

Minutes of Crown & City Centre Community Council
Tuesday 10th December 2024 at 7pm
Fraser Park Bowling Club

Meeting of Crown & City Centre Community Council		
Abbreviations: Crown & City Centre Community Council (CC); Highland Council (HC)		
1.	Welcome	<p>Members present: Fiona MacBeath (FM), Pat Hayden (PH), Colin Mackenzie (CM), Becky Fretwell (BF), Donald MacKenzie (DM)</p> <p>In attendance: Cllr Ian Brown (IB), Cllr Michael Cameron (MC), Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie (IM), Cllr Michael Gregson, Bet MacAllister (BM) and two members of the public.</p>
2.	Apologies	Julia Dall, Val Falconer, Mike Smith, Cllr David Gregg and Francis Williams
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	Meeting on 9 th October 2024: proposed as an accurate minute by DM, seconded by PH.
4.	Matters arising	
4a.	Parks	<p>Walker Park CCTV update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Graham Eden has passed to the Scout Board about putting sign on the wall facing Kingsmills Road and the park. They are supportive in principle but want assurance on size and maintenance. <p>Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No further updates <p>Fraser Park</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland Cricket Club might require extended use next year as Northern Meeting Park refurb will be delayed.
4b.	Crown Primary School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr MC has spoken with Inverness Taxis and driver will no longer park on the pavement outside the school, no further action required.
4c.	Highland Council updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public drop-in at the Town House on 26/11 regarding Inverness StoryMap. FM reported it was good in theory but very busy and difficult to speak with the stalls. A bigger space or less stalls may have helped. PH also attended. Donald spoke with Network Rail and discussed moving the station East, which is part of their 30 year plan. However, it was noted that it is a priority at national level. There was discussion that the Castle Experience may drive the need for better transport connections. Cllr IM suggested HITRANS should also be involved in the conversation but recognised it was difficult to decarbonise as the line couldn't be electrified. Bught Park build is going well although there have been issues with the heating as had to switch from ground source to air source heat pumps. Northern Meeting Park renovations are taking longer than expected. FM has written to Shane Manning about mitigation for the increased traffic from the Castle Experience. Awaiting answer as SM is off work. FM also asked Mark Greig, who advised we should have mentioned in original consultation. FM take follow-up.
4d.	Parking permits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr MC chased and advised that Mark Greig also advised he could add to the next Ward Forum meeting agenda. FM wrote to Philip Barron and advised him there were mistakes in the information being given out with business permits. These have since been amended. FM and BF to attend meeting with Highland Council – Cllr IM to arrange for the New Year.

4e.	Training on short term lets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FM was in touch about Short-term lets licensing and planning. There has only been one successful objection but that was in Badenoch & Speyside. Highland Council is to reassess the STL issue next year and will investigate if any other areas should become control areas. Brief discussion about the visitor levy and impact on occupancy rate in Inverness. Doubt was cast on the low levels claimed in Inverness. Cllr MC advised to comment on the current visitor levy consultation.
4f.	Inverness Prison	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> BF gave an overview of discussion with DTAS and HIE. Next steps will include community consultation before preparing a Stage 1 funding application to the Scottish Land Fund for feasibility studies. Viewhill House was also discussed, including the recent drone survey completed by Heritage Trust, as it, along with the Masonic lodge has been viewed as a joint redevelopment opportunity along with the prison.
4g.	Highland Community Council Scheme Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highland Community Council scheme review 2024/2025 survey: FM has contacted Millburn Academy and expects student delegates to attend in the New Year.
4h.	Local charge point(s) for electric cars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cllr IB advised HC are looking into options and one point is planned for Raining Stairs car park.
5.	Correspondence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Has been emailed to the group regularly.
6.	Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damfield Road – objection was put in and awaiting Council’s decision.
7.	Finance	Balance is £7,230.77 after annual grant was received, £25 cost for the room hire.
8.	AOCCB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed modifications to Ness Weir – no update Scottish Government Consultation on Energy Infrastructure Consenting Winter Resilience Application Form – discussed issues around getting grit bins refilled. May apply to the Community Council for additional grit bins should they not be provided by the council. Proposal of Application Notice - Former Longman Landfill Site – will discuss next meeting when Francis is at meeting. DM mentioned turning Longman into greenspace with walking and cycle paths. It was also discussed that the waste plant is no longer possible. Velocity – Discussion about the charity being wound up. The CCCCC voiced their sadness at the closing. Cllr IM is dealing with the bins and an abandoned van, which has caused issues for the local residents. There was also a brief discussion about the Common Good Fund award to Velocity. MC to check if the amount was transferred to Velocity. Cllr IM advised Shopmobility will not be getting funding from NHS Highland next year and it may jeopardise their whole service. Cllr IM will work with Shopmobility to try to resolve. CM sought support to address the state of the Curling Rink and pavilion at Kingsmills, which is a Victorian asset. The Community Council agreed they are supportive. Cllr IB will also investigate. BM questioned the outstanding work on Academy Street. Cllr MG advised some road painting had been completed. Old High is back on the market, all the artifacts have either been returned to the Church of Scotland or the Archive Centre. To be added to the next Agenda.
9.	Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting: Tuesday 11th February , 7pm, Fraser Park Bowling Club.