

ROYAL BURGH OF WICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Location: Meeting held via Zoom.

Date: Monday 11th January 2021

Time: 7:15pm

Present:

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

Co-opted members: None in attendance.

Ex-officio members: None in attendance.

In attendance: Jayden Alexander (*JA*) Secretary

Apologies:

Allan Farquhar

Cllr Andrew Sinclair

Cllr Willie Mackay

1. Welcome and apologies.

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked members for joining on Zoom.

Apologies as per listed.

2. Minutes of previous meeting.

All were happy with the minutes of the previous meeting, subject to change of those present, status of two newly elected members, a street name and name of a company.

JA is to make these changes (as above) and distribute to all members. A Proposer and seconder to be sought after all agrees with the relevant changes.

Proposed by: WC | Secoded by: DT

3. Matters arising and outstanding actions.

JC, KMR and AF1 are to arrange a breakdown of the monies held in the RBWCC bank account (i.e- Wick Paths Group, Wick Flower Baskets, CC money etc).

4. Correspondence.

No items on the correspondence for December required a response, however several to be discussed (as below).

Community resilience

JC stated that she would be unwilling for RBWCC to carry out anything for HC, due to the insurance etc (e.g- having a fall etc).

Boundary commission

JC highlighted that the deadline for the public submitting their views and opinions on the proposed HC boundary commission plans is 26th January, all members are encouraged to submit their view at the earliest convenience.

COVID-19 pandemic

JC thanked AFI for distributing the information regarding the test centre at Wick Riverside to CC members, and for his positive views on the set up and running of the test centre. WC highlighted that NHS could have advertised how people can actually set about getting tested, and that these test centres would be available, as the test centre seemed to just appear. DD explained about how he and his family set about getting a COVID test which was most difficult resulting in having to spend two days arranging to get a test done. WC suggested writing a letter to the NHS to express RBWCC's disappointment and dissatisfaction to the organisation of the whole process and outcome, and suggested that someone takes responsibility for the "mess". All agreed.

JA is to compose a letter to Michelle Johnstone to ask if the NHS have plans to open a COVID ward within Caithness General Hospital, and to express that RBWCC as a community council need to be ready and have the correct information to hand to tell the community exactly how to set about booking a COVID-19 test. Also, to put across how RBWCC are concerned about the lack of information which has been distributed to the public (poor communication). RBWCC are deeply concerned about the one hundred and mile distance people may have to travel to Inverness (if need be) especially in bad weather conditions.

JA is also to publish a post on the CC Facebook page and website clearly explaining that to book a COVID test people must not go to Wick Medical Centre or the new testing centre at Riverside, but book it online through NHS Highland. Also, that not everyone in the same household can experience the same symptoms.

5. Highland councillors' report.


No report was received.

6. Treasurer's report.

RBWCC's current bank balance is £33080.00. Wick Flower Baskets current bank balance is £5265.00. There was no treasury report for Wick Paths Group, or Wick Christmas Lights.

7. Wick Christmas Lights.

No report due to the absence of CM.



DT said that she had contacted CM regarding the lights on the trees in front of Caithness General not being switched on at Christmas time. CM assured that this would be the first on the list for Christmas 2021, to make sure that these lights are switched on.

8. HAPPY.

There was no street party this year due to the current pandemic. However, HAPPY did help with the Christmas carol service which took place in the car park of Wick High School which was a huge success and highlighted that this could possibly become a yearly event, not just in “COVID times”.

9. Wick Flower Baskets.

Nothing to report, other than tubs and planters were ordered, however, these may not be received due to the current pandemic.

10. Wick Paths Group

The cement paths at each end of the Coghill Bridge are very slippery in icy conditions, this was noted by John Bogle, however, it is a HC issue.

11. Wick Community Campus and Noss Primary School

JC suggested that this could be removed from future agendas of RBWCC meetings, however, it was agreed that this would be done after the completion of the whole project once the boulevard and pitch had been finished.

12. Sustrans funding

It was noted that applications were for November.

13. Common good fund

JC suggested that RBWCC arrange a meeting to be held on Monday 18th January 2021 at 7pm, via Zoom, to discuss the common good fund situation for Wick, and that all Highland Councillors are invited to attend. At this meeting the list of common good items can be discussed, as well as the following:

- Implications and where the situation is headed.
- Will Highland Council be involved? If so how does the affect applications from wind farms?
- Finance (how does the financial side of the fund work?)
- Does anything get paid or done financially once the fund is set up?
- Who will run it?
- Will there be income?
- The running of the Inverness fund (out of interest).

14. Caithness club corner project

JC said that RBWCC are currently awaiting a reply from Seaman's as they will be assisting in the project with the installation of the photographic panels, planters/tubs and benches. JA is to contact Alf Gunn of The Wick Society to explain that these panels will now need to be ordered.

15. AOCB

Riverside Fountain

John Bogle arranged for a meeting to be held at the fountain on Christmas Eve to look at the lights on the fountain. There are plans to get these light back up and working, including the installation of lights to illuminate the fountain (will shine onto it) and the trees, as well as under the bridge (Bridge Street). JC confirmed that the new pump for the fountain had arrived and this will be installed and maintained by HC. The tree stumps (from the recently cut trees) will be cut into suitable shapes and used as seats. Two picnic benches will be brought from Green Road storage. Seaman's are to do risk assessments. Scottish wild flower seeds will also be planted.

Tourism

JC suggested that RBWCC write to our local MSP and MP to ask why they think that the Highlands are ready for this years tourist season when COVID is still a very serious issue, and no infrastructure is in place (i.e- toilet waste and chemical disposal), copying in Inspector Alasdair Goskirk (Police). All agreed.

Post Office

RBWCC are delighted to see the town have a new post office. JA is to write a letter of thanks and congratulations to the new postmaster. A vote of thanks was given to AF2 for his hard work on getting this former issue back on its feet.

WWI Veteran's Memorial Tower

FP in her capacity as secretary for the Caithness branch of the Royal British Legion explained that grants had been applied for, work on the interior of the tower had been completed. JC offered that RBWCC would happily help with anything on this project as RBWCC would like to see this current "eyesore" fixed. FP is to get photographs of the work completed on the inside.

Airport

AF2 received an email from nhs highland receiving confirmation of the questions asked. They have asked for a period of time to get the the information and will reply hopefully in the next period. No information yet, just acknowledgement of questions. AF2 is awaiting a reply from HIAL. It was noted that small planes do not pay a fee to land at Wick airport. AF2 highlighted that it is the NHS and the re-fuelling of helicopters which is currently keeping the airport open.

Gates at Wick Harbour

AB highlighted that it is good to see the illuminated gates at Wick Harbour refurbished and cleaned up.

FixMyStreet

AB said that he has been using the FixMyStreet app and has been submitting issues within the town on the app which seems to be working well. AF1 said that many issues which he had reported had now been resolve, which proves it does work and will hopefully make a difference. AB also said that the workmanship on pavements on Francis Street was unsatisfactory and not up to a good standard. JA is to compose a letter to Highland Council and BEAR Scotland, who carried out the works, no express RBWCC's unhappiness with the work completed. AB to send JA photos of the pavements.

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

Date of next meeting

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Action List

January 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 / Cllr WM	
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	
OCT 20/09	Investigations to be carried out to establish the current situation with wall in Gladstone Place which is affecting parking.	Cllr AS	
OCT 20/10	Breakdown of treasurer's report to be provided in table format including Wick Paths Group and Wick Flower Baskets, micro grants and CC.	KMR / JC / AF1	

JAN 21/01	Letter to be written to NHS to express disappointment in lack of communication etc with COVID preparation.	JA	21/01/2021
JAN 21/02	Letter to be written to MSP / MP regarding NC500 situation.	JA	
JAN 21/03	Letter of congratulations to be written to new postmaster.	JA	11/01/2021
JAN 21/04	Letter to be written to HC / BEAR Scotland to express dissatisfaction with new pavements on Francis Street.	JA	