Minute of a Meeting of Holm Community Council

Held on Thursday 23 January 2025 at 7pm at Holm Primary School in person and online.

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

Present:
Community Councillors: Becky Speight, Gail Beveridge (online), John Horne, Martin Gardiner, Margaret Irvine, & Murray McCheyne (Chair).
Councillors: Alasdair Christie and Jackie Hendry
In Attendance: Two members of the public
Apologies for Absence: Alan Stewart and Councillor Andrew Mackintosh.

1. **Welcome and Declarations of Conflict of Interest**
   Murray welcomed everyone. No new conflicts of interest were declared.

2. **Approval of Minutes 10 October & matters arising**
   The minute of the meeting on 5 December having been earlier circulated were approved. The only matter arising was noting that an application to the Ward Discretionary fund for the cost of the composter at Holm Grown had not yet been made, which Murray will attend to.

3. **Finance**
   John reported that funds stood at £4602.80. Since the last meeting £420.00 was spent on HCC contribution to a Hot bin composter for Holm Grown and £40 of designated funds for Holm Grown was spent on memorial plaques for the benches at Holm Grown. Total funds stand at £726.52 for Holm Grown and HCC £3876.28.

4. **Buses**
   Since the last meeting Stagecoach have more or less ceased to provide any service in our area. It was recognised that HC had thankfully stepped in to offer a no 16 and no 302 service, the no 16 serving Ness Castle. On the same day as our meeting it was announced HC had acquired D & E coaches, signalling an intention of the part of HC to provide a better service across the city. It was remarked that anecdotally the HC services are better and more reliable. The point was also made that if services are not used they are under threat, and our area is one of the lower usages areas in the city already. Therefore it is important that accurate timetables are available. We will promote the services again on our FB page and Margaret also offered to post timetables at the bus stops. It was also suggested that any future changes should not be made over a holiday period and be announced well in advance of changes happening.

5. **Community Growing space at Ness Castle**
   A date is still to be arranged for a public meeting, this now likely taking place in w/c 17 February, to be confirmed.

6. **Emergency Planning**
   Margaret and Murray reported on a presentation given to the latest Inverness Community Council Forum on the importance of Emergency Planning. A

presentation had been earlier circulated, which perhaps did not fully express the ideas given at the meeting. Margaret will circulate some notes.
It was agreed that it would be useful for HCC to collate and co-ordinate local knowledge and contacts, such as locations of defibrillators, shelters, etc and in the first place Margaret, Martin and Murray will discuss this to bring ideas to a future meeting.

7. Housing Developments

Ness Castle – the biggest issue seems to be the recurring alarm at the school. Murray has asked if more can be done to ensure when it goes off it is reset quickly. The lack of a reliable bus service was also highlighted.
Ness-side – Martin requested that the site agent be reminded of the need for large stones/ boulders at Spey Place. The path at the end of Moriston Road/ footpath is still be attended to, and grit bin provision is lacking. Murray will chase up progress on the installation of the bus gate too.

8. Local Place Plan

Becky has prepared an analysis of the results of the survey using AI, which is to be reviewed. She and Margaret will do that and Murray is to prepare a first draft of the Plan.

9. Litter

A date for what is hoped will be our best attended community Litter Pick yet will be Saturday 12 April from 10am – 12noon.
Murray reported that bins are being requested for Ness Castle PS, which seems to be faltering, thus far. Alasdair Christie suggested if the Head teacher intervenes it is more likely to materialise.
The abandoned car in the layby at the west link road has been removed. There remains an abandoned vehicle at Ardness Place which Alasdair Christie is looking into.

10. Update on C1040 Road at Torbreck

Noting so far seems to have come of the reply we sent to the factor of the land owner regarding their proposals, as narrated in the Minute of the previous meeting. This remains a concern.

11. Invitation to new members

The space for two members to be co-opted and two youth members was highlighted. Murray will contact the head of department for modern studies at Inverness Royal Academy.

12. Correspondence

-There was no police newsletter available for the meeting.
-A request for a barrier at Ness Castle has been noticed, but Murray has suggested the idea should be routed via the Parent Council. Alasdair Christine mentioned Lisa Mackellaich of the Safer Routes to School team is looking into this too.

-Communication about the proposed new (or increased) weir on the River Ness will be passed to Martin for reply, and a request that we be able to participate in any community benefit fund associated with the scheme.
- Communication from SSE about proposed power line changes will be passed to Martin to review to ascertain how these affect our area.
- A request has been received from Holm School management team to assist with the clearing of rubbish/ leaves from the steps to lower Holm, which Murray and Becky will look at.
- A request to have the light repaired on the same steps will be directed to HC.
-A request for intervention from the owner of 42 Island Bank Road has been received. After discussion it was agreed to signpost the enquiry to HC's relevant departments.

13. Next meetings

20 March and 12 June (AGM) both at Holm Primary School.
21 August, 30 October and 4 December at Ness Castle Primary School.