

TANNACH & DISTRICT COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Tuesday 24th February 2026 Zoom 7pm

Attendees

Gwyneth Sutherland (Chair)
Catriona MacDonald (Treasurer)
Holly Forbes (Secretary)
Brian Sutherland
Alice Miller
2 members of the public

Apologies

Catherine Sapalski

Minutes

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
GS welcomed everyone. Catherine Sapalski gave her apologies.
2. **Declaration of Interest**
Register of interest – no update.
3. **Minutes and Actions from Previous Meeting**
AM proposed, CM seconded.
4. **Financial Report**
See attached.
5. **Planning**
Nothing to report.
6. **Correspondence**
Anything of note has been sent out to members when received.
Still awaiting on cheque for VO money.
7. **Police Report**
Police reports are forwarded to members when received.
8. **Highland Councillor's Report**
No councillor in attendance.
9. **Health and Care**
Scanner not working in CGH- why it wasn't working and when will be fixed? **Action** Ask Cllr McEwan if she is able to find out for us.
10. **Local updates**
 - a. Newton- Friends of Newtonhill have purchased materials and will send on receipts for our records. Tractor coming to prune hedges on Friday 27th site will be shut – will be advertised. Electrician coming to look at power for defib.
 - b. Milton- Annual quiz being sent out to, covers rent of the garage. Grit bin uphill empty, CM will report to council. Grass cutting started.
 - c. Haster- nothing to add.
 - d. Thrumster- Discussion on Thrumster cemetery and war graves.
 - e. Bilbster- nothing to add.
 - f. Tannach- Grit bin policies sent to members of public enquiring about bins.
 - g. Resilience planning – GS will send out info she got on plans.
11. **Community benefit**
Defib back in use in Thrumster after purchase of pads and batteries. Waiting to find out about war memorials from the council. Potentially can purchase salt and grit for spreaders. Grass cutting costs can be funded. Work in cemeteries as well. Idea to fund stone signs for each village similar to what Watten has. £500 set aside for each village for VO type activities.

12. Questions or Contributions from the public present

Nothing to add.

13. Microgrant vote

Quorate 5 members present. £500 awarded to an international exchange project between young people who attend Wick High School, with young people from Gymnasium Petrinum, one of the secondary schools in Brilon, Germany. Two of the pupils attending are from the CC area. HF will get bank details to allow transfer of funds.

14. AOB

Caithness Broch Project - a polite rejection to their request for a letter of support as 4 of our members are on windfarm fund panels and may have to declare a conflict of interest for any applications that come into them. **Action** HF to reply.

Another instance of illegal camping at Swartigill. The campers had a fire going and tents in the trees and two vehicles parked on the bend. Same person as previous time. Landowner contacted. BS spoke to them and landowner has the vehicle reg plates. Cllr McEwan was also informed.

15. Date of Next Meeting

31st March 7pm on Zoom.

Meeting closed 20:01

Action List Summary

Action	Date action Raised	Actioner	Status
Haster playpark	24/06/2025	CM	In progress – standalone group is to be formed.
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	Completed as bank account is now closed.
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. Further potholes opening on Tannach Road. Deep pothole near old Newton woodland. Newton row badly potholed. Haster junction to fountain square. Details forwarded to Cllr McEwan.
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. Waiting on report from council.
Microgrant portal	26/08/2025	HF	In progress- emailed Foundation Scotland, awaiting a response from FS. Will chase.
Changing of bank account to RBS	20/10/2025	GS	Complete. New bank account opened and BoS account closed.
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	GS at meeting 23 rd February about resilience plans.
Order defib batteries and pads	27/01/2026	GS	Complete. Defib back in action.
Ulbster Cemetery - Contact Cllrs for help and potential to do some volunteering to bring back into better condition	27/01/2026	TDCC	BS going to talk to tenant farmer and Cllr Bremner.
Draft a community survey	27/01/2026	HF	HF working on it and will have draft for members to review soon.
Scanner in CGH out of use	24/02/2026	Cllr McEwan	New

T & D C C MEETING - 24/02/2026

FINANCIAL REPORT

Bank Account – Balance £18902.70

Income - £100.00

£100.00 Microgrant repaid – North Highland Harriers

Expenditure - £836.00

£ 500.00 Microgrant – Ann Bremner

£ 336.00 Intermedical (UK) Ltd – Defib batteries and pads

FOR INFORMATION

Balances

£ 1150.00 Foundation Scotland – Microgrants

£ 1647.01 Playpark

£ 1441.69 Community Council

£14664.00 Foundation Scotland - Grant

£ 0.00 Village Officer Funding

£18902.70 Total