Minute of a Meeting of Holm Community Council

Held on Thursday 23 March 2023 at 7pm at Holm Primary School and on Zoom

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

Present: Community Councillors: Margaret Irvine (on zoom), Alan Stewart, Gail Beveridge, Becky Speight (on zoom), John Horne (Treasurer),
Graham Mackenzie (Secretary) & Murray McCheyne (Chair),
Councillors –Andrew Mackintosh
Members of the public -1 on zoom
Apologies for absence: Councillors Alasdair Christie,& Jackie Hendry

1. Welcome & declaration of conflicts of interest

Murray welcomed all to the meeting. No new conflicts of interest were declared.

2. Approval of minutes

The minute of the previous meeting on 26 January 2023 were approved.

3. Matter arising from previous minute.

- **Holm Woods**

  An invitation from Tulloch Homes to meet in person to discuss our letter enquiring about their management plans for the woods is to be taken up by Murray and Graham, John offering to attend as substitute.

- **Pavement build outs on Stratherrick Road**

  Nothing further has happened yet about this. A meeting with the roads officer and Lochardil and Drummond CC is to be arranged. Action - Murray

4. New items raised at the meeting

a) Traffic Lights at Ness Castle

It was questioned whether the positioning of the lights signals is correct on account of the buses not having a wide enough "sweep" when turning right out of the development. This is to be raised with the roads dept. Action - Murray

b) Speeding on Eilean Donan Road

An increase in speeding on Eilean Donan Road was reported, which in turn will be raised with Ian Graham the safer routes to school officer as part of his review of Ness Castle primary school arrangements now it is open. Action – Murray

c) Ring doorbells

The increase in prevalence of ring doorbells was discussed. Whilst helpful in identifying anti-social behaviour concerns about privacy of individuals was also raised. It was agreed this would be a good topic to ask Police Scotland for advice on, and might also make a good article for a future newsletter.

d) Planning application for 8 Holm Dell Drive

An application for planning consent changing the use from residential dwelling to short term letting was discussed. It was noted this application is for retrospective consent.

It was noted this is the first time since our community council was reformed in 2018 that an application such as this has come up for discussion and to an extent this sets a precedent, at least for how the community council react. It was broadly agreed that the character of the development should remain

residential, rather than commercial and this observation should be made. Concern was expressed about the increased possibility for antisocial behaviour, it being anecdotally commented that this has already happened at this location. It was also commented that sites such as Air BnB seem to have increased stricter controls for such behaviour too, with bookers being blacklisted if they cause anti-social behaviour. The signage outside the property also seems inappropriately large and unnecessarily bright. These comments are all to be reflected in a response to the application.

Action– Murray

e) Antisocial behaviour in Holm Dell woods

Three incidents of underage drinking and resulting litter at and around the bridge in Holm Dell woods were reported. To avoid this escalating the community police team are to be asked to increase patrols. Action – Murray

f) Fencing in Torbreck / Phase 3 of Barratts development at Ness castle

It was noted that the fencing of the private land at Torbreck has with agreement of the Access officer of HC and the landowner been amended by Barratt's contractor so as to reinstate a walking route where Phase 3 of the Ness castle development bounds woodland.

5. Finance

John report was received showing the current balance at £11,098.17, with Holm Grown designated funds remaining at £5938. Further expects costs to be incurred soon are the annual charge for the website (£75) , the cost of revamping the website (£500) and expenditure for paths at Holm Grown.

6. Notice Boards

The location of a notice board at Ness side, next to a bus stop at the infiltration pond on Morar Street, and at Eilean Donan Road with Dornoch Road in Ness castle have been agreed with the respective developers/ factors. A planning application will now be made for each. The board at Ness castle school still has to happen.

Action – Murray

7. New Website – holmcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Further feedback is to be given by all within the next week or so, in order that the new site can be finalised. A request was made that the date of the next meeting be more prominent Action - all.

8. Police Report

The latest city wide newsletter was received prior to the meeting. The items noted above of speeding, anti-social behaviour and seeking advice on ring bells will be raised. Action – Murray

9. Litter Pick

22 April from 10am – noon was agreed to be the date of next Holm Litter pick. Doing something during the school holidays was also mentioned as a future possibility. Action - all

10. Bus Services

Reliability and the absence of certain services on a Sunday was mentioned but generally the picture remains much the same.

11. Ness Castle Primary School

It was great to see the new school finally opened on 27 February. Challenges with the landscaping will persist for most of this year, until grass takes and the sports pitches are formed. Traffic around the school so far seems to be moving well, although speeding issues at the busiest times have been noted too.

12. Holm Primary School

The playground is to be reinstated in the Easter holidays, with the parent council pressing HC to deliver the various improvements promised.

13. Holm Grown

Six of the eight raised beds are now installed and the garden really is taking shape. Further landscaping works will be done in the next few months, with benches to be provided too. A team of volunteers has helped consistently over the winter months. It was also suggested that the community service team who have assisted the garden so well might be asked to repaint Nessie on the roundabout at Dores road and also the map feature of our area at Tesco's car park which is falling into disrepair.

14. Community Council forum 29 March

An Inverness wide meeting it to take place on 29 March to gauge the willingness to reform a city wide forum to which all community councillors are invited.

15. Annual Newsletter

It was agreed to aim for another news sheet to be issued in September to all our area.

16. Correspondence

A SSEN consultation about a new overhead power line passing through our area is ongoing. Other correspondence will continue to be circulated between meetings as and when it is received.

17. Date of next meeting

8 June, which will also be our AGM.

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