Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather Community Council meeting

4 February 2025 - 7pm

Hilton Community Centre

1. Welcome from Chair

Present:

Sarah Walker – Chair

Lorraine Cran – Vice Chair

Jessie Maclennan - Treasurer

Liberty Lloyd – Secretary

Cllr Jackie Hendry

Cllr Ian Brown

Cllr Michael Gregson

Peter Wyness, Shirley Wyness, Richard Allan, Chris Turner, Robbie Ross, Tracey Ross, Lloyd Wells, Aaron Taylor, Paula Lloyd

1. Apologies

Apologies received from Cllr Isabelle Mackenzie and Lindsay Fulton

1. Matters Arising

* Thank you
* Sarah thanked everyone for all their efforts with HMCH CC since the last meeting.
* Castle Heather Park – Inverness Disk Golf
* Lloyd Wells, chair of Inverness Disc Golf Club, demonstrated how disk golf is played, where they hope to install baskets at the park and how they obtained funding from national lottery. Little to no maintenance required for upkeep, all equipment is free and provided by the club.
* The Highland Council plan to plant trees at Castle Heather Park, Sarah is going to check if this will have an impact on the disc golf.
* Play Parks – survey for approval – set timeline
* A draft survey was created and distributed by Sarah to gather views on our community council area, specifically parks. Community Council members agreed they were happy with the draft to be published.
* No changes to be made to survey, can go live by end of the week. Survey to be promoted in a range of different ways. Response deadline to be confirmed.
* Duck Pond Group – update and funding ask
* A number of members of the community met at Castle Heather Park duck pond with John Orr, HLH ranger. The area around the duck pond was tidied. They created a wild hedge using dead wood.
* Litter pick to be arranged for the end of February or the beginning of March.
* The group asked for funding from HMCH CC. They asked for £200 to buy lesser reedmace and water mint for the pond. The majority voted to grant the funding.
* Castle Heather Park – HLH tree planting
* Highland Council are looking to plant 25 trees around the park. Some of these include a variety of fruit trees. Specific planting locations are to be confirmed, Sarah is going to advise that some of the areas they are looking at can be quite boggy.
* Grass cutting
* Any THC-owned grassy areas that were missed last season should be raised with The Highland Council Amenities Dept so they can add them as a priority at the start of this season. Their email is Amenity.Services@highland.gov.uk
* Speed indication devices
* We received an email from TWM Traffic Control Systems LTD to gauge interest in Speed Indication Devices. Nobody thought this would benefit our community.
* Energy Advice presentation CAB
* CAB are looking to come back next year. There was not a large attendance so they are going to try a different location and time of day.
* Community Engagement
* HMCH CC attended the Cauldeen Primary Christmas Fair – Draft survey questions asked about community and parks. Mostly positive responses.
* Cauldeen School – Logo Competition
* Sarah and Aaron launched a logo competition for HMCH CC. Cauldeen Primary School are on board. Attempts were made to contact Hilton Primary School but we did not receive a response.
* Cauldeen Primary School PTA
* HMCH CC attended the recent Parent Council. Next meeting is in March. They will be hosting a ‘Spring Tea’ and ‘Cauldeen Carnival’ which HMCH CC has been invited to.
* Inverness Foodstuffs
* Santa attended a session prior to Christmas and gave out presents to everyone along with a bag of groceries.

1. Correspondence

* No Police report has been received.

1. Treasurer’s report

* Hilton, Milton and Castle Heather Community Council balance stands at £18270.79

1. Councillor’s reports

* **Jackie Hendry**
* Skate and Create sessions ran by Inverness Wheeled Sports Club. From 1 February to 31 March there will be Indoor skateboarding and arts activities in Hilton Community Centre. All skateboarding sessions are free of charge with equipment provided. Sessions lead by GB Certified Coaches. All ages welcome. Sessions will be held in the space underneath the community centre.
* Inverness Darkrooms and Inverness Open Arts will be holding sessions at the same time on some days – these will be inside Hilton Community Centre.
  + Thursdays 6pm-8pm - Indoor skateboarding & Inverness Darkrooms
  + Fridays 6pm-8pm – Indoor skateboarding
  + Saturdays 11am-1pm – Indoor skateboarding, Inverness Open Arts & Inverness Darkrooms
* Inverness UHI will be involved in coordinating these sessions, particularly the arts side.
* Funding was received for the sessions from Children and Young Persons Mental Health and Well-being funding via Highland Council.
* It is still unclear who takes responsibility for the footpath along the side of Balloan Park shops. An email was sent to the chair of the Castle Heather residents group but no response was received.
* Inverness Foodstuff sessions are still well attended, Jackie Hendry and Cllr Kate MacLean attended on 20 December as elves to help out at the Christmas session.
* **Ian Brown**
* Shoplifting is an issue, not just in HMCH CC area. Anti-social behaviour still an issue, not just in HMCH CC area. There seems to be no repercussions.
* Rent increase of 8%, this was the lowest option they were given.
* Inverness Castle to open by end of August, community councils to be invited prior to opening to see the renovations.
* **Michael Gregson**
* Road speeding still being monitored by Police Scotland.
* **Isabelle Mackenzie** (via email)
* Several reports of missed bin collections over the Christmas period.
* Several reports of gritting issues over the snowy weather period.
* A parent from Hilton Primary School was in touch with Isabelle as the fire alarm keeps being set off by pupils. This is causing distress for some pupils. Isabelle followed this up with the Head Teacher via their line manager.
  + Since the meeting Isabelle has advised that covers for the alarms have been ordered to try and prevent this. The Head Teacher has spoken with the parent of a distressed pupil to put plans in place in the event it does happen again.
* Residents on Balloan Road contacted regarding a grassy area owned by THC which was missed during grass cutting season. Isabelle raised this with Amenities at THC and they have confirmed it is on their list to do at the start of the next round of grass cutting.
* Care Home Career Event which was held at Hilton Community Centre by Scottish Care Group. This was well attended.

1. AOCB

* Sarah looking to make a sub-group for attending and organising Community Events - Aaron and Shirley volunteered.
* Robert raised an issue with the fence around the children's play-area at Castle Heather Park. The fence is broken and could allow dogs in. Jackie Hendry is going to look into this.
* Query was raised regarding funding that was mentioned for de-culverting in the past for Castle Heather Park. Richard was looking into this at the time. Nothing can be done about this at present but may be returned to in the future.
* There was an issue with the bins at Esk Road as the new bin system was initiated before they received their new bins but this was resolved as a bin lorry came round and emptied them all into general waste.
* Commnunity Council Scheme review has been sent to all community councils to review and comment. Nothing in the review impacts HMCH CC.
* Local Development Plans are looking for feedback. Details can be located here: [www.highland.gov.uk/hldp](http://www.highland.gov.uk/hldp)
* Reminder issued by Sarah that we are all volunteers and we all have other commitents.
* Garages at Cauldeen Primary are still a concern. It is thought that asbestos is in the structure.
* 46 Evan Barron Road was raised after the recent fire. It is thought that it will be up for auction soon
  + Confirmed following the meeting that the house was sold at auction.

1. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 1 April 2025 – 7pm at Hilton Community Centre.