

**THE HIGHLAND COUNCIL**  
**ALNESS ACADEMY REPLACEMENT - STAKEHOLDER GROUP**

**Minute of Meeting No. 8**  
**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2017, 6.30PM**  
**Heritage Centre, Alness**

<b>Attendees:</b>	<p><b><u>Highland Council - Members</u></b>  <u>Chair:</u> Maxine Smith</p> <p><b><u>Highland Council - Officials</u></b>  Brian Porter, Head of Resources  Gavin Allday, Project Co-ordinator  Philip Shannon, Design Consultancy Manager  Shona MacRae, Facilities Management Service  Wendy Cameron, Cleaning Service</p> <p><b><u>School Representatives</u></b>  Laura Gordon, Head Teacher Alness Academy  Robert MacKay, Coulhill Parent Council  Mandy Robertson, Alness Academy Parent Council  Morag Wright, Coulhill Primary  Kelly Dallas, Bridgend Parent Council  Coreen MacRae, Alness Academy Parent Council  Darren Munro, Alness Parent Council  Katie Christie, Bridgend Parent Council</p> <p><b><u>High Life Highland</u></b>  Andy MacLeod</p> <p><b><u>JM Architects</u></b>  Stewart Davie</p> <p><b><u>Kier Group</u></b>  Sean O'Callaghan</p> <p><b><u>WSPB</u></b>  Craig Paton</p> <p><b><u>Community Representatives</u></b>  Brian Ross, Alness United  Mary MacDonald, Alness Community Council  Tommy Reagan, Alness Utd Football Club</p>	<p><b>MS</b></p> <p><b>BP</b>  <b>GA</b>  <b>PS</b>  <b>SMac</b>  <b>WC</b></p> <p><b>LG</b>  <b>RMacK</b>  <b>MR</b>  <b>MW</b>  <b>KD</b>  <b>CMacR</b>  <b>DM</b>  <b>KC</b></p> <p><b>AMacL</b></p> <p><b>SD</b></p> <p><b>SOC</b></p> <p><b>CP</b></p> <p><b>BR</b>  <b>MMacD</b>  <b>TR</b></p>
-------------------	---	---

<b>Apologies:</b>	Pauline Munro Carolyn Wilson Fiona Hampton Stewart Small Evelyn Miller Fiona MacLean Mark Loynd Kathy Sutherland Willma MacPherson Robert Campbell Susannah Irvine Ewan Scott Paul Oparka Mandy Gill	
<b>Minute:</b>	Gavin Allday	
<b>ITEM</b>	<b>DISCUSSION/COMMENT</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>APPOINT A CHAIR</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	<b>MS</b> chaired the meeting.	<b>Note</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>MS</b> welcomed everyone to the meeting.	<b>Note</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>DESIGN PRESENTATION BY STEWART DAVIE OF JM ARCHITECTS</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>SD</b> used printed hard copies and projected images of the current designs to highlight the main features proposed for the new school:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floorplans nearing completion and incorporate previous comments and feedback</li> <li>• Maximised glazing to take in views with large windows to Learning Plazas, Art room etc.</li> <li>• Exterior materials that reflect rural/rustic surroundings (example materials passed around room). Base course of textured brick which appears hand-made and is featured full height on certain elevations. Bricks appear used and would be randomly mixed into each elevation. Opinions of the sample bricks varied around the room. Sharper panels in-between base and roof, with different</li> </ul>	<b>Note</b>

	<p>colours, tones and finishes available. Robust corrugated metal sheets proposed for games halls, providing variation in tone above standard 1 metre base brickwork. Translucent panels used on some elevations between brickwork and corrugated panels to allow light in to and out of games halls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although not finalised, the current roof pitch of 5 degrees was discussed briefly. Roofing sheets would be full size with no joint from top to bottom of roof. Caol PS has a similar 5 degree roof pitch with no issues. Roof would typically carry a 20 year guarantee.</li> </ul>	
3.2	<p><b>SD</b> responded to a number of questions and comments during the meeting. His responses are summarised below :</p> <p><b>Solar Panels</b> – Energy appraisal underway. Good thermal properties in the building reduce the expected energy usage. There is an ongoing maintenance costs to solar panels to consider</p> <p><b>Wind turbines</b> – Not being considered in schools currently</p> <p><b>Use of bright colours</b> – <b>LG</b> pointed out that the pupils had shown a preference towards bright colours. Options were discussed including coloured window frames and washing exteriors with coloured lighting. <b>SD</b> emphasised that pupils feedback had been considered, but keeping the exterior more neutral would help it fit rural surroundings. Bright colours could be widely used internally and updated as required. Coloured recesses in Portree Hihg School mentioned as another option</p> <p><b>Costs of materials</b> – <b>SD</b> couldn't provide costs but assured that materials had been chosen for balance of robustness and value</p> <p><b>Balconies</b> – Wall height 1100mm where overlooking lower floors, similar to other recent schools</p> <p><b>Roof Lights</b> – <b>SD</b> was asked how roof lights could be kept clean. Roof light pitch is higher than rest of roof at 15 degrees. <b>SMac</b> and <b>WC</b> gave an introduction to Clearshield as a possible consideration.</p> <p><b>Ventilation</b> – Fully manual ventilation within school</p> <p><b>Solar Gain Control</b> – Solar controlled glass used on south facing elevations. Blinds used on inside of windows. Overhanging roof to main dining/assembly area</p> <p><b>External Furniture</b> – <b>SD</b> confirmed that new external furniture would be included</p> <p><b>Bus turning Circle</b> – Discussed briefly. Current turning circle will remain, although resurfaced and tidied as it is suitable for a school of that size. Saves costs of creating new foundation if turning circle moved. Bays not preferred option due to need to reverse vehicles. Cars will not be permitted to use bus turning circle and school will have to police until parents are aware of</p>	Note

	<p>correct drop-off process</p> <p><b>Car Park</b> – SD asked if car park could be one way. <b>SD</b> believed it was possible and give the idea consideration</p> <p><b>Security</b> – All doors can be opened at start and end of day and lunchtimes to help manage high traffic volumes. Pupil entrances can be locked down during lesson times. Visitor entrance also secured with holding area and buzzer system.</p>	
3.3	<p><b><u>Parent Parking Issues</u></b></p> <p>A comment was made that the road towards the swimming pool is currently filled with cars as parent drop/collect children. LG and Parent Council to investigate.</p>	<b>LG / Parent Council</b>
3.4	<p><b><u>Planning</u></b></p> <p>Stakeholders were reminded that the planning process will provide an additional opportunity to review plans and provide feedback. <b>PS</b> stated that PAN feedback would be collated and included as part of the planning application, but that comments were generally quite positive</p>	<b>Note</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>PROJECT UPDATE</b>	
4.1	<p><b>BP</b> gave a brief Project update :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nearing Stage 1 completion. Greater clarity on costs. Now moving towards planning process</li> <li>• Timescales – Enabling pitch available Spring 2018. Main site intended to start in May 2018. Very clear completion deadline from Scottish Government of March 2020</li> <li>• Now considering other works that could be brought forward to ease pressure on meeting deadline</li> <li>• Funding of pool outside school hours was discussed. <b>BP</b> stated that money would be included in school budget to cover community facilities costs and would be constantly reviewed. HLH is subsidised, so not expected to be able to cover the costs themselves, but may make a contribution if appropriate</li> </ul>	<b>Note</b>
4.2	<p><b><u>Lockers</u></b></p> <p><b>LG</b> gave the results of the locker survey, with 65% being in favour of lockers. Priority should be given to S4, S5 and S6 pupils, although it was noted that younger pupils may struggle with heavy bags.</p> <p><b>SD</b> confirmed that the design could accommodate 600 lockers including the HLH areas, with 372 possible within school</p>	<b>Note</b>

	building. Locker locations kept to less populated spaces where possible. Lockers are stacked three high.	
<b>5</b>	<b>AOB</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	The project team were asked if sufficient space could be retained behind the current HLH facility to accommodate a marquee for an event in June 2018	<b>Note</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	A date and time for the next meeting was not finalised, but will be communicated in due course.	<b>Note</b>