

Minutes of Nigg and Shandwick Community council meeting 8th October 2024

- 1 Welcome – Emma Regan welcomed all those attending the meeting and advised that the meeting was going to be recorded for the purpose of taking minutes of proceedings.

- 2 In attendance – Emma Regan (Chair), Kath Traquair (Secretary), Lorna Mackay (Treasurer), Alex Campbell, Andrew Chisolm.
Representatives of Highland Council - Maureen Ross, Laura Dundas,

- 3 Apologies - Derek Louden

- 4 Minutes of previous meeting - proposed Lorna Mackay, seconded Maureen Ross

- 5 Biodigester – the environmental impact assessment outcome is awaited. Once this is available the decision on the planning proposal for the biodigester will be made. If consent is granted there will still be the opportunity to lobby for conditions to be placed on the development. There was a discussion about the possibility of approaching Jamie Stone to ask him to intervene on behalf of the local community.

- 6 Nigg yard update – Emma Regan has approached the HR department at Nigg Yard to ask for information about local job creation, back to work opportunities and educational opportunities. This will hopefully be discussed at the next Nigg Yard meeting.

- 7 Cromarty port – no update since last meeting. AGM was held on 26th September and is available online for anyone who wishes to view it.

- 8 Planning update – no planning applications in process for the NASCC ward

- 9 Roads update The road to Castlecraig has been resurfaced. The council is progressing through the list of other repairs. There was a discussion about the overflowing culverts at Shandwick and Pitcalnie. The council have advised that they are going to be carrying out an inspection of the culvert at Shandwick.

- 10 Cherry trees – proposed planting of total of 5 trees at Bishops Walk, Nigg Old, Chapelhill cemetery. Permission to be sought from amenities department at highland council. Verbal agreement for the proposal from Robert Mackenzie (Chair of the board of Nigg Old). Residents

at Cameron place have raised concerns about additional tree planting beside the houses at Cameron Place. The community council will not progress the suggestion of tree planting at that location.

11 Nigg Hall update – there was a public information evening about Nigg Hall. Due to administrative error the community ownership of Nigg hall has lapsed. There is the possibility of returning Nigg Hall to community ownership. To help achieve this a Nigg Hall Steering group was formed by a group of 7 volunteers following the information evening. The first meeting of the steering group was held on the 7th October.

Raised from the floor – can the hall be used just now? Emma Regan advised that currently the community council is not using the hall as it is not clear if there is valid insurance cover.

Raised from the floor – how much will it cost to return the hall to community ownership? Fiona Robertson explained that there is a process called the community asset transfer scheme which would allow the hall to be returned to community ownership for a nominal cost but that there would be additional conveyancing costs.

Raised from the floor – is the building safe? Advised that the building is wind and watertight. Maureen Ross advised that HIE would encourage the community to improve the fabric of the building to meet modern standards.

12 NASCC Facebook page - Lorna Mackay advised that we are restructuring the NASCC Facebook use – there will be a page for the NASCC and a separate community group for any general posting for matters of general community interest.

13 Defibrillators – currently there are no defibrillators in the NASCC area with the exception of Nigg yard. It is proposed that NASCC will seek funding for 3 defibrillators and the future running costs of defibrillators.

Liam Clancy suggested that the ward discretionary fund may be able to meet some of the costs.

There was then a general discussion about different sources of funding including Lucky to be here, North Highland Initiative, local subscription, just-giving page. There was also a general discussion about the importance of maintaining the units in good working order.

It was advised that any funds raised for defibrillators would be ringfenced solely for the provision and maintenance of the units.

It was agreed that there should be training opportunities for use of the defibrillators

14 Play equipment Cameron Place – the community council plan to try and arrange the reinstatement of the playpark. Maureen Ross advised that the initial approach should be to John MacKay in the amenities department at highland council. Maureen Ross also advised that it was important to find out the opinions of the children who would be using the play area.

15 Remembrance day service to be held at the war memorial on Sunday 10th November 2024.

16 AOB – raised from the floor – Could there be a police report provided? Maureen Ross advised that there is a possibility of setting up an association of community councils. If this goes ahead this would allow a police officer to attend and provide an update to all local community councils at a single meeting. This would be a more efficient use of their time.

Raised from the floor – can anything be done about the uneven road surface at Arabella railway junction. Advised that this is currently being actioned by the Ian Moncrieff. There is also a plan to reduce the road speed in Arabella to 30mph.

Raised from the floor – light pollution from the Glenmorangie sheds at Fearn. Can anything be done to improve this? Laura Dundas offered to raise this matter with Glenmorangie.

Raised from the floor – concern about overflowing bottle banks. Agreed that this is a widespread problem related to aging fleet of vehicles and shortage of drivers. Suggested that improved signage at bottle banks may help things to encourage people not to leave bottles that cannot fit inside the bottle banks.

17 Emma Regan thanked everyone for their attendance and brought the meeting to a close. The next meeting to be held on Tuesday 10th December.