

AGENDA ITEM 17

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Community Challenge Fund Applications Panel** held in Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness, on Monday, 30 November, 2015, at 1.00 p.m.

Present

Mr A Rhind
Ms M Smith

Ms K Stephen

Committee Chairs

Mr D Millar (ECAS) (by
telephone conference)

Mr A Henderson (COMS)

Officials in attendance:

Ms M Morris, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Development
Mr P Mascarenhas, Community and Democratic Engagement Manager
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

Mr A Rhind in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs M Davidson.

2. Declarations of Interest

For clarification purposes, Mr A Henderson advised that he was a member of the Board of the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust which was a separate group from the Isle of Eigg Community Association who had submitted an expression of interest for funding.

3. Minutes of Meeting of 7 October, 2015

There had been circulated and were **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of 7 October, 2015, which had been approved by the Council at its meeting held on 29 October, 2015.

4. Assessment Criteria

The Panel **NOTED** the Assessment Criteria, copies of which had been circulated.

5. Community Challenge Fund

There had been circulated Report No. CCF4/15 by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Development which updated the Panel on progress with applications for the Community Challenge Fund. Members were invited to consider the recommendations of the Officer Working Group.

In relation to the expression of interest from the Isle of Eigg Community Association it was recommended that this expression of interest was put on hold

whilst the Association explores their proposal with a range of organisations that may be able to assist them.

In relation to the application from Caberfeidh Horizons a point was made that there was no mention of the NHS Community Development Worker being involved in this proposal. The Community and Democratic Engagement Manager undertook to check this out. It was recommended to approve the application.

In terms of the Kinlochleven Community Trust application this did not meet the criteria of the Community Challenge Fund but that the Community and Democratic Engagement Manager would continue to discuss with the Trust the possibility of transferring Council Services to them.

An additional expression of interest was tabled from Lovat Shinty Club for the club to take on the grass cutting and maintenance of the Shinty pitch in Kiltarlity. Discussion was required with the Club regarding the possibility of widening the scope of the application. A point was made that there were other Community Groups in Highland that may wish to provide a similar service and therefore it would be helpful to have a model application for them to follow. In this respect, a good example was Fort William Shinty Club who had taken on responsibility for maintenance of their Shinty pitch at a reduced cost to the Council. If a model was developed then the Council could link in with the Shinty Development Officer, The Camanachd Association and Highlife Highland regarding its merits to other Clubs.

The Panel were informed of progress on applications approved in relation to Alness Community Council; Fort William Shinty Club and Viewfield Garden Collective.

A point was made that should the application form for expressions of interest to the Community Challenge Fund be reviewed then consideration be given to reviewing the question "Please tell us if you have spoken to anyone about your application for advice and support" as it could be misinterpreted that the named individuals supported the application.

Having considered the recommendations of the Officers' Working Group and discussed the Expressions of Interest and the Applications in detail, the Panel:-

- i. **AGREED** that the expression of interest from the Isle of Eigg Community Association was put on hold whilst the Association explored their proposal with a range of organisations that may be able to assist them;
- ii. **AGREED** the revised application from Caberfeidh Horizons as it supported a promising organisation to develop;
- iii. **AGREED** that the application from Kinlochleven Community Trust be rejected as it did not meet the criteria for the fund;
- iv. **AGREED** that the expression of interest from Lovat Shinty Club would be explored further in terms of the possibility of widening the scope of the application; and
- v. **NOTED** progress on applications approved in relation to Alness Community Council, Fort William Shinty Club and Viewfield Garden Collective.

The meeting ended at 1.25 p.m.