

## Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather Community Council meeting

2 April 2024 – 7pm

Hilton Community Centre

### Present

Richard Allan – Chair

Jessie MacLennan – Treasurer

Liberty Lloyd – Secretary

CLlr Jackie Hendry

CLlr Isabelle MacKenzie

CLlr Ian Brown

Audrey Clarke, Paula Lloyd, Peter Wyness, Robert Ross, Shirley Wyness

### Apologies

CLlr David Gregg, Lorraine Cran, Chris Turner

### Matters Arising and Correspondence

#### **1. Castle Heather Park**

- Litter pick organised by Jane Day on Saturday 24 February, 10am went really well. Lots of litter collected with a turnout of about 20 volunteers. A subsequent litter pick was organised for beside Asda, just outwith the community council boundary. Gratitude was expressed by the chair to everyone involved.
- A small group has been formed with a specific interest in the park and projects within such as gardening.
- Robert Ross raised an issue where The Highland Council are making a mess of the walkways in the park due to driving large vehicles on and off the path to cut grass and also empty bins rather than parking outside the park and walking in.
- CLlr Isabelle MacKenzie suggested that the dog waste bin is changed for a general waste bin instead. There is only one general waste bin in the park. It was also suggested that the current plastic bin is swapped for a metal bin if possible.
- Drainage is still an issue despite clearing of grass around the drains in the park. A site visit is to be arranged involving the necessary parties.
- Robert Ross raised issues regarding a lack of lighting in the park.
- Ownership of the park is yet to be confirmed.

#### **2. Balloan Road 5-a-side pitch**

- New football goal nets have been installed today (2 April 2024)

#### **3. Castle Heather/Sir Walter Scott Drive wooded buffer zone**

- Ownership of this land still yet to be officially confirmed. Was originally thought to be Anglian Water but now thought to be Morrison Construction.
- Robert Ross raised an issue with the drainage in this area.
- Professionals were seen in the area, thought to be clearing the culvert which runs under Sir Walter Scott Drive. Unclear who takes responsibility for the culvert.
- Trees are too tall and are causing various problems.

#### **4. Potholes**

- Increasing number of potholes in the area. Some of which are formed around drain covers which could collapse.
- Potholes can be reported using a self-service form on the Highland Council website. A link to this form will be shared on the community council Facebook page.

#### **5. Road Safety**

- Parking on Mackay Road is an ongoing issue for everyone. Drivers are parking on the road as there are insufficient car parks.
- Cllr Ian Brown mentioned that residents can apply for an exemption from the Pavement, Double and Dropped Kerb parking legislation for their street if specific criteria is met. This is detailed on the Highland Council website.
- Highland Council vehicles are taking up many spaces in the Hilton Community Centre carpark and some of which are parking in front of the dropped kerbs. Cllr Jackie Hendry has suggested that they park in a different part of the carpark.
- Some hedges are overhanging onto public footpaths making it difficult and sometimes impossible to get around whilst staying on the path.

#### **6. Burnt out building on Evan Barron Road**

- Issues with ownership of the building – seems to be owned by a trust
- Potentially going to auction as there is no insurance
- No timeline for this.

#### **7. Youth Club**

- Still no active youth club at Hilton Community Centre
- Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie suggested doing a survey around the schools to see what children would be interested in.
- There can be lots of costs involved in setting up these groups and it was suggested that Highlife Highland could be involved.

#### **8. Planning applications**

- No planning applications to discuss on this occasion for within the community council area
- A short discussion took place regarding a recent planning application outwith our community council area.

### **Police Report**

Community officer has not managed to get out and about in the area as much as they would have liked to.

## Treasurers Report

Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather Community Council balance stands at £21661

## Councillors Report

### **1. Jackie Hendry**

- Castle Heather Park basketball court funding raised from remaining COVID funds. Repairs to the surface are to be made. Mark Greig is going to let us know when works will begin – this is weather dependant.
- New enclosed bustop outside Dows on Balloan Road. Installation works began this week.
- Signage for street names is not a priority for the council, they are concentrating on roads, but it is on their list.
- Jackie was at a youth cafe in Smithton recently to try and generate some ideas for a similar group in our area.

### **2. Isabelle MacKenzie**

- Issue with dropped kerbs on and around Esk Road. Highland Council has organised 4 dropped kerbs to be installed.
- Waste bins and other litter on the public footpaths restricting use of path. Highland Council waste team are looking into finding better management of the waste bins in this area. New waste bins are to be issued soon which could add to this problem.

### **3. Ian Brown**

- Blue bins from the flats in Castle Heather which were previously reported to be causing issues are going to be removed.
- New waste bin is going to be introduced soon for recycling.

## Next Meeting

Tuesday 4 June 2024 - 7pm

Hilton Community Centre