

NIGG & SHANDWICK COMMUNITY COUNCIL

GENERAL MEETING at NIGG COMMUNITY HALL - 11th April 2019

MINUTES (DRAFT)

Attendees: Peter Grant, Christine Asher, Tony Ross, Helen Campbell, Veronica Morrison, Stuart McLean, Fiona Robertson (Highland Council), Derek Loudon (Highland Council)

Agenda item	Minutes	Action
1	Apologies – Alasdair Rhind (Highland Council), Police Scotland	
2	Police Report: Police were unable to attend. TR read from a report supplied by Police Sergeant Joanne Thomson. This report is attached at the end of these minutes.	
3	Minutes: The minutes from the last meeting on 14th February 2019 were approved. VM proposed; HC seconded.	
4	<p>Matters Arising:</p> <p>Response from Global as per previous meeting action to contact them regarding several concerns we had. Below are the points from the response from Rory Gunn at Nigg Energy Park:</p> <p><i>Throbbing machinery – The description of this noise suggests that it has come from the main generators of the rig or vessels alongside.</i></p> <p><i>Unfortunately, it is essential for the vessels and rigs which come to Nigg Energy Park to run their main engines to ensure the safety systems and services are operational.</i></p> <p><i>During the still winter nights, this noise can travel some distance, and in the past we have had similar complaints from Cromarty, but unfortunately this is not a noise issue we are able to address directly, and where we have received complaints in the past and taken noise readings, those readings are well below the recommended levels.</i></p> <p><i>We are working 24 hrs per day on the rig in the dock at present, and ETD is anticipated to be late March – mid-April. We also have crane operations taking place erecting the wind farm towers during night shift, though the nature of the noise complaint is not consistent with the crane noise and is more likely to be emanating from the vessel/rig</i></p>	

	<p><i>engines. To combat the noise from the crane and plant movements during the night shift work, we replaced the revert alarms with white noise alarms which are much less of a nuisance noise emitter.</i></p> <p>Tannoy Noise – <i>When the vessels come into port, they are asked to restrict the use of their Tannoy systems between the hours of 19:00 to 08:00 Hrs to emergency use only. Upon receipt of your letter, I have spoken to the rig owners and asked them to reiterate this requirement to their Radio Operators and Control Room Operators.</i></p> <p>Rubbish from vehicles – <i>We have a weekly tenants meeting with all companies using the site each Monday, and I will raise this issue today so that it can be discussed during the upcoming safety meetings and toolbox talks this week.</i></p> <p><i>Follow up from our last meeting – The issue of speeding vehicles along the road to/from Arabella was raised during our last meeting. I subsequently spoke with Police Scotland and additional speed patrols were initiated as a result. I hope that this has been a deterrent and we continue to promote safe driving during our safety meetings to try to create a better culture.</i></p> <p><i>I hope that this response has addressed the issues raised, but if you wish to discuss further, please do not hesitate to give me a call.</i></p> <p>PG summarised that this amounted to the fact that there really wasn't very much that NEP could do.</p> <p>HC indicated that there were still complaints being received about music being played over the Tannoy system.</p>	
<p>5</p>	<p>Treasurer's Financial Report (CA) Financial Report NaSCC 11 April 2019</p> <p>I would like to begin the report with some statistics which help to put into perspective the operating and administrative funding of Nigg and Shandwick community council.</p> <p>In the years 2016 and 2017 Nigg and Shandwick received a Highland Council grant of £716. In April 2018 this grant was reduced to £313 - a £403 reduction on the previous two years.</p>	

Community Councils are required by Highland Council to hold public liability insurance. In previous years this was paid by the Highland Council before we received our administrative grant. From 2019 this arrangement has come to an end and at a time of budget cuts, Nigg and Shandwick is now responsible for paying this insurance.

In 2018/19 with the reduced grant and after paying three bills for compulsory operating costs:

£86 for public liability insurance

£180 for the six CC public meetings in Nigg Hall

£35 for data protection

the community council was left with a total of £12 for the rest of the financial year.

It is perhaps worth a reminder that the Highland Council grant is purely for operation and administration of the CC and I quote here from the HC Manual

The grant is to cover:

- Meeting expenses – including venue hire and advertising
- Administrative expenses – stationery, postage, photocopying, telephone/IT expenses, subscriptions e.g. Information Commissioner for data protection.
- Travel and subsistence – including travel expenses
- Secretarial honorarium'

It can be seen that, with a total lack of funds, committee volunteers, who already give their time to run the CC, have increasingly had to pay for administration and all other costs from their own pockets.

For example, Tony Ross, our Secretary and IT operator, has paid all the costs associated with the secretarial position, the website, newsletter, domain names and internet server provider from his own funds and as a CC we have spent a bare minimum on ink and paper only.

In times of hardship funding opportunities for community projects have become crucial, but as all groups are 'in the same boat' there is naturally strong competition for what little funding is available.

At the end of August 2018 NaSCC were awarded £1000 from the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme. This money went towards our two new noticeboards, one outside the hall here at Nigg and the other near the bus shelter in Shandwick.

Last August, Shandwick residents arranged and put into place repairs and re-surfacing of the Shandwick beach car park. Shandwick residents collected £1090 towards the cost of the work and Nigg and Shandwick donated an extra £100 towards the invoice of £1190 for the sub base materials and scalplings.

The community council income for 2018 including HC Grant, Tesco funding and Shandwick resident's car park collection came to £2404. Expenses came to £3273, leaving the CC a deficit of £-869. However, with the addition of the £1487.85 balance brought forward from the previous year 2017, Nigg and Shandwick end the year with a credit balance of £618.82 in the bank as of 31 March 2019.

Moving forward into the next financial year it can be seen that the trend is downward. In the near future Nigg and Shandwick committee members will not only have to look to funding for community projects but also create and instigate CC fund raising events to boost the operating costs of the community council. Without this extra income the CC will continue to hold meetings but will be unable to finance any other activities or projects within the Nigg and Shandwick area. We look to your ongoing support at meetings and fund-raising events for the future of Nigg and Shandwick CC.

That is the end of the financial report for the year 2018-19 (ending 31/3/2019)

Christine Asher, Treasurer, Nigg and Shandwick CC. 11 April 2019

Ferry slipway project update

As you will be aware, we are partnering Cromarty in the seeking of funds to facilitate the upgrade of slipways on both sides of the Cromarty Firth. Funds were being sought from both Beatrice Offshore Windfarm Limited (BOWL) grant and the Rural Infrastructure Fund (RIF). Although the date for finding out whether the RIF application had been approved (4th April 2019) had passed at the time

	<p>of this meeting, we still have no details as to whether it has been approved.</p> <p>If the funding is not awarded, that will be the end of the project as we know it. If part-funding is approved, the whole project will be delayed until further funding can be obtained.</p> <p>FR indicated that it has been agreed that all seven Community Councils in our ward will receive an additional £350 from the ward budget for this financial year only.</p>	
6	<p>Secretary report (TR)</p> <p>No significant correspondence to report.</p>	
7	<p>Community Update Reports:</p> <p>7a: Planning (PG)</p> <p>Global – New QUAY</p> <p>The proposed planning application which is due to be submitted by 31.05.19, is in itself very simple. Global expect it to be approved by Sept 2019 and expect it to take about 6 months to construct.</p> <p>The new Quay is 300 m long & 50 m wide. The cost is about £20M. It will be built on Dunskeath land purchased by Global. The Quay runs in a south-easterly direction from Global’s existing facilities. Major lighting will be seen from some distance to conform, apparently, with statutory requirements. Major dredging will be required along the full length of the Quay, and the end to a depth of 12 metres. Ongoing dredging requirements will be necessary along the end of the Quay, and old Pier, and perhaps the slipway, as a mini bay will be formed by the construction.</p> <p>The Castlecraig Quarry may of course be used for the construction phase.</p> <p>The CC members will be meeting next Thursday to discuss the full ramifications of this major development.</p> <p>I will now pass on to Veronica who has conducted a survey on opinions from the properties closest to the yard, before seeking the views of those attending the meeting.</p> <p>VM explained that the biggest issue was the road. In order of issues raised:</p>	

	<p>Issue 1 – Road, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeding • Dangerous overtaking • Condition of road • Litter on road <p>Issue 2 – noise on Tannoy (already mentioned)</p> <p>Issue 3 – Lights from oil rigs and boats</p> <p>Issue 4 – Concern for wildlife and environment in and around the development.</p> <p>Noise on roads is also an issue, particularly when empty lorries travel on the road and encounter potholes.</p> <p>A discussion ensued regarding various suggestions for managing residents’ expectations and possible compensations.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p>Ward matters (FR)</p> <p>Roads</p> <p>Budgets for Highland Council are tight. Road budget hasn’t been cut this year, but isn’t being increased either and as prices increase, this isn’t being kept in line with, so the roads aren’t in very good condition. A small amount of extra money has been allocated to the roads for this year. When split across the roads it doesn’t amount to a great deal but will permit the hiring of a “hot box” which makes a much better job of pothole repair.</p> <p>Three areas have been identified as particularly bad:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tain Town Centre • Nigg • Most likely Inver/Portmahomack. <p>No date yet for when this repair work will commence.</p> <p>Health and Wellbeing meeting</p> <p>Held a couple of weeks ago, which three Community Councils attended. Meeting was good. Next thing will be a Conversation Café in our area for Health and Mental wellbeing in relation to drugs, young and older people.</p>	

	<p>Schools</p> <p>Two MSPs coming in May to view the state of the schools. No further forward with funding for schools in Tain.</p> <p>Additional Support Needs – There is concern from parents and schools as Highland Council is reviewing this service. The review is required as the results from this service are not good even though a lot of money is being spent. The reason for this needs to be discovered. CEO of Highland Council is going to hold a public meeting which schools and parents can attend to find out more about the impact this might have on them.</p>	
11	<p>AOB</p> <p>Brian Rowe raised a query about the mobile library service. Apparently, the original library vehicle had gone in for service and thanks to a mistake with repairing the vehicle, it is now out of commission.</p> <p>FR unaware of the situation with the vehicle and will find out more.</p> <p>Arthur Aldred raised an issue about some of the crash barriers along the B9175 being corroded to the point of being dangerous.</p> <p>FR took note of this.</p>	
	<p>Date of next meeting – 13th June 2019</p>	

Any supporting documents from the meeting are on the following pages.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FORM

Command Area	North	Community Group	Nigg and Shandwick
Station	Alness	Officer	PSN0223 Thomson
Data of Meeting	11/04/2019	Location	
Meeting Attended	No	Meeting Not Attended (Contact Made)	Yes

Meeting Preparation

Ward and Local Policing Plan Priorities.	Activities conducted over the reporting period to support those priorities.
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Protecting People 2. Reducing Antisocial Behaviour 3. Reducing Violence 4. Tackling Substance Misuse 5. Making our Roads Safer 6. Tackling Serious Organised Crime 	<p>High-Viz mobile and foot patrols carried out in the area along with positive engagement with partners and members of the community.</p> <p>Several persons charged for a variety of Road Traffic Offences as a result of pro-active policing on our roads.</p> <p>Licensed Premises checks carried out to tackle violence and disorder in our licensed premises.</p>
Update on Previously Agreed Actions – See previous OP 55/8 & Relevant Reference on the Area Command Action Tracking Table	
No issues raised.	
Update on any local community safety issues / trends within the community and any assistance / information requested from the community. Review IMPACT / intelligence etc	
<p>POLICE REPORT 14/02/2019 – 31/03/2019</p> <p>Between 14/02/2019 and 31/03/2019 police had cause to deal with no calls in the Nigg and Shandwick area.</p> <p>VANDALISM – 0</p> <p>DRUG OFFENCES: 0</p>	

DISORDER/ASSAULT: 0

DOMESTIC OFFENCES: 0

THEFT BY SHOPLIFTING: 0

ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES: 0

As the above figures show this period has been very settled.

I started in my post in Alness on 22 February 2019 and have been allocated as the sergeant for your community council. I have prepared this report a bit early as I realise your meeting is not until 11/04/19. I will be on annual leave at this time and I wanted to ensure I made contact prior to this.

If there are any issues you wish to discuss please do not hesitate to contact me on the email address or the phone number provided.

I hope to take the opportunity to attend a meeting in the future.

Joanne Thomson

Police Sergeant

Any local / Area Command / Divisional / Police Scotland updates / key messages

None this month