



## MEETING MINUTES

**Venue:** The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

**Date:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

**Time:** 19:00

<b>Present</b>			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Alan Farquhar	AF1	Chairperson
	Allan Bruce	AB	Vice-Chairperson
	Joanna Coghill	JC	Treasurer
	Wendy Campbell	WC	N/A
	Doreen Turner	DT	N/A
	Norma Craven	NC	N/A
	Rona Morrison	RM	N/A
	Alastair Ferrier	AF2	N/A
Co-opted Members	David Dunnett	DD	N/A
Non-Members	David Scott	DS	Press Reporter

<b>Apologies of Absence</b>	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Cllr Raymond Bremner	Ex-officio Member
Cllr Jan McEwan	Ex-officio Member

### **1. Welcome and Apologies**

AF1 welcomed everyone who was present to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining the meeting.

### **2. Approval and Adoption of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to members by the Secretary.

The minutes were approved and adopted as follows, subject to amendments:

Proposed By: DT  
Seconded By: WC

### **3. Monthly Correspondence Record**

All members reviewed the monthly correspondence record.

AB highlighted how Thurso and John O' Groats have received a top up tap for fresh water, Wick did not qualify as they did not meet the criteria to have one installed. AB enquired about this with Scottish Water, however, received no response.

The email received from Caithness Rural Transport concerning the issues with local electric charging points were discussed, it was highlighted that the charging point located at the Riverside does indeed work. AB asked who owns and runs the local a charging point. It was thought that these would be managed by The Highland Council. It was mutually agreed for RBWCC to contact The Highland Council to ask what the process is for reporting issues with them and who is responsible. A response to this email to explain this will be collated.

### **4. Action List**

All members reviewed the current action list.

It was agreed that RBWCC would not be charged to have a stall at any community markets given that Wick Community Market is going to be a sub-group of RBWCC.

### **5. Highland Council Matters**

Due to no Highland Councillors being present, questions were unable to be answered, however, the following points were raised:

JC stated that the former Semi Chem is now a dumping ground and asked what can be done to contact the owner to tidy it up. This will be added as an action against Cllr Raymond Bremner.

RM highlighted that there is a sign on the former Valhalla premises which states "Under New Management". There were some uncertainties raised about this.

RM advised that there has been no progress on the extremely deep pothole on Dempster Street.

JC stated that she would like to know what the outcome is of the consultation which was held a year and a half ago in the former Carnegie Library.

WC asked if the drain at the bottom of the cliff could be cleaned out. AB is to follow up on this.

AB advised that lots of people have been talking about the new public toilets at Whitechapel. AB advised that it is the installation of both the internal and external CCTV which is causing the hold up. AB also advised that The Highland Council are aware of the lighting issues at Whitechapel. It was agreed that this issue needs to be addressed prior to the toilets officially opening.

DD asked what the current situation was with the cutting off the trees. AB advised that one of the former fuel buildings located at Caithness General Hospital was supposedly being taken down also. It was agreed that The Highland Council be contacted regarding the consultation for Wick Riverside.

WC asked what the contractual regulations were on ensuring that the roads are being maintained after being dug up for the installation of new pipe work etc. WC highlighted that where the road has sunk in some locations is where pipework was installed.

## **6. Local Organisations' Update:**

- **Wick Development Trust**  
No representatives present.
- **Wick High School Pupil Representatives**  
No representatives present.
- **Local Police**  
A report was received in advance of the meeting which as circulated amongst RBWCC members.
- **East Caithness Community Campus and Noss Primary School**  
WC asked why HighLife Highland keep cancelling events, such as the adults' group on a Wednesday afternoon. It was agreed that an email to question this would be issued to ECCF.
- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**  
WC advised that there was nothing to report.
- **Friends of Green Road Park**  
AF1 advised that there was nothing to report apart from that the kids seem to be enjoying the park.

- **Wick Flowers**  
JC advised that the group are preparing for the summer ahead by painting containers, choosing flowers, and arranging a display for the old slip. Serious damage happened to a container which cost over £400. The group reported this to the local police. The group will also be writing to Wick High School to let them know of this damage. The group do not want to remove the container until some answers are received.
- **Wick Paths Group**  
**JOHN'S REPORT**
- **Association of Caithness Community Councils**  
AF2 advised that they are planning the next two meetings. AF2 advised that Jacqueline Henderson of The Highland Council was in touch, she is responsible for Avonlea, Wick. She is hoping to attend the next AOCC meeting. AF2 also advised that Maree Todd will be attending on behalf of The Scottish Government.

## 7. Council Business and Matters Arising:

- **Wick Common Good Fund**  
AF1 advised that Cllr Raymond Bremner has been asked about what the fairground is charged for the hire of the ground and if Caithness Agricultural Society pay anything for the hire of part of the ground for the Caithness Show.
- **Sustrans / Pocket Lanes**  
AF1 raised the new panels which were installed in some of the lanes in the town. WC felt that there was no need for a consultation for what was installed. NC advised that RBWCC have been a part of the consultation from the beginning.
- **Scottish Spring Clean 2024**  
AB advised that x2 events have been held so far, massive hauls of litter were picked up. AB stated that the turnout from lots of local groups and the public has been amazing. The team will be back in x3 weeks' time, focussing on a couple of other areas. AB also advised that the team at local recycling centre are very accepting of the rubbish which is being collected.
- **COVID Beatrice Funding Spend**  
JC asked if anyone had ideas for what the funding can be spent on.  
  
JC suggested purchasing picnic tables for the x3 play parks which don't have any. JC suggested Solway Recycled benches.  
  
JC suggested litter signs like what is at Keiss.  
  
JC advised that Sam (local businessman) is keen for the bricked up arched windows on the side of his building in Shore Lane to be used. JC suggested purchasing

materials for Step Forward Wick Youth and RBWCC could provide them with a theme.

JC suggested purchasing pictures from The Johnston Collection for displaying around the first harbour area beside the boat sheds.

AB advised that Wick Paths Group would like to install an accessible gate at Old Wick Castle heading towards the Trinkie. The group would appreciate a contribution from RBWCC towards this.

AF1 advised that the patron saint of Wick is Saint Fergus. Saint Fergus could be depicted in of the arched windows on the building in Shore Lane.

AF1 advised that there is also a bricked-up archway in-between The Crown Bar, something could go in there.

CVG provided a list of funders, NC will investigate this as potential match funding for any of the above ideas.

AB, JC and AF are to work out costs for the above projects and JC will add this to a spreadsheet for discussion next month.

Hannah Cambridge would like to look at revamping the mural on the Boating Shed. Hannah now has the contacts for this. However, funding will be required for this. Depending on what the costings are, JC suggested giving a donation from RBWCC.

AB advised that Eswyl Fell provided a list of costings for projects. They have £143 left, and they require £343 for the supplies. Due to Eswyl Fell's absence, this will be discussed at the May meeting. JC suggested donating £200 from RBWCC.

## **8. Council Sub-Group Reports:**

AF1 advised that if RBWCC form a sub-group, then each sub-group is required to have a Terms of Reference.

NC stressed that if groups aren't sub-groups, but RBWCC hold funding for them, then why aren't they sub-groups.

It was re-iterated that both Wick Flower Baskets (now known as Wick Flowers) and Wick Paths Group are not sub-groups of RBWCC as they have their own constitutions which does not state that they are sub-groups of RBWCC. It was also said that perhaps transition wasn't made clear in the beginning.

AF1 advised that Wick Christmas Lights and HAPPY were originally set up as sub-groups of RBWCC.

AF1 stressed that if you are a sub-group of RBWCC, Zurich Insurance will cover you.

- **Wick Community Market**  
AF1 advised that Yvonne Rathbone is now an admin on Wick Community Market's Facebook page.
- **Wick Christmas Lights**  
Due to Claire Mackenzie's absence, there was no report provided.
- **HAPPY**  
AF1 advised that due to no public being present at the AGM, the AGM could not go ahead. AF is to look at publishing this in the John O' Groat Journal.

## 9. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**  
£17,890.31 (Some of which belong to various groups).

Annual Zurich Insurance has been paid.

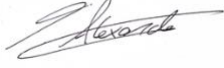
Wick Town Officer funds has been received which is £500 which can be used for the benefit of the community of Wick.

- **Friends of Green Road Park**  
£1,856.00
- **Wick Community Market**  
£681.00
- **Wick Christmas Lights**  
£7,635.15
- **HAPPY**  
£1,900.90

## 10. AOCB

- DT was approached by x2 member so the public who are over 75 years of age. These individuals were advised to book their COVID jabs online but there are no clinics in Wick. It was agreed to contact David Scott regarding this.
- JC advised that she was contacted by Fiona Richardson who requested a Loan Agreement to be signed for the pane of glass which is going to be removed from the former Carnegie Library to be displayed in Wick Heritage Museum.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May 2024

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	06/05/2024				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	Doreen Turner				
Seconder	Wendy Campbell				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary