

The Highland Council

Culloden Academy Stakeholder Group

Minutes of Meeting No.2

Wednesday 24th March 2021 at 7pm

Attendees	Initials
Highland Councillors	
Councillor Trish Robertson - Chair	TR
Councillor Glynis Campbell-Sinclair	GCS
Councillor Andrew Jarvie	AJ
Councillor Duncan MacPherson	DM
Councillor Ken Gowans	KG
Parent Council Representatives	
Jeni Alexander (Chair)	JA
Allyson Hill	AH
Graham Hopper	GH
Community Representatives	
Catherine Bunn, Culloden Community Council	CB
Jason Hasson, Highland Parent Council Partnership	JH
Kevin Reid, Ardersier and Petty Planning Partnership	KR
Gillian Spalding, Balloch Community Council	GS
Culloden Academy	
Dr James Vance, Head Teacher	JV
Alan Robertson, Principal Teacher	AR
Highland Council Officials	
Finlay MacDonald, Head of Property and Facilities Mgmt.	FM
Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager	FS
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
Philip Shannon, Consultancy Manager	PS
Sarah Fraser, Principal Architect	SF
Alex Dickson, Lead Architect	AD
Jane Day, Estates Officer	JD
Laura Burns, Project Manager	LB
High Life Highland Officials	RH
Richard Hanna, Facility Manager	
Apologies:	
Councillor Carolyn Caddick	
Odette Gordon, Culloden Academy	
Nikki Mackenzie, Smithton Community Council	
Craig Steedman, HLH	
Emma Thompson, HLH	
Minute:	
Jane Day	

Item	Discussion/Comment	Action
1.0	Introduction	
1.1	RC welcomed everyone to the meeting.	
2.0	Election Of Chair	
2.1	JA was nominated by TR and seconded by GCS to chair this meeting and all future meetings. A substitute would be nominated in advance if JA was unable to attend.	
3.0	Minutes Of Previous Meeting	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed.	
4.0	Updated Terms Of Reference	
4.1	The Terms of Reference were reviewed and agreed with some minor amendments.	
5.0	Project Update	
5.1	RC shared a presentation. The following are the subsequent questions and answers.	
5.2	AH: Will the new modular units be the same as the ones at Duncan Forbes?	
	RC: The units at Duncan Forbes are bespoke nursery layouts.	
	The ones at Culloden will generally be standard 5-bay units,	
	comprising 2 bays for each classroom and a central bay for	
	toilets, cleaner's cupboard and stores.	
5.3	JA: Is the project still financially okay?	
	RC: The funding is secure in the capital programme and there is	
	ongoing discussion with senior management about a future	
	review of the programme for future years. We are also reviewing	
	Developer Contributions due over the coming years.	
5.4	GCS: How are we going to manage children crossing the road	
	with all the new developments that are happening?	
	RC: We have appointed Engineers and other consultants to	
	advise on this and other related matters through the design and	
	planning process.	
5.5	GCS: There were approximately £100K of developer	
	contributions for Woodside of Culloden that were earmarked for	
	Culloden Academy, is this still available?	
	RC: There is a working group for developer contributions that	
	meets regularly, and this will be raised at the next meeting.	
	CB: The press article for the new synthetic playing field at UHI	
	identified that some developer contributions had been allocated	
	to that project.	
	KG: Shared a link to the article which stated that the UHI project	
	has a budget of £1M with funding from Sportscotland, Inverness	
	College UHI's Foundation, Highland Council developer	
	contributions and the Town Centre Regeneration Fund.	
	GCS: Confirmed KG statement.	
	RC: Will confirm the position.	
5.6	GH: What are the key risks and opportunities for the project, and	
	will these be presented at future meetings? Also, what protection	
	measures will be in place during the construction phase?	

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	RC: A Risk Register will be produced identifying all risks and this will be included in the Stage 1 Report. The project team and CDM advisor will closely monitor the works ensuring all necessary procedures are in place and are followed. Morrison will also have their own procedures and policies.	
6.0	Design Overview	
6.1	SF shared a presentation. The following are the subsequent questions and answers.	
6.2	<p>GCS: Appreciated the building needs to be energy efficient but would like to see pupils at the school have an input into the design of the build. Capacity of the school is a concern with all the new housing schemes. Could the Archaeology Report be shared with the group when available?</p> <p>KG: The Conservation Area has been deleted and this can be found on the Highland Council website.</p> <p>KG would like to see something more innovative. Also, would like the building to fit in with the landscape and environment.</p> <p>SF: This project is at a very early design stage. The team will take comments on board, but the buildings are just footprints at this stage. The building will be designed to meet the high energy efficiency targets set for all new school builds which will impact on the form of the buildings.</p> <p>RC: We work closely with colleagues in Planning on the school roll forecasting process. The methodology has been improved in recent years and this has resulted in more accurate projections.</p>	
6.3	<p>TR: Concerned about timescales and finances, would like to see more emphasis on the Phase 1 project.</p> <p>RC: A masterplan has to be produced to look at the overall campus. If a new secondary school is built at East Inverness, then this would affect what we eventually do at Culloden Academy in the long term.</p>	
6.4	<p>DM: Why have we decided to demolish the two houses?</p> <p>RC: The houses must be demolished to accommodate two of the modular units within the site.</p>	
6.5	<p>GS: Can the third building be at the front, with car parking at the rear of the school? Would be nice for more landscaped, green spaces at the front of the school. What impact does the building have on the main road?</p> <p>CB: What is the long-term vision for the building's green spaces, cycle routes and pedestrian routes? These should encourage walking and cycling to school. Will the site be softened and shaped with landscaping?</p> <p>SF: Discussions are ongoing within the team and with colleagues. This is a work in progress as we are still at an early design stage.</p>	
6.6	AH: Would like to see more of the design. Culloden Academy is 40 years old and still looks modern. Why is the old site being used for further car parking and playing fields?	

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	RC: A life expectancy of a new school building is at least 60 years. If we refurbished the existing building, then we would not achieve a further 60-year life span. Due to the school roll, there might be a requirement for a fourth pitch. However, we can look at other uses for this area, for example growing of food.	
6.7	AH: Can a one-way system be looked at throughout the site? SF: At the moment the burn access is only a pedestrian access but will take on board the comment.	
6.8	GH: The programme is tight for the key milestones. One key milestone, the appointment of the contractor, hasn't happened. RC: It is a tight programme however the project team will stay on top of this. The contract will be a design and build appointment for Stage 2 onwards.	
6.9	GCS: Where does the school fit in relation to dualling of the A96? Could we see an artistic impression of this? RC: We will review this.	
6.10	DM: The new Merkinch Primary School is a cross laminated timber structure with positive environmental factors. Could this design be considered? SF: We will take this on board for consideration in Stage 2	
6.11	JA: Who is the Client? RC: The Highland Council is the Client. The Estates Team liaise with the Head Teacher and other internal stakeholders, such as HLH, Catering and Cleaning. An organogram will be prepared to show the roles, responsibilities and communication lines for the projects.	
7.0	Future Meetings	
7.1	Meetings will be held monthly for the time being. Minutes and other relevant information will be uploaded to The Highland Council website (link below). https://www.highland.gov.uk/info/878/schools/845/school_estate_management/2	
8.0	AOCB	
8.1	The next meeting will be held at 7PM on Wednesday 21st April via Microsoft Teams.	
8.2	Meeting closed at 20:30.	