

**INVERNESS EVENTS AND FESTIVALS WORKING GROUP**  
**Minutes of the meeting held at 15:00 on Friday 6 December 2013**  
**Members Lounge, Town House, Inverness**

***In Attendance***

**Members**

*Cllr Graham Ross (GR)*

***Member Elect in Attendance***

*Cllr Hamish Wood (HW)*

**Partners / Officers**

*David Haas (DH)*

*Gerry Reynolds (GRR)*

*Claire Worsfold (CW)*

**Changes to membership**

*It was noted that Cllr Wood was the nominee to replace Cllr Caddick; and Ina Davies was to replace Victoria Patterson as the representative of the Hotel Association. The members of the Working Group asked for their thanks and appreciation for Cllr Caddick and Ms Patterson's contribution to the Working Group to be recorded in the minutes.*

***1. Apologies***

*Apologies were received from Colin Marr, Jackie Cuddy, Cllr Glynis Sinclair, Cllr Fraser Parr, Mike Smith and Ina Davies. It was agreed that with two elected members present that the meeting was quorate.*

***2. Minutes of the Meeting held on 13 September 2013***

*Accepted as a true record.*

***3. Matters Arising from the Minutes***

- *GRR provided an update on the progress made with Procurement with regard to merchandise.*
- *It was noted that the Grant Application Services Tender process was now completed.*
- *Copies of the supplement produced following the fashion shoot undertaken by La Monde at the Inverness Highland Games were distributed.*
- *It was noted that GRR had attended the 100<sup>th</sup> Calgary Highland Games and participated in the Opening Ceremony and presented awards at the end of the day.*

***4. Budget 2013-2014***

*It was noted that the budget for the year was on course for £320,000 and GRR had circulated copies of the latest forecast for each of the events in the programme prior to the meeting*

***5. Winter Festival Update***

*The Press Conference held on Oct 10<sup>th</sup> to launch the Winter Festival alongside the Street Theatre Festival had been successfully staged generating excellent coverage.*

- *The Halloween had been staged with an estimated 9000 plus in attendance over the weekend. Due to adverse weather the opening night attended by 1000 was closed down 45 mins early by GRR. The following evening attracted a record crowd of 8000.*
- *The working group reviewed the Civic Bonfire and Fireworks Display which had been attended by an estimated crowd of 10,000. The winning guy had been created by Dalneigh Primary and it was noted that the children were the youngest ever winners at 5 and 6 years of age. The Working Group then discussed the decision which had been taken to use re-categorise the fireworks at the display as “artistic entertainment” as a result of the difficulties which had been experienced evaluating fireworks companies using the written tendering process. The decision to use a qualitative assessment in order to engage a company and select Fireworx Scotland was approved. The Working Group noted the excellent feedback that had been received following the outstanding display that had been provided on the night.*
- *The Christmas Lights Switch On and Ding Dong Merrily Old High events had went well; with a larger than usual appreciative crowd of around 3000 in attendance. The more musical approach adopted for the programme for this event had proven very popular with everybody able to participate in the experience. GRR advised the Working Group of a medical incident at the Old High Church event for which the staff had been thanked for their actions.*
- *Winter Wonderland – work had now been completed to design the show which would be staged on 13-15 December in Whin Park.*
- *The Working Group then discussed the arrangements for Hogmanay 2013. It was noted that the day would start with another Wee Hot Highland Fling event in the city centre based around the Town House. GRR advised that he was working with Edinburgh based Unique Events on a nationwide 20:14 moment (8.14pm) moment at Inverness Castle before the gates opened at Northern Meeting Park at 8.30pm. He added that he had been advised that overseas Travel Writers were scheduled to attend the event.*
- *The Working Group then discussed plans for the 2014 Hogmanay concert.*
- *It was agreed that GRR would ask MS for permission to make a presentation to the BID Members about the programme for 2014.*
- *It was agreed that David Haas would arrange for a briefing to be made to the Tourism BID Steering Group.*
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## **6. 2014 Homecoming Programme**

*The Working Group then discussed the arrangements for the Highland Homecoming Festival in 2014. It was noted that the programme had significantly expanded since the Working Group had last met and as a result EventScotland had requested that a meeting be organised on 8 December to which the organisers of the major events being staged in Inverness during the original Highland Homecoming period (12<sup>th</sup> Sept to 18<sup>th</sup> October 2014) be invited. At the meeting EventScotland announced that they would like Highland Homecoming be expanded to accommodate events staged on a pan Highland basis between 1st September and 31st October 2014. In addition they also announced that they intended to launch the Highland Homecoming Fund offering grants of between £3000 and £10,000 to enhance and expand the Highland Homecoming Programme.*

*GRR advised the Working Group that having 2 months of the Homecoming Scotland*

*2014 programme focused on Inverness and the Highlands plus the launch of the Highland Homecoming Fund would provide a major boost for the local economy; it would provide a high profile opportunity to launch new events. The Working Group then discussed the proposed Highland Homecoming programme and it was noted that the budget and arrangements for each event would be presented for consideration early in 2014.*

*The Working Group noted that the Ness Islands Halloween event would have a Homecoming theme and would be both the final event of the Highland Homecoming Festival and the start of 2014 Winter Festival. GR said that the Highland Homecoming programme was a fantastic opportunity for Inverness.*

*GRR said that Council officers were also working with a number of community event organisers who had indicated that they were intending to submit applications for funding to EventScotland to establish additional events during the Highland Homecoming period; and that it was expected that that the number of events would increase.*

*It was noted that Scottish Provincial Press were intending to feature Highland Homecoming and the work of the Working Group in the 2014 preview feature “Ones to Watch”.*

*Cllr Ross suggested that consideration should be given to arranging an event such as a reception to thank the numerous volunteers who would be working at the Highland Homecoming events for their support.*

**7. Dates of Future Meetings**

*3pm February 28<sup>th</sup> 2014*

*3pm April 25<sup>th</sup> 2014*

*3pm 27<sup>th</sup> June 2014*

*3pm 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014*

*3pm 31<sup>st</sup> August 2014*

*3pm 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014*