



MEETING MINUTES

Venue: The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Monday 9th January 2023

Time: 19:00

Present			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Joanna Coghill	JC	Chairperson
	Allan Bruce	AB	N/A
	Norma Craven	NC	N/A
	Alastair Ferrier	AF	N/A
	Wendy Campbell	WC	N/A
	Doreen Turner	DT	N/A
Co-opted Members	Rona Morrison	RM	N/A
Ex-officio Members	Jan McEwan	Cllr JM	Highland Councillor
	Raymond Bremner	Cllr RB	Highland Councillor
Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	JA	Secretary
	Alan Hendry	AH	NOSN Reporter
	Sabih Huq	SH	Member of Public

Apologies of Absence	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
David Dunnett	Elected Member
Eswyl Fell	Elected Member
Claire Mackenzie	Co-opted Member
Wick Development Trust	N/A
Local Police	N/A
Allan Farquhar	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.

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: RM

Seconded By: NC

- **Monthly Correspondence List**

All members reviewed the monthly correspondence list, and no points were raised. The Secretary highlighted that several emails arrived today mostly concerning Cllr RB'S updates which were requested a couple of days back.

- **Action List**

Item 4 was highlighted as urgent, and the Secretary will chase.

JC advised that item 6 has been completed.

Cllr JM advised that action 8 has been ongoing with The Highland Council and RBWCC should receive some correspondence in February regarding it. JC advised that The Highland Council have been very select as to what information they have released about the Wick Common Good Fund.

JC advised that item 9 has been completed and advised that the local Police are keen to work with the local community to tackle young people's behaviour. AB advised that it was a positive meeting with lots of positive discussions about future communications. JC suggested sending invites to Matthew Thain for future meetings.

3. Highland Councillor's Report

No report was received in advance of the meeting.

AF suggested arranging a tour around Wick Town Hall with RBWCC members so that members can see what items are in the hall which could potentially be Common Good. AF also suggested that the Wick Town Hall would be ideal to showcase these items especially with the Carnegie building being closed. AB advised that he would be very keen to know what is happening with the revenue that is coming in for the fund currently. Cllr RB stated that everyone clearly needs to understand what the liabilities are and what to expect from it in one year.

JC advised that she and AF walked around Wick on Saturday morning and counted potholes and measured them. Some of them ranged from one to three and a half inches and there were nine potholes along Station Road. Some had been repaired but never lasted and are now in a worse state. JC expressed "Wick is falling to bits".

AB thanked Cllr RB for his efforts and updates.

4. Local Organisations' Update

- **Local Police Report**

No update was provided due to the absence of a representative, however, JA advised that Brian Hamilton assured RBWCC that if any issues or queries arise to forward them on for answers.

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

No update was provided due to the absence of Allan Farquhar.

- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**

No update was provided due to no work being carried out in the off-season.

- **Friends of Green Road Park**

The following update was provided by Allan Farquhar prior to the meeting: *"Green Rd... 105 trees arrive in March, have spoken to Noss Primary Head about getting children to plant their own tree. Some of the older kids are enquiring as to installing a skateboard park...that'll teach me to say I'd get a zip slide installed first. Bignold Park still not reopened....why not HC ? Is Hillhead playpark operational? Around £1800 funds held by Community Council Account"*.

- **Wick Development Trust**

No update was provided due to the absence of a representative. JC expressed her disappointment.

5. Council Business and Matters Arising

- **Association of Caithness Community Councils Update**

AF advised that he has a meeting coming up with the former Chairperson and that he has been looking at the town officer funding for Community Councils. As long as Community Councils are keeping a log of what is being spent then receipts aren't required. AF advised that some money has been distributed already. AF asked Mack for the IT equipment to be sorted in Wick Town Hall for future meetings and for a list of other venues which could be a possibility.

- **Spring Clean (Beautiful Scotland 2023)**

AB advised that this is a new campaign following last year's success. Running from 17th March to 17th April 2023. 292 man-hours of work were put in last year, 185 black bags were collected of rubbish. AB would like to get more businesses to get involved, more individuals, concentrate on education, interact with young groups and kids and more community councils, but predominately Wick. AB would like to focus on X4 local projects but stated "the seed needs to be planted now". AB

advised that he uses an app called “Litter Lotto” (since 10th November) and has had £45 received personally from using it. AB received a phone call today to say that he was a jackpot winner and received £500. The whole idea works around litter picking, i.e.- you open the app, and take a video of your hand dropping the litter into the bin and you submit the video through the app. AB suggested that this would be a good way of promoting litter picking, especially to young people.

- **Upper Dunbar Street Project**

JC advised that this street has a small area where there is x2 derelict houses but one which is in a particularly bad state; and the residents would like to ask the property owners to tidy up. RBWCC have a spare bench and suggested that we use this bench for that area and JC is to speak with the Wick Hanging baskets Committee to see if they would be willing to plant up the small corner below the property. JC asked if there was a way in which we can contact The Highland Council to see if there is a way that you can contact property owners to ask them to secure properties. All agreed and JC is to proceed with plans and will speak with the residents concerned.

- **Wick Common Good Fund**

Extract from Cllr RB’s report.

- **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.

6. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

JC advised that they have a plan in place to see how they can raise money.

- **Wick Community Market**

Next outing to be easter weekend, thence every second Saturday in the month. Will need some effort to collate the 5 Marquees borrowed from Thurso for return. One frame damaged during Christmas funday, but repairable. Storage Facility is in a bit of disarray after Christmas funday and Hogmanay, need some shelving to keep it organised. Need to procure banners advertising Market for placement on main roads entering town.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

JC advised in Claire Mackenzie’s absence that the Christmas tree in Market Square is now down, and the lights were taken down on Sunday morning.

- **Wick Paths Group**

The following report was received from the Secretary in advance of the meeting:

- **HAPPY**

Spinal Tap moments...moved and replaced Sam's sofa....thanks for the physical effort, folks. HC must have installed an extra bollard which prevented the driver from parking it outside SAM's. Will discuss having this bollard cut and a sleeve inserted so we can remove and replace it as required. Looks as if the Christmas decoration to the west of SAM's is too low which would have prevented us parking there anyway. Will discuss with Claire. Relocated truck to west side of Market Square....just as well I put out traffic cones to keep it free. Bit of a problem with the PA system on the night and didn't get the countdown down to the bells playing as we have done previously. Thanks, Rona, for being my 'Lady with the Lamp' Smallest crowd yet, around 600. Took in £213 on the night , plus a donation of £150 from Linda in the Crown...not banked yet as I can only do this in the Thurso RBOS branch. Current cash in bank £816, with takings totals £1179. However, have yet to pay the Band £300, Pipers £50, and previous cheques issued but not presented (£260). Also, Insurance to be reimbursed to me as paid by personal credit card @ £600ish (which covers for market also) it was much cheaper to do a combined insurance than segregated. The AGM was held, and a new committee have been established and is as follows:

Chair: Allan Farquhar

Vice-Chairperson: Rona Morrison

Secretary: Alistair Ferrier

Treasurer: Jordan Farquhar

RM advised that it was her first year as part of the group the trailer was too big to get in between the bollards so the decision was made to place it in front of Caithness House. The music system had failed, however, Allan thankfully got it replaced and working in time for the bells. Cllr JM congratulated the organisers for a great night.

7. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**

Awaiting statement.

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

Awaiting statement.

- **Wick Community Market**

The marquees have now been paid off once reimbursement is made to Allan Farquhar for the last five direct debit payments. The market funds remain at £206.00, and this is held in the RBWCC account, however, there is funds additional to this which were awarded during the COVID-19 pandemic. Have requested funding from DSRL Employees Charity Fund and HC Ward Discretionary fund to cover costs of PBS/PPL and insurance for Market / Town Centre Events. Market accounts to be submitted to Alan Tait CVG this week for verification.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

Awaiting statement.


- **Wick Paths Group**
£13,701.65. Minus a cheque which has yet to be cashed for £941.80 for equipment.
- **HAPPY**
Still await receipt of £1000 funding from AOCCC, can we chase the secretary/ treasurer , any problems? No cheques left in HAPPY account book left but have requested online banking from RBOS to conduct BACS. HAPPY accounts to be submitted to Alan Tait CVG this week for verification.

8. AOCB

- Allan Farquhar provided the following information in advance of the meeting on the Regeneration Project: *“Been in touch with Garry Smith (HC Project Design). Scheme Design review conducted in December 2022 but could not provide a comprehensive update for our meeting. Suggest convening another public meeting for a status update. Provided him with photos of ongoing issue with town centre business vehicle(s) parking on pavement HC have not kept their side of the bargain rework scope*
- *Granite cobbles from south side river to be recovered from river at spring/ low tides.....20th Jan20th Feb?”.*

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

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 6th February 2023

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	06/02/2023				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	Rona Morrison				
Secunder	Norma Craven				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary