



MEETING MINUTES

Venue: The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Monday 7th August 2023

Time: 19:00

Present			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Allan Farquhar	AF1	Chairperson
	Allan Bruce	AB	Vice-Chairperson
	Joanna Coghill	JC	Treasurer
	Allan Bruce	AB	
	Wendy Campbell	WC	"
	Doreen Turner	DT	"
	David Dunnett	DD	"
	Alastair Ferrier	AF2	"
Co-opted Members	Rona Morrison	RM	
Ex-officio Members	Cllr Raymond Bremner	Cllr RB	Highland Councillor
Non Members	Jayden Alexander	JA	Secretary
	David Scott	DS	Press Reporter

Apologies of Absence	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Roy Mackenzie	Elected Member
Alastair Ferrier	"
Wick Development Trust	N/A

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

2. Review of Documents

- **Approval and Adoption of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to members by the Secretary and the minutes were approved and adopted as follows:

Proposed By: DT

Seconded By: EF

- **Monthly Correspondence Record**

All members reviewed the monthly correspondence record. AF1 raised the Camster Wind Farm invitation and five-year plan proposals from The Highland Council. The Secretary will re-issue these emails to all members.

- **Action List**

A1- JC raised with regards to Action No. 1 that she was unable to take photographs due to the state of the Riverside following the bonfire. AF1 is to speak with the Chairman of Wick Gala Committee to explore the possibility of the Committee tidying up the island.

A4- AB advised that the pitch it is due to be replaced in 2024/25 as it is part of the capital programme. AB will await another response to this but will chase.

A4- JC expressed her frustration with the fact that a member of RBWCC is unable to have a say in the Common Good Fund. AF1 voiced "it is our town, so it's our money". AF1 asked if RBWCC can apply for funds from the Common Good for projects. AF1 advised that the income expected for 2024 for Wick Common Good Fund is between £20,000-£20,500. JC advised that The Highland Council take money from the fund to cover administration costs. JC also advised that Cllr Jan McEwan advised that there was currently no money in the fund around 1-2 months ago. AF1 advised that the Caithness Agricultural Society who run the Caithness Show are not charged for the usage of the area around the boating shed.

A5- Completed.

A6- Completed.

A7- Completed.

A8- DD will undertake this action.

A9- The Secretary and AF1 will undertake this action.

A10- The Secretary will confirm this following the August meeting.

A11- Completed. The response received from Alastair Jack advised that any updates should be provided directly from Wick Development Trust.

A12- All is happy for the Secretary to proceed with this.

3. Local Organisations' Update

- **Wick High School Representatives**

No representatives were present (currently summer holidays). AB and JC expressed interest in speaking with the new S1's, similar to what was presented to the rest of the school earlier on in the year with regards to RBWCC. JC suggested AB presenting this to RBWCC.

- **Local Police**

A report was received in advance of the meeting and was circulated to members by the Secretary.

- **East Caithness Community Campus and Noss Primary School**

AF1 advised that he has no further issues been raised with regards to the campus, except from the water ingress in July, the pitches issue, and the redesign of the reception area. AF1 has compiled a letter to those concerning the campus which will be circulated to members.

- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**

WC advised that the x4 volunteers are making progress with their work, and the volunteers were delighted when one special person donated them ice creams. WC expressed her thanks.

- **Friends of Green Road Park**

AF1 advised that The Highland Council fitted the round swing.

- **Wick Development Trust**

The following update was provided in advance of the meeting: Wick River Campsite:- Since your last meeting there isn't any huge update to give you on this other than we've been continuing to work away on the funding applications, building specifications, project costing, build schedules etc for the Phase 2 development, the replacement of the facilities block, at the campsite. We hope to have our outstanding funding applications submitted by the end of this week now. We are pushing ahead with all other aspects of this project currently to ensure we have everything in place for the 1st November start date. In terms of the campsite itself July has been our busiest month to date with over 1300 bookings through the gate last month which is fantastic. August is looking like it could be an even busier month with nearly 1000 bookings already for this month. All in all the campsite is proving to be very successful and will be a huge asset for the town moving forward once the re-development works are complete. WW2 Trail:- We

now have all Planning Permissions, Listed Building Consents and Landowner permissions in place with only a final few revision to the License to Occupy from HIAL to be completed in the coming days. We will then be in a position to draw down the funds for this project and place the order for all materials required along with pencilling in a date with contractors for the installation phase. There is still proof reading required for the information panels before the can be made which takes a great deal of time, if there is anyone from the RBWCC who has an interest in this project and would like to help with this please let me know. The BBC have been in touch about this project and are looking to do a piece on it for both TV and Radio which is great and will provide further publicity for this project. We're currently finalising details around this and can give you a further update once these details have been finalised.

- **Association of Caithness Community Councils**

No update was provided due to the absence of Alastair Ferrier. NC advised that the next meeting is scheduled to take place on 6th September 2023 and that there is still an issue with the Wi-Fi in Wick Town Hall. AF1 advised that he can attend on behalf of RBWCC along with WC. EF advised that Alastair Ferrier was going to enquire about Watten Community Council getting involved with the campaign for Caithness to receive and retain the Alexander Bain Emmy Award.

4. Council Business and Matters Arising

- **Veteran's Memorial Tower**

AB advised that small steps are taking place. A contact for HRI has been obtained and Alan Gray is to contact AB with regards to the progression of the project. Wick RBLS is being copied into all correspondence.

- **Wick Common Good Fund**

AF1 advised that the Councillors should be contacted to enquire about how Common Good Funding can be applied for.

- **Harbour Sheds Project**

EF advised that work is continuing and a donation of around £500 of fundraising is being obtained from Emma Roberts and EF will contact the press about some coverage.

- **Wick River Fountain**

JC advised that the monolith should be ready by early September for installation. JC advised that some PR could then be done with all volunteers.

5. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

EF advised that x6 new tubs have been received and the good weather has helped the flowers. £956 was raised from donations and the sponsored walk. A donation

of £500 was received. A vote of thanks was given to AB for leading the spring spruce up which was a huge success.

- **Wick Community Market**

AF1 advised that the market day was great, and the weather was good. The next market is this coming Saturday. One disappointment is drivers coming through the cobbles on High Street. AF1 suggested getting the miles per hour reduced to five through the cobbles. WC advised that there are no delivered on a Saturday and suggested getting “No Entry” signs. Cllr RB suggested writing to the roads department to explain the situation and to formally request a speed limit reduction and closure on a Saturday to encourage footfall and for pedestrian safety for the Community Market. JC advised that it would be “good practice” for when the re-development is complete.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

No report was provided due to the absence of Claire Mackenzie.

- **Wick Paths Group**

The following report was received in advance of the meeting: *“After a very busy few weeks for Wick Paths Group Office Bearers, particularly our chairman Willie Watt, with the installation and unveiling of the Seafarers Memorial, it was only possible to undertake one work event in June. took a mammoth effort to transport the heavy plastic picnic bench (partly funded by RBWCC) and lower it over the edge of the cliff to an elevated picnic spot with great views out over the bay. The steps up to it were cleared as were the steps at the Cairndhuna Well. Strimming was carried out beside the path through the South Head Quarries and the path in front of the old Coastguard Station. While this heavy work was going on a separate squad carried out a litter pick round the Harbour and Shore. A fridge door was one of the larger items removed from the river shore, a couple of days later one of our members spotted the rest of the fridge washed up on the shore and thanks to our WhatsApp group it was removed within about an hour”.*

- **HAPPY**

AF1 advised that x2 sources of musical entertainment have been found. The Highland Council will be contacted to enquire about the removal of a bollard in Market Square.

6. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**

£19,675.82 (£12,000 is held for various groups).

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

£5,892.86

- **Wick Community Market**

£946.26

- **Wick Christmas Lights**
No statement was provided.
- **Wick Paths Group**
£12,783.57
- **HAPPY**
£1,889.19

7. Highland Councillor's Report


Cllr RB advised that The Highland Council has been in recess for the past month. A lot of resurfacing of roads has been taking place and some new issues has been raised following on from the road repairs which is going to be looked at urgently. An August and September programme is currently being published which will include George Street and heading towards High Street. White lining was also raised, and a contractor has agreed to do this, mainly for the issues which were raised such as zebra crossings, zig zag lines etc. AF1 asked if this would be completed before schools return, Cllr RB will investigate this. The road sweeper will be delivered to the county soon as staff have now been trained and the grass lifting machine has been delivered. Cllr RB advised that the progress of the public toilet refurbishment is proceeding. AF1 asked if the wood on the broken window up Tolbooth Lane on the former M&Co building is being fixed. AB advised that the bottle banks still have not been uplifted and expressed poor service. AB expressed that Caithness is poor with regards to a cycling route (i.e.- public can cycle from Invergordon to Evanton without cycling on the main road). AB expressed interest in exploring the possibility of progressing this for Caithness. AB advised that the bell-mouth of the Retail Park entrance was never adopted by The Highland Council. Lidl's car park and both the Retail Park car park is fine; however, the bell-mouth is not. Cllr RB advised that he would contact the Estates department of The Highland Council to enquire if this should have been adopted by the Council.

8. AOCB

- JC advised that the new lighting for the businessmen's corner is being awaited.
- AB advised that he attended the NetZero workshop and found out that the Highland Rail Card is available to the public for £15 which takes 50% off all rail tickets for Scotland and that the YoungScot bus pass which is available to all young people up to age 22, is a service which is being poorly taken up by the public.
- JC raised concerns about the former Carnegie Library, JC will dig out email correspondence with regards to this.
- AF1 raised that the final BOWL cash distribution is next week, RBWCC still currently have funds from the COVID grant which is £6,400.
- AF1 spoke with Julie MacKinnon of Wick Youth Club who hopes to spend the funds received from Wick Academy Development Fund to upgrade the tennis courts at Rosebank, however, their quote has expired and has gone up by £3,000 and more funding is now required. The crazy golf is also being upgraded, however, when materials was being delivered a lorry damaged one of the paths in the area and it cost £5,000 to fix the damage.

- AF1 attended a Dounreay Stakeholders meeting. Dounreay is now a division of Magnox and they are now rebranding.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 4th September 2023

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	04/09/2023				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	Roy Mackenzie				
Secunder	Doreen Turner				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary