



MEETING MINUTES

Venue: The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Tuesday 2nd May 2023

Time: 19:00

Present			
Grouping	Name	Initial	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Elected Members	Joanna Coghill	JC	Chairperson
	Allan Farquhar	AF1	Vice-Chairperson
	Alastair Ferrier	AF2	N/A
	Allan Bruce	AB	"
	Wendy Campbell	WC	"
	Doreen Turner	DT	"
	Norma Craven	NC	"
	David Dunnett	DD	"
Co-opted Members	Eswyl Fell	EF	"
	Roy Mackenzie	RM	"
Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	JA	Secretary
	Carly Rosie	LCR	WHS Representative
	Lena Forbes	LF	"
	Aaron Eves-Munro	AEM	"
	Antonia Beattie	AB	"
	David Scott	DS	Press Reporter

Apologies of Absence	
Name	Position <i>(If Applicable)</i>
Claire Mackenzie	Co-opted Member
David Dunnett	Elected Member
Doreen Turner	Elected Member
Rona Morrison	Elected Member
Wick Development Trust	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.

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: AB

- **Monthly Correspondence List**

All members reviewed the monthly correspondence list.

- **Action List**

JC advised that most actions were ongoing.

3. Local Organisations' Update

- **Wick High School Representatives**

WHS Reps' advised that the new Pupil Council is up and running, with the hope of having fortnightly meetings. AB voiced that it is great to see the school getting involved with RBWCC.

- **Local Police**

No report had been received in advance of the meeting.

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

AF1 has not had any correspondence on the recent emergency situation, AF1 suggested contacting HLH to ask for an update as to what happened and what was done to resolve the issue.

- **Friends of East Caithness Cemeteries**

WC advised that the volunteers are busy lining the cemetery and picking up the grass. They are trying to keep the gate shut as much as possible to prevent cars going in and causing damage.

- **Friends of Green Road Park**

It is hoped that the kids of Noss Primary School can plant the x45 trees on first Monday at 10am.

- **Wick Development Trust**

No update was provided due to apologies being received in advance of the meeting. However, an invite was received for x1 or x2 members to attend their

next meeting on Thursday 11th May 2023 at 7pm, the venue is TBC and JA will communicate this to members once received.

- **Association of Caithness Community Councils**

The next meeting has been postponed for at least x1 month. AF2 would like to encourage more people and community councils to attend. It is hoped that the IT will be made better. The last meeting ran for quite long, so the aim is to finish up at around 9pm or 9:30pm. Extra invites were sent out by another council member for the next meeting which caused confusion, hence why the next meeting has been postponed.

4. Council Business and Matters Arising

- **Veteran's Memorial Tower**

AB will chase the architects for an update.

- **Wick Common Good Fund**

JC proposed discussing this under private business. All agreed. JC proposed that RBWCC set up a sub-committee to oversee Common Good situation. Cllr JM advised that The Highland Council have not had a meeting to discuss Common Good since RBWCC's last meeting. RM has decided to keep it to paintings and artwork, valuable items given that there are so much of everything. JC expressed that a sub-group would help to oversee this project. AF1 proceeded to give the WHS an overview of the Common Good fund project. RM now has access to a database which contains around 14,000 items.

- **Harbour Sheds Project**

EF advised that Alex Paterson is to provide how much material is provided. The sanding down of the sheds will begin on first Tuesday (late morning, weather dependant). Materials come to around £501, however, Yvonne Hendry is going to help with funding applications. JC thanked Esywyl for her work on this on behalf of members.

- **Wick Businessmen's Corner**

AB advised that the new lighting has arrived.

- **Wick River Fountain**

JC is awaiting on a price for the plaque, and she will speak with Mackenzie Sutherland regarding the planning application. AB is awaiting the price for water sealing the base of the fountain.

- **Enquiry from Caithness Klics**

Cllr JM has reported this enquiry twice to The Highland Council. JC proposed writing a letter to The Highland Council, all agreed.

5. Council Sub-Group Reports

- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**

EF advised that a sponsored walk will take place next month and a stall will be up on Harbour Day. The Highland Council are granting £2,500 for planting. Lower Dunbar Street has also been tidied up and the group will be liaising with the area residents to brighten this up.

- **Wick Community Market**

AF1 advised that the next market is on 13th May 2023. AF1 will ask the local police to see if they would be interested in having a stall. They now have some funding and could do with some banners to advertise which AF1 will obtain quotes for. They are awaiting a new quote for the music license. NC asked if RBWCC will have a stall at the Market. JC advised that it has been brought to her attention that people in the community think that RBWCC do nothing. JC supported NC's suggestion and proposed that RBWCC holds a stall at the next market. AF2 suggested obtaining photos to cover the visual aspect of what RBWCC and the sub-groups have done.

- **Wick Christmas Lights**

CM advised that the AGM will be held on Tuesday 16th May 2023.

- **Wick Paths Group**

The WPG AGM will be held on Tuesday 9th May 2023 at 6.30pm using Zoom, new members are welcome, contact John Bogle on john.bogle333@btinternet.com. An ordinary meeting will follow on immediately after the AGM. The final large community litter pick organised by WPG vice-chairman and RBWCC member Allan Bruce as part of the Wick Spring Spruce Up was held on 16th April and was again well supported by Wick Paths Group members. Several different areas of the town were covered. These litter picks have been well supported and have made a great difference to the appearance of the town, a big thank you to Allan for all his efforts to ensure that they were so successful. Two Paths Group workdays in April were cancelled due to the weather and the pressing commitment to get the site ready for the Seafarers Memorial, however, Allan Bruce took the opportunity to power brush and blow the path at the Calder statue ready for weed killing on one of these dates. The statue commemorating all those lost at sea in or from the WK vessel registration area will be unveiled on Saturday 20th May (1.30 for 2.00pm) at the Braehead. Members of the public are warmly invited to come along. A very big thanks to Allan Bruce and his colleagues from Rolls Royce Vulcan for clearing the steps beside Simpson's offices and the paths leading off to.

- **HAPPY**

AF1 advised that there was nothing to report.

6. Treasury Reports

- **Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council**
£26,504.00 (£4,500 was recently paid in by The Highland Council). JC advised AF2 that
- **Wick Hanging Baskets Committee**
£Last Month.
- **Wick Community Market**
Cash in Bank £937.50 with the following outstanding payments:
Reimbursement of Insurance £215.69 made by A Farquhar (Insurance covers HAPPY)
PPL & PBS Entertainment Licence (awaiting requote due to reduction for Community events).
Suggest 50/50 split on insurance between HAPPY and WCM.
Note that current funds are held by RBWCC until such times as a formal subcommittee and bank account is enabled.
- **Wick Christmas Lights**
£4,137.40. Claire Mackenzie advised prior to the meeting that the group had received a bill of £224 from The Highland Council for putting the lights on the tree. Given what volunteers do for the town as a committee, the group felt this was cheeky but have no option but to pay it.
- **Wick Paths Group**
£13,483.07.
- **HAPPY**
Bank Balance as of 31st March 2023 is £1887.72. There are the following outstanding payments:
Cheque 000176 13/02/20 £200 issued to band Penny Lane not presented
Cheque 000177 & 000178 (2 x £50) issued to Pipers not presented
Payment of £300 to 2023 band Reviver
Payment of £60 (2 x £30) to 2023 pipers.
Unrestricted funds available £1227.72
Awaiting forms to notify bank of change off office bearers and signatories. Also online banking to be implemented.

7. Highland Councillor's Report

JC advised that apologies had been received from Cllr Raymond Bremner, and no report had been received in advance of the meeting.


8. AOCB

- AB advised that the Spring Spruce Up evets consisted of 153 black bags being collected, with around x200 man hours of work, and a turnout of x40 people at the last event with representatives from the fire cadets, head teacher of Noss Primary

School. Equipment was donated to both primary schools and are being put to good use. AB thanked everyone involved and The Highland Council.

- AB raised that The Highland Council will hopefully now be acting on the ancillary work plans, now that RBWCC retrieved x128 cobblestones were from Wick River which came from River Street. AB has these stored at the moment and they will be getting cleaned.
- AF2 commented on the good feedback retrieved from Inspector Stephen Mezals, who hopes to attend AOCCC meetings at least every second month.
- JC advised that feedback will not be ready until late May for the consultation held at Carnegie Library.
- JC advised that a lady emailed regarding Wick Pocket Lanes to talk about the project, she will meet with JC and Cllr Raymond Bremner and it is hoped that to obtain the funding will be possible.
- JC chased the complaint on the Wi-Fi in Wick Assembly Rooms, however, it seems to be that an extender is required.
- JC advised that the AGM is taking place next month, and asked for everyone to remain standing as community councillors and thanked everyone for their hard work.
- The school would like pupils to have work experience with local companies and asked RBWCC if there were company names they could provide. RBWCC members provided some names to the WHS reps'.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 12th June 2023

These minutes were approved and adopted as follows:					
Date	05/06/2023				
Location	The David Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms				
Proposer	Wendy Campbell				
Seconder	Joanna Coghill				
Signed		Name	Jayden Alexander	Position	Secretary