Minute of a Meeting of Holm Community Council

Held on Thursday 26 January 2023 at 7pm at Holm Primary School

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

Present: Community Councillors: Margaret Irvine, Alan Stewart, Gail Beveridge (on zoom), John Horne (Treasurer), Graham Mackenzie (Secretary) & Murray McCheyne (Chair),
Councillors – Alasdair Christie, Andrew Mackintosh & Jackie Hendry
Members of the public -3 (2 in person, 1 on zoom)
Apologies for absence: Becky Speight (community councillor)

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 8 December 2022 were approved.

3. Matter arising from previous minute.

- **Pavement build outs on Stratherrick Road**

Lochardil and Drummond CC have indicated they suggest we seek a joint site meeting with the roads department of HC to discuss. Murray to arrange.

- **Winter gritting**

The cold spell the week prior to our meeting proved challenging for HC and the provision of gritting in our area. The councillors reported the general response is now under review as it was widely acknowledged there were problems city wide. The route to Ness Castle Primary School is now designated a first priority route, which includes the hill from Dores Road. As the hill into Ness Castle is on a priority route for gritting it will not qualify for a grit bin. William Porter (member of the public, and also chair of the parent council at Ness Castle Primary) mentioned some others at Ness Castle have agreed to join with him in requesting grin bins for further into the Barratt end of the development and Alan Stewart has arranged for the factor at the Robertsons development to have gritting undertaken.

- **Build outs in Dores road**

A member of the public asked if the signage at the build outs in Dores Road can be amended to correctly prioritise cyclists. Councillor Christie is to continue to look into this.

- **Litter** from the building site at the Maples. Margaret will ask Tulloch Homes to address the issue of litter on their site at the footpath linking Mill Lade roundabout and Dores Road which a member of the public highlighted before our meeting.

4. Notice Boards

Margaret will ask Tulloch Homes to confirm the location of the proposed sign and Murray will chase up the factor in Barratt's development. A better location for the signs at Ness Castle Primary school were agreed to be at the main entrance and at the junction of Dornoch Road and Eilean Donan Road.

5. Finance

John reported HCC have received the £5000 for Holm Grown from the ward discretionary fund and thanks were expressed to the ward councillors, past and present, who had pushed for this to happen. The bank balance sits at £11,673.17, within which £5938 are designated funds for Holm Grown. No questions arose.

6. New Website – holmcommunitycouncil.org.uk

Feedback received about the new website will be fed back by Murray to the designer, Geoff Todd. It would be good to have more photos of our area, especially when there are sunnier days. This will be done by simply asking anyone in our community if they have photos they would be happy for us to use, rather than run any form of competition.

7. Holm Dell Woods

Murray gave a verbal report of the public meeting to discuss options for the future of the woods on 19 January which was attended by 8 members of the public. Murray also reported Becky's comments too. It was noted that the online survey and written responses received, which numbered around 58 returns, suggested there is considerably higher support amongst the public for the notion of community ownership (at just over 60%) than had been by those attending the public meeting, the clear mood of that meeting being not to be disposed to doing anything other than asking the present owners to manage their woods better. After discussion it was agreed that the next step would be to simply ask Tulloch Homes for their response to the request being made by the public that the woods ought to be better managed. Murray will make that approach in writing. If that elicits a favourable response it will be welcome. If it doesn't, the issue can be kept under review, with there being potential for further public engagement, most probably in the form of another meeting at a time of year when more people might be likely to attend, and which could also be better advertised.

8. Police Report

The city wide (now including Nairn) police newsletter was circulated. Yet more comments were received that it continues to be a fairly inadequate tool to update communities about their local crime statistics (which we expect do continue to be collated by Police Scotland) compared to the reports meetings received pre covid. It was suggested that our dissatisfaction is passed on via Alison Clark of HC so that she might inform Police Scotland too, especially in any future review. Murray will contact her.

9. Bus Services

The new Stagecoach timetable seems to have left certain parts of our area with a better service, the no11 coming in for particular mention, although it remains the case that provision in the evenings to Ness Castle is practically non-existent. The Highland council run 302 service to Foyers has been well received too.

10. Promoting cycling in our area

Lochardil and Drummond CC are supportive of joining with us to explore what can be done to promote cycling for our area. Councillor Christie will pass on to Murray the name of a contact in the Active Travel unit so that a joint meeting about this can be arranged.

11. **Ness Castle Primary School**

The latest news from the stakeholder group updates was that a temporary occupation certificate was issued on 27 January. It is still the aim to have the school open on 27 February. Although it is undoubtedly frustrating that there have been delays, getting the building right, with as many of the snagging issues addressed as is possible is the more preferable way to proceed.

As had been circulated between meetings the planning application for the playing fields is live and was commented on, mentioning that whilst the provision of the playing fields was really good, it was very disappointing to see no specification of measures to mitigate light and noise pollution from the pitches which we expect will affect the local householders.

Gail and Murray are still seeking a meeting with Ian Graham about the traffic management around the school and the safer routes to schools.

When lets become available we will seek to meet alternately between Holm and Ness Castle schools.

12. Holm Grown

One of the regular volunteers, Fred, explained first hand how worthwhile being involved in Holm Grown is. The garden continues to take shape with more raised beds from the Community Service team arriving soon. This year will see most of the main features in place.

13. Co-option

There continues to be space to co-opt up to 3 people in our community. For more details, please contact Murray.

14. **Next meeting** 23 March 2023 in Holm School and by zoom.

For more information about the work of Holm Community Council,
to view all the Minutes of previous meetings and to keep to date with what's going on find and follow us on Facebook by searching for Holm Community Council
or see our webpage www.holmcommunitycouncil.org.uk