Minute of Meeting of Holm Community Council
Held on Thursday 30 April 2020
Via Zoom at 7pm

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

Present:
Community Councillors - Murray McCheyne (Chair), Graham MacKenzie (vice chair), John Horne (treasurer), Alison Jamieson, Evelyn Grant, Margaret Irvine, Rhona Douglas (secretary), Councillors – Callum Smith, Alastair Christie (part), & Ron MacWilliam (part)
Apologies for Absence were received before the meeting from Gail Beveridge and Steve Rodger

1. **Welcome**
Murray welcomed all present to the "historic" first meeting by Zoom and thanked Steve Rowan for facilitating it. Agenda items for discussion were called for and the Minutes of the previous meeting on 4 February 2020 were approved, noting that the meeting which had been scheduled for 26 March did not take place due to lockdown restrictions.

2. **Declarations of conflict of interest**
No conflicts of interest were declared based on the agenda issued before the meeting.

3. **Police Scotland Liaison**
There was no official report available from Police Scotland, although PC Grant had been in touch briefly by email to advice that a further email setting out forthcoming changes to community policing is expected. Meanwhile the main message from Police Scotland continues to be that people should stay at home to save lives. If it is essential to make a journey for work or shopping social distancing must be observed.

4. **Correspondence**
Murray reported having received only a few emails from Highland Council recently, their attention appropriately being taken up elsewhere. Included in those which had been received was an email setting out relaxation of normal reporting requirements i.e. no requirement for an AGM before the end of June and that accounts can this year be in draft form.

5. **Finance**
John reported the bank balance as being £8529.23. Our allocation from HC has been made in addition to a one-off payment of £3000 from HC. Since the previous meeting a final call was made for community councils to apply to HC for funding for specific projects. Our application was made jointly with Lochardil and Drummond CC & Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather CC too, totalling £9000. We had stated in the application were applying only for £2,500 and more funding should be given to HMCH cc. Having received £3000 it was agreed that without delay we remit £500 to HMCH cc.

6. **Grants**
It was noted there were no grant requests for funding from our CC pending. There was a wide ranging discussion around making a funds available for specific COVID-19 related causes. It was noted that there are many organisation including churches and other voluntary organisations doing fantastic work in our community council area, and across the Highlands. It was agreed that an overall budget of £3000 would be earmarked for this purpose, with our grant making policy being highlighted to all who sought support. Murray to publicise this and when applications are received they will be circulated to the wider group. It was mentioned that at the May meeting in 2019 it was agreed applications would first be reviewed by a small group of 3 to report on applications at future meetings. An application is expected from Ness side Covid 19 Community Support, which Ron MacWilliam is heavily involved in.

7. **Neighbourhood watch**
Murray having received an email from Murray Ferguson associated with Lochardil and Drummond CC about a social network site more closed than Facebook call Next Door which might be a useful resource for those living in our area. There was no strong view expressed about this, but Murray will make contact with the person who presently administers it for our area.

The meeting adjourned for 10 minutes for the clap showing support for the NHS and other essential care workers.

8. **Drumblair Stores Post office**
Murray spoke to the letter he had received from the Post Office notifying of the branch Temporary Closure. After discussion which highlighted what an important and valued part of our community the shop and post office is, Murray was instructed to contact the Post Office to ascertain an assurance that the Post Office will reopen.

9. **Art@holm competition**
Staging a competition for entries for art created during the lockdown on the theme of "life in the lockdown" was agreed. The detail of how this might work had previously been circulated by Murray and the ideas were generally approved, with some significant changes. The entries will close each fortnight and entries are open to households, rather than specific age groups. The prize each fortnight will be £25 for each household to receive in the form of a voucher and a £25 donation to a charitable cause of their choosing.

10. **Lockdown Loops**
Murray reported a "chance" encounter he had with Helen Stirling, local cartographer who is considering making maps of our CC area showing exercise routes on public paths. The idea was met very favourably and it was agreed she would be asked to consider making this a joint project with HCC, with HCC paying her for her service. Murray will liaise with HC's access officer. This idea could be developed further as a second phase in conjunction with Dores and Essich CC and LDCC. We will concentrate on getting the first phase developed first though.

Separately to this the possibility of forming a path at Ardness place over the grassed area was discussed, with contrary views being expressed as to the desirability of developing that. Murray is to ask HC what possibility there is of this being undertaken by HC.

The possibility of asking the owner of the path from the distributor road to the Motte near Holm Dell Drive to cut back the whins or even to let HCC fund that work is to be explored, with Murray tasked first of all to identify the owner.

11. Ness Castle primary school
It was noted that there are no meetings presently of the liaison group although the project is progressing "behind-the-scenes"

12. **Stagecoach Buses**
Correspondence had been received from Stagecoach in the form of an email highlighting their continuing provision of service during the current Covid 19 crisis

13. **Date of Next meeting**
It was agreed that the next meeting should take place by Zoom, in around 3 – 4 weeks. At the next meeting further consideration will be given to inviting the public to take part, with each of the HC councillors strongly in favour of that.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.08pm.