



## MEETING MINUTES

**Venue:** The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

**Date:** Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2024

**Time:** 19:00

<b>Present</b>			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Allan Farquhar	AF1	Chairperson
	Allan Bruce	AB	Vice-Chairperson
	Joanna Coghill	JC	Treasurer
	Doreen Turner	DT	N/A
	Rona Morrison	RM	N/A
	Alastair Ferrier	AF2	N/A
	Eswyl Fell	EF	N/A
	Wendy Campbell	WC	N/A
	Norma Craven	NC	N/A
Co-opted Members	David Dunnett	DD	N/A
Ex-officio Members	Cllr Raymond Bremner	Cllr RB	Highland Councillor
	Cllr Jan McEwan	Cllr JM	Highland Councillor
Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	JA	Secretary
	Dan Mackay	DM	Member of Public

<b>Apologies of Absence</b>	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Clare Mackenzie	Co-opted Member
Roy Mackenzie	Co-opted Member

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

AF1 welcomed everyone who was present to the meeting and thanked everyone for joining the meeting. AF1 advised that members of the public could only contribute if they are asked to contribute.

**2. Declaration of Interest**

AF1 advised that Wick Community Market

**3. Approval and Adoption of Previous Minutes**

The minutes of the previous meeting were distributed to members by the Secretary. This minute was noted by AF1 due to the absence of the Secretary.

The minutes were approved and adopted as follows, subject to amendments.

Proposed By: AB

Seconded By: DT

**4. Lyndsay Broomfield, Plant Youth**

Not present. AF1 proposed that Dan Mackay enlighten RBWCC on the scope of his newly formed committee; Encompass Caithness- a new group on the go since October. They would like to come along to meet RBWCC members to work with NHS Highland for local services. The services previously offered have now been closed or withdrawn and so there is a complete absence of children's rest bite services. They are currently objecting to a proposal to turn the former children's home into a medication facility. The committee will be launching a survey to gather the information on the needs of these facilities. DM proposed that the group require the backing of the community. Their main topics are rest bite for children/adults, day centre provision and children having difficulty at school and the group's aim is to set up sub-groups who can investigate each segment. AF2 asked DM if he knew how many places have been lost due to these service closures. AF1 asked what facilities there are north of Inverness. DM advised that as far as he is aware, there are no rest bite services available. DM- some return for rest bite care, not a service which would offer care 365 days per year, but through some periods of time at least. DM also advised that some families are offered huge packages, but there are no services to spend the money, therefore, why not spend the money on a facility.

**5. Review of Monthly Correspondence Record**

A printed list was not made available.

AF1 mentioned the email received from two representatives from NHS Highland enquiring what is going on in the Wick community. Cllr RB requested for this email to be forwarded to him.

**6. Review of Action List**

Members reviewed the action list.

AB advised that he has now managed to establish a contact for the owner of Wick Retail Park, due to the bins overflowing. AB has contacted them regarding this as well as the general upkeep of the entrance (i.e.- the drystone wall surrounding the front of the green space at the retail park).

## **7. Highland Council Matters**

Cllr RB advised that The Highland Council has no ability, legally, to touch any property within the town, nor do they have the ability to provide a list of the owners who pay rates. JC will touch base with the owners of the former Original Factory Shop building. The budget has been passed but there is a Council meeting taking place on 14/03/2024. Cllr RB advised that he would like to discuss the town and other outlying areas to see what could be turned into potential biodiverse areas which would very much enhance the look and biodiverse landscape which could be areas of interest, education etc. The Highland Council discussed this today with various representatives present. Cllr RB proposed a walk and talk to discuss the potentials etc. DD asked if potholes between Wick and Thurso could be filled. JC raised the zebra crossing issue on Thurso Road and asked if it was legal as . Eastern Airways have cancelled a lot of flights recently and asked why. AB asked Cllr RB if connection flights could be looked at, particularly for businesses as this is a huge opportunity which is being missed out on completely. AB advised about the waste changes which will be occurring, and asked if there was a contact so that people can be made aware of the changes and what it will involve. AB advised that a meeting has now been scheduled to take place to discuss the all-weather pitch, however, a contact for the Highland Council has not yet come forward to discuss the funding opportunities to eventually replace it. RM asked about the hole which is currently in Dempster Street, with vehicles parked on either side of the street, emergency services wouldn't get passed with the barriers etc. RM also asked if there was a an opening date for the toilets, to which Cllr RB replied no. RM voiced that surely CCTV would be the most fundamental addition for the toilets and asked if there was a reason as to why it was the last thing to be installed. Cllr Rb advised that when planning CCTV, there was differences as to where you could site it etc and this is still being worked on. AB advised that there are now x4 lights out at Riverside Car Park. AB stressed how this needs to be fixed before the new toilet facilities open. AF1 advised how it was felt at the recent AOCCC meeting how a public meeting with representatives from local community councils would be beneficial to explain what the budget is for the road repairs. Cllr RB touched on the capacity of Wick New Municipal Cemetery, The Highland Council are now looking at options, however, it appears to be that some of the surrounding ground might not be suitable, but options are being looked at. Cllr RB also voiced how vehicles are causing damage to the cemetery and how it has been an ongoing issue for a long time. Access restriction is being looked at. Cllr RB asked if restricted access would be welcomed. One suggestion was a lock being put on the gates which could be opened by a code, and this code could be obtained from the local service point but would only be granted to members of the public who really require it. DD suggested putting a small pedestrian gate in the wall beside the main gates with the gates for vehicle access being locked permanently and opened for funerals only etc.

## 8. Local Organisations' Update

- **Wick Development Trust**  
No representatives present, however, AB advised that the toilet block has now been erected and the biodiversity project is now underway with Wick Paths Group assisting.
- **Wick High School Pupil Representatives**  
No representatives present.
- **Local Police**  
A report was received in advance of the meeting which was circulated amongst members.
- **East Caithness Community Campus and Noss Primary School**  
AF1 had nothing to report.
- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**  
WC had nothing to report.
- **Friends of Green Road Park**  
AF1 had nothing to report.
- **Wick Flower Baskets**  
EF had nothing to report.
- **Wick Paths Group**  
A small group of volunteers, pulled out and removed a redundant fence beside the play park at the Riverside, the path was then scraped back. A litter pick was also carried out in the adjacent woodland with 2 bags of rubbish being collected. Paths Group volunteers joined RBWCC members and members of the public, a fantastic total of 36 to clear litter from the Old Herring Mart out to the Trinkie Road end. A very full trailer load of rubbish was collected. It had been hoped to have the maps ready by Easter but that has not proved possible. Wick Path Group joined RBWCC and Wick Flowers Group volunteers, a total of 24, on a glorious sunny and warm Easter Sunday to carry out a litter pick at the Airport and Industrial Estate, 2 trailers were filled. The prize for the biggest item collected goes to Alistair Ferrier who picked up a sofa! The next community litter pick will be on Sunday 21st April, meet at 10.00am at the Riverside car park. Wick Paths Group are very grateful to Alex Patterson for refurbishing the North Head Path sign which will be re-attached in due course.
- **Association of Caithness Community Councils**  
AF2 advised that the AGM was held last month. Eight community councils attended the last meeting.

## 9. Council Business and Matters Arising:

- **Wick Common Good Fund**

AF1 advised that there is information released from The Scottish Government called "Democracy Matters" which talks about providing local communities with more power etc. AF1 provided a paper leaflet to members. AB advised that there has been a fair bit of damage at Camps Car Park and an example is that Common Good money could be used to repair the railings at this car park.

- **Sustrans / Pocket Lanes**

AF1 advised that all the information for the bid has now been submitted. The designs have also been finalised for Pocket Lanes but some of the lighting will not be installed until the re-design of the High Street.

- **Scottish Spring Clean 2024**

AB advised that the first session is planned for Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March at 10am, meeting at the Harbour focussing on South Head and below the cliff at the head.

## 10. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Community Market**

AF1 will arrange an advert for the press to create a committee.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

CM advised prior to the meeting that there was nothing to report.

- **HAPPY**

AF1 advised that there is currently no committee to take plans forward for this year's party.

## 11. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**

£17,993.51 (Grant from The Highland Council was received):

£6,450.00- COVID Funding

£963.35- Businessmen's Corner

£671.92- Wick River Fountain Project

£126.66- Riverside Volunteers

Therefore, the total balance belonging to RBWCC is £10,584.41.

JC advised that the town officer money is £5,000. JC suggested purchasing a Solway Recycling bench.

- **Friends of Green Road Park**

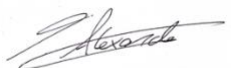
£1,856.00

- **Wick Community Market**  
£TBC
- **Wick Christmas Lights**  
£9,302.14
- **HAPPY**  
£TBC

## 12. AOCB

- EF advised that she has been volunteering at the TeenScene at PPP every week.
- AF2 advised that he received an invitation for a meeting at Wick Airport and asked if someone else would be willing to attend.
- NC advised that the Scottish Bellringing is coming to Wick on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March and a concert will be held in Wick Assembly Rooms following various workshops which will be held during the morning of that day.
- AB suggested putting Far North Railway Partnership on the agenda for the April meeting.
- AF1 advised that the new regulations for bed and breakfasts will affect a lot of local businesses.
- AF1 proposed that there should always be more than 50% voting members present at a meeting to make the meeting quorate. This motion was approved with x9 out of x10 members voting yes.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	01/04/2024				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	Doreen Turner				
Secunder	Wendy Campbell				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary