Tarbat Community Council (TCC)
Minutes of the meeting held on
Wednesday 7th October 2026 7.30 pm
In Carnegie Hall

Present : Gillian Davey (GD) (Chairman and secretary), Leah McBain (LM) (treasurer) , Jackie Thornhill (JT), Eric Nimmons (EN)

Associate member

Apologies: James Philip (JP), Gordon Jacks (GJ), Cllr Connie Ramsay (CR) Hamish Mackenzie (HM), Reg Flegg (RF)

In attendance: Cllr Maureen Ross (MR), Cllr Laura Dundas (LD)

From Community: Number present 2

Approval of minutes from meeting held on 5th August 2026

Proposed EN
Seconded JT
Unanimously approved

Financial Report from LM
Current account £ 3510.22
Development account £ 4421.50

IN Highland council grant £795.46

Payments made :
Cheques for mower battery £20
Golf club £500

Matters arising
825 01 Flag by carpark with recycling bins
In progress. GD arranging for bushes to be trimmed back and will ask if they can clear a space around the flag pole.

Action JP

825 04 Bus and car service for village
GD has not been contacted, she has tried to hasten it. MR and LD will follow this up.

Action GD, MR and LD

825 06 Rockfield coastal protection and Portmahomack beach gabions
GJ continues to investigate.

Action GJ

825 11 Road outside shop.
LD has spoken to GU and it is on the list and will be done.

Action GU and CR

1025 03
Blocked drains
The one at the bottom of Castle hill still overflowing. GU will come and look at them

Action LD

1225 03
Drainage at Seafield
LD has spoken to GU will install a gully from adopted to unadopted road. They will take over maintenance.

Action EN GU

0326 01 Road to Back street concerns as it looks like it might have sunk a bit.
LD will arrange GU to come and meet with GD.

Action CR

0626 01 Abandoned caravans and cars by football field
GD will checked post meeting, caravans have gone. Two cars that have no number plates on them are still there. Individuals can report abandoned cars to the Highland Council via the website.

Action GD

Visitors Levy in the Highlands
LD informs us it is out for consultation, options are being explored for as to how to charge visitors levy. Current options are one flat rate charge (£5 per night per room), percentage or tiered rate. Options of not charging over winter and shoulder months. Money has to be go back to infrastructure for tourism. Look on Highland council web site for link to give feedback. GD will put this on the village Facebook page to allow everyone to be aware that they can give feedback to proposals.

Resilience meeting with SSEN and Red Cross
Meeting held on 24th September 2026. Update from Brian Macleod (BM)
Red Cross has been arranging community hubs, mostly around flooding down south. Easter Ross is an area they are piloting in the highlands. Presentation was about creating community hubs run by volunteers. At meeting small groups were asked to work out what emergency responses they need. BM discussed with SSEN is ‘islanding’ which means using local power such as wind turbines homes solar panels.
MR - hubs are places in each community. The resilience plan is to be the first port of call. Ensuring hot food, water and charging facilities. Idea is to have a volunteer for a certain number of streets who can recognise those that need more support. There would be telephone numbers of volunteers. Generator would need to be applied for.
James Dickie (Resilience Hub Coordinator - Scotland Northeast. Is arranging a public meeting. Details of date yet to be confirmed.

Local Place Plan - ongoing
Nick Wright (Coordination Local Place Plan) arranging with Carnegie hall some drop in sessions in the village as they will form part of the first phase of community engagement alongside a community survey and youth engagement.

JT pointed out benches by harbour in a bad state.
Trustee of Harbour has been contacted and was going to arrange for them to be cleaned up. Nothing happened as yet.

Action GD

Paint up area by harbour as children
Paint purchased, waiting for it to be collected and task completed.

Action JT

Water tap outside public toilets, JT says this has been denied in the past, council worried about tap being left on. But there is a possibility of a tap with a timer, needs good drainage.

Action MR

082602 Chemical waste disposal, does Portmahomack need one?
GD has been in contact with Discovery Centre, they feel that they do not want to proceed with this due to several problems with installation. RF has never had any complaints from visitors.

Action GD

Police report
Incident of assault in Portmahomack, no details given.

Correspondence
E-mail of thanks from golf club and discovery centre for the donations given to them.

082603 Fountain needs remedial work and repainting
LD will look into who is responsible for metal work of fountain.

Action LD and CR

082604 Graveyard - is there plans for another one as this one is getting full.
LD 29 plots left, should last approximately 6 years. Plot of land identified, searches are being done on this.

Action LD

Potholes
LD informs us they are being addressed.

Action LD

Councillors report:
MR was a meeting that was discussing short term let zone. Each house for holiday let has to have planning application and licence. LD will look to see what percentage of houses are holiday lets and second homes.

AOCB

Abandoned car on road to Tain, after Arbol bridge. LD will report it. LD advises abandoned cars can be reported via the Highland Council Website

JT say more volunteers needed for winter toilet cleaning as some people are doing two weeks. JT will advertise on Facebook. GD will arrange poster

Gritter route will be sent to GD and will put it up on notice board.

Meeting closed at 20:25
Next meeting 7:30 on Wednesday 3rd December 2026