

Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council

Meeting Minutes

Location: Via Zoom

Date: Monday 5th September 2022

Time: 7pm

Present	Elected Members	Joanna Coghill	(JC)	Chairperson
		Allan Farquhar	(AF1)	
		Wendy Campbell	(WC)	
		David Dunnett	(DD)	
		Doreen Turner	(DT)	
		Alastair Ferrier	(AF2)	
		Allan Bruce	(AB)	
		Norma Craven	(NC)	
	Co-opted Members	Roy Mackenzie	(RM)	
		Eswyl Fell	(EF)	
	Ex-officio Members	Raymond Bremner	(Cllr RB)	Highland Councillor
	Non-Members	Jayden Alexander	(JA)	Secretary
		Alan Hendry	(AH)	NOSN
		Jonathan Miller	(JM)	Wick Development Trust

Apologies:

Eswyl Fell, Cllr Raymond Bremner, Claire Mackenzie,
Brian Hamilton, Stephen Mezals.

1. Welcome and Apologies.

JC welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies as per listed.

2. Adoption and Approval of Previous Minutes.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on Monday 1st August 2022 was circulated by JA.

Proposed by: DT
Seconded by WC

3. Report from Local Police.

A report from Local Police had been received and this was circulated to members by JA.

JC stated that members were introduced by email to the new Inspector, Stephen Mezals, members were also told that there is now a dedicated officer whom we can raise any issues to.

AF1 believed that as long as members are issued with a report and have communication in advance of each meeting then we should be able to keep on top of issues.

JC stated that young people are causing havoc in the town again and that Brian Hamilton advised the community to report any acts of vandalism they see. AB stated that he was on hold on a phone call for around nineteen minutes when he reported an issue. JC advised that a discussion with local Police would be beneficial to see what else can be done to tackle the issue.

JM advised that Wick Development Trust were having lots of issues with young people causing problems at their newly opening campsite, particularly with stone throwing. JM advised that he called 999 and six Police Officers and arrived very quickly.

4. Highland Councilors' Report

To be received.

5. Report from Noss Power Station.

No update was provided due to no representatives being in attendance.

6. Update from Wick Development Trust.

JM advised that since Wick Development Trust have taken over the campsite, it has taken up a lot of their time, however, they are short on people. JM advised that the new venture is going well, however, timing was not ideal due to opening towards the end of the season (this was due to the 1-2 months it took to arrange everything after taking ownership of the site). The Highland Council have been helpful with the upgrading of the water supply and with the re-wiring of the entire site. JM stated that the hook up points within the site are very dated now and the trust will be looking at upgrading these in the future, however, this sort of work will be left until off-season. Access is an issue as Network Rail have no signage at the low bridge to the park entrance. Bigger signage is needed to make vehicles aware of the bridge's height, the coach-type motorhomes struggle very much with access. Work is required with the waste disposal facility and a replacement for the reception, storage and garage facility is needed. The idea is to generate an income for the Development Trust so that public funding isn't so much relied on. This was the Trust's main factor for taking on the site. The Trust advertised recently for a Project Manager and this role is for driving forward the new campsite and funding for employing this role came from HIE. The Trust's AGM is on 22nd September at Staxigoe Hall

7. Update on East Caithness Community Campus and Noss Primary School.

AF1 advised that the panels on the gym have now been replaced. The redesign of the reception area has been postponed until 2023. There is also x2 additional bins now in the boulevard.

8. Review of Monthly Correspondence List.

JA advised that all current correspondence had either been dealt with, except for the last of the Beatrice-Micro Grant applicants which JA is currently dealing with.

9. Review of Action List.

All current actions are either outstanding or ongoing.

10. Treasury Reports.

Community Council Accounts: £25,720.65 (Current Acc)
Wick Community Market: £3,345.72
Wick Christmas Lights: None provided
Wick Flower Baskets: £1,269.00
Wick Paths Group: £7,540.55 (£1,126.00 belongs to Wick Riverside Volunteers).
HAPPY: £1,017.69

JA is to issue a communication to all sub-groups to advise that RBWCC require a bank balance to be communicated prior to each monthly meeting of the community council.

11. Community Council Sub-Group Reports.

- Wick Community Market: Allan Farquhar provided the following report in advance of the meeting: *“Good day last outing with loads of compliments as to how it was a vast improvement to the visual / aesthetics of the town centre. Approached local business to see if they would be interested in sponsoring a palm tree @ £135 a plant. Caithness Creels will make us a few simplified prototypes of plant potholders. Dates Now 2nd weekend in the month to avoid clashing with others Watten / North Coast.”*
- Wick Christmas Lights: Due to the absence of CM, no report was provided.
- Wick Flower Baskets: JC advised that it has been a successful year with flowers, however, vandalism has been a huge problem.
- Wick Paths Group: August was a busy month for the Paths Group with work evenings on the 10th at Scalesburn, the North Baths and the Old Lifeboat Slip and 24th at the Riverside and Trinkie Road. Also a work morning on the 28th at the South Head. We also finally got our public liability and equipment insurance in place but at a cost of over £1,000 this will be a major ongoing drain on our meagre funds, an application to Paths for All for assistance towards the costs was unsuccessful. Ruts at the side of the road out past the Trinkie were filled in, the path behind the Riverside Play-park was scraped and cut back, the path behind the caravan park was cut back and 4 sacks of rubbish were collected from the Riverside. The site for the replacement plastic picnic bench part funded by RBWCC was dug out, the Stevenson's Breakwater was weeded and the top path in front of the old Coastguard Station was scraped out. A litter pick was carried out. More work has still to be done at the South Head to install the bench, finish the paths and install interpretive signs.
- HAPPY: Allan Farquhar confirmed prior to the meeting that there was nothing to report on.

12. AOCB.

- JA advised that he had a go at redesigning the RBWCC logo as although it features the Wick coat of arms, it doesn't say "Royal Burgh of Wick Community Council". JA showed all members a copy of what he had designed, and the members unanimously agreed to adopt the new logo.

Date of Next Meeting: Monday 3rd October 2022 at 7pm,
Mowat Room in Wick Assembly Rooms