

TANNACH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Tuesday 27th January 2026 Zoom 7pm

Attendees

Gwyneth Sutherland (Chair)
Catriona MacDonald (Treasurer)
Holly Forbes (Secretary)
Brian Sutherland
Alice Miller
Catherine Sapalski
Cllr Jan McEwan
2 members of the public

Minutes

- 1. Welcome and Apologies**
GS welcomed everyone.
- 2. Declaration of Interest**
Register of interest – no update.
- 3. Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting**
BS proposed, CM seconded.
- 4. Financial Report**
See attached.
- 5. Planning**
 - a. 25/04491/PNO New agricultural shed in Thrumster
 - b. 25/04617/FUL Construction of car park, formation of access, associated drainage infrastructure and landscaping at Whaligoe
 - c. 26/00053/CLP Blocking/Damming of existing artificial drainage ditches/channels and surface bunding works
- 6. Correspondence**
Anything of note has been sent out to members when received.
Village officer money - awaiting cheque from ACCC, report was submitted in December.
- 7. Police Report**
Police reports are forwarded to members when received.
- 8. Highland Councillor's Report**
New cemetery being proposed at Newton, the ground is currently being dug and tested. Work in Wick High Street should be finished by end of March. Recent break ins in Wick, a suspect has appeared in court.
- 9. Health and Care**
Nothing to note.
- 10. Local updates**
 - a. Newton- Defibrillator progress being made and should be back in use soon. Friends of Newtonhill are in advanced stage in ordering items using funding given for further events.
 - b. Milton- awaiting VO money.
 - c. Haster- brown bin stickers all received now.
 - d. Thrumster- nothing to add.
 - e. Bilbster- nothing to add.
 - f. Tannach- grit bin requested by a member of the public on a secondary route. Cllr McEwan provided the grit bin policy after the meeting.
 - g. Resilience planning- new template available **ACTION** GS to explore updating the plan in the new template.
- 11. Community benefit**
Nothing to add
- 12. Questions or Contributions from the public present**
Nothing to add.

13. Microgrant vote

Application received from non-constituted group to start a Distinguished Gentlemen motorcycle charity ride event in Thrumster. Quorate all members present. £500 awarded. HF to get bank details

14. AOB

£15 000 in funding received from Tannach Windfarm Trust. GS proposed first buying the new pads and batteries required to bring the Thrumster defibrillator back into use, which is £280+vat, all members approved. **ACTION** GS will order the required pads and batteries.

GS invited any ideas on what the money could be used for (only non-statutory work).

The brown grit/salt supplied by the council can clog the grit spreaders bought for each village by the CC, potential to buy white salt for using in grit spreaders.

Money could be held for grass cutting costs rather than waiting for village officer money to come in.

Ulminster cemetery is very overgrown **ACTION** Contact Cllrs for help and potential to do some volunteering to bring back into better condition.

ACTION HF to draw up draft online questionnaire to see what the community would like.

15. Date of Next Meeting

24th February 2026 on Zoom at 7pm.

Meeting closed 20:03

Action List Summary

Action	Date action Raised	Actioner	Status
Haster playpark	24/06/2025	CM	In progress
Milton signage and Openreach box	24/06/2025	Cllr McEwan	In progress Cllr reported signage. Openreach not budging, Cllr will keep trying. Signage is on the list but all dealt by Roads department.
Japanese knotweed at Newton	24/06/2025	Cllr McEwan	In progress BS reported online as well, HC employee was going to have a look at it. Going to check to see if still there.
Removal of Simon Harrison from bank account	26/08/2025	GS	In progress, will be sorted with new bank account.
Deterioration of road on bend near Thrumster Mains/Yarrows View/Mill Farm Croft on Tannach Road- raise further	26/08/2025	Cllr McEwan	In progress. Road is deteriorating more. Partially filled. On Roads department list.
Check Thrumster and Bilbster war memorials to see what maintenance is needing done	26/08/2025	TDCC	In progress. Thrumster memorial base is deteriorating. Cllr McEwan going to contact council officer who looks after war memorials.
Microgrant portal	26/08/2025	HF	In progress- emailed Foundation Scotland, awaiting a response from FS. Will chase.
Explore potential funding	26/08/2025	GS	Complete £15 000 awarded by Tannach and District Wind Farm Trust.
Changing of bank account to RBS	20/10/2025	GS	In progress. Application is in. Bank account details have been given. Application to do digital banking has been made, now waiting to hear.
Investigate if separate account needed for Haster playpark subgroup	28/10/2025	GS	GS contacted CC support, Liam Clancy spoken to and doesn't seem a subcommittee wouldn't be useful for the Haster Playpark as the subcommittee would also go into abeyance if TDCC does.
Update resilience plan to new template	27/01/2026	GS	New
Order defib batteries and pads	27/01/2026	GS	New
Ulbster Cemetery - Contact Cllrs for help and potential to do some volunteering to bring back into better condition	27/01/2026	TDCC	New
Draft a community survey	27/01/2026	HF	New

T & D C C MEETING - 27/1/2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Community Bank Account – Balance £19638.70

Income - £15000.00

£15000.00 Foundation Scotland - Grant

Expenditure - £612.75

£ 100.00 Microgrant – North Highland Harriers

£ 500.00 Donation – Friends of Newton Hill Woodland (SCIO)

£ 12.75 Bank Account – Service Charges

FOR INFORMATION

Balances

£ 1550.00 Foundation Scotland – Microgrants

£ 1647.01 Playpark

£ 1441.69 Community Council

£15000.00 Foundation Scotland - Grant

£ 0.00 Village Officer Funding

£19638.70 Total