



## **Minutes of the meeting held via Zoom on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021 at 7.30.**

Meeting commences at 19.38

**1. Present** Tom Anderson **TA** (chair), Marion Macleod **MM** (secretary), HCllr Derek Loudon, **DL**, HCllr Fiona Robertson **FR**, Angie Cox **AC** (Minutes secretary) Ron Ferguson **RF** CC, Rita Fenton **RMF** (Treasurer), Sandra MacDonald **SM** (Vice Chair) Isabell McLaughlan **IM** CC,

**Public in attendance** Dave Macrae **DM** (Tain and District Development Trust) and Allan McLeod **AM**

**2. Apologies** None

**3. Police report.** Apologies given for nonattendance. Report sent to **MM** prior to meeting - no callouts since our last meeting but several persons charged with a variety of road traffic offenses.

**4. Minutes of ordinary meeting, via zoom, held 19.02.21** Minutes approved by 1<sup>st</sup> **RF**, 2<sup>nd</sup> **RFM**

**5. Matters arising from minutes** Christmas lights **RFM** confirmed an Invoice had been received and payment now made to HC. There is still no date for the Christmas lights to be taken down but **MM** noted that the Lighting Team were in the village recently working on some streetlights and so they may be able to take the lights down shortly. The last Tain and District Development Trust meeting was cancelled, **DM** to keep us informed. Streetlighting, **MM** to contact Highland council again as some residents still feel the lights are not bright enough in certain areas and are not lighting pathways, instead shining more onto the roads. **FR** noted that Inadequate lighting could be a safety issue so Highland Council need to take action to resolve this. **IM** said the lights in some areas of village were an improvement to the old lights.

**6. Reports by Highland Councillors.** **DL** said the budget went through smoothly and it was nice to see all those concerned working together. Highland Council had planned a £10,000 subsidy reduction on the Nigg/Cromarty ferry. **FR** explained that the Cromarty Development Trust had upgraded the slipways last year following a Scottish Government grant and this had involved a lot of hard work by its members. Councillors have agreed to fund the subsidy cut through local grants instead. **DL**, Highland Council are having a meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> April to discuss different funding being made available, for example Playspace, covid and crowdfunding. **FR**, TRA 3-18 campus had its first meeting since funding was agreed. TRA project has been awarded £45 million. Designers looked at Tain and the surrounding areas when creating the design for the new building. The only downside to the proposal is that it does not include a swimming pool and track. The project lost its original budget of £52

million so TRA committee are focusing on the positives of this design and staying focused on the outcome. They are aware that there are other schools in Nairn and Skye, for example, who are also in need of a new campus and it is therefore important that Tain stay top of the list to ensure the projected is completed. Highlife highland are looking into ways to get a new pool, without risking the TRA project. The carpark in King Street is being refurbished. Tain's Rose Garden and Toilets have been repeatedly vandalised and are currently closed. Police are helping to advise on ways to reduce vandalism. Better drainage and pathways in the Rose Garden will hopefully encourage more footfall. Grants are available to make Town centres more appealing for visitors. **DL**, John Mackay is to give a presentation to HCllrs about maintenance and cost of equipment for play parks. It is the ongoing maintenance cost that is the biggest issue – inspections, replacing broken parts and bark etc. **DL** described the lack of attention and money given to play parks as disappointing. **AM** said the Milton Play park is depressing for the village and 1 swing is barely hanging on. He noted that new housing developments are getting new parks, whilst old ones are being taken away and not being maintained. **DL** agreed that out of the Governments £600 million budget more should be done. **FR** said that play parks are not a statutory duty of HC but once installed the inspection and maintenance is mandatory. **AM** said he would be happy to have more involvement with the CC to see if there is anything that can be done about the Milton play park. **TA** suggested a site meeting with John Mackay to come up with a plan for the communities play parks. **DL** to follow up. **IM** said children were making their own rope tree swings in Milton due to a lack of play equipment in the village and is worried about possible accidents. She felt that it is terrible that children do not have a better, safer park to play in. KALECC thanked HCllrs and **AM** for their time.

**7. Annual accounts** there is currently £1102,51p in the accounts. This is the total for end of year figures. Accounts are to be audited by Janet Tucker. KALECC would like to thank **RM** for her hard work managing the accounts.

**8. Community Council issues.** **MM** had been contacted regarding the Bus shelter by Shandwick pub that has been damaged. **FR** to follow up. A few of road signs in our CC area have been damaged. **MM & AC** to follow up. Strathroy wind farm: A letter from Ardrross CC was received following the last Strathroy windfarm roundtable meeting which KALECC members felt was unjustified. A reply was issued by **TA**. The issue of how best to divide the revenue from the Community Benefit Fund among the CCs involved is ongoing. Dates for the next meeting have been offered but nothing is finalised. **MM** and **RF** agreed to continue to attend these meetings, but it was felt that any future meetings should be chaired by an impartial party. Keith Matheson is a manager at the HC Climate change Team and **DL** has suggested approaching him to see if he would be willing to chair a meeting. **DL** to follow up. **TA** approached Local Energy Scotland re shared ownership, and they came back and asked if a meeting could be arranged with Energiekontor, them and the CCs involved for an introduction to shared ownerships. **MM** to contact Energiekontor.

**9. Planning and Licensing.** Application 21/01055/FUL – KALECC have no objections but **RMF** felt that proper signage would be important on this fast stretch of the A9. **TA** agreed for this to be noted in our response. **MM** to follow up.

**10. Mental Health and wellbeing.** Nothing to report this month.

**11. Correspondence.** Thank you notes from Milton Improvement group and Tain Tennis Club for their Beinn Tharsuinn funding.

**12. AOB.** Play parks already covered in item 6. **DM**, reports from trust: They are currently compiling a list of priorities re Tourism in our area i.e. better signage and waste disposal.

CCs to let them know if they have any suggestions. The Tain picture house- Scaffolding will be in place and work is commencing on the building. Asbestos has been removed and windows are being replaced. Rose garden and toilets already covered in item 6. Tain market is going to be held on the 17<sup>th</sup> April all being well, with stall holders looking forward to being able to attend the market again.

**13.Date of next meeting** April 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 via Zoom, members of the public welcome.

**DM** and **AM** left the meeting at 8.40.

**14. Beinn Tharsuinn.** Cromarty Firth Men's shed - application approved. **RMF** to follow up.

KALECC thanked everyone for their attendance and time.

Meeting concluded 8.45

*Angie Cox Minutes Secretary, Kilmuir and Logie Easter Community Council*

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