



MEETING MINUTES

Venue: The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Monday 12th June 2023

Time: Following Conclusion of 2023 AGM

Present			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Allan Farquhar	AF1	Chairperson
	Allan Bruce	AB	Vice-Chairperson
	Joanna Coghill	JC	Treasurer
	Allan Bruce	AB	N/A
	Wendy Campbell	WC	"
	Doreen Turner	DT	"
	David Dunnett	DD	"
	Alastair Ferrier	AF2	"
Co-opted Member	Rona Morrison	RM	
Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	JA	Secretary
	Lena Forbes	LF	WHS Representative
	Carly Rosie	CR	"
	Alan Hendry	AH	Press Reporter

Apologies of Absence	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Eswyl Fell	Elected Member
Cllr Raymond Bremner	Highland Councillor
Wick Development Trust	N/A

1. Welcome and Apologies

AF1 welcomed everyone who was present to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining 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 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. JC asked if any notifications had been received regarding the change of use for the building in Girnigoe Street. JA advised that no other notifications had arrived since last week.

- **Action List**

AF1 advised that most actions were ongoing.

Action 6- AB has completed this action, however, will make contact again regarding the upkeep of the road mouth to the Retail Park.

3. Wick John O' Groats Airport

Introduced as airport manager. HIAL run the airport, they are a PLC. Passenger number has declined over the years. 22,500 pre pandemic, now down to around 13,000. Changing profile led to the two operators changing their schedules. 33-35,000 passengers per year in the 1990's. When the aircraft size changed it affected the schedules the companies' ran. Wick is slightly different, as they have a fixed based operator which is a business. 95% of the ferry flights come through Scotland to Wick. There are rumours of the potential of gaining a helicopter again. The price of running one of is not insignificant. The PSO was announced in February 2021. Eastern Airways have reduced their rotations recently, but passenger footfall has increased. Wick has around 800 passengers per month. DG advised that they arrive in Wick at round 10:20 and leaving Wick at 10:45. There are relatively good reports on the services at present, Wick only facilitates the airlines, they do not run them. JC voiced that they have a long wait at the reception desk, DG advised that he can feed that back. AB will pass on some information regarding thoughts on times.

4. Local Organisations' Update

- **Wick High School Representatives**

SR advised that they have a council meeting on Tuesday 13th June.

- **Local Police**

No report was received in advance of the meeting.

- **East Caithness Community Campus and Noss Primary School**
AF1 advised that he isn't aware of anything concerning at present. AB advised that he met with Steve Walsh of HighLife Highland along with JC. It was an informative meeting. A large range of topics were discussed such as opening times. There are lots of different departments within HLH. An invite should be sent to Annie Hall to attend a meeting. The All-Weather pitch is coming up to 18 years old, with the plan of contacting the relevant department to get a replacement surface. AF1 felt that the community suffer from "downtime" as there appears to be a lot of closures. Steve Walsh confirmed that Inverness hours are being cut as prices are rising.
- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**
Nothing to report.
- **Friends of Green Road Park**
AF1 advised that the trees have now been planted. AF1 will speak with the community payback to ask if they can repair the swing.
- **Wick Development Trust**
No update was provided prior to the meeting. AF1 expressed disappointment. AF1 suggested contacting the Wick Development Officer.
- **Association of Caithness Community Councils**
AF2 advised that it was asked how RBWCC manage to have such a good group of WHS representatives attend meetings. Sinclair Bay CC have used the community payback group several times for various works within the CC vicinity. One hour prior to the meeting, the Ward Manager informed the chair that Wick Town Hall was unavailable due to IT issues. AF2 advised that he is trying to build it up by getting as many Community Councils attending as possible, as well as Highland Councillors.

5. Council Business and Matters Arising

- **Veteran's Memorial Tower**
AB spoke with Fergus Stevenson from the architect company who will contact AB soon regarding the current efforts with the project.
- **Wick Common Good Fund**
JC advised that she spoke with the Ward Manager about re-housing the glass pane from Wick Carnegie Library and Wick Heritage Museum are to house this.
- **Harbour Sheds Project**
EF report. DT suggested asking the community payback team to ask if they can help.

- **Wick River Fountain**

JC advised that the plaque is now in the work shed and will be installed for £2,800. JC will be advised when it is ready for installation. The fountain will also be painted.

6. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

JC advised in EF's absence that the group had a positive sponsored walk. The supplier has run out of plants entirely. New tubs are being delivered which was funded by monies from The Highland Council. Wick Railway Station are providing more planters.

- **Wick Community Market**

AF1 advised that the next market will be resuming within the next few weeks. NC raised the possibility of RBWCC having a stall at the market, JC suggested aiming for the 10th June.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

No report was provided.

- **Wick Paths Group**

No report was provided.

- **HAPPY**

Nothing to report.

7. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**

Funding was received £4,500 from The Highland Council to replace the flagpole and containers at Wick Town Hall.

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

£5, 892.36

- **Wick Community Market**

As per AGM.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

No balance was provided.

- **Wick Paths Group**

£13, 483.07

- **HAPPY**

£1,889.19.

8. Highland Councillor's Report

No report was provided. AF1 retrieved a list of what is discussed at meetings which Highland Councillor's attend. There are x11 committee's that the Councillor's sit on. AF1 voiced that it is a big task to wade through committee minutes to find out answers. AF1 advised that RBWCC either continue to ask them, or if each member reads through minutes to ask questions relevant to Wick.

9. AOCB

- **Lower Dunbar Street Bench Deposit**

JC advised that the bench hasn't been re-located yet.

- **Etched Pane of Glass from Library**

RM advised that he will speak with Wick Heritage Museum to enquire if they will take the pane of glass after its removal from the library.

- **Community Council Noticeboard**

AB advised that he hasn't spoken with the Ward Manager yet with regards to the possibility of this.

- **Parliament Square**

JC asked if RBWCC could focus on tidying this up, as a few people have indicated their willingness to help.

- **Grizzly Park**

DD raised how the fence surrounding the Grizzly Park has been down for a long period of time.

- **Police Review**

JC advised at this meeting about having a seasonal patrol due to the tourism. JC advised that Police should be engaging with the community in Caithness more especially if there is public engagement in the Inverness area.

- **Pocket Lanes**

Funding is now in place for x4 lanes, the representatives wanted to know some history and they will come up to the community market to engage with the public as the funding must be spent by 31st March 2024.

- **Sustrans Update**

JC advised that she has received no update apart from the brief which was provided at the online meeting which JC and Cllr RB was present at.

- **Summer Spruce Up**

AB expressed his keenness to organise a Wick Summer Spruce up on Tuesday 18th July.

- **School Busses**

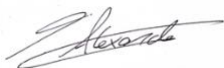
LF raised that there has been discussion within the school about the state of school busses and how pupils are crammed on some of them. RM asked if any parents have contacted Aaron's Busses to enquire about it.

- **School Trip**

WHS representatives enquired about holding a stall at the community market to fundraise for a possible school trip abroad.

AF1 extended a vote of thanks to Willie Watt and his team on the Seafarer's Memorial Group for their efforts with the recent erection of the Seafarer's Memorial at Braehead which is a fantastic asset to the town.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd July 2023

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	03/07/2023				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	David Dunnett				
Seconder	Wendy Campbell				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary