Location: Hilton Community Centre

Time: 7pm

Date: Tuesday 1 October 2024

**Present**

Sarah Walker – Chair

Jess Maclennan – Treasurer

Richard Allan – Community Councillor

Councillor Ian Brown

Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

Aaron Taylor, Marion Macdonald, Rob Hamilton, Paula Lloyd

**Apologies**

Liberty Lloyd, Councillor Jackie Hendry, Chris Turner, Shirley Wyness, Peter Wyness

**Councillor’s Report**

Councillor Jackie Hendry’s report was read by Sarah Walker.

* Basketball Court lining will take place in March, weather permitting.
* Lower basketball court nets were researched but not suitable for the site since they are free standing and cannot be fixed to the existing structure.
* Pond clearance. The fire service have responded. They need to make sure that they can do this safely.
* Rubbish, fly tipping and overhanging hedges near Cauldeen Primary school. The waste team have taken away the rubbish and fly tipped items. The local housing officers have spoken to residents regarding the hedge.
* Youth work in Hilton. The current youth development officer is moving on so we are waiting to see who takes their place.

Councillor Ian Brown

* The road sweeper has been around the area.
* Amenities team are hoping to do some strimming over the autumn months

Councillor Isabelle MacKenzie

* On going complaints about bins at certain properties
* Silver Sunday is happening on Sunday 6th October 10am til 2pm in the Eastgate centre

**Community Council Updated Contact Details**

A form will be circulated around the community councillors to update their contact details

**Community Engagement:** A successful day Hilton Primary School funday. We received over 80 responses to our questions from pupils and adults. Common issues raised were parks and play equipment. Further opportunities to engage with the commnuity are on Wednesday 27th November multi agency community event at Hilton Community Centre and Christmas events at the schools. We will be considering other ways to engage with the community too.

**Donation to Hilton Primary School/Parent Council for new sound system** The community council could not make a decision due to only having 3 community councillors present. Community Councillors will be e-mailed to reach a decision that way.

**Castle Heather/Sir Walter Scott Drive buffer zone – trees overhanging into gardens and blocking sunlight –** It is not clear who owns this land

**Castle Heather Park gardening over the winter months** volunteer group have submitted winter tasks that they would like approval for. Highlife Highland Rangers have approved, as has the Highland Council’s Amenities Manager South. The group carried out another litter pick at the end of August. The group also made suggestions of planting aquatic plants to improve the biodiversity of the pond. They will also be asking the highland council if an area of grass can be left unmown from April to September to allow wildflowers to flower and seed in that patch.

**De-culverting Castle Heather Park** An update meeting was held with the highland council, SEPA and HMCH CC. Nature Restoration Funding is not available for this project at the moment. SEPA will re-evaluate in 12 months when they hope that the funding situation will have improved.

**Orchard Project** – Highland Council Green Spaces Officer and Highlife Highland Rangers have some funding and resource available to plant fruit trees. More information will follow. Volunteers from the community will be needed to plant the trees and prune them occasionally.

**Spotlight Magazine –** Dates of Community Council meetings to be advertised

**Balloan Road/parking of commercial vans** in carpark beside the playpark this has been raised with local councillors

**Updates from the community council forum**

Residents are encouraged to sign up to Neighbourhood Alert

[Highland Delivery Plan consultation](https://consult.highland.gov.uk/kse/) is open until Friday 11th October

#YourPlaceHighland is still open for consultation

**Castle Heather Park Bins** A resident has raised that more bins are needed. This depends upon the highland council being able to empty the bins. Bins in key areas would be helpful. In the meantime, it was agreed that regular litter picks have kept the park tidy.

**Area outside the Hilton Community Centre** Recent community engagement indicates that people would like to see this area tidied up. A weeding and gardening volunteer event was suggested.

**Play equipment** – this was discussed at several points. Community feedback indicates that play equipment is lacking. In some areas it has been de commissioned, there is a lack of accessible play equipment, and a lack of equipment for older ages. The play co-ordinator for the highland council will be contacted to explore possibilities for the area.

Date and Time of Next Meeting: 7pm Tuesday 3 December 2024