



MEETING MINUTES

Venue: The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Monday 3rd July 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
	Wendy Campbell	WC	N/A
	Doreen Turner	DT	"
	David Dunnett	DD	"
	Alastair Ferrier	AF2	"
	Norma Craven	NC	"
	Eswyl Fell	EF	"
Co-opted Members	Rona Morrison	RM	N/A
Ex-officio Members	Cllr Raymond Bremner	Cllr RB	Highland Councillor
Non-Members	Jane Davidson	JD	PPP
	Johnathan Miller	JM	WDT Representative
	Alan Hendry	AH	Press Reporter

Apologies of Absence	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Claire Mackenzie	Co-opted Member
Jayden Alexander	Secretary
Roy Mackenzie	Co-opted Member
Brian Hamilton	Police Scotland
Annie Hall	HighLife Highland

1. Welcome and Apologies

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

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: WC

Seconded By: JC

- **Monthly Correspondence List**

All members reviewed the monthly correspondence list.

- **Action List**

AF1 advised that completed actions would be removed and action references identified in minutes.

Action 01 JA

AB will make contact again regarding the upkeep of the road mouth to the Retail Park.

3. Local Organisations' Update

- **PPP / PPPE (JD)**

Careful consideration of budget with regard to cost-of-living increases affecting PPP.

Recent report on issues re Child care quality were being addressed.

Care and Learning Alliance (CALA) is in hand liaising with other service providers with a new staff team being formed.

Childrens lunches were acknowledged as being a bit disorganised but were being addressed.

Additional support for children with special needs was being reorganised.

Adult provision inspection during May 2023 was being addressed.

Free Minibus Transport is being provided.

Managing additional SG initiative of free nursery places for 2-year-old (currently 50ish 3-year-olds attend) is being addressed.

Computer classes are being provided.

Private and palliative care demand is also being explored.

Telford café is being staffed by volunteers, which currently feeds 40 -70 customers, with free lunches on Fridays. Local supermarkets were providing foodstuffs FOC, with community meals and social events being serviced. Share shop for foodstuffs is operating well. Trials are being conducted providing breakfasts for primary school pupils.

A homework club has also been introduced

Funds received to improve the back yard/messy play are as yet unspent as the area is being considered for an improvement to facilities energy services.

A teen scene / planet youth initiative is in hand.

Q. re Film Club and use of Cinema equipment. Use of Netflix accounts by individuals and costs of licences had seen its demise

Q. is it possible for PPP to take the lead in forming a Friends of Grizzly Park Committee?

Action 02 JD

Q. Would it be possible for PPP/E to provide RBWCC with a formal report on status for the record.

Action 03 JD

AF advised that RBWCC would only be too happy to assist PPP / PPPE on issues where they have influence.

- **Local Police (BH)**

Report was received in advance of the meeting. 207 incidents in the month with 22 having been retained in custody. 53 offences had been committed, 18 road offences and 8 assaults. Following a public survey in May re priorities, a public meeting was scheduled for Wed 12 th July. Online registering for attendance is offered. AF2 volunteered to attend.

Action 04 AF2

- **East Caithness Community Campus and Noss Primary School (AF1)**

Advised that bird nesting and guano were still proving problematic. Ongoing issues with all-weather pitch condition (HC responsibility) and Community Facility availability HLH staffing persist.

Recent weather events had realised issues with water ingress at Noss.

- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries (WC)**

Recently tidied/grass cut.

- **Friends of Green Road Park (AF1)**

50 Trees had been planted. HC are to complete repair of round swing and other items.

Also discussed initiative with Caithness KLICS for planting trees at new Hillhead playpark.

Action 05 AF1

- **Wick Development Trust (JM)**

Campsite numbers are on the rise and financial projections are promising. Phase II is scheduled for November, designs and images had been produced.

WWII Trail (Sinclair Bay) have had plans approved with 6 applications to landowners having been submitted.

WDT are to have a stall at Caithness County show.

Q. What progress has been made with Bus Stance/Travel Hub at riverside. Plans have been produced and remain 'on the shelf' for implementation as resource and funding becomes available.

Q. What progress has been made on vacant plots at 30 & 126 High st? (AF1 commented 126 High St is now owned by a local business and planning permission has been granted for a beer garden).

No 30 High St (Old Dominoes plot). A public survey had been conducted, but no resource is available to pursue the preferred outcome or funding at this time.

Q. What benefits are to be realised by WWII Trail to town centre. Difficult to quantify, however other areas / businesses had benefitted from those that do the trail.

Q. Have WDT considered an App / Multimedia to inform folk about our town? Propose to conduct a multigroup discussion with interested parties for commonality. Suggestion made for flyers / adverts at key locations eg Caravan Park, Tourist Point etc

Action 06 JM

- **Association of Caithness Community Councils (AF2)**

AF2 advised that a misunderstanding about scheduling the meeting had occurred, but intimated that he is trying to build up representation by getting as many Community Councils as well as Highland Councillors and guest speakers to attend.

Action 07 AF2

4. Council Business and Matters Arising

- **Veteran's Memorial Tower (AB)**

No further report from the architect company.

- **Wick Common Good Fund (RB)**

No report from councillors as such, however details are available on HC Caithness Committee website.

- **Harbour Sheds Project (EF)**

Great progress by EF and team, commended by all. Wick Harbour Trust have approached for other works. Need to be careful of 'Scope Creep and level of effort). Letter to WHT to discuss issue.

Action 08 JA

- **Wick River Fountain (JC)**

JC will be advised when plaque it is ready for installation.

5. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee (JC)**

Additional planters now in place in High St. Maintenance in hand.

- **Wick Community Market (AF1)**

Next outing is 12th July and on Gala Day 22nd. RBWCC to have a stall promoting our involvement, achievements and projects eg pocket lanes. We will manage traffic, which is proving problematic in pedestrian precinct with drivers ignoring access criteria. Currently using traffic bollards to allow egress to bona fide vehicles.

- **Wick Christmas Lights (CM)**
Fund raising Bingo, Santaland & Funday all planned with Lights switch on
19.11.23

- **Wick Paths Group (JC)**
JB REPORT
- **HAPPY (AF)**
In discussion with local bands to progress. Require traffic bollard to be modified for access to OFS / SAMS location. Will submit accounts to Alan Tait (CVG) for independent assessment.
Action 09 AF1

6. Treasury Reports (JC)

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**
£1075.81
- **BOWL Covid Grant**
£6450
- **Businessman's Corner**
£963.35
- **FROGRP(AF1)**
£1856
- **Fountain Renovation**
£3463.72
- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee (JC)**
£5892.26
- **Wick Community Market (AF1)**
£946.26
- **Wick Christmas Lights (CM)**
£3923.55
- **Wick Paths Group (JC)**
£13,172.48.
- **HAPPY (AF1)**
£1,889.19.

7. Highland Councillor's Report (RB)

Expressed sympathy for inhabitants of Keiss re recent incident and criticised wild speculation on social media as alarming.

Indicated a range of tasks recently progressed by HC viz:

Wick Common Good fund projected income 2023/24

Road's improvements

Whitechapel Toilets improvement

Green Rd, Hillhead, Bignold parks maintained and upgraded (HC non statutory works)

Sourcing funding for Grizzly Park upgrade during 2023-24 (TBC)

Noted that RBWCC were persistent in lobbying for funding to achieve results.

AF stated RBWCC would collate a letter (as stated previously) re communication chain with other ward councillors who make decisions that affect Wick, even though they are allocated to other East Coast wards. Also, the committee will review HC meeting minutes in an attempt to glean the unseen effort of all our East Coast Councillors.

Q. Is Street sweeper still available to Wick, where is it located? When is it due to return.

Q. Can bus timetables be brought up to date and be available more freely?

Q. What is situation with Bus stance on Bridge Street, this was a temporary arrangement only.

Q. RBWCC are aware of other locations in Caithness being subject to SG initiative trial speed limit reduction to 20mph, however Wick is not on HC's list. This had been proposed to HC 5 years ago during the school build project as being a cost-effective initiative at the time.

8. AOCB

- **Alexander Bain**

RBWCC to discuss / letter to Riverhouse re AB paraphernalia available and to draw Watten CC attention to this. Also, to contact Wick Heritage Centre and Carnegie Library for storage.

Action 10 JA

- **Etched Pane of Glass from Library. (JC)**

Consideration to relocate this to Heritage Centre

Action 11 RM

- **Community Council Noticeboards**

AB advised that he hasn't spoken with the Ward Manager yet with regards to the possibility adding advertisements to them.

Action 12 AB

- **Parliament Square**

JC asked if RBWCC could focus on tidying this up, as a few people have indicated their willingness to help. Need to establish ownership / responsibility in liaison with HC

Action 13 RB

- **Grizzly Park**

Refer 3 and 7 above

- **Pocket Lanes**

Recent discussion with Project Team re advertising of project to be made available for forthcoming RBWCC WCM stall. Project funding of £45,000 is available, works to be completed by end March 2024

- **Sustrans Update**

Next public engagement to be confirmed during August.

- **Carnegie Library (RB)**

Q What are proposals for use of the library?

Action 14 RB

- **Parliament Sq (RB)**

Q. Can HC establish ownership of Parliament Sq as this could become an attraction rather than the squalid area is at the moment.. Consider funding through Pocket lanes and/ for town centre upgrade.

- **Planning / Licence Applications (AF)**

Review of change of use of premises in Girnigoe St as a Hostel / Hotel


Liquor licence for premises at 132 High St to be queried with Licence Committee representative due to known issues from previous opening. **Action 15 AF1**

CAT for Loch St Garages / Land queried with Ward Manager, as RBWCC have not provided a letter of support as stated by applicant. **Action 16 AF1**

- **Summer Spruce Up (AB)**

Town centre clean to be conducted on Tues 18th , volunteers greatly appreciated

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 7rd August 2023

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	07/08/2023				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	Doreen Turner				
Seconder	Eswyl Fell				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary