**Hilton, Milton & Castle Heather Community Council at Hilton Community Centre**

Meeting:Tuesday 7th February 2023

Present: Jess MacLennan Treasurer

Johann Roden Community Councillor – Secretary

Sarah Walker Community Councillor

Carol Weightman Community Councillor

Lorraine Cran Community Councillor

Andrew MacKintosh Highland Council

Apologies: Richard Allan Chair

Eleanor Cameron Community Councillor

Mark Greig Highland Council

Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie Highland Council

 Cllr Jackie Hendry Highland Council

Cllr Ian Brown Highland Council

Peter Wyness Community Councillor

Shirley Wyness Community Councillor

1. **Welcome and apologies**

Members were welcomed to the meeting and apologies received. Sarah Walker chaired the meeting in Richard’s absence.

1. **Previous minutes**

Previous minutes were looked over and agreed.

1. **Matters arising**

There was no update on police reports or whether or discussion on whether or not the CC felt it necessary to invite the police to a meeting.

No update yet on the work needed to prevent flooding in Castle Heather Park. Sarah said that Richard had met with an ecologist about some ideas about de-culverting the burn under the park and bringing it back above ground. There are pockets of funding available for de-culverting. Richard to update further at next meeting.

Basketball court improvement in Castle Heather Park – Johann had spoken with ward manager Mark Greig about this recently who had suggested contacting the Highland Lions for advice and had said he would continue looking into how the council could support. Andrew said there may be money available through the discretionary ward fund which the CC may be able to apply for – there is a meeting on 10th March and Andrew will investigate then.

Lock ups near Cauldeen Primary – no update yet on demolishing these yet, Cllr Hendry was going to investigate if any funding was available from the Environmental Improvement Fund.

The houses in disrepair on Evan Baron Road and Balloan Road – no update on these and unlikely to be one as it is not an environmental/public health issue.

Road improvements identified by Peter Wyness – seals were coming off repaired potholes on the junction of Johnstone Place/Balloan Road, no update on this yet.

Equipment stored at the Culduthel end of Balloan Road – Richard to update at next meeting

Traffic lights at Dows – there have been no working traffic lights for some time. Cllr MacKenzie forwarded email correspondence between Mark Greig and Lighting and Communications Manager John Allan to the CC. This explained that the council can no longer get spares for the lights. The council carried out an assessment of the junction which identified lower levels of traffic compared with 1999, likely due to the distributor road being completed. They decided therefore to change the junction to a give way coming out of Balloan Road and plan to install a new Puffin crossing between Balloan Road and Mason Road. CC members felt there were safety issues for drivers and cyclists including the issue that there is nothing to break drivers speed on Old Edinburgh Road presently.

Lighting on Morvich Way – this has been reported to the ward manager

Giving out bike lights in the community. Johann emailed the police community beat officer and the IRA and has not received a response.

Inverness Community Food Shed – Johann has been in touch with Mark Greig about this and there are some clear stipulations with this funding (the cost of living support grant) about where/how food is stored. The funding also can’t be given to individuals, an account with a supermarket would need to be set up that could be accessed. Jess gave Johann the documents to continue the application – the idea now is to concentrate on dry store food only that doesn’t need refrigerated and see if Morrisons, who do a lot of community work, can set up an account. Lorraine brought up that because the CC has fairly significant funds already, we may not be eligible to receive this funding.

The bus service was discussed – there are still ongoing issues.

Funding for a tree surgeon to cut back any dangerous trees in the area was discussed – Cllr MacKintosh said that dangerous trees would be a council obligation.

Funding for skip hire in the community was mentioned.

Other potential projects/orgs to offer funding to in the community were discussed. These included:

* Hilton Primary
* Cauldeen Primary
* The Butterfly Rooms within Cauldeen (separate ASN dept for pre-school and young primary children).
* Balloan Football Club
* senior citizens and care homes in the area
* the Churches (Hilton and Greyfriars)
* NHS adult services
* Befrienders Highland
* Connecting Carers
* Hilton Community Centre (youth club)

Sarah agreed to contact the community centre, Johann agreed to contact Connecting Carers and Jess agreed to contact Greyfriars Church. Highland Council councillors may be able to help with contacts in the NHS re adult services in Hilton. After the meeting Sarah drafted an email to send out to local organisations:

Dear ...........

I am writing on behalf of the Hilton, Milton, and Castle Heather Community Council. We have become aware of a small amount of funding that might be available. As a group operating in our community council area, your group was identified as a possible recipient.

We would be really grateful if you could answer the questions below:

Can you tell us if you are in need of any funding at the moment?

If yes, how would the funds be used?

Could you give an indication of the amount of funding needed for your suggestions above.

Many thanks,

Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather Community Council

1. **Correspondence**

The CC had received an email from a national organisation called AbilityNet. This is a charity that provides free tech support to older and disabled people, empowering people to access things such as zoom calls, online health services and online shopping. The charity apparently has volunteers in the Hilton, Milton & Castle Heather area and would like to know if they could apply for funding. There was some discussion around this and if digital inclusion for older and disabled people was something the CC wanted to support, we could alternatively contact a local Inverness organisation The Red Chair (formerly Libertie Project) who do similar work.

There was also correspondence from Mike Youatt, Vice-Chair of Lochardil and Drummond Community Council who forwarded some information from Inverness Badenoch & Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau. This was regarding CAB offering ‘energy health checks’ to anyone at risk of fuel poverty. Their energy team can help residents with things like Priority Services Registration, payment methods, fixed term deals, ‘penalty charges’ to billing problems, and liaising with energy suppliers on individual’s behalf. All individuals need to do is contact CAB on enquiries@invernesscab.casonline.org.uk or call 01463 237664 and ask for an Energy Best Deal appointment.

1. **Treasurer’s Report**

Jess informed the meeting the CC account balance was £24949.86

1. **Councillor’s Report**

Cllr Hendry sent a report to the CC (attached as separate document)

Community Councillors had a discussion with Cllr MacKintosh about green space in the area. Funding for planting fruit trees in Castle Heather was discussed. Cllr MacKintosh identified an area around Hilton Church, Tomatin Road and Druid Road as a good potential spot for planting things.

Sarah volunteered/suggested others investigate around Hilton to find other green spaces and report back. Sarah also mentioned negotiating with the council about leaving strips during their grass cutting in Castle Heather Park to encourage wild flowers and biodiversity.

Sarah suggested regular litter picks in the area, run as events. As these progress they can turn into gardening jobs – Sarah happy to lead on this.

**Date and time of next meeting**

Tuesday 4th April, 7pm at Hilton Community Centre