

ROYAL BURGH OF WICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Location: Meeting held via Zoom.

Date: Monday 5th April 2021.

Time: 7:15pm.

Present:

Elected members:	Joanna Coghill (<i>JC</i>).	Chairperson
	Allan Farquhar (<i>AF1</i>)	Vice chairperson
	Kimberley Miller-Rosie	Treasurer
	Wendy Campbell (<i>WC</i>)	
	Alastair Ferrier (<i>AF2</i>)	
	David Dunnett (<i>DD</i>)	
	Doreen Turner (<i>DT</i>)	
Co-opted members:	Claire Mackenzie (<i>CM</i>)	
	Allan Bruce (<i>AB</i>)	
	Frances Purves (<i>FP</i>)	
	Roy Mackenzie (<i>RM</i>)	
Ex-officio members:	Cllr Raymond Bremner (<i>Cllr RB</i>)	The Highland Council
	Cllr Willie Mackay (<i>Cllr WM</i>)	The Highland Council
In attendance:	Jayden Alexander (<i>JA</i>)	Secretary
	Sharon Powell (<i>SP</i>)	SSE
	Eswyl Fell (<i>EF</i>)	Member of Public

Apologies:

- Cllr Andrew Sinclair

1. Welcome and apologies.

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a special vote of thanks to Sharon Powell from SSE for joining. Apologies as per listed.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

- [Approval and adoption of minutes](#)

The minutes of the last meeting which was held on Monday 3rd March 2021 was circulated by the secretary to RBWCC members. Circumvent to various errors the which will be amended by the secretary, the minutes were approved adopted.

Proposed by: WC

Seconded by: RM

- [Outstanding actions](#)
 - Big spring clean (*plans still underway, however, delayed due to the pandemic*).
 - NHS Near Me (*report to be received from Cllr RB*).
 - Kinderspiel Bridge (*JA to ask John Bogle from an update*).
 - WWI Memorial Tower (*private business*).

- [Matters arising](#)

There were various matters arising from the previous minutes, however, as most topics were for the attention of the community councillors it was agreed that this would be discussed later under private business.

3. Correspondence.

No items in the correspondence list for January required a response. All were happy.

4. Local police report.

Due to the absence of a representative from the local Police department, a report was submitted by Inspector Alasdair Goskirk in response to an email which was sent by RBWCC with regards to the local wild camping and tourism issues for the attention of community councillors.

5. Highland Councillors' report.

Cllr RB gave a detailed report (attached).

6. Treasurer's report.

- Wick Community Council
KMR did not have the bank balance to hand, however, stated that there was nothing major to report.
- Wick Christmas Lights
There was nothing to report financially.
- Wick Flower Baskets
JC reported that £1,000 was successfully received from Tesco Bags of Help.
- HAPPY
£732.76. There was nothing to report financially other than that funds have not changed.

7. Sub-group reports.

- Wick Christmas Lights
CM reported that the Christmas lights were now down and that the group are currently

looking into the ward discretionary fund for COVID, and that it is looking hopeful. General thoughts currently is that funday will not go ahead, however, a final decision will not be made until September; if it has to be that this is cancelled then Santaland will run for longer.

- Wick Flower Baskets

JC reported that Wick will have a flower display this year and that Wick Flower Baskets was successful with Tesco Bags of Help (see treasury report).

- Wick Paths Group

John Bogle (secretary of Wick Paths Group) kindly submitted the following report in advance of the meeting.

“ Using Covid guidance which now permits up to 15 people to gather for outdoor organised exercise, the Paths Group was able to organise 2 work days on Friday 26th and Saturday 27th March with preparatory works being undertaken on Thursday 25th. Volunteers were socially distanced and wore masks where appropriate. On Friday the path in front of the fountain alongside the river which had been partly scraped by HC workers, had the remaining parts dug out by WPG volunteers then tar chippings were laid and rolled. A litter pick was also carried out in the surrounding area. The access road for the caravan site was scraped of encroaching vegetation and then brushed. On Saturday, there were 2 separate teams working, one laid and rolled tar chippings on the caravan park access road from the play park up to the caravan park entrance. The other laid chippings and rolled a section of the path between the caravan park and the rifle range which is bad for flooding. A muddy section of the path between the caravan park and the railway line then had chippings laid and was rolled and the road under the railway bridge leading to the main entrance to the caravan park was weeded and swept. A litter pick was also carried out and 53.45lbs of rubbish was collected. The Bruce family cleared up the area around the Calder statue. As always we are very grateful to the volunteers who turned out to help, to Joanna Coghill and Wick Caravan Site for providing refreshments and to the local businesses who loaned us machinery to carry out the work – SID Building Services, MM Miller Ltd, Hugh Simpson (Contractors) Ltd and Subsea 7. Also a very big thanks to John Gunn & Sons Ltd who donated the tar chippings that we used. There was a problem on Saturday morning when the teleporter showed a warning light and although this was fixed, in the interim Douglas Ronaldson from the adjacent farm was called in to help, he appeared quickly and was a great help transporting the chippings to where the volunteers were working. We will be setting a date for moving onto the North Head Path soon, a new bench to be located on the old foghorn base has already been ordered. “

Photographs were also received by JA. These have been published on RBWCC’s website and Facebook page.

- HAPPY

AF1 had nothing to report other than a decision to hold an event will be taken in September.

8. Wick Community Campus and Noss Primary School.

AF1 stated that in 2017, Margaret Davidson of HC had requested from Brian Porter a report on the works of the campus and to request this multiple times before receiving it. AF1 said that he had requested this multiple times recently, however, never got a response from Mr Porter and that he had to go through Freedom of Information to receive it. AF1 said that there are various issues which were raised that are not in this report and that the public were deliberately being withheld from receiving the report. AF1 has still had no response from Mr Porter. Cllr RB is to contact him requesting a reason for this. It was highlighted that this report was first requested in 2017, and it wasn't received until 2019.

CM stated that the company she works for was requested to cost a new path for part of the campus, however, there is currently a delay with this as they have asked for steps to be included in this. The hope is that the ramp and path will be installed this summer.

WC stated " If HC can't get certain information then what chance have members of the public got. "

JC stated that someone must be held accountable for the wrongdoing made over the course of time.

9. Council business.

- Introduction from Ms Sharon Powell (SSE)

SP introduced herself to all present and explained that her role within SSE is Community Liason Officer for the new power station located at Noss Head. SP mentioned that she had circulated the latest issue of the station newsletter and requested feedback on it. JC and AB both said that the newsletter was very well done and easy to understand. AB suggested for the team to get Wick High School involved when promoting the fact that this is an industry people can look to get employment in. SP explained that a new position will be assigned to someone as outreach for young people etc. SP and her colleague intimated that a plan will be drafted for offering funding to the community. SP also said that if any project arises that RBWCC require funding for, to send her the details and she will then take it forward. It was also explained that SP and her team represent SSE Transmissions, while SSE Bowl are a separate part of the SSE group who manage the Beatrice Offshore Windfarm funding. JC suggested for a notice board to be placed in the town centre, and for SP to enquire with HC about this.

- Pulteneytown Conservation Project

AB explained that JA had contacted HC on behalf of Wick Players earlier in the month to enquire how the conservation project would affect Wick Players as a registered charity as their premises which are located in Moray Street are within the conservation boundary. However, the individual contacted never explained anything and just emailed the link for the project paperwork which is too lengthy and detailed to read. Cllr RB is to enquire about this, and JA will forward on the correspondence to him. JC suggested this topic be added on the agenda for the May meeting to discuss further.

- Caithness club corner project

JA confirmed that Leach are working on the photographic panels and that they would then be going into production. A delivery address and storage area has yet to be confirmed.

- North Head Memorial Tower

It was agreed to discuss this under private business following the closure of the meeting.

- Riverside Fountain project

JC confirmed that the fountain had now been jet washed and cleaned by HC. Cracks and disrepair on the fountain will be mended. HC are in the process of installing the new water pump and it will hopefully be working very soon. Lighting options will then be getting looked at.

- Wick Riverside islands

It was agreed that the islands located in Wick River are looking very delapidated and untidy following the bonfire. JA is to compose a letter to submit to the Gala committee to offer help and suggestions on a way forward.

- Dog fouling campaign

AB has now received all the competition entries from the primary schools. The panel of judges will then be revealing a winner which will be the face of the campaign, a “blitz” will then be able to take place along with the plans to tackle the issue. AB is also meeting with the manager of Pets at Home to discuss the campaign.

10. AOCB

JC thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was brought to a close.

Date of next meeting

Location: Meeting held via Zoom

Date: Monday 3rd May 2021

Time: 7:15pm

Action List

April 2021

ACTION NO.	DESCRIPTION	RESPONSIBLE	COMPLETED
OCT 20/01	List to be composed of tasks to be taken on during the next big clean of town (on hold due to COVID-19).	Cllr RB / Cllr NS	
OCT 20/02	Update to be sought on NHS Near Me (RB awaiting response from NHS).	Cllr RB	
OCT 20/07	Investigations into Wick Grizzly Park to be carried out to find out what can be done with a view to re-open the park (officially).	AF1	

APR 01/01

Letter to be composed for Wick's Heart to invite them to the May meeting.

JA

April 2021