



MEETING MINUTES

Venue: The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Monday 6th February 2023

Time: 19:00

Present			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Joanna Coghill	JC	Chairperson
	Allan Farquhar	AF	Vice-Chairperson
	Alastair Ferrier	AF1	N/A
	Allan Bruce	AB	N/A
	David Dunnett	DD	N/A
	Wendy Campbell	WC	N/A
	Doreen Turner	DT	N/A
Co-opted Members	Eswyl Fell	EF	N/A
	Rona Morrison	REAM	N/A
	Norma Craven	NC	N/A
Ex-officio Members	Cllr Raymond Bremner	Cllr RB	Highland Councillor
Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	JA	Secretary
	Jane Davidson	JD	Member of Public
	Sabih Huq	SH	Member of Public
	David Scott	DS	NOSN Press Reporter

Apologies of Absence	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Cllr Jan McEwan	Highland Councillor
Claire Mackenzie	Co-opted Member
Local Police	N/A

1. Welcome and Apologies

JC welcomed everyone who was present to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining whether in person or online.

JC proposed that a complaint be filed with HLH regarding the poor Wi-Fi connection.

JC advised members of the new agenda format which will hopefully allow members to discuss priorities.

2. Review of Documents

- **Approval and Adoption of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to members by the Secretary, three were raised, and the minutes were approved and adopted as follows subject to three corrections raised which JA will amend:

Proposed By: REAM

Seconded By: NC

- **Monthly Correspondence List**

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

AF advised that he felt we should ask if it will affect the visual impact of the landscape.

- **Action List**

Market – a press article will be released shortly.

JA is to chase a response on the all-weather pitch update in reply to the questions which were answered by Cllr RB prior to the meeting.

Dog campaign posters will be posted.

Invite to be sent to Matthew Thain for March, JA advised that an invite was sent for this month.

Invite parking attendant to March meeting – Andreen Gillan

3. Highland Councillor's Report

No report was received in advance of the meeting.

JC proposed that we ask questions prior to the monthly meeting to allow time for a response.

EF voiced that Cllr Willie Mackay was provost of Wick and felt that the provost should have attended RBWCC meetings, even though Wick was not his allocated Community Council.

JC advised that each Highland Councillor sit on different committees for various departments within Highland Council, and most concern Wick, and so they have different responsibilities and should be reporting back to us as the community's representatives.

Cllr RB that the ancillary works meeting is scheduled for 16th February which AB and AF1 will be attending.

4. Local Organisations' Update

- **Wick High School Representatives**

JA advised that no response to the invite had been received.

- **Local Police**

A report had been received which JA had circulated to members. JC received an email from Stephen Mezals to enquire of any issues which RBWCC had been aware of. JC also advised that if the police received the same names of young people being reported to them then they could feedback to their parents, and they are now finding that this is happening, and they are able to make parents and guardians aware of what their kids are up to. AB felt that it would be good to publicise that RBWCC now have a good means of communication with local police with reports which are received monthly.

Cllr RB advised that Stephen Mezals was at the Caithness Area Committee meeting which was held today and stressed that if Officers are attending Community Council meetings, that there be equity between all Community Councils in Caithness. JC thanked c

- **Local NHS Departments**

SH advised that NHS Highland are sponsoring a pharmacy student through her pharmacy degree, and they are going to try to sponsor other people through their courses in High School. The re-design of CGH is progressing. Cllr RB asked SH if he had access to the re-design papers and advised that they should be shared with RBWCC. Cllr RB advised that he would have a look and communicate it to RBWCC. AB asked if RBWCC should extend a welcome to the new group of junior doctors to ensure a nice welcome to the community. SH suggested sending a welcome card. SH advised that accommodation for them has been an issue, however, two of the doctors have been accommodated for.

- **Association of Caithness Community Councils**

AF2 advised that the committee were all ready to go ahead with their first meeting of 2023, however, they had to cancel as someone was unwell with COVID-19. AF2 hopes that the next meeting will be around the 22nd February in Wick Town Hall. Stephen Mezals has been invited and the AOCCC hope to invite Joe Sutherland and Christian Nicolson. AF1 asked Cllr RB if there was any way of amending the IT facilities in the Town Hall. Cllr RB advised that this is in hand and is liaising with AF2.

- **East Caithness Community Councils and Noss Primary School**
AF1 advised that the re-design of the reception area is set to go ahead this year.
- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**
An informal meeting was held last Saturday to decide what would be planned for this year.
- **Friends of Green Road Park**
AF1 advised that they managed to secure 105 trees coming from the Woodland Park which is being put up in the park, and they will have a planting day with the children from Noss Primary School.
- **Wick Development Trust**
JA advised that no apologies had been received. The following update was provided via email following the January meeting: *“We don’t as yet have a date for our next meeting as it is normally organised short notice as Directors schedules allow. We’ve started the refurb of the campsite toilet block. This is to brighten it up and give it a new lease of life for this season. It was hoped the toilets would suffice as they were but they are in pretty bad state so a freshen up will do them the world of good for this year. Unfortunately, our new Project Manager who was due to start has let us down and is no longer taking the position. This was a big blow and a sore one to take to be honest as a lot work went in to getting it to that stage. We are however on the case to find a replacement and will be holding interviews next week. Hopefully by time your next meeting comes round in February I’ll be able to confirm we have someone on board for this! Hoping to start a much larger scope of upgrading works at the campsite early next month, cant really say too much on this at this point as were not wanting to get hopes up before the funding is, fingers crossed, approved. We should have an answer on this in the next 2 weeks and we’ll then be able to make an announcement. Other projects are working away in the background and making slow but positive progress, things like landowner’s permissions, funding and the legal side of things all take time but we’re getting there”.*

5. Council Business and Matters Arising

- **Spring Clean (Beautiful Scotland 2023)**
Initial email has been sent to the organisations. A great response has been received from the local schools, Wick Paths Group and Pulteney Distillery. The same areas will be targeted this year. AB would like to select x4 areas to spring clean and spruce up as well as litter pick (as this is what Beautiful Scotland is all about). AB will also touch base with PPP and indicated this to JD who welcomed the motion.
- **Lower Dunbar Street Project**
This project has been agreed by Wick Flower Baskets Committee. The committee are going to re-dig this area and re-plant it with flowers. JC is to find someone who can transport the blue bench (which sat outside the former Original Factory Shop) to this area. JC advised that it is a dark corner which could do with some

brightening up. Cllr RB advised contacting Gillian Pearson and Mark Fitzpatrick with regards to planning permission and to copy in Mackenzie Sutherland into this. Jan regarding the upkeep of the derelict buildings in this street.

- **North Head Memorial Tower**

AB advised that they must contact the architects to obtain prices for the work.

- **Empty Shop Windows**

JC is to contact Kelly Munro with regards to her idea for brightening up empty shop windows in the town centre.

- **Harbour Sheds Project**

EF is leading this project and has been in contact with Alex Paterson. She has taken photos of the harbour sheds and is getting a design ready for the sheds being painted.

- **Harbour Projects**

EF advised that the next grant scheme is open soon and Yvonne Hendry has offered to help with an application. Alex Paterson is going to start sanding work on the sheds in March. EF has spoken with the Harbour Master and advised of the idea initially. EF will update the Harbour Master on the progress with this. AF1 advised that the Dounreay Community Fund can be applied to and AF1 will assist EF with this.

6. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

EF advised that the AGM will take place at the end of February. X4 new volunteers had joined, and Elise Lyall has offered to do a spring fayre this year and will give a donation to the committee. Mackays Hotel has also offered to provide a donation.

- **Wick Community Market**

The first outing will be on Easter weekend and invites will be sent to all local businesses. RBWCC will have a stall. NC asked if it was the same charge for a charity.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

CM provided the following report in advance of the meeting: *"As you can see there has been some hefty payments, however, we are excited to share that we have managed to source some fantastic new lights for Wick for Christmas 2023. The new lights we have purchased are to be located from the roundabout all the way out to the cemetery. We felt that it was quite dark on the approach to the town so these new lights will guide the way for anyone coming into Wick from the South".*

- **Wick Paths Group**

The following report was received from the Secretary in advance of the meeting: *"A successful guided walk was held on 7th January with 15 people taking part, this*

was postponed from 2nd January to allow WPG members to take part in a litter pick organised by the Riverside Volunteers that day. Thanks to Allan Bruce for organising the walk, which finished with a welcome cup of coffee courtesy of Nescafe. The Trinkie road edge was finished off by Graham Begg and Willie Watt.. Willie also formed a ramp at the Bridge St end of the Fountain path. A successful supper was held in the Norseman Hotel on 14th January with 24 people attending, thanks to Suzanne Mackenzie for organising. We have agreed to purchase some additional items of equipment to assist with paths maintenance. We have submitted an application to the Beatrice Fund for assistance to employ a contractor to replace the safety fence at various sections of the North Head Path eg path above the North Baths, etc, The Friends of the John o’Groats Trail have generously offered just over £2,000 towards the costs. We also want to widen the concrete path leading upwards from the North Baths to make it easier for prams and wheelchairs. We have an extensive list of future works that we wish to carry out and will be organising 1 work event per month until the summer when it will increase to 2 events per month. To help with rapid communication with active volunteers we have set up a WhatsApp group which currently has 26 participants”.

- **HAPPY**

A chat will be had with The Highland Council to explore the possibility of making a bollard removable to allow for the truck to enter the Market Square. AF1 thanked REAM for her support. REAM felt that some families came to the street party prior to the bells ringing, and then people seemed to head to the bonfire for ringing in the new year. REAM asked if there would be any way of incorporating both events, however, it was felt that the bonfire is a whole separate tradition. NC suggested that it be discussed to see how families can be attracted to attend the street party.

7. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**

JC advised that the balance is the same January with deductions from what was spent on the Marquees. JC is still awaiting statements from August 2022. JC has chased Virgin for this so that the books to be updated.

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

Awaiting statement.

- **Wick Community Market**

Income: £14,077.68

Expenditure: £13,871.74

Remaining Balance: £205.94 (In RBWCC account)

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

£4,879.05.

- **Wick Paths Group**

£13,359.85.

- **HAPPY**
£18,84.82 with outstanding payments which bring the remaining balance to £624.82.

Outstanding payments as follows:

Insurance for party: £630

2023 Band Booking (Reviver): £300

2023 Pipers Books: £60

2021 Band Booking (Penny Lane): £200 (this was paid by cheque but it was never presented).

2021 Pipers Booking: £100 (this was paid by cheque, but it was never presented).


Cheques are exhausted and are not being replaced, a debit card and online banking account has been requested and the discussion of transferring to Bank of Scotland will be discussed.

8. AOCB

- JC asked Cllr RB about the pricing structure for the Aberdeen PSO flights. It is not part of the Air Discount Scheme as the Scottish Government would be seen to be funding the PSO twice. JC voiced that Aberdeen Airport has so many connecting flights to so many destinations that it needs to be advertised.

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

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th March 2023

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	06/03/2023				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	Allan Bruce				
Seconder	Wendy Campbell				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary