

INSHES & MILTON OF LEYS COMMUNITY COUNCIL

Inshes & Milton of Leys Minutes of Meeting

MONDAY 8 February 2021 at 7pm by Zoom

PRESENT: COMMUNITY COUNCILLORS – Norman Cordiner, David Finlayson, Jean-Paul Kowaliski, Elizabeth Jane MacKinnon, John Macrae and Bob Roberts

COUNCILLORS:

A warm welcome to all was given by the Chair.

APOLOGIES: Rod Andean, Christine Cordiner, Cllr Carolyn Caddick, Cllr Ken Gowans & Gordon Whittet

Community Policeman's Report

As circulated to members and read aloud on Zoom.

Minutes of Last Meeting – John Macrae

Seconded – David Finlayson

Matters Arising

- **School Capacity** – Nothing further to add but the Community Council will continue to monitor the situation.
- **Inshes Park** - The Community Council Secretary confirmed that she was on the board of the Association and added that a member of the public had emailed her regarding the icy conditions of the park and asked who was responsible for gritting the area. It was suggested that the Secretary contact the Inshes Park Association and the Highland Council as they are responsible for the maintenance of the park.

Chair Report

- **Fairways Core Paths** – It was discussed that many of the waymark posts indicating the core paths on the former Fairways golf course have been identified but that work needs to be done to ascertain the walks and to speak to the owners of the land to clarify this issue. All the marker posts require some maintenance by way of undergrowth clearance, painting and restoration of coloured stripes indicating walks. It was highlighted by a member of the Community Council that the Highland Council have a report that confirms the core paths and who is responsible for the maintenance of the paths. It was suggested that the walks have possibly been altered due to the golf course changing and the moving of the tees.

It was further noted that there are sufficient housing developments in other areas of Inverness and thus, this area should be left as a green wedge. For those living beside the

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golf course it was very noticeable that these paths continue to be used frequently by many people especially during COVID restrictions. A member of the public present at the meeting concurred that this area of green space has been a tremendous benefit to walkers from the Castle Heather area. She added that the area would create a feeling of open space for tourists visiting Inverness and generate tourism.

As a result from the discussion, it was agreed that the Fairways core paths are an invaluable use of green space for the Inshes and Milton of Leys area and should therefore remain a Community Council issue to be maintained and if possible, connected to Milton of Leys as a matter of importance to the residents in our community.

Therefore, in order to represent the views of Inshes and Milton of Leys residents and to try to ensure the area maintains a green space the Community Council should contact the Highland Council to have a planning officer come to the next meeting to discuss and hear the views regarding this. The Secretary will arrange this.

- **Milton of Leys open space** – The Chair informed the Community Council that he had sent a letter to Mr Fraser, Chief Executive of Tulloch Homes Ltd, but had not received any acknowledgment. The Chair has consequently sent another letter, recorded delivery and is awaiting a response. This letter was circulated to members along with the history of Milton of Leys open spaces which was written by Gary Campbell who went on to discuss the issue.

Following this report, it was unanimously agreed that the ongoing issue in Milton of Leys lies with the responsibility of the Highland Council and that something must be done to resolve the arduous and outstanding issue. A member of the public that was present at the meeting suggested that we write a letter to the Planning Department within the Highland Council asking why the Phase 8 development in Milton of Leys has never been maintained and what they planned to do in the future. He spoke on behalf of the residents of Milton of Leys stating that it was unfair that some paid for the upkeep of the area, even though they are not legally obliged to do whilst others did not.

It was strongly felt throughout the discussion that the Highland Council are not enforcing the planning conditions and that they should reinstate the land and for the residents to take ownership of the land. Gary Campbell thanked the Community Council on behalf of the residents of Milton and Leys for taking action on this matter and that the ongoing work is being appreciated.

Secretary Report

The Secretary highlighted the issue of ward changes in the area. However, due to no councillors being present, clarification on the matter could not be made. It was discussed that the proposal had been out for discussion but ended on the 26th January 2021. It was noted that the outcome would not affect the Community Council until council elections occurred. This issue will continue to be monitored.

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Planning Report

The following planning issues were discussed:

- **Wester Inshes** - Several objections have been made by local residents regarding this planning application. It was noted that an objection has been submitted on behalf of the community council requesting an extension to the consultation period pending the next community council meeting. There has been no response from planning.
- **The Inner Moray Firth Development Plan (IMFDP)** is now out for public consultation. As indicated in the December meeting, the important points for Inshes & Milton of Leys residents (and indeed the wider city) are noted in. 5.5.vii – Identifying and safeguarding valued green space. 5.5.vii – Placemaking audit to raise design standards and create better neighbourhoods 5.24 - “Development on currently allocated greenspace at Fairway’s Golf Course is not supported by the Main Issues Report.” – and from the full paper the following quote is important – “Safeguard the character and setting of the City to the south by limiting further expansion upslope”.

Treasurer Report

The balance currently stands at £3567.10 pending the withdrawal of £28.78 to cover two month’s Zoom subscriptions.

The Treasurer stressed that he had emailed the Highland Council finance director over two months ago to enquire about the absence of payment of the Inshes & Milton of Leys Community Council allowance for 2020 and advice as to what sum should be transferred to the Slackbuie Community Council. He has had neither an acknowledgement nor a reply

The matter of indemnity insurance remains outstanding.

Greenbelt update

See discussion under Chair section, Milton of Leys open spaces.

Residents Association

Kim Thain from the Balvonie Residents Association informed the Community Council of the background of the BPA and their own news. At a recent BPA meeting, Pablo Mascarenhas from the Highland Council attended their meeting and discussed the community asset transfer process. Following this, it was decided that a new survey be designed and addressed to the members of the local community to collect feedback and ideas for the future park. Following the meeting, members have also contacted Felix Spittal from the Community Ownership Support Service who has offered assistance.

She also mentioned the issue of funding and funding initiatives and the importance of any future development needing to be financially and environmentally sustainable for the long term. Anyone

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from the Milton of Leys area was invited to join the meetings and take part in the BPA. She concluded by asking that anyone responding to the Inner Moray Firth Local Development Plan to please consider adding support for the Braes of Balvonie land to be retained for community use.

AOCB

It was agreed to schedule the next formal meeting via Zoom for Monday 8 March, 7 p.m.