Minute of Meeting of Holm Community Council
Held on Thursday 15th August 2019
At Holm Primary School at 7pm

Note on Abbreviations: HCC = Holm Community Council, HC= Highland Council

Present:

- Community Councillors - Murray McCheyne (Chair), Graham MacKenzie (Secretary), John Horne (Treasurer), Nan MacMillan, Mary Gordon, Margaret Irvine, Alison Jamieson,
- Councillors – Callum Smith, Alasdair Christie and Ron MacWilliam
- PC David Grant
- Members of the public - 2

Apologies for Absence: there were no absences to record.

1. **Welcome & identification of business**
   The Chairperson welcomed all present and called for items of business not already on the agenda.

2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
   Each of the three HC councillors declared that when planning applications were being discussed they would not take part, as they may well be involved in considering specific application. It was therefore decided to consider pending planning applications at the end of the meeting and this item will routinely come last at future meetings.

3. **Approval of Minutes of Meeting on 30 May 2019**
   The Minute of the previous Meeting had been circulated by email and was approved, with no matters arising.

4. **Police Scotland Liaison**
   PC David Grant spoke to his report, made available in writing to all who attended the meeting. Speeding offences are still of concern in our area but mobile patrols have been effective in catching speeding motorists.

   Concerns raised at the meeting, which PC Grant will look into, were:
   -Ongoing parking issues in Ardness Place particularly during school pick up and drop off, (reported to Holm School Parent Council).
   -Potentially dangerous parking in other parts of the street.
   -Parking on the pavement at Drumfield Court/ Boarstone Court was still happening,

5. **Finance**
   There has been minimal financial activity since the last HCC meeting with only £20 having been paid to the minute taker leaving the account balance at £4994.79.

6. **Consultation/Correspondence**
   a) *Community Council Forum* – Murray and Graham attended on 5th June in Town House, 4 – 6pm. The meeting heard a very useful presentation by HC planners regarding the Inner Moray Firth Development plan. The next forum is on 3 September at 7pm in the Town House.

   b) *Election of community councillors* – nominations for all wishing to serve as community Councillors open on the 23rd September 2019 with a closing date of 8th October. During this period all persons must complete and submit an application which can be downloaded from the HC website -

https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/799/elections_and_voting/643/community_councils.
Application packs for this process will not be available to download until 23rd September.

c) *Community 'Right-To-Buy'* – This event will be held on 7th October 2019 and will be attended by Murray.

Action: Murray

d) *Community Council Review* – HCC's submission was made and we await the report and outcomes in due course.

e) *Parent Council* – No more was reported of the complaint raised by a resident in Ardness Place of an excessive number of vehicles parking during school drop off and collection time. The Schools return on 20th August so a further update is expecting in due course. **Action: Scott**

f) *Kirking of the council - An invite has been received from HC to this event which takes place on Sunday 8th September. If any HCC councillor is interested please contact Murray.*

g) *The bus shelter on Holm Dell Drive has suffered significant damage which has been reported and has been added to the HC repair list.*

h) *The same member of the public who reported the bus stop reported vegetation in drain gullies. It was commented that HC have a specific page on their website for reporting things like this, faulty street lights etc. the link is to be found at https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/20005/roads_and_pavements/96/roadside_problems*

7. **Litter Bin Provision**
The bins at the lay by on the west link have been installed. Bins are still needed at the bus stop in Ness Castle. Suggestions of other locations for litter bin provision are invited.

Ongoing

8. **Street Signs**
John Taylor (Head of Roads) confirmed the lit sign at Holm roundabout is in the process of being attended to. The Drumfield Road sign to be reported for repair.

Action: Murray

9. **Pre - Planning Application: Ness Castle Primary School**
Murray and Graham attended (separate) presentations on 11th June which were held to show the community ideas for the design and layout of the new school in advance of the planning application being made for Ness Castle Primary School. Further community engagement will be conducted as the project advances, with the next one event being held on **Wednesday 21st August 2019 from 1430 to 1930 at Holm Primary School.**

10. **Essich Roundabout / Road Noise on SDR**
The issue of traffic speed on the distributor road continues to be monitored by the Police. Nothing though has arisen since the last meeting.

11. **Bus Timetables**

The new bus timetables are available and after some discussion it was agreed to give the bus company, Stagecoach, the chance to provide reliable services. Margaret Irvine agreed to be the contact for any feedback, both positive and negative and will relay this to councillor Ron MacWilliam and HCC. **Action: Margaret and Ron**

12. **Boundary Changes with Dores and Essich Community Council**
    D & ECC conducted a small survey of the households in the Essich Meadows and surrounding area, which met with a poor response, such that D & ECC are taking no proposals forward. The matter can be reviewed again if appropriate.

13. **Ness side Tulloch development – traffic calming proposals and other issues**
    Murray, Graham and Margaret continue to represent HCC on the community liaison group set up by Tulloch Homes. Work is now underway on site. Drawings of the now approved road crossing points on Dores Road were shown to those present and plans of their locations can now be viewed on the HC planning website under reference 17/02008/ful. This work will commence in October/ November, and gas main work will be undertaken in September.

14. **Cold Calling/Neighbourhood Watch**

    Calum Smith suggested that the HCC consider designating HCC area a No Cold Calling Zone. Such a zone deters rogue tradespeople and con artists from operating and preying on vulnerable people. After some preliminary discussion it was agreed that a public meeting, separate from the usual business meeting of Community Council, should be arranged, at which the case for a establishing such a zone can be explored. At the same meeting someone would also be asked to speak about Neighbourhood Watch scheme within the area. Murray and Calum will take this forward.

    Action: Murray, Calum Smith

    At this point in the meeting all the HC Councillors left the meeting.

15. **Planning Applications**
    Murray reported having lodged observations on the application made by Barratt Homes for Phase 3 of their Ness Castle development concerning the apparently unimaginative design in the layout of the development, but of more importance the apparent absence of provision of a footpath around the perimeter of the site, such as to preserve the current connection to the South Loch Ness Trail. A decision is awaited.

    There was then discussion about the forthcoming application for planning consent for the Ness Castle Primary School, principally about a comment emanating from the earlier consultation with the designer/ builder contractor in June that it was inevitable that some of the ancient trees and all of the smaller trees on the site would be felled. Although it was noted that HCC would not wish to see anything done to impede the early granting of planning consent for a much needed school, a request for an urgent site meeting with HC's tree officer would be sought to better understand what measures have been taken already and could be taken to preserve the amenity of the current landscape, with particular regard to the trees.

    There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.05pm.

    Date of Next Meeting: 24 October 2019 at Holm Primary School at 7pm