

Tarbat Community Council (TCC)
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 25th March 2026 7.30 pm
In Carnegie Hall

Present : Gillian Davey (GD) (Chairman and secretary), Hamish Mackenzie (HM) (vice Chairman), Leah McBain (LM) (Associate Member), Eric Nimmons (ER), Gordon Jack (GJ)

Apologies: Jim Philp (JP), Reg Flegg (treasurer)

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Ross (MR), Cllr Laura Dundas (LD), Cllr Connie Ramsay (CR), Susan Veitch, Flood Risk Management, Highland Council (SV), Gary Urquhart, roads officer Highland Council(GU)

From Community: Number present 1

Susan Veitch open to questions.

GJ raised concerns from community about erosion in Rockfield and Portmahomack. GJ would like preventative rather than remedial work. Previous big rocks have been undermined and moved. SV says council has no duty to do coastal flood protection. It is down to the individual to protect their property and land. If there is funding available they have identified high risk areas and prioritise them. Some ongoing coastal strategies are in place, starting with local coastal plans when budget available. Currently very limited budget, Portmahomack and Rockfield are not high on the list. Sea wall at Portmahomack has been looked at and they have a quote in and will hope to get work done. Prioritising is done at a national level. High risk is prioritised. SV suggested looking for funding through other means.

GD raised wires sticking up from broken gabions. SV will take this back and see if something can be done about this.

SV will put GJ into contact with Golspie who have managed to get funding for coastal protection.

MR suggested Crown Estates are contacted for possible funding.

Approval of minutes from meeting held on 4th February 2026

Proposed by GJ
Seconded by EN
Approved unanimously

Financial Report from LM

Current account £2857.02

Development account £4410.38

Payments made:

Lucky2Bhere Defib pads £60

Steps by fountain materials £642.53

Annual Road maintenance by Dolphin cottages £100

Insurance £97.20

MR informs us our council grant will be doubled. Also comfort grant for toilets has increased.

Matters arising

825 01 Flag

On going

Action JP

825 02 Fountain steps

Fountain steps are being repaired and refurbished. The cost of the materials has been covered by TCC. Alistair Maclean kindly donated his time, labour and expertise to complete the project.

825 03 Campus and TRACC

LD informs us that on 22nd April primary and St Duthus school will move to new campus. The rest of the school will follow after exams.

825 04 Bus service for village

MR was on transport forum. Options of community bus, this meaning the village has its own bus. MR has asked if this is a possibility for Portmahomack and Inver. Golspie has its own 18 seater bus, used for school, but out of school times can be used for the community. Will get subsidised to a degree but can also hire it out. There is now an in-house trainer for learning to drive a bus so any volunteer drivers could be trained at a cost. MR feels we need an officer to come down to explain to the community to see the costs involved and how it is managed. We will involve Inver as well. This would require community group to organise and run it.

Action MR

825 05 Steps by side of hall

Completed. Many thanks to Community Payback. Paint paid for by Community Council

825 06 Rockfield coastal protection

See above

Action SV and GJ

825 07 Phone box car park notice board and information board

Information board in final stages with printer

Action RF and JP

825 09 Disabled parking spaces to be repainted

Completed

825 11 Road outside shop.

GU says it will be seen to.

Action GU

1025 03

Drains have been cleared. GU informs that all problematic ones have been done.

226 01

Invasive Buckthorn by first car park (by recycling)

MR will continue for chase this up, still no reply. LD will chase up Nature Scotland.

Action MR and LD

226 02

Clean up of Shore between Rockfield and Wilkhaven

Spring date will be set when weather improves.

1225 01

Knockshortie building plot

LD said development has been granted. It has been started within the time scale.

1225 02

Carnegie Hall sound system

JP had meeting with Stephen Mackintosh regarding requirements. JP now awaiting final costs projection.

Action JP

1225 03

Drainage at Seafield

GU has said that there is little he can do at the moment. EN says the drainage on the land has been damaged, causing the flooding. SV says neighbours can raise it as a nuisance and take it to court. GJ says the road is getting damaged due to flooding. If council would take on the maintenance Jock Munro would be happy for this drainage to be used. GU will propose this. This would stop the road flooding but GU says it needs to get down from the pond down the field into Jock's drainage.

Action EN GU

1225 04

Overhanging trees on Castle Street. CR will chase this up.

Action CR

226 03

Hand rails by steps

RF has asked for funding approximately £150 for materials and his son will put them up

**Proposed EN
Seconded GJ
All approve**

0226 04

Motor bikes on dunes and on roads

MR says she has spoken to the police who will visit Portmahomack more frequently, Smiley face for speed checks - MR will investigate into how to get one for Portmahomack.

Action MR

0226 06

Football pitch

Nets paid for by Community Council and will be put up in the next week. MR has asked for Highland Council to look at maintenance. She has got contact with key holder for hut and we can look at it and see if it could be used at all.

Action MR

Councillors report:

Ward discretionary fund now up £19 000 for whole ward. If there any small projects we can try to get some funding.

LD was at quarterly meeting with police. They advised to warn community thefts of oil is increased. **GD** will put this on village Facebook

Action GD

Police report

No incidents

Correspondence

None

AOCB

EN raid to back street concerned as it looks like it might have sunk a bit. **EN** will send details to **GU** who will investigate.

Meeting closed at 20.40

Next meeting 7:00 on Wednesday 3rd June 2026 and AGM