahead and still remains to be seen how hard it will be to maintain in future. Trees and green environment – no report.
17.	ANY OTHER BUSINESS - none

THE MEETING ENDED AT 9.30 PM

THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING IS MONDAY 27 APRIL 2015