**Minute of a Meeting of Holm Community Council**
Held on Thursday 27 October 2022 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 John Horne (Treasurer), Graham Mackenzie (Secretary) & Murray McCheyne (Chair),
Councillors – Alasdair Christie, and Jackie Hendry
Members of the public -1
Apologies for absence: Councillor Andrew Mackintosh

1. **Welcome** & declaration of conflicts of interest
Murray welcomed all to the meeting, which include Gail joining online. No new conflicts of interest were declared.

**2. Approval of minutes**
The minute of the previous meeting on 25 August 2022 were approved.

**3. Matter arising from previous minute, not otherwise on agenda**
**Website -** Murray still to seek updated price for rebuilding of the website.

**Hybrid meeting –** Matthew Donn from St Columba church assisted in setting up a zoom link in the school, which Gail used. As it worked well it is intended all meetings from now on can be in person and online, those joining virtually also being able to speak.

**Roads –** Murray will follow up again the reports of road repairs and speeding incidences on the roads in our area with HC and Police Scotland. It was noted that traffic monitoring strips have been deployed recently in a number of locations in our area. The request for a 30mph limit on Dores road to its junction with the C1040 at Torbreck will be followed up too.

**Loch Ness Marathon** – the possibility of requesting funds for HCC as a beneficiary of the marathon will be investigated.

**4. Notice Boards**
-Kier are to supply and install two display boards, both in the vicinity of Ness Castle Primary School, one near the main entrance, the other at a pedestrian entrance on to Dornoch Road. Owners' permission from the Barratt householders, via the factor for the development, for the board at Dornoch Road is being sought. If permission is not forthcoming it will mean that board cannot be located there.

The board for Ardholm Place is ready to be installed.

Another board has been purchased and is ready to be installed. The location of that is to be on the Maples development at Ness side, the precise location to be decided in conjunction with Tulloch Homes.

Going forward, local business in or serving our area can be invited to sponsor the boards for a monthly or quarterly period which will help defray costs as well as promoting our area.

**5. Holm Grown**

The garden continues to develop and has been a great way for the community to meet each other and become involved.

The materials for the raised beds being purchased from W Matheson Groundworks ltd has been approved and the Community Service team are poised to start work installing the raised beds on the subbase recently laid generously supplied for free by McGowan Environmental, Aviemore.

Suggestions for bench seats like those in MacDonald Park or Torvean Park will be investigated.

After payment of the materials, the project is currently in credit, but the funds pledged by Highland Council will require to be drawn down now to meet the cost of further expected works – finishing the paths.

**6. Finance**

John circulated a financial statement by email and reported our current bank balance to be £14,492.02, a significant part of this though being restricted funds for Holm Grown.
The annual fee for the Information Commission fee is to be paid.

**7. Holm Woods consultation**

A good response has been received which Murray will collate and circulate, before arranging a public meeting to share and discuss the results as well as planning the next stage of this project.

**8. Police Report**

The circulated police report (Inverness area) was noted. Recent spates of vandalism and break ins at Drumblair Stores were noted. Murray to discuss with Police Scotland whether more visible patrols for both speeding and community police can be provided.

**9. Bus Services**

Complaints continue to be made about the standard of service from Stagecoach, with services cancelled or being late. Jackie informed us of recent successes Stagecoach have had to recruit new drivers and retain current ones, which will hopefully have a consequent improved effect. But time will tell.
We have been invited to the launch of electric buses at the Drumossie Hotel on 2 December.

**10. Ness Castle primary school**

The opening of the school building is still stating as being January 2022. Works remain ongoing on site, but Murray reported a recent visit demonstrated the finished building should be impressive and great facility for the children and staff alike. Delays have arisen from work force availability issues. Handover should be in November 2022.

**11. Holm Primary School**

Whilst being used for the campus of the new school at Ness side as well over the last few months there has been significant pressure on the facilities at Holm Primary. Murray visited the school the day before our meeting and reported the staff continue to be resilient. It is notable that pupils are all getting on well.
HCC offered its support to the school to ensure that the promised improvements to the campus are delivered by HC when Ness Castle has opened, and the temporary buildings are removed. The management team also favourable commented on the improvements made to the steps to Boarstone Avenue.
HCC will be notified of future community events.
We are also expecting a visit from the nursery to Holm Grown soon.

**12. Housing developments**

**Robertsons Development Ness Castle**– nothing new was raised at this meeting.

**Tulloch Homes Ness side** – Development continues apace with another field now screened off and the access road well underway, scheduled to be complete in January Light controlled crossings over the west link road and another on Dores Road are to be installed in the next month or so.

**Barratts development Ness Castle -** The recent appearance of blue posts in the field behind Eilean Donan Road has been confirmed to be for the temporary location of the large piles of stone and earth on phase 3. Advice is being sought from HC planners about the need for planning consent for this.
No deal has yet been done for the sale of phases 4 or 5.
The landowners, the Tyser Trust, are themselves to be forming the path alongside Dores Road in the next few months, which will include better car parking at the woods in Torbreck.
A planning application for phase 4 which will include the second access road is anticipated to arrive soon.

13. **Public Access rights – Ness side**

Murray reported that a member of the public has asked the Access Rights officer of HC to become involved in the apparent exclusion of the public from the two fields at Ness side to the south of the Holm Burn because of a high fence being erected. We noted this is ongoing.

**14. Correspondence / New issues**

**(a) Emails**

Various items of correspondence were circulated by email to HCC members

Of note was mention that the creation of a foodbank is being considered within the IRA, which is something HCC would be pleased to assist with.

(b) **Dores road landscaping**
The hard compressed ground where the boring machines were located in the summer at Dores Road still appears to be flooding. This will continue to be monitored.

**15. Consultation – Beauly – Peterhead power line**
Murray awaits a reply from SSEN about which line in our area will be coming down at the same time as a very large, new 400kv line will be erected in 2023/24.

**16. Co-option of new community councillors**
It was again mentioned there are three current spaces for co-option.

**17. Arrangements for next meetings**
The next meetings will be in person and virtually on 8 December in Holm Primary School.
Dates for 2023 are: 26 January, 23 March, 15 June, 24 August, 26 October and 7 December

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