



Minutes of meeting held on the 15 December 2022 at 19.30 via Zoom

1.Present: Tom Anderson **TA** (chair), Ron Ferguson **RF** (Vice chair), Marion Macleod **MM** (secretary), Rita Fenton **RMF** (Treasurer), Allan McLeod **AM** CC, HCllr Derek Loudon **DL**

Public in attendance: None

2. Apologies: Sandra MacDonald **SM** CC, Angie Cox **AC** (Minutes secretary)

3. Police report. No report this month again. **MM** had emailed the last contact person provided, but no reply. **DL** to follow up and he has advised that KALECC are not the only CC to not receive a monthly report. **MM** to contact them again regarding the abandoned vehicle in Barbaraville.

AM noted that a Police Officer had visited and spoken with children at Milton Primary, and shown them around their vehicle etc. CC Members hoped this would be a positive experience for the children, especially considering the recent hoax 999 calls made by children from the phone box in Milton.

4. Minutes of ordinary meeting held on 17 November 2022: Minutes approved by 1st **RF**, 2nd by **RMF**

5. Matters arising from minutes: John Mackay, from THC, and the Play Equipment providers are due to discuss the equipment required for the play park in Milton and then the order can be placed. No further update on the MUGA; the plan is to look at this further at the beginning of the year when the weather warms up.

RMF attended the last joint community meeting with the Port of Cromarty Firth. She advised that the meeting was not well attended and there was not much update from the last meeting. There is a 150 million expansion plan, and the hope is the site will be completed by 2027.

MM confirmed a letter of support for the Tain & District Development Trusts Paths project had been sent to them, to help with their funding application.

6. Reports by Highland Councillors: **DL** advised that they have been working on the budget for the past month, with the budget plan currently with the admin group and not shared with other parties for the moment. Currently looking at needing to make 40.9 million savings or income generation. Although the Revenue budget is under severe pressure, the Capital budget is under even more pressure due to the increasing costs of everything. This gives THC either the option of cutting things out of their Capital plan or extend plans over a longer period, which comes with the added burden of spending that may arise from unforeseen issues. An example of this is a building block within Thurso High School, where

the type of construction, required regular maintenance. Unfortunately, this maintenance has not been undertaken and some of the steel has corroded, and the block cannot be used until the structural integrity is checked and any repairs are made, which may well costs more than regular maintenance would have.

There may be a small additional amount of money allocated to Local Authorities but no confirmation of this yet.

DL confirmed that the Tain Royal Academy new campus has already been agreed and ground works have begun so this build is not in doubt.

DL also confirmed that the Roads Team are trying to do everything they can, but staff shortages are affecting their maintenance programme. There are vacancies that they are hoping to fill shortly. Although there has been a recruitment freeze, Highland Council have a statutory responsibility to grit roads and pavements and so these vacancies can be advertised and filled. **TA** noted that there is no pavement gritting being undertaken in Barbaraville currently. **MM and AM** confirmed that some pavements in Milton are being gritted.

The Highland Council Chief Executive, Donna Manson, has announced her departure since our last meeting and **DL** noted the importance of her post being filled as quickly as possible.

7. Annual accounts: There is currently £1025.28 in the account. Only expense since the last meeting was room hire for our meeting.

8. Community Council issues: None this month

9. Planning and Licensing:

- **Ref 22/05178/FUL:** Erection and operation of an anaerobic digestion plant and ancillary infrastructure. Following discussion of this planning application, KALECC members agreed to object to this application. **MM** to follow up
- **Ref 22/02442/FULL:** Strathrory Wind Farm Re-Design – Decision Notice from THC, application refused. Unclear at this time if the applicant will appeal to the Scottish Government

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

11. Correspondence: None

12. AOB: None

13.Date of next meeting: 19 January 2023 at 7.30pm at the Mercat Centre

14. Beinn Tharsuinn. No applications this month.