

## Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather Community Council meeting

6 August 2024 - 7pm

Hilton Community Centre

### 1. Welcome from Chair

Present:

Sarah Walker – Chair

Lorraine Cran – Vice Chair

Jess MacLennan – Treasurer

Liberty Lloyd – Secretary

Cllr Jackie Hendry

Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie

Cllr Ian Brown

Chris Turner, Richard Allan, Robert Ross, Anna Macleod, Layla Mills, Rob Hamilton, Shirley Wyness, Peter Wyness

We were welcomed today by our new chair, Sarah Walker who was recently elected at the AGM.

### 2. Apologies

Apologies received from Paula Lloyd

### 3. Matters Arising

- Misuse of Balloan Road 5-aside pitch by dog owners
  - Several people frequently see dog owners exercising their dogs at this park, it only seems to be in the evenings once the kids have gone home.
  - Councilor's have suggested reporting this to the dog warden and are looking to provide a contact for them. This will be uploaded to our Facebook and website once received.
- Parking of commercial vehicles and buses in Morvich Way carpark
  - The resident who raised this agenda item was not in attendance so was unable to elaborate on which carpark exactly this was.
- Castle Heather/Sir Walter Scott Drive buffer zone – trees overhanging into gardens and blocking sunlight.
  - Ownership of this strip of land is still unclear. This is going to be queried with Morrison Construction.

- Purchase of litter pickers
  - Previously litter pickers had been borrowed from The Highland Council.
  - Sarah Walker got a quote from Waterhaul for litter pickers and hoops. The total is £230.40.
  - A vote was held and everyone was happy for this to come from HMCH CC funds.
- Lighting in Castle Heather Park
  - Lorraine Cran is going to look into this with The Highland Council.
  - When this was raised in the past the bats living at the park at the time were a concern.
  - Ian Brown has advised that if it is considered a safe route to school rather than a shortcut, lighting may be considered.

#### 4. Correspondence

- Police report
  - Further speed checks on Old Edinburgh Road took place, several drivers have been warned about their speed. More high visibility speed checks in the coming weeks.
  - Several houses have been raided on drug search warrants.
  - Police Scotland are urging the community to report any drug dealing intelligence to 101, community beats team or anonymously via Crimestoppers.
  - Community beats officer has been patrolling on foot, by bike and in police vehicle.
  - Licensed premises checks have been taking place too.

#### 5. Treasurer's report

Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather Community Council balance stands at £21661.86

#### 6. Councillor's report

- Jackie Hendry
 

Youth Engagement

  - Jackie has been meeting with several organisations involved with youth in the area and are looking to build rapport with them.
  - There is a new drop in cafe for young people on a Thursday afternoon, this currently has quite low attendance but they are looking at ways on building on this.
  - The Fire and Rescue team are running courses from the Fire Station for young people to attend, at the end of the course they receive a form of certification.
  - Organisations involved in youth projects in the area are to be invited to future meetings.

#### Hilton Community Centre Car Park

- Car park spaces have had their lines repainted
- Council work vans have been moved, creating more space for other vehicles.

#### Hi-Bike vandalism

- The Hi-Bikes situated at Hilton Community Centre were vandalised so were removed and altered and have now been returned.

- Ian Brown

#### Grass Cutting

- Due to the Highland Council budget cuts, grass cutting has also been impacted.
- There is currently no strimming taking place however an end of season trim has been said to take place
- The number of staff for grass cutting in the Highlands this year has halved.

- Isabelle Mackenzie

#### Bin Collections

- There is a large number of abandoned bins left out on the street/pavement in certain areas, particularly large blocks of flats meaning that prams and wheelchairs are unable to pass.
- Lots of flats are yet to receive their new general waste bins, there was also questions raised regarding where blocks of flats should store all their bins. Isabelle has queried this with the waste department.

## 7. AOCB

- Castle Heather Park

- Robert Ross raised that council vehicles are still coming through the park and upturning the muddy grass which is then going all over the path.
- Robert Ross also raised that the Highland Council have been and replaced some of the play equipment in the children's play park near the duck pond but the metal grating needs to be cleared out and the fence still needs to be repaired.
- Sarah Walker suggested that Community Payback are contacted to clear the edges on the path.
- Sarah Walker also suggested that Fire and Rescue team are contacted with a view of asking them to clear litter out the pond
- There is no update on the deculverting – Richard is going to try to begin looking into this again but it was agreed that this is a group project.

- Basketball Court at Castle Heather Park

- Layla Mills proposed a full refurbishment of the basketball court and if this was not currently available, have lines painted on the current court. Jackie Hendry went to the Highland Council with this and has a quote for having the lines painted professionally. HMCH CC is going to contribute to this.

- Liberty Lloyd suggested contacting Sports Scotland or the National Lottery about funding for refurbishment of the court, Lorraine Cran advised that the application process is lengthy and difficult. Jackie Hendry said that she did look into this but did not get a response from them.
- Layla Mills also queried the possibility of having some more seating around the basketball court, the Highland Council have quoted benches at £700 each which will be situated between the basketball court and the duck pond.
- The concrete space outside of the Hilton Community Centre is to be raised at the next meeting.

#### 8. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2024 – 7pm at Hilton Community Centre.