

Minutes Of Meeting 6
Nairn Academy Stakeholder Group

Monday 13 February 2023 at 7 pm

Via Microsoft Teams

Attendees	Initials
Independent Chair	
Jimmy Gray - Chair	JG
Highland Councillors	
Laurie Fraser	LF
Parent Council Representatives	
Mark Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	MG
Sally Gunn, Nairn Academy Parent Council	SG
Grace Chisholm, Nairn Academy Parent Council	GC
Joanna Surtees, Millbank Primary School Parent Council	JS
Community Representatives	
Hamish Bain, Nairn River CC	HB
Mandy Lawson, Nairn River CC	ML
Alastair Noble, Nairn West & Suburban CC	AN
Ian Booth, Nairn Access Panel	IB
School Representatives	
Julie MacDonald, Head Teacher	JM
Sarah Abenheimer, Depute Head Teacher	SA
Highland Council Officials	
Robert Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager	RC
Susannah Holmes, Principal Estates Officer	SH
David Walker, Estates Officer	DW
Fiona Shearer, Area Education Manager	FS
Gordon Stewart, Education Advisor	GS
Highlife Highland Officials	
Simon Swanson, HLH Corporate Programme Manager	SS
Reiach and Hall Architects	
Keri Monaghan	KM
Apologies	
Councillors Barbara Jarvie, Paul Oldham and Michael Green; Finlay MacDonald, Sharon Barrie, Philip Shannon, James Cook, Lisa Campbell, Maria McPherson, David Harvey, Tom Brady, Lewis Hannah and Keri Monaghan	
Minute	
David Walker	

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
1.	Recording of the meeting	
1.1	RC asked if there were any objections to the meeting being recorded to aid with the minute taking. There were no objections.	
2.	Introduction and apologies	
2.1	JG welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves. Apologies as above.	
2.2	JG paid tribute to the late Councillor Tom Heggie, and the group paused for a moment of reflection.	
3.	Minutes of previous meeting	
3.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were approved.	
4.	Project update – Highland Council	
4.1	RC gave a recap of the presentation shown in August 2022, covering the background to the project, LEIP funding outcomes and construction cost pressures.	
4.2	RC shared a presentation which covered the review of the Council’s Capital Programme, an update on recent project progress and programme as well as a summary of the key risks facing the project.	
4.3	MG noted that the key risks to the project were trending red and not amber and noted that pupil occupation by the end of 2025 was looking optimistic with Easter 2026 being more realistic. RC acknowledged that the key risk was the review of the Capital Programme as the contract cannot be awarded without the budget in place. The hope is that the review is completed in time to allow project to hit the June or August Planning Committee dates. This would tie in with the current programme and allow a start on site by the end of the year.	
4.4	AB asked whether consideration had been given to upgrading the access arrangements at the retained sports changing pavilion. RC confirmed that the building had been built to Sportscotland standards, has disabled changing facilities and is fully accessible.	
5.	Design update – Highland Council	
5.1	SH shared and explained the latest site Masterplan.	
5.2	ML asked for details of what facilities would be shared with the community. SH confirmed that the 3 external pitches would be available. Internally there will be a fitness suite, a 4 court games hall and a 2 court games hall. There is an enhanced library space that the public library could move in to, but no decision has been made on that	
5.3	IB asked for clarification on the position of the accessible parking spaces and asked whether drop kerbs had been factored in at crossing points. SH confirmed that the accessible parking is adjacent to the front of the building and that the crossing points will be fully accessible.	
5.4	RC shared a proposed image of the school showing the aluminium cladding material in silver but noted that the Council have concerns about the look of the building and have asked the design team to look at introducing some colour.	
5.5	RC shared an image of a typical classroom bay which has been simplified as part of a value engineering exercise. RC also shared an image of the first-floor layout which shows the additional floor space that could be added to help futureproof the design.	
5.6	AN noted that the pressure needs to be maintained to ensure that the school is built.	

Item	Discussion and comment	Action
6.	School and education matters	
6.1	JM noted that there are weekly project meetings with the school and Council Estates team and noted that the school will work around the build dates as required regarding school examinations.	
6.2	SA provided an update on latest progress. The school and Estates team have been working on finalising the adjacencies within the building, beginning to look at fixed and loose furniture options as the project progresses, reviewing changes that may be required to the sports complex to improve efficiency of space while fire evacuation points have been moved in preparation for the build. SA also explained that the proposal for the S1 Homebase which is an area where S1 can have all their non- practical classes to minimise the impact of transition.	
6.3	SA explained that the school are looking into funding bids with community groups for a pump track and/or potentially a cover for the grass pitch as well working with Council IT to review whether the new school building could make more use of wireless and screen casting rather than having fixed wiring to teacher stations.	
6.4	HB asked for clarification on which local groups were involved in any funding bids. SA confirmed High Life Highland were initially approached but there were not any confirmed groups just now.	
7.	Date of next meeting	
7.1	Tuesday 25th April 2023 at 7pm was the agreed proposed date of next meeting. Invitations will be sent out once the availability of Members has been confirmed.	RC/DW
8.	AOCB	
8.1	JS asked whether there were any plans for improving pedestrian crossings on the A96 to aide pupil travel to the new building. SH confirmed that there are no confirmed proposals for off site works on the A96, but it is something that the project is reviewing. The team are working with Transport Planning within Highland Council to look at Safer Routes to School to enhance routes and accessibility to the new building.	
8.2	MG asked what the target date is for Planning submission. RC confirmed that the key items are the review of the Capital Programme by June and the development of Stage 4 of the project. The Planning Committee date in June is being targeted with August another option.	
8.3	As there was no further business, the meeting was concluded at 19:56.	