

**The Highland Council**  
**Culloden Academy Stakeholder Group**  
**Minutes of Meeting No.9**  
**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022 at 7pm**

<b>Attendees</b>	<b>Initials</b>
<b>Highland Councillors</b>	
Councillor Colin Aitken	CA
Councillor Ken Gowans	KG
Councillor Morven Reid	MR
Councillor Trish Robertson	TR
<b>Parent Council Representatives</b>	
Ally Hill	AH
Peter MacDonald	PM
<b>Community Representatives</b>	
Catherine Bunn, Culloden Community Council	CB
Gillian Spalding, Balloch Community Council	GS
<b>Culloden Academy</b>	
Dr James Vance, Head Teacher	JV
Odette Gordon, Principal Teacher	OG
<b>Highland Council Officials</b>	
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
Laura Burns, Project Manager	LB
Jane Day, Estates Officer	JD
Richard Jack, Senior Architectural Technician	RJ
Fiona Shearer	FS
Paul Short, Estates Co-ordinator	PS
Gordon Stewart, Education Advisor	GS
<b>High Life Highland Officials</b>	
Simon Swanson, Head of Investment and Programme Management	SS
<b>Apologies</b>	
Jeni Alexander, David Denoon and Councillor Glynis Campbell-Sinclair	
<b>Minute</b>	
Jane Day/Paul Short/Robert Campbell	

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion/Comment</b>	<b>Action</b>
<b>1.0</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	
<b>1.1</b>	JV agreed to chair the meeting and welcomed everyone.	
<b>1.2</b>	CA and MR were introduced as new Ward Councillors. PM was introduced as a representative of the Parent Council.	
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Minutes Of Previous Meeting</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	AH asked about the Risk Register. RC agreed to circulate this to the group.	RC

Item	Discussion/Comment	Action
2.2	The acceptance of the minutes was proposed by AH and seconded by CB/TR.	
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Review Of Membership Of Group</b>	
3.1	RC: Asked if there were any other community representatives that should be invited, or if the feeder Primary Schools should be included. JV: Is meeting with the Primary Head Teachers and will ask the question. Senior pupils will also be attending meetings in future.	
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Project Update</b>	
4.1	RC shared a presentation outlining the scope of the project, the construction cost pressures facing the Council, progress since the previous meeting, the current position, the proposed next steps and some images.	
4.2	PM: If we don't get the grant from Sportscotland does this mean the pitch won't go ahead? RC: No, the project was originally intended to be fully funded from the Council's capital programme, so is not conditional on the success of the funding application. However, additional funding would help to reduce the overall shortfall.	
4.3	AH: Had been shocked to find out that the pitch wasn't going ahead this summer, parents were extremely frustrated due to poor communication. RC: Accepted that communication was not as it should have been, mainly due to meetings being effectively put on hold during the election period. However, it was important to get the group back on a proper footing and have regular meetings and communication from now on.	
4.4	GS: Hopefully communication will be better. Is there a problem with the planning application for the synthetic pitch and would it help with the Sportscotland application if Balloch Community Council were to provide written support? RC: We are awaiting a decision on the planning application. LB: The decision is expected in the next two weeks, but no problems are envisaged. SS: We have the figures for club and community use, but any supporting letters would help to bolster the case. I can get back to you during the week outlining what would be useful. CB: Culloden CC can also provide a letter of support.	
4.5	CB: When will the grass pitch be sorted out as it's in an unplayable state? LB: This is with Morrison Construction to engage with their sub-contractor to rectify the issues. CB: Will this mean the Council having to spending more money? LB: No, the outstanding work is classed as a defect and Morrison will have to get their contractor back to resolve this.	
4.6	CB: Where does Culloden sit in terms of priority with all the other projects that you are working on? RC: There is no ranking or prioritisation of these projects as such. Each project has its own justification and Culloden's case	

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	has been well made, and that will be considered as part of the review of the capital programme later this year.	
4.7	<p>CB: Is there any guarantee that Culloden will stay in the programme?</p> <p>KG: There will be a capital review for the reasons that have mentioned. I will be astonished if Culloden is not considered to be a priority. Members are aware of the pressure that JV has been under to accommodate pupils.</p> <p>JV: This is a roll pressure situation rather than a building condition issue and a more compelling case in my view, but obviously no guarantee.</p>	
4.8	<p>TR: Is there a new figure for the cost of the extension, as this may give us an indication of the chances of remaining in the capital programme?</p> <p>RC: At present we don't have a final figure that we would be able to share but we are aware of the cost increases elsewhere. We are working with Morrison's to look at ways of mitigating the increase.</p>	
4.9	<p>AH: When will the review of the Council's capital programme be taking place.?</p> <p>RC: There are regular Council meetings in the calendar over the next few months, I understand that there will be reports to some of these.</p> <p>KG: Discussions are already underway on this and hoping to have it concluded by the end of this year or early next year.</p>	
4.10	<p>AH: Why are we just finding out halfway through the presentation that the extension will not be complete in August 2024, and why does the end date keep moving?</p> <p>TR: Also disappointed to be told this at this point of the presentation and felt it was underhand to do so at this point of the presentation.</p> <p>RC: Denied that this was an attempt to be underhand – the first part of the presentation was to provide some background information for new members of the group and outline the challenges facing the Council. We need to make sure that we get this right for the Academy and have been working closely with JV on the scope of the project – e.g., the decision to include Home Economics instead of Drama in the new extension. We are reviewing the programme dates and will update on this in around two weeks.</p> <p>KG: Disagreed that RC was being underhand, it was important to set out the full position.</p> <p>LB: Also disagreed and stated the team had continued to work hard on the project in recent months.</p> <p>MR: My connection is very poor, from what I have been able to hear I completely understand the frustrations caused by poor communication, but I don't believe Robert is being underhand. Good communication going forward is key. (Comment from Teams Chat)</p>	RC

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<b>4.11</b>	PM: Reiterated that the synthetic pitch is required for the school, why did it not happen this year? RC: This was mainly due to the current state of the construction market, as outlined in the presentation. For example, there has been a shortage of bitumen which would be required for the tar layer below the pitch. The main risk would have been starting work and not being able to complete it, which would have left the grass pitch out of use.	
<b>4.12</b>	PM: When will the synthetic pitch be installed? RC: The earliest that work could start would be around April 2023. However, the dates will be confirmed as part of the overall programme update.	
<b>4.13</b>	CB: Where is the muster point/basketball area and when will this be completed? JD: It is at the far end of the synthetic pitch and will be installed at the same time.	
<b>4.14</b>	GS: Who will be able to access the basketball area and synthetic pitch? SS: They will be available for booking when not used by the school.	
<b>4.15</b>	PM: Why are we spending a million pounds on electrical upgrade works when we are planning to replace all the buildings? RC: The eventual replacement of all the existing buildings is likely to be some time away. In the meantime, there is separate capital funding to address issues like statutory compliance and meet targets to reduce energy use and running costs.	
<b>4.16</b>	CB: In terms of the new extension, it makes sense to include Home Economics instead of Drama. When will we see the updated floor plans? RC: These are being finalised and there will be a discussion at the next meeting, but plans will be issued to stakeholders before then.	RC
<b>5.0</b>	<b>Education/School Matters</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	JV advised that he was pleased with the work that had been carried out during the summer holiday period, although disappointed with the state of the grass pitch.	
<b>6.0</b>	<b>Date Of Next Meeting</b>	
<b>6.1</b>	A provisional date was set for the next meeting on Tuesday 27th September 2022 at 7pm via Teams. RC to check availability of others and confirm.	RC
<b>7.0</b>	<b>AOCB</b>	
<b>7.1</b>	PM: Can the minutes be issued within a week? RC: We will aim to issue the minutes next week.	RC
<b>7.2</b>	As there was no further business, JV thanked everyone for attending and concluded the meeting at 20:16.	