



## MEETING MINUTES

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

**Date:** Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**Time:** 19:00

Present			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Joanna Coghill	JC	Chairperson
	Allan Bruce	AB	N/A
	David Dunnett	DD	N/A
	Norma Craven	NC	N/A
	Eswyl Fell	EF	N/A
Co-opted Members	Rona Morrison	RM	N/A
	Claire Mackenzie	CM	N/A
	Roy Mackenzie	RM	N/A
Ex-officio Members	Raymond Bremner	Cllr RB	Highland Councillor
	Jan McEwan	Cllr JM	Highland Councillor
Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	JA	Secretary
	Morgan Thain	MT	WHS Representative
	Name TBC		WHS Representative
	Alan Hendry	AH	NOSN Press Reporter

Apologies of Absence	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Local Police	N/A
Doreen Turner	Elected Member

## 1. Welcome and Apologies

JC welcomed everyone who was present to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining whether in person or online. JC extended a warm welcome to RM who had been unanimously voted in as a Co-opted member prior to 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, no amendments were raised, and the minutes were approved and adopted as follows.

Proposed By: NC

Seconded By: AB

- **Monthly Correspondence List**

All members reviewed the monthly correspondence list, and no points were raised.

- **Action List**

JA confirmed that there were a few actions outstanding from the previous meeting which were mainly for the Secretary. JA advised that this list will be updated and circulated to all members prior to the next meeting.

## 3. Highland Councillor's Report

Awaiting Cllr RB sending this for including.

## 4. Local Organisations' Update

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

AF1 advised that the new access path to the all-weather pitches had been installed. AB advised that he had spoken with Alan Turner with regards to the misunderstanding as to how the pitches would operate and who is responsible for the pitches. It was confirmed that ownership seems to lie between The Highland Council, HighLife Highland, Wick High School and the East Caithness Community Facility (which is operated by HighLife Highland).

- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**

No update was provided (due to Wendy Campbell being on holiday).

- **Wick Development Trust**

No update was provided due to the absence of a representative and no correspondence was received prior to the meeting, however, AB enquired with Cllr RB if the advert for a new Project Manager was a role in addition to the individual who had been hired or was this a replacement. Cllr RB advised that he was unsure.

- **SSE Transmissions**  
No update was provided due to the absence of a representative.

## 5. Council Business and Matters Arising

- **Wick High School Representatives**  
JC expressed delight to see young representatives from Wick High School to engage with communications from young people in the town. JC described this as an opportunity to work together so that WHS representatives can feed back to the pupils in the school and the Senior Management Team. JC advised that she visited the school along with AB to initiate communications. JC asked the reps' what it is they would like to see in the town. Their response was something to keep the youngsters occupied like social areas, bowling, laser tag, cafes which are open at night etc.

Cllr RB advised that the positive destinations for the pupils in Wick High School has risen over the years and that it is good to understand what is appealing to the young people of the town, especially to compare where things are now to when Step Forward Wick Youth was initially started. NC agreed and said that it is good to know if and how the young people would like to get involved with the different things going on in the community.

- **Letter to CMHSG**  
The Secretary advised to everyone present that Councillor, Matthew Reiss contacted him to ask if RBWCC would be willing to provide a letter of support for Caithness Mental Health Support Group who co-ordinate and manage The Haven in Wick and Stepping Stones in Thurso. JA advised that he sought guidance from JC and confirmed that a letter of support was provided.

## 6. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**  
EF advised that the group has been planting bulbs for the springtime. A funding application was put forward to the new Halsary Wind Farm for future displays.
- **Friends of Green Road Park**  
No report was provided.
- **Wick Community Market**  
In Allan Farquhar's absence, JC advised that the fun day went well, although it was hard work to set up. It was good to see so many people coming out to support the event and to set the stalls up.
- **Wick Christmas Lights**  
CM advised that the whole season went great for all of the events, the, lights are now up and are looking great.

- **Wick Paths Group**

The following report was received from the Secretary in advance of the meeting: *“What a transformation at the Grey Bools Path, this project was initiated by Wick Paths Group with the intention of carrying out the work ourselves. Highland Council kindly offered to pay for the materials, but it turned out that the contractor GMR Henderson was able to supply the materials and lay the path within the budget available. A WPG member got landowner agreement and Subsea 7 supplied some drainage pipes—a big thank you to them and Matt Dent from HC for making it all happen. This new stretch of path completes the missing link in a popular walking, running and cycling circular route from the town. It is also on the John o’Groats Trail and provides access for visitors to the Castle of Old Wick. Some photos below. Wick Paths Group was successful in being voted as 1 of 18 local groups in Caithness to receive a share of £32,000 available from Your Police, You Decide Caithness. We will be receiving £2,000 in due course. Ruts at the side of the road out past the Trinkie were filled in, the path behind the Riverside Play-park was scraped and cut back, the path behind the caravan park was cut back and 4 sacks of rubbish were collected from the Riverside. The site for the replacement plastic picnic bench part funded by RBWCC was dug out, the Stevenson’s Breakwater was weeded and the top path in front of the old Coastguard Station was scraped out. A litter pick was carried out. More work has still to be done at the South Head to install the bench, finish the paths and install interpretive signs”.*

- **HAPPY**

JC advised in Allan Farquhar’s absence that most plans are now in place for the street party.

## 7. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**

£25,420.67. JC advised that the new mandate is now signed and JC is to transfer the funds from the current account to the new one.

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

Awaiting statement.

- **Friends of Green Road Park**

AF1 advised that the committee’s funds are currently held in the RBWCC account as the committee are not liable to set up a bank account. JC did not have the current balance to hand.

- **Wick Community Market**

Awaiting statement.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

Awaiting statement.

- **Wick Paths Group**  
£11,476.65.
- **HAPPY**  
Awaiting statement.

The Secretary advised that reminders are sent to the representative of each sub-group to send in a bank balance.

#### **8. AOCB**

There was no other business raised for discussion.

JC thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed for private business discussion.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2023