

**Caithness and Sutherland Area Committee – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2013**

Agenda Item	<b>12.</b>
Report No	<b>CS/33/13</b>

**Sale of Land at Meadows Recreation Ground to Dornoch and District Community Association**

**Report by Corporate Manager**

**Summary**

The purpose of the report is to inform Members of the proposed sale of ground at Meadows Recreation Ground, Dornoch by the Trustees of Recreation Ground in the Royal Burgh of Dornoch to Dornoch and District Community Association and to seek any comments.

**1. Background**

1.1 On behalf of the residents of Dornoch, the Trustees of Recreation Ground in Royal Burgh of Dornoch manage the Meadows Park Recreation Ground. The Recreation Ground, formerly leased from Sutherland Estates, has been owned by the Trustees since 1970.

The title lists the following as Trustees:

- The Provost of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch
- The Town Clerk of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch
- The Minister of the Parish of Dornoch
- The Rector of Dornoch Academy
- The President of Dornoch Football Club
- The President of Dornoch Highland Gathering.

1.2 Members will recall that on 18 December 2008 and 8 September 2011, Highland Council appointed Cllr Jim McGillivray and the Ward Manager East Sutherland and Edderton respectively as Trustees. The two Trustees appointed by Highland Council hold the positions as successors of the Provost and Town Clerk. The remaining Trustees are: Minister of Parish of Dornoch (Rev. S. Brown), Rector of Dornoch Academy (Mr. J. Garvie), President of Dornoch Football Club (Mr. G. Ross) and the President of the Highland Gathering (Mr. W. Mackay).

1.3 Ownership of Meadows Recreation Ground is held on behalf of the residents of Dornoch by the six trustees, not by Highland Council.

**2. Proposal**

2.1 Dornoch and District Community Association (DADCA), who propose to build a

new community Centre for Dornoch, have approached the Trustees to buy ground at the Meadows for £1. (A consideration of £1 is required to trigger land registration.)

- 2.2 The Trustees who would intend to support the sale have consulted Highland Council Legal Services to ascertain whether there is any Highland Council interest in the transaction. As Highland Council does not own the land, agreement for sale is not required from either Highland Council or Scottish Ministers.
- 2.3 Local Members were consulted at a Ward Business Meeting held on 24 June 2013 and confirmed their support for the proposed sale to proceed. Dornoch Community Council agreed the proposed sale at their meeting on 26 June 2013.

### **3. Resource implications**

There are no resource implications for Highland Council. As purchaser, DADCA will be responsible for any fees incurred by the Trustees in the transaction.

#### **Recommendation**

Members are invited to make comment and to note the intention of the two Council appointed Trustees of Recreation Ground in Royal Burgh of Dornoch to support the sale of the ground at Meadows Park to Dornoch and District Community Association for £1.

Designation: Corporate Manager

Author: Phil Tomalin, Ward Manager

Date: 02.08.13