

**Minutes of Crown & City Centre Community Council**  
**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 7pm**  
**Fraser Park Bowling Club**

<b>Meeting of Crown &amp; City Centre Community Council</b>		
Abbreviations: Crown & City Centre Community Council (CC); Highland Council (HC)		
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>	<p><b>Members present:</b> Fiona MacBeath (FM), Julia Dall (JD), Pat Hayden (PH), Val Falconer (VF), Colin Mackenzie (CM), Francis Williams (FW), Becky Fretwell (BF), Donald MacKenzie (DM) (virtually via Teams)</p> <p><b>In attendance:</b> Cllr Ian Brown (IB), Cllr Michael Cameron (MC), Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie (IM) (virtually via Teams), four representatives from Community Sauna Highland CIC, six members of the public</p>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Apologies</b>	Mike Smith (MS)
	<b>Guest presentation</b>	<p><b>Community Sauna Highland CIC</b>  Pippa, Fergus, Max and Fiina</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overview of proposed project from the CIC representatives</li> <li>In the Q&amp;A that followed they answered queries, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opening hours – phased approach will be taken, some early mornings, some late evenings. It will be open all year and all seasons.</li> <li>Sessions will likely be for 2 hours and could accommodate 20 or so people maximum, would be pre-booked online.</li> <li>Security will be taken seriously. It's hoped that the sauna will have a positive effect on youth engagement with the park and reduce anti-social behaviour. No cash will be kept on the premises.</li> <li>Sauna will run with an electric sauna stove – controllable and safe. Lighting will be subtle and the design will be minimalist.</li> <li>Aim will be to have a 'sauna host' on site full time eventually with a robust lone workers policy.</li> <li>Likely 6+ months before up and running.</li> <li>Regarding parking, they will encourage active travel and using parking spaces just across the bridge.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b>	Meeting on 20 <sup>th</sup> August 2024: proposed as an accurate minute by CM, seconded by PH.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Matters arising</b>	
<b>4a.</b>	<b>Parks</b>	<p><b>Walker Park</b>  CCTV update:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cllr IB checked with HC – April it was faulty then reset, at that time was working and recording. Should all be working. Can we put a sign up? Cllr IB said we don't need permission to do this. Perhaps with a telephone number to report issues too. Noted that we need a time/date for them to check the CCTV. <b>FM</b> will investigate further.</li> </ul> <p>Equipment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No movement on BMX track yet, ongoing.</li> <li>New swing has been fitted where the broken one was.</li> <li>Noted that there is new graffiti on the toddler area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Fraser Park</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Multi-use games area: no developments. Funding could be an issue. Noted that another area has a new multi-use games area, possibly funded by Sports Scotland. Still on radar.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inverness Thistle has approached FM and Councillors about renting the park and putting permanent structures in place. Likely that this will not progress.</li> </ul>
<b>4b.</b>	<b>Crown Primary School</b>	FM and VF visited the school to have a photo taken with the children after our recent donation – they received a very warm welcome.
<b>4c.</b>	<b>Highland Council updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discussion around bollards on Academy St.</li> <li>Public drop-in at the Town House on 26/11, 2pm-7pm regarding Inverness StoryMap.</li> <li>Bught Park build is going well, should be complete by the end of 2024.</li> <li>Northern Meeting Park renovations are taking longer than expected but reported that they hope to complete it by March 2025.</li> <li>Inverness Castle Experience renovation should be complete on time. CC are still concerned about the parking arrangements for the Castle Experience. Concerns have been expressed about the Raining Stairs car park being used, as there are already many parking pressures in Crown/Hill. There will only be disabled parking bays within the grounds. It's reported that the plans include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking bays on Castle Street</li> <li>A park and ride from Torvean</li> <li>Clear signage. Noted by members that it would also be great if signage can direct towards Eastgate or Rose Street car parks to drive footfall past local businesses.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4d.</b>	<b>Parking permits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parking permits for short-term lets and abuse of visitor passes: FM wrote to Philip Barron regarding regulations for business parking. Businesses are allowed one permit for a business visitor and two business parking permits. The issue appears to be the lack of enforcement of the rules. <b>FM</b> will ask to add it to the Community Council Forum as suggested by Cllr IB. <b>Cllr MC</b> will ask if it can be enforced a bit more rigorously.</li> <li>Noted by the Cllrs that HC is putting in a process so that more people will have visibility of parking issues within the HC.</li> </ul>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Correspondence</b>	None.
<b>6.</b>	<b>Planning</b>	Southside Place: no objections noted from community.
<b>7.</b>	<b>Finance</b>	Balance at last meeting was £6,985.83, now £6,160.83. Spent £800 at Crown school, and £25 for hire of the room. VF hasn't received an up-to-date statement yet but HC recently advised that the annual grant was on the way.
<b>8.</b>	<b>AOCCB</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Old Edinburgh Court: the members of the public in attendance reported their dismay at the number of Airbnbs in the Old Edinburgh Court building. It's believed that 8/24 flats are short-term lets. A new application for one has come in. Guidance from members and Cllrs was to lodge a response with tangible material objections, i.e. noise, safety, fire safety, parking requirements. Cllr IM suggests that we should update on short-term lets in future, possibly get some training. <b>FM</b> will connect with <b>Cllr IM</b> for details.</li> <li>Plans for Inverness prison: reviewed. Many doubts for viability of project like this, mainly parking and schooling. Noted that this space would be ideally located for a community space or garden. <b>FM</b> to email member in attendance about how we can be involved in early planning for this.</li> <li>Highland Community Council scheme review 2024/2025 survey: decided that we will send one version around everyone for comment and submission. Regarding youth members, noted that two young people</li> </ul>

		<p>feels proportionate. <b>FM</b> to email Millburn Academy about this, noted that pupils would need to be resident within the area. A couple of other CCs have involved young people by getting them to run social media for them.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Highland Council school catchment area: BF reports that this has been resolved. Cllrs DG and IM assisted. It was a boundary mistake that had been recorded.</li> <li>• Charge points for electric cars: BF asks if any thought been given yet to e-charge points (perhaps at Raining Stairs) for resident access only (certain hours only?) Difficult to charge your electric car when you have on-street parking. Doesn't have to be rapid charging, trickle charging is fine. <b>Cllr IB</b> will speak to Shane and can be put in going forwards.</li> <li>• Taxi driver: this driver is still idling on the green zone despite warnings. <b>Cllr MC</b> will take it to Inverness Taxis and report back.</li> </ul>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Date of Next Meeting</b>	Next meeting (to be confirmed): Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> December, 7pm, Fraser Park Bowling Club.