

Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: Via Zoom

Date: Monday 7th February 2022

Time: 7pm

Present	Elected Members	Joanna Coghill	(JC)	Chairperson
		Allan Farquhar	(AF1)	Vice-Chair
		Kimberley Miller-Rosie	(KMR)	Treasurer
		David Dunnett	(DD)	
		Doreen Turner	(DT)	
		Wendy Campbell	(WC)	
		Alastair Ferrier	(AF2)	
	Co-opted Members	Allan Bruce	(AB)	
		Eswyl Fell	(EF)	
		Roy Mackenzie	(RM)	
Ex-officio Members	Raymond Bremner	(Cllr RB)	Highland Councillor	
Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	(JA)	Secretary	
	Mackenzie Sutherland	(MS)	HC Ward Manager	

Apologies: Sharon Powell, Claire Mackenzie.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Apologies as per listed.

2. Adoption and Approval of Previous Minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 10th January 2022 was circulated by JA.

JA is to confirm who gave the comment regarding the yellow lines. JM corrected 30 High Street as 126. DT was not in attendance as stated. AF1 pointed out that Wick Community Market have ten marquees instead of twelve as stated.

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:

Proposed By:

Seconded By:

3. Review of Monthly Correspondence List.

All correspondence received by the Secretary is recorded. The correspondence list for January 2022 was circulated by JA.

JA confirmed that all correspondence had either been dealt with or were in hand. JC asked for the Post Office to be added on the agenda for the March meeting following AF1's concern for senior citizens doing their banking.

4. Review of Action List.

Action 5: JC stated that the fountain base will be skimmed when better weather arrives due to some cracks appearing. New lighting in the trees were installed and HC is to have the fountain up and running by summertime.

5. Highland Councilors' Report.

Cllr RB explained that a confidential report had been emailed to JA for circulation to RBWCC members only. JA circulated this to RBWCC members prior to the meeting.

6. Report from Local Police.

Due to the absence of a representative, no report was given. JA intimated that no report or apologies had been received either. JC expressed her disappointment on this.

7. Update from Wick Development Trust (WDT).

JM gave a summary on some of the following points:

- WDT have started the Spitfire Replica project which they are hoping for to be situated at Wick John O' Groats Airport. Strong links between Canada and New

Zealand have been established with donations being received which will go towards the project. There is a specific online donating site dedicated for this.

- The WWI trail is ongoing. Funding applications for this have been submitted.
- WDT hope to launch a feasibility study for the future of 30 High Street (former Pavilion site).

JC thanked JM for attending. JM left the meeting.

8. Report from SSE Transmissions.

Due to the absence of a representative, no update was provided. JA intimated that Sharon Powell had said that if anyone has any questions with regards to any of the work ongoing at the Noss Site, to pass on to her.

All agreed that Sharon, Andrew Henderson, and their team are doing a fantastic job and have and continue to be more than helpful.

9. Update on East Caithness Community Campus.

AF1 said that he hopes to receive a structural report on the whole building soon in light of the damage the recent winds caused.

AF1 confirmed that the stakeholder's meetings no longer take place. It was established that the All-Weather pitch is not under Galliford Try's remit for maintenance (possibly Highland Council's).

10. Treasurer's Report.

Community Council Accounts
Wick Community Market
Wick Christmas Lights
Wick Flower Baskets
Wick Paths Group
HAPPY

The following table was provided by KMR in advance of the meeting:

Covid grant funds	£6,850
Beatrice grant mini	£1,258.50
Beatrice corner funds	£2,181.23
Beatrice fountain funds	£3,049.40
Green road park funds	£1,856
Wick market funds	£7,586.32
Hc covid mini funds	£200
Community council funds	£10,485.15
Overall total	£33,466.60

11. Community Council Sub-Group Reports.

Wick Community Market:	AF1 stated that a public meeting for Sustrans is to be held where a committee for Wick Community Market can be established.
Wick Christmas Lights:	DT suggested acting now to repair the lights at the hospital and to ensure that there is power before the switch on in November. Cllr RB suggested these trees get up-lit which would make a welcoming surprise for the spring and summer months which would then allow for the Christmas lights to have power for the festive season.
Wick Flower Baskets:	EF stated that the AGM would be held on 22 nd February to discuss planting for the Queen's jubilee and Wellington Street project.
Wick Paths Group:	January was a very quiet month for the Paths Group there were no work events, our planned walk round the upgraded paths on 2 nd January was postponed due to Covid and will now take place on Sunday 6 th March. We did meet with Alistair Jack to discuss the Caithness at War project; this was to ensure we were not interfering in anything each was planning—this will not be the case and hopefully if the Caithness at War project comes to fruition it will lead to visitors staying an extra day or two in the area and possibly making use of the paths. Individual Paths Group members have continued with local litter picks. The Riverside fountain refurbishment project is overseen by RBWCC but the Paths Group have been assisting with the lighting of the fountain and the improvement to the water supply. The lighting is now operational and is very effective, a big thanks go to SSEN for arranging for their main contractor BAM to fund the purchase of materials and to G&A Barnie for installing the lighting with some assistance from Highland Council. The materials for the improved water supply have been purchased and will be installed in due course.

HAPPY:

12. Council Business.

- Dog Fouling:
It was raised by a member of the public that dog fouling is becoming an issue again. AB is to look at the possibility of starting a new campaign again for the spring and summer months.
- Halsary Windfarm:
JC is awaiting feedback which she will hopefully receive in March.
- Wick Airport Update:

AF2 confirmed that he hadn't received much new information with regards to this.

- **River Bridge Salt Boxes:**
JC said that it would be handy if boxes of salt could be provided on the bridge across the river as it can be in icy conditions. Cllr RB confirmed that he will request for this to happen.
- **Thurso Road Speed Sign:**
JC said that she was approached by members of the public regarding the re-location of the speed sign which is now in Thurso Road. The suggestion of moving the speed sign towards the town entrance was raised.
- **The Queen's Platinum Jubilee:**
MS said that Highland Council have nothing planned for this event.

13. AOCB.

- JC stated that the next stage of the Sustrans regeneration project had started and that a walkaround Wick is to happen on first Friday. A meeting in Wick will then be held to establish the stakeholders of the project. Cllr RB stated that he did not think that the comments received on various Facebook posts regarding the project were a true reflection of what the people of Wick wanted as the regeneration is what the people pushed for to happen in the first instance. All agreed that Wick is very lucky to have received the funding being up against many other challenging competitors.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7th March 2022 at 7pm (Via Zoom or in person depending on COVID-19 guidelines). JA will confirm.