

ROYAL BURGH OF WICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Location: Meeting held via Zoom.

Date: Monday 18th January 2021.

Time: 7:00pm.

Meeting to discuss the current situation and proceedings with the Common Good fund (CGF) for the Royal Burgh of Wick. This meeting did not run according to a set agenda.

Present:

Elected members:	Joanna Coghill (<i>JC</i>).	Chairperson
	Allan Farquhar (<i>AF1</i>)	Vice chairperson
	Wendy Campbell (<i>WC</i>)	
	Alastair Ferrier (<i>AF2</i>)	
	David Dunnett (<i>DD</i>)	
	Doreen Turner (<i>DT</i>)	
	Allan Bruce (<i>AB</i>)	
	Frances Purves (<i>FP</i>)	

Co-opted members: None in attendance.

Ex-officio members: Cllr Andrew Sinclair (*Cllr AS*)

In attendance:	Jayden Alexander (<i>JA</i>)	Secretary
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Apologies:

Kimberley Miller-Rosie



JC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for joining on Zoom. JC gave a short introduction as to what the purpose of the meeting was; to discuss the current situation and proceedings for the Common Good fund for Wick. JC gave a vote of thanks to Cllr AS for joining to help with any questions and queries (refer to attached list of questions).

Apologies as per listed.

Cllr AS confirmed that all seventy-four Highland councillors would most likely have a say in how the Common Good fund would work.

JC highlighted that Highland Council (HC) have a cut off-line for the consultation which is 12th March 2021. JC suggested that HC rethink this date and consider postponing this date to give people a good enough chance to review the draft list of proposed Common Good areas and items (which was compiled by HC). All agreed and Cllr AS stated that he would bring this suggestion to the attention of HC.

Various questions were raised by member of RBWCC to Cllr AS:

- *“ If HC will be running the fund, what is the difference between now and when it will officially be set up and running? ”*. Cllr AS stated that the CGF will be run by HC and all CGF in Scotland are overseen by their local authority. Cllr AS stated that as the Riverside Car park is now Common Good land, HC wouldn't really be able to impose parking charges within the car park.
- *“ If CGF now owns various areas (i.e- car parks) and there is no money in the fund then how will the are be maintained? ”*. Cllr AS highlighted that CG funds have assets to make profits from then those profits can be used to maintain the town.
- *“ If for example Bignold Park took in £200 profit, who would pay for grass cutting? ”*. Cllr AS stated that any monies taken in the CGF for Wick would be kept in that fund specifically for Wick. Money would not be able to be spent anywhere else. Only within the Royal Burgh boundary.

Cllr AS suggested that explaining the running of this fund and how it will all work will not be easy to explain to the public. However, although it is great that a CGF is now being set up and that historic



and important assets are being secured Wick won't be any better off, perhaps in time, but initially we won't be.

The following questions were raised and are to be queried at a future date:

- *“ If there is a memorial or landmark that needs maintenance carried out, can that work be funded by, for example- the Beatrice local fund, if that funding is applied for by the committee of the CGF? ”.*
- *Although HC would still be expected to maintain the Riverside car park, if someone took out a liability claim following an accident within the car park, who would be liable? HC or the CGF? “.*

DT suggested that HC's attitude may be to have no interference with the CGF although they oversee it, however, it states that the CGF is owned and controlled by the CGF.

JC said that HC now have a duty to notify the public of the CGF and the concerns surrounding it, and to re-schedule the consultation end date; to publicise information on Facebook, co-operate with Caithness Voluntary Group (CVG) and RBWCC.

JC suggested arranging a meeting with Sarah Murdoch and Highland councillors to discuss the fund further and for RBWCC to get a solid understanding of the whole process and the future of Wick's CGF.

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

These minutes were confirmed and approved by a proposer and seconder on 07/02/2021.

Proposed by: JC | Secoded by: FP