

**The Highland Council  
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee** held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Monday 27 March 2017 at 9.30 am.

**Present:**

Mr I Brown  
Mrs H Carmichael  
Mr A Christie  
Mr A Graham

Mrs E McAllister  
Mr T Prag  
Mr G Ross  
Mrs J Slater

**Officials in Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
Ms S Murdoch, Common Good Fund Officer  
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office  
Miss L Joiner, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office  
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

**Mr A Christie in the Chair**

**Business**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr R Laird.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 4 Booklet A – Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Graham, Mrs B McAllister, Mr T Prag and Mr G Ross (all non-financial)

Item 5 – Mr A Graham (non-financial)

Item 7 – Mrs B McAllister and Mr G Ross (both non-financial)

In relation to agenda item 7, Members were advised that an additional application for Civic Hospitality had been received on Friday 24 March 2017 from Highland Disability Sport which was tabled at the meeting.

**3. Exclusion of Public**

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### 4. Requests for Financial Assistance 2016/17

##### Declarations of Interest –

**Mrs H Carmichael and Mr T Prag as Board Members of the Highlanders' Museum and Mr A Graham as a Former Board Member of the Highlanders' Museum declared non-financial interests in relation to the application from the Highlanders' Museum but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude them from taking part in the discussion.**

**Mrs B McAllister declared non-financial interests in relation to the application from the Highland Senior Citizens Network as she had spoken to the applicants and also in relation to the application from Merkinch Community Centre as a Director of Merkinch Enterprise but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that her interests did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.**

**Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in relation to the application from Music in Hospitals on the basis that his mother was a resident of a care home but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interests did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

**Mr A Graham declared a non-financial interest in relation to the application from Coisir Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness Gaelic Choir) as a Member of the Gaelic Society of Inverness and left the room during discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/05/17 dated 17 March 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for financial assistance from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated as Booklets A, B and C.

Prior to discussion of the applications, it was confirmed that the balance available to spend from the 2016/17 budget was £39k and it was competent to disperse funds from the 2017/18 budget at this meeting. Furthermore, it was confirmed that progress was being made with projects which funds had been committed for.

##### **Booklet A**

The Sub-Committee determined applications for funding of up to £10,000 as follows:-

Clachnacuddin FC Youth Development (£3,500 sought)      **APPROVED £3,500**  
Participation in the Dana Cup U17 Football Tournament in Denmark in July 2017

Merkinch Community Centre (£2,000 sought) **APPROVED £2,000**  
Celebrating forty years in MCC book  
Members were advised that a draft copy of the book was available to view at the meeting. In discussion, Members queried the cost of the books and expressed the importance of ensuring that some were sold. In this regard, it was **AGREED** to underwrite the project in a sum not to exceed £2,000 on being supplied with Certified Accounts together with confirmation that reasonable efforts had been made to recover the costs of publication through book sales or other fundraising.

The Boys' Brigade Highland Battalion (£1,360 sought) **APPROVED £1,360**  
Lease Arrears on the Eddie MacGillivray Hall  
Members expressed support for the application but queried how often this process to waive lease fees was being used and becoming an issue where organisations were incurring additional costs for VAT. In response, it was confirmed that the policy was being reviewed to consider the best and most effective method for the Council to administer these funds.

MS Therapy Centre Inverness Ltd (£3,750 sought) **APPROVED £3,750**  
Rent Relief for the MS Therapy Centre

Balloan FC (£3,000 sought) **APPROVED £3,000**  
Participating in Football Competition in Manchester in July 2017  
In discussion, it was noted that the organisation had given the Inverness Common Good Fund significant recognition when funding had been previously provided.

Highland Military Tattoo (£9,995 sought) **APPROVED £9,995**  
Highland Military Tattoo 2017

Inverness Cathedral, Dedicated to St Andrew (£9,800 sought) **APPROVED £9,800**  
Provision of Toilet Facilities for the Tourist Season 2017  
In relation to consideration undertaken during the review of Coach Parking in the area that the Council supply toilet facilities, it was confirmed that this method of providing toilet facilities involving Inverness Cathedral was more effective because it also provided support to them.

The Highlanders' Museum (£8,308 sought) **APPROVED £8,308**  
Highlanders' Museum Digitisation Project  
Members **AGREED** to approve the application on the basis that it was compliant with Contract Standing Orders and consequently showed that best value had been achieved.

Inverness Street league (£4,000 sought) **APPROVED £4,000**  
Under 13 International Football Tournament in Dublin in August 2017

Camanachd Association (£9,900 sought) **APPROVED £9,900**  
The MacTavish Cup Final, The Camanachd Cup Final, Shinty/Hurling Internationals all hosted in Inverness in 2017  
Members queried how the events were promoted to visitors and in response it was explained that the Inverness Events Advisory Group had been set-up

which involved HIE, Tourism BID, Inverness BID and senior officials which would consider these events to ensure they were appropriately promoted. It was therefore **AGREED** to approve the application on the basis that the events were promoted as widely as possible to both locals and visitors.

Inverness Angling Club (£9,500 sought) **APPROVED £9,500**

Financial support for the continuing management of the Inverness Common Good Fund Town Fishings

It was noted that there were concerns regarding the payment of VAT, which the Inverness City Area Manager confirmed that he and the Common Good Fund Officer would seek to address. It was further noted that the Inverness Angling Club had made progress and were now seen as an exemplar model for the operation of Angling Clubs due to activities including a burgeoning youth division and involvement in promotional opportunities such as Scotland's Salmon Festival in partnership with the UHI.

Signpost INC (£3,320 sought) **REFUSED**

Beginners Internet Group

During discussion, Members expressed doubt regarding the duplication of resources and the availability of other more appropriate funding sources. Conversely, Members emphasised the need for increasing the market for this service which was a significant factor in improving loneliness in older people. Furthermore, concern was expressed in relation to the current staffing levels of Signpost INC. Mr A Christie, seconded by Mrs H Carmichael, moved that the application be refused. As an amendment Mr T Prag moved that the application be approved but having failed to find a seconder the amendment failed. Therefore, it was **AGREED** that the application be refused for the reasons outlined during discussion.

Highland Homeless Trust (£7,500 sought)

Highland Crisis Accommodation

In discussion, Members expressed concern in relation to the sustainability of the project. Thereafter, it was **AGREED** to delegate determination of the application to the Inverness City Area Manager in consultation with Members subject to seeking the view of the Council's Housing Management Team.

Inverness YMCA (£500 sought) **APPROVED £500**

Replacement Heaters in the lower Sports Hall

Coisir Ghaidhlig Inbhir Nis (Inverness Gaelic Choir) (£1,500 sought)

**APPROVED £1,200**

Grioglachan - Liet International 2017

In discussion, Members scrutinised the transport costs and expressed the importance of encouraging the promotion of Inverness as well as Gaelic language internationally. Thereafter, it was **AGREED** to approve a reduced sum of £1,200 on the basis that Inverness be promoted at the Liet International event.

Music In Hospitals (£4,743 sought)

**APPROVED £4,743**

Live Music in Inverness Care Units

Wee Adventure (£6,382 sought)

**DEFERRED**

Lets go on a Wee Adventure

In discussion, the view was expressed that there was no urgency for funding as it had already been secured for the first print run of the adventure guide and in considering the potential overspend of the current year's grants budget it would be more appropriate for the organisation to re-apply in future for funding of the second print run. Therefore, it was **AGREED** to defer the application on the basis that the application could be reconsidered at the meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee to be held in November once further information on the plans for the event were known.

2nd Inverness (Kingsmills) Scout Troop (£900 sought) **APPROVED £900**  
International Jamboree in Sweden

Mikeysline (£10,000 sought) **DEFERRED**  
The Hive Project

Members felt the project was potentially very good and the intentions were right but sought more detail. It was also suggested that it may be more appropriate for mainstream funding from the Council or NHS Highland. Members were provided with a response from the Samaritans at the meeting and it was suggested that there was a need for further discussion. It was therefore **AGREED** to defer the application to allow for further discussion with officers and the applicant to take place.

The Highland Council (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**  
Highland APP Project

In discussion, it was noted that at the last meeting of the Inverness City Arts Working Group a demonstration had been provided of the virtual app which was about promoting Inverness which the Sub-Committee supported.

Highland Senior Citizens Network (£2,200 sought) **APPROVED £2,200**  
Annual Conference on 26th April 2017

In discussion, the high cost was queried and in response it was explained that this was due to the hall hire.

### **Booklet B**

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 19 June 2017) as it related to an application for more than £10,000:-

Visit Inverness Loch Ness Ltd (VILN) (£20,000 sought) **APPROVED £20,000**  
Funding Support for 2017

In discussion, it was noted that the application was for support to encourage business conferences to be held in the area which was really important.

### **Booklet C**

The Sub-Committee determined an application for subvention funding as follows:-

Loch Ness Knit Fest Ltd (£9,500 sought)  
Inverness Loch Ness International Knitting Festival 2017

During discussion, there was concern expressed in relation to figures provided in the application and further reassurance was sought that the application was satisfactory. It was therefore **AGREED** to delegate determination of the application to the Inverness City Area Manager in consultation with Members to allow for further discussion to be held with the Principal Tourism and Film Officer.

## 5. **Gaelic Society of Inverness**

**Declaration of Interest – Mr A Graham declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Member of the Gaelic Society of Inverness and left the room during discussion.**

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO HOMOLOGATE** the decision to award £350 to the Gaelic Society of Inverness from the 2016/17 Budget.

## 6. **Strategy to Promote the Inverness Common Good Fund**

Members were reminded that at the meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee held on 30 January 2017 it was agreed that a report be prepared exploring the merits of developing a strategy to promote the Common Good Fund, including the possibility of an annual event for grant recipients to showcase how they had used their grants.

In discussion, it was requested that consideration be given to reviewing the logo for the Inverness Common Good Fund and it was confirmed that this was being undertaken and would be presented to new Members following the Election. It was also queried who was producing the marketing plan and in response it was confirmed that discussion had taken place with the Council's Corporate Communications Team regarding the capacity of their resources. In this regard, Mr T Prag offered to provide consultancy in the future on a personal basis for no fee.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that a report on this basis would be presented to the next meeting.

## 7. **Civic Hospitality Requests**

**Declarations of Interest – Mrs B McAllister and Mr G Ross declared non-financial interests in this item as Members of Highland Disability Sport but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude them from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No GSC/06/17 dated 16 March 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated as Booklet D.

The Sub-Committee determined applications for civic hospitality as follows:-

Inverness Business Improvement District (BID)

**AGREED**

Inverness City Centre Business Awards – Town House £3,005.55

Highland Area-Aberdeen Angus Club **AGREED**  
Northern Exposure 2017 – Inverness College £2,000.00

In discussion, Members expressed the feeling that the event's connection to Inverness was tenuous and on this basis suggested to offer a reduced contribution.

Highland Disability Sport **AGREED**  
Scottish Disability Sport National Swimming £1,360.55  
Championships

## 8. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub Committee **AGREED TO HOMOLOGATE** the decision to award the following Civic Hospitality request:-

- i. SVEPM (Society for Veterinary Epidemiology and Preventive Medicine) Conference - £1,145.38

## 9. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 21 August 2017 at 9.30 am.

In recognition that this was the last meeting before the Election, the Inverness City Area Manager expressed his thanks to Members and Mr T Prag paid tribute to the Chair and Officers.

The meeting ended at 10.08 am.