



Minutes of ordinary meeting on the 16 February 2023- Polnicol Hall

Meeting commences at 19:30

1. Present Tom Anderson **TA** (chair), Angie Cox **AC** (Minutes secretary) Ron Ferguson **RF** (Vice Chair), Rita Fenton (Treasurer) **RMF** CC. Sandra MacDonald **SM** CC, Allan McLeod **AM** CC, HcIlr Alistair Rhind **AR** HcIlr Derek Loudon **DL**

Public in attendance. Elizabeth Ross, Dave MacRae **DM** (TDDT) Callum Patterson **CP** (Balnagown Estate)

2. Apologies Marion Macleod (Secretary) **MM** and HcIlr Sarah Rawlings **SR**

3. Police report. No report this month. **AC** raised a concern of motorbikes using the Tarbat core footpath and the beach again. **DL** to follow up.

CP gave CC's a report on Logie quarry which is covered in item **8**.

4. Minutes of ordinary meeting held 19.01.23 Minutes approved by 1st **RF**, 2nd **RMF**

5. Matters arising from the minutes, Police report not submitted, Playpark equipment has been ordered and the Milton Park has had the groundwork done and area turfed ready for equipment to be installed. Apitauld play park has been removed, by residents, due to antisocial behaviour. Planning at HC are waiting for an update from Fearn AD plant.

6. Reports by Highland councillors, HC is one of the last councils to finalise their budget which needs to be ready a week prior to the HC resources meeting on Wednesday 22 February 2023. The budget could have a deficit of £2-3 million. Roads are in a terrible state due to lack of maintenance over the previous 10 years. Money which should have been spent on the roads has been spent elsewhere, with the current substandard repairs being viewed as a waste of money. Money could be better spent on NHS, Education, and the care sector. It was noted by **AM** that the school buses are ripping up the roads in Milton and perhaps a smaller bus might be less destructive? **TA** asked when the 20mph will be introduced in Easter Ross and HcIlr **AR** said it was already in place in Tain, but there is no date yet for Milton or Barbaraville and that some other signs in Barbaraville will need replacing due to wear and tear.

7. Annual accounts There is currently £6815.23 in the KALECC account of which £5000 belongs to **AM**'s group and the tennis group also have £139.15 in the KALECC account.

8. Community Council Issues, **CP** gave CC's an update of what has been happening at Balnagown estate. Some tree thinning and butterfly management are two things that are going ahead this year. Fencing is going to be put up to keep cattle in and wood lorries will be used during wood extraction on the estate. Access to walkers and horse riders will not be affected. Cattle are going to be used to enhance habitat by opening areas for the small blue

and dingy skipper butterflies. Funding for this has been provided by Nature restoration fund from HC. **CP** passed a couple of maps around highlighting the areas of work planned. A copy will be uploaded onto the KALECC website, **CP** and **RF** to follow up. The Barbaraville housing development is still on going and this includes the railway bridge being installed. There will be a public consultation on this in the future. The Estate is open from 9-5 and tours of the estate can be booked by phoning the office number 01862 843601. CC's thanked **CP** for his attendance and time.

DM from Tain & District Development Trust gave a report on the latest news as detailed below:

1)The start of the year has been quiet. However, our work continues. The end of November saw the last Street Market which was a huge success. Again, this was a joint venture with Tain Gala Association for the switching on of the Christmas lights display. This year pupils from St Duthus Special School turned on the lights.

2)The Pop up Shop at 12 Tower Street Tain continues to grow with regular users hiring the space for a variety of uses, Food, Clothing, Counselling, Group work etc the shop is used throughout the day and at night times. At the moment, we have one Saturday left available between now and the end of June.

3)Funding – we have received funding that will allow us to carry out a feasibility study and implementation plan for our Pathways Plan. This project is looking at providing a “circular” pathways system in the area that will link up current pathways with new ones creating a walking/hiking experience throughout the Peninsula.

4)Picture House Project – this project has been awarded another small amount of funding. Together with what is already there the project is now able to look at the next stage in the refurbishment of the building, Tanking the basement, replacing the floor, preparation for an underfloor heating system.

5)Community Markets - although they do not start again until April, bookings are already coming

in and are at the same level as we were this time last year.

6)Gro for You Project. This is a very exciting project for Tain and the whole area For You Training and the Farmer Jones Academy have joined together to create a project that will see food grown sustainably using Aquaponics. This project has just received funding of £450K and will be sited in the field beside Morangie Hotel across the road from Lidl's. It will include Growing Areas, Cafeteria space, Office space, educational spaces, Sensory garden, Car & Campervan parking and facilities. All buildings will be of a “Dome type structure” which will give the site a futuristic look. It is hoped that TDDT will have a base within this project to further promote the area.

DM asked CC's if it was possible for KALECC to apply for planning permission of the signage for the pathways project to be installed at the Shandwick pub which, was agreed. There is to be a total of 8 signs on 6 sites. KALECC thanked **DM** for his attendance and time.

9. Planning and Licensing nothing in our area this month

10. Mental Health and wellbeing. **AC** has sent an email to Helen Ross to check if any Partnership meetings are due to start and is waiting for a reply.

11. Correspondence. RMF to attend Port Authority meeting on 21.02.23 SSEN sent information on Spittal – Loch Buidhe – Beaully 400kV connections/

<https://www.ssen-transmission.co.uk/projects/2030-projects/North-Highlands/>

12. AOB. Cars parked in Arabella car park are making it unusable for locals to park or drop off. Some vehicles have been left for a long period of time. Helen Ross and HCllrs are aware. **RMF** to follow up

13.Date of next meeting 16th March at the Mercat centre at 19.30

14. Beinn Tharsuinn nothing this month

TA thanked everyone for their time and attendance

Meeting concluded 20.26

Angie Cox Minutes Secretary, Kilmuir and Logie Easter Community Council

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