Minute of the inaugural Meeting of Holm Community Council

Held on Thursday 9 November 2023 at 7pm at Holm Primary School in person only.

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

Present: Community Councillors: Alan Stewart, Becky Speight, John Horne, Margaret Irvine & Murray McCheyne

Councillors –Jackie Hendry & Andrew Mackintosh

Apologies for absence: Councillor Alasdair Christie & Gail Beveridge

1. Appointment of Office bearers

Councillor Andrew Mackintosh welcomed everyone, congratulating the six members of the Community Council who had been appointed following the uncontested election. Thanks were also expressed to Graham Mackenzie who had decided not to stand again.

The following office bearers were appointed: Chair – Murray McCheyne, Treasurer – John Horne, Secretary Becky Speight.
Following his appointment Murray assumed the chairing of the meeting.
The scheme of establishment was signed by our three office bearers.

2. Declaration of conflicts of interest.

No new conflicts of interest were declared.

3. Approval of Minutes 24 August & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting on 24 August having been earlier circulated were approved, with the only matter arising being the Newsletter, which Murray is still working on. It was agreed this would be published via the notice boards and online.

4. Finance Report

John's report had been earlier circulated and showed that at the date of the meeting the over balance of funds was £6969.13, with £1467.82 of those being ring fenced for Holm Grown. All the grant assistance received for the formation of Holm Grown has now been spent, but the increase in funds for Holm Grown is accounted for by a donation having been received for a memorial plaque on one of the benches. A further donation is anticipated too.

5. Promotion of Cycling in our area

Becky again reported progress so far, with a joint meeting being planned for early in the new year now. The four aims of the meeting will be look for improved signage in our area, improving safer routes to school, improving street design and maintaining in good order the active travel infrastructure which is already in place.

The issue of how the pavement build outs on Dores Road are actually working in practice will be raised with the Police.

The ongoing roll out of the 20mph limit across Inverness was discussed too, with the decision being taken that no view should be expressed until those in our community had been given the opportunity to make their views known.

6. Public access issues - Path near Holm Mills/ new bridge & Ness side

Murray reported that a decision had been made by Highland Council not to close the makeshift path leading past the field at Ness side to the walkway beneath the new bridge. Instead, Highland Council is to fund some screen planting, to be made on the side of the fence on land belonging to F & R MacDonald. It was also agreed that a second litter bin could be asked for, located at the end of the makeshift path, failing which the bin presently closer to the roundabout might be relocated to the end of the makeshift path.

The separate issue at Ness -side remains unresolved and Murray will follow this up with the Access Officer of Highland Council.

7. **Ness Castle Primary School grounds**

The matter of outside catering vans using the school car park had been raised in advance of the meeting by a member of the public who lives near the school. The issue of permissions and noise associated with the use was noted to be a concern. The householder has been encouraged to make direct contact with Licensing, Environmental Health and the Planning office, all departments of Highland Council.

A proposal to use the part of the school ground furthest from the school building (and outwith the proposed space where the MUGA playing field will be installed) was discussed. It was agreed that following the success of Holm Grown a community growing space could well be a good use of the space, although it would require to be supported by locals in the area to be viable. This might be something more akin to a community orchard rather than individual allotments.

8. Polling place locations

The proposal to have a new polling place at Ness Castle Primary School was welcomed. However, the proposal that Holm Primary School no longer be used as a polling place and it be replaced with Inverness Royal Academy and Culduthel Christian Centre was considered to be an ill-considered move, on account of distance from those in the Holm area and the absence of public transport links. Murray was tasked with completing the consultation about this.

9. Planning application 23/03211/FUL

It was noticed a planning application had been lodged for change of use of part of a dwellinghouse to be used as a short term let. As this is not in a densely populated residential area and also because it was ancillary to an adjoining home which would continue to be a home no observations or objections would be lodged.

10. Notice Boards

Planning consent has been issued for three new notice boards, two to be installed by Kier at Ness Castle and one at Ness side. These will be very welcome. Our revamped website can also be promoted on these boards, using a QR code. Murray will also contact the designer of the site for technical help updating the Minutes section, which is out of date.

11. Buses

It was reported that once again the bus services for our area appear to be les than satisfactory. Margaret will contact Stagecoach about the provision of timetables.

12. Police newsletter / anti social behaviour

The latest newsletter had been circulated ahead of the meeting, with no questions arising from it. Two incidents of anti-social behaviour had been reported directly to us since the last meeting, one within a block of flats at Ness side and the other relating to the occupants of the former janitor's house at Holm Primary School.

13. **Co-option of new members**

There remain 3 spaces for co-option which can be advertised in the next community newsletter.

14. **Correspondence / Consultations**

Relevant items had been circulated prior to the meeting, the most relevant of those being briefly discussed. It was agreed to support the request for a grit bin made by William Porter at Ness Castle.

15. **Date for next meeting**

7 December at Holm School.

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