

ROYAL BURGH OF WICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL



Location: Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Monday 1st November 2021

Time: 7:00pm

Minutes of monthly meeting held in November 2021.

The names of those present highlighted in grey were present virtually, via Zoom.

Present

Elected members:	Joanna Coghill (<i>JC</i>)	Chairperson
	Allan Farquhar (<i>AF1</i>)	Vice-Chairperson
	Kimberley Miller-Rosie (<i>KMR</i>)	Treasurer
	Wendy Campbell (<i>WC</i>)	
	Alastair Ferrier (<i>AF2</i>)	
	David Dunnett (<i>DD</i>)	
	Doreen Turner (<i>DT</i>)	
Co-opted members:	Allan Bruce (<i>AB</i>)	
	Eswyl Fell (<i>EF</i>)	
	Roy Mackenzie (<i>RM</i>)	
	Claire Mackenzie (<i>CM</i>)	
Ex-officio members:	Cllr Raymond Bremner (<i>Cllr RB</i>)	Highland Councillor
Non-members/Public:	Jayden Alexander (<i>JA</i>)	Secretary
	Alan Hendry (<i>AH</i>)	Press Reporter (NOSN Newspapers)
	Hannah Cambridge (<i>HC</i>)	Wick's Heart Representative
	Sharon Powell (<i>SP</i>)	Noss Power Station

Apologies

No apologies were received.

1. Welcome and apologies.

JC took the chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting. A vote of thanks was given to those who had joined virtually via Zoom.

2. Local Police Report.

JC stated that she had spoken with Inspector Alasdair Goskirk regarding police reports for RBWCC meetings and a response is still awaited.

3. Wick Development Trust Update.

HC stated that the group are currently working on stickers to promote local shops to have better presentation, these stickers will then be awarded to shop owners. A criterion for this is being worked on. The former Sloans site is now in the process of being sold privately, no further details were provided. Surveys have been received for potential projects for the Pavilion site. DD stated that the sale should have been made public, all RBWCC members agreed and asked why the whole matter was not advertised or brought to the public's attention, no answer was given in response to this. Positive comments were given to Wick's Heart from RBWCC on their newsletter. The group are planning walkabouts to look around the town centre. JC asked Cllr RB if the sale should have been made public. Cllr RB responded to this question by confirming that communication is entirely up to Wick's Heart and RBWCC would have to make enquires directly.

4. Minutes of Previous Meeting.

JA circulated the draft minutes of the previous meeting which was held on Monday 6th September to RBWCC members.

Approval and adoption: The minutes had been proposed by WC and seconded by DD.

Outstanding actions: As per action list.

Matters arising: Cllr RB confirmed that he had submitted updates to RBWCC on both the Common Good Fund situation and Highland Council committees.

5. Correspondence.

Several items in the correspondence for November required a response, most of which had been dealt with.

6. Review of Current RBWCC Action List.

No comments were made about any current or completed actions.

7. Highland Councillors' Report

To be received.

8. Report from Noss Power Station.

SP gave a presentation of photos of the site progress which was very well received by all who were present. A vote of thanks was given to SP and the Noss team.

9. Treasurer's Report.

Wick Christmas Lights: CM stated that she would confirm the bank balance to RBWCC once she checks the new statement.

Wick Flower Baskets: JC stated that she would confirm the bank balance to RBWCC once she checks the new statement.

HAPPY: AF1 stated that the current account bank balance sits at £732.83.

10. Sub-Group Reports.

Wick Christmas Lights: CM stated that the Christmas tree for the Market Square would be erected on Sunday 21st November. Santaland is to commence on Wednesday 8th and Friday 10th December with the Sleigh going out on the 13th and 16th December. DT asked about the situation with the lights on the trees at Caithness General Hospital, DT and CM are to communicate separately regarding the matter.

Wick Flower Baskets: EF stated that more volunteers had been found and that they have six trees available for planting as part of the Queen's Green Canopy for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee,.

Wick Paths Group: A report was received in advance of the meeting by John Bogle which was circulated by JA, this is as follows:

“ Last month it was reported that SSEN and their subcontractor Global Infrastructure had widened this path, however the surface was uneven and muddy in parts, therefore we approached SSEN again. They kindly arranged for their main contractor BAM to donate 80 tonnes of stone to finish the path off. This work was carried out by 17 volunteers on Sunday 21 November, as always we are very grateful for the support from local businesses who loaned heavy machinery free of charge. It was not possible to complete a small section of path on Sunday but this was finished off on the Tuesday with help of volunteers from Newtonhill Community Woodland. This has been a major project to widen and upgrade over 600 metres of path just outside the town boundary, the path is now wider and smoother than before and enables people to walk 2 abreast and is also accessible for prams and wheelchairs. The path was so narrow previously that many people were forced to walk on the single track fast road beside it, the path is now much safer. There have been lots of positive comments on our Facebook page. A small start has been made on this project. A big thank you to the Community Payback Team who have disposed of a rotten picnic bench that was beyond repair, they have also removed the one remaining good bench to their workshop and will repaint it after it dries out. They have also dug out a completely overgrown path which connects the lower and upper paths. “

HAPPY: AF1 had nothing to report, other than that a band could not be found to hold a Hogmanay Street Party, however, the search continues.

11. Wick Community Campus and Noss Primary School.

AF1 confirmed that the school had been designed for a capacity of 784 pupils, however, this number has now been exceeded. Wick is now in the lower section of pupils achieving higher standards, however, AF1 is to look further with the education board to see what they will be doing to improve this.

12. Council Business

Caithness Club Corner: JC confirmed that the project was now complete.

Common Good Fund: RM is arranging a visit to the new North Coast Visitor Centre in Thurso to look at some of the items he has been researching.

Wick Riverside Fountain: JC is to chase Evan Sinclair for an update.

Wick Community Market: AF1 confirmed that six gazebos had arrived and 10% of the deposit was paid. A direct debit has been set up through AF1's personal account and funds will be transferred over in advance of direct debits being paid. A PRS license for playing music will cost £1,300 and a direct debit will also be set up to arrange this. Risk assessments have yet to be written and LED lighting and extension cables will also have to be purchased.

Dog Fouling Campaign: A photo is to be taken for a press report, Alan Hendry is to be contacted to arrange this.

13. AOCB.

- **Northern Lights Festival**

Positive comments were shared about the lights show which was presented in and around Wick Harbour.

- **Sustrans.**

A bid was submitted on 23rd September 2021, however, no news regarding this was received.

- **Wick Harbour Parking.**

DD stated that a bollard had not been installed at the harbour area to stop parking. Cllr RB is to be contacted regarding this.

JC thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting closed for private discussion for RBWCC members and the secretary only.



Next meeting

Location: Mowat Room, Wick Assembly Rooms

Date: Monday 6th December 2021

Time: 7:00pm