

**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 21 August 2017 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr B Boyd	Mr A Graham
Mr I Brown	Mr A Jarvie
Mrs C Caddick	Mr R Laird
Miss J Campbell	Mrs E McAllister
Mrs H Carmichael	Mr G Ross
Mr G Cruickshank	

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

Mr D Haas in the Chair

Business

1. Appointment of Chair

Having been nominated by Mrs H Carmichael and seconded by Mr A Graham, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** to appoint Mr G Ross as Chair.

Mr G Ross then took the Chair.

2. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr I Brown.

3. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 5 Booklet A – Miss J Campbell, Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Graham, Mr A Jarvie, Mr R Laird, Mrs E McAllister, Mr G Ross, (all non-financial)
Item 8 – Mr G Cruickshank (non-financial)

4. 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.

5. Requests for Financial Assistance 2016/17

Declarations of Interest –

Miss J Campbell as an ex-officio Board Member of Merkinch Enterprise and Mr A Jarvie on the basis of running a youth group in the Bike Shed declared non-financial interests in the application from Arts in Merkinch and left the room during discussion.

Mr R Laird as Chair of Merkinch Partnership and Mrs E McAllister as a Member of Merkinch Partnership declared non-financial interests in the application from Merkinch Partnership and left the room during discussion.

Mrs H Carmichael, Mrs E McAllister and Mr G Ross declared non-financial interests as Members of the Town Twinning Committee and left the room during discussion.

Mr A Graham declared a financial interest in the application relating to the Inverness Provincial Mod 2018 on the basis that his employer provided funding for this project and left the room during discussion.

Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in the application from Inverness Blitz on the basis of having provided advice to the applicants and left the room during discussion.

There had been circulated Report No GSC/07/17 dated 10 August 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, the Inverness City Area Manager provided an update on the funds committed during which it was confirmed that a number of organisations had applied for an extension to their grant period including Stay Safe Highland which had now been fully paid; interviews for the appointment of an Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer were ongoing and an appointment would be made later in the month; the Music in Hospitals project had been very valuable to the community over the 12 month period; and the total amount paid for conference support was proportional to the number of actual attendees.

Booklet A

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

Mikeysline (£10,000 sought) **APPROVED £10,000**

The Hive Project

During discussion of the application Members highlighted the need for additional mental health services and recognised that there was a lot of support from the community for Mikeysline. However, concerns were expressed in relation to the potential duplication of services provided by other organisations including Poppy Scotland and the Samaritans. It was also noted that NHS Highland would provide a trained Mental Health Nurse and it was therefore

important that they also contributed to the staffing costs. Thereafter, it was **AGREED** to approve the application on the basis that the concerns raised during discussion be discussed with the organisation.

Mrs H Carmichael took the Chair for the following application.

Inverness Blitz (£7,260 sought) **APPROVED £7,260**

Strengthening Highland - Creating a strong engagement tool for Young Champions

During discussion, Members analysed the outcomes of previous projects from Inverness Blitz which had received grant funding and expressed a desire that the organisation seek alternative funding in future years. It was also noted that Inverness Blitz had recently won the Britball Championships in Manchester. Thereafter, it was **AGREED** to approve the application and refer the organisation to Signpost to seek funding for future years.

Arts in Merkinch (£9,000 sought) **APPROVED £9,000**

Save the Bike Shed

During discussion, recognition was given to the impact of changes to Deprived Area Funding on groups like Arts in Merkinch. There was also recognition for the valuable work provided at the Bike Shed. Therefore, it was **AGREED** to approve the application on this occasion due to the current funding issues.

Chamber Music Tours Scotland (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**

The Masters - Inverness Piano Recital Series

Members were advised that the application requested to underwrite the costs of the recitals to a maximum of £5,000. Reassurance was sought that the ticketing structure would be appropriately priced to encourage a wider audience to attend and suggestions were made regarding the allocation of tickets. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to delegate the power to grant the application to the Inverness City Area Manager in consultation with Chair subject to receiving information on the full ticketing structure.

Inverness Floral Art Club (£1,000 sought) **APPROVED £1,000**

Floral Art Exhibition in conjunction with the re-opening of the Town House

During discussion, praise was expressed for the work undertaken on previous floral displays. In this connection, an explanation was sought and received that the funding requested for this project was considerable less than other floral projects including those jointly funded with Inverness BID.

Highland Literary Salon (£2,280 sought) **APPROVED £2,280**

2017/18 Programme of events and new developments

During discussion, concern was expressed in relation to the lack of public awareness of the programme of events organised by the Highland Literary Salon and information on purchasing tickets. In this regard further information was sought on the statement made in the application that a growing diversity of people were attending the events from across Scotland and what the organisation had done and planned to do to expand their audience. Thereafter, it was **AGREED** to delegate the power to grant the application to the Inverness City Area Manager in consultation with Chair on the basis that confirmation be received that there would be a significant number of attendees from a broad cross section of the community in Inverness.

Merkinch Partnership (£7,000 sought) **APPROVED £7,000**

Reach for the Future

In discussion, support was expressed for the hugely effective work undertaken by the Merkinch Partnership. There was also concern expressed about the provision of funding for staffing and overheads but it was recognised that the organisation currently had difficulties with funding due to the new arrangements for Deprived Area Fund. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to approve the application on this occasion on the basis that the organisation had a sustainable business model in future.

Miss J Campbell took the Chair for the following application.

Inverness Town Twinning Committee (£4,500 sought) **APPROVED £4,500**

Maintenance of Town Twinning Partnerships between Inverness, Augsburg, St Valery and La Baule

In discussion, an explanation was sought and received that the effect of the decision of the UK to leave the EU was a separate issue but that the Town Twinning Partnerships had not been negatively affected. Clarification was also sought and received that the grant received from the Highland Council referred to in the application was from the Common Good Fund and that the grant would be funded from a separate budget line for Town Twinning instead of the grants budget but was presented to Members for their scrutiny.

Scottish Draughts Association (£1,500 sought) **APPROVED £1,500**

2018 British Open Draughts Championships

In discussion, it was noted that previous events had attracted attendees from out with the area and a preference was expressed for the award to be funded from the subvention budget instead of the grants budget. It was therefore **AGREED** to approve the application from the subvention budget.

LOC MNR 2020 (£4,500 sought) **APPROVED £3,500**

Inverness Provincial Mod 2018

During discussion, the benefits of holding the Mod in Inverness in previous years were recognised and support was expressed on the basis that there was parity between the Council's contribution towards the Mod held in Inverness and in other locations in Highland which did not have a Common Good Fund. Thereafter, it was **AGREED** to approve the application for year one and that a report be provided which clarified the Council's contribution in previous years to ensure that the Inverness Provincial Mod was not subsidised by the Common Good Fund.

Independent Film Project (£2,077 sought) **REFUSED**

Christmas Movie

Members were provided with advice on the competency of the late application due to the applicant being an individual and not a constituted organisation. During discussion, support was expressed for the principal of the project but the applicant was encouraged to work with other people on the project and submit an application through an organisation.

Booklet B

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 14 September 2017) as it related to an application for more than £10,000:-

Leap Sports Scotland (£17,000 sought) **APPROVED £7,900**

Out and About in the Highlands

Discussion took place on the purpose of the group and the benefit it provided to people from Inverness. It was felt that the amount of funding requested was too much of the overall project cost. In this regard, suggestions were made to provide a reduced level of funding. Thereafter, it was **AGREED** to approve the reduced sum of £7,900 to cover other costs excluding staffing.

Booklet C

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

Henri Forman Event Management (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**

(on behalf of NHS Highland & the consortium of Scottish Rural Health Partnership, NHS Education for Scotland, NHS Highland, Remote and Rural Healthcare Education Alliance, UHI & University of Aberdeen) International Conference on Innovative Solutions in Remote and Rural Communities Healthcare, Inverness 2018

6. Strategy to Promote the Inverness Common Good Fund

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/08/17 dated 8 August 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which provided details of a proposed strategy to promote the Inverness Common Good Fund including a new logo and an annual event for grant recipients to showcase how they used their grants. It also proposed that applicants seeking grants in excess of £25k be invited to make a presentation to the Grants Sub-Committee in support of their application.

The Inverness City Events Manager was in attendance at the meeting and provided an overview of opportunities to maximise the benefit to the Common Good Fund of providing grant funding.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- there was a need to consider ways in which organisations could provide support in return to the Common Good Fund;
- it was important to promote successful applicants so that other organisations were aware of the support available;
- bringing organisations together at an annual event would be beneficial in terms of networking;
- more effort should be made to encourage businesses to hold conferences in Inverness which would contribute to the local economy;
- there was support for the Common Good Fund to have its own social media presence;
- confirmation was sought and received that the Community Dinner to recognise individuals would be a separate event to the proposed annual awards ceremony;
- the decisions on the applications were not to be discussed until the City Manager's office had informed the applicants and a press release had been issued;

- with regard to the purpose of the presentation to the Grants Sub-Committee from applicants requesting over £25,000 it was felt that it would be more appropriate to take place in public;
- in relation to the showcase event, it was suggested that instead of choosing the shortlist for the selection panel Members should directly decide which organisations attend on the proviso that organisations which attended would not be eligible to attend again for a few years;
- it was requested that further details of the proposal to hold an annual showcase event be reported to the next meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee;
- it was suggested that the Common Good Fund could be rebranded to 'Friends of Inverness Network' however in response it was advised that there was little scope to the change the title due to legal issues;
- a circular logo would be easier to use and the text could be made more appealing; and
- there was a need to review the remit of the Grants Sub-Committee so that it became the Common Good Fund Sub-Committee.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee:-

- i. the Strategy to promote the Inverness Common Good Fund;
- ii. that further details of the proposal to hold an annual showcase event awarding the most successful projects be reported to the next meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee;
- iii. that applicants requesting more than £25k be invited (at the discretion of the Chair) to give a presentation in support of their application to an appropriate meeting of the Grants Sub-Committee; and
- iv. that the new logo be amended so that it was circular; and
- v. appendix 4 to the report be adjusted to reflect that a separate annual awards ceremony to the Community Dinner would be held.

7. Reception for Honours Recipients

At present, a reception was not held for honours recipients. In this regard, Members were asked to consider holding a civic reception, in recognition of people who had received Honours, immediately after the publication of the Queen's Birthday Honours List and the New Year Honours List. Recipients would qualify if they had a material connection with the City. For example, this would include someone who whilst not living within the City Wards, had made a special contribution to city life.

Prior to discussion the Provost provided a background of the four people in the Inverness area to receive honours this year.

During discussion, Members made the following comments:-

- other organisations already recognised honours recipients depending on the reason for their award so to avoid arranging additional events it was suggested that honours recipients be invited to the Community Dinner at the Town House;

- to recognise Honours recipients separately it was proposed that a civic tea with the Provost be held in the Town House for honours recipients and a few of their family members;
- there would be a need to work closely with the Lord Lieutenant's Office to receive notification of the honours recipients;
- the civic tea could be held either immediately following the announcement of honours recipients or once they had received their badge.

Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** in principle to hold civic teas with the Provost for honours recipients and that the timing of these events would be advised in due course.

8. Civic Hospitality Requests

Declarations of Interest – Mr G Cruickshank declared a non-financial interest in the application from St Mary's Caledonian Operative No. 339 Lodge of Freemason as a Past Master in a Sister Lodge and left the room during discussion.

There had been circulated Report No GSC/09/17 dated 9 August 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:-

<u>Scottish Provincial Press Ltd</u> Inverness Courier's 200th Anniversary In relation to this application, assurance was sought and received that the Convener understood his position in relation to the Provost and Inverness Councillors during events at the Town House.	AGREED £ 5419.68
<u>Mr Jimmy Gray</u> Roddy Riddle's Unique Achievements	AGREED £ 1508.61
<u>Highland & Moray Area (Area 13) Royal Caledonian Curling Club</u> Strathcona Cup Canadian Curling Team	AGREED £ 1,448.61
<u>Association for Heritage Interpretation (AHI) in Conjunction with Interpret Europe (IE)</u> Making Connections – Re-imagining Landscapes	AGREED £ 2,312
<u>Highland Wheelchair Curling Club</u> 6th Highland Wheelchair Curling Triples Competition	AGREED £ 2,500.00
<u>Highland Military Tattoo</u> Band of the Royal Regiment of Scotland March Through Inverness	AGREED £ 1,455.49
<u>St Mary's Caledonian Operative No. 339 Lodge of Freemason</u> 175 years of St Mary's Caledonian Operative	REFUSED

No. 339 Freemason's Masonic Lodge working in Inverness

Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to refuse the application on the basis that it did not demonstrate sufficient community benefit to meet the criteria for approval.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 6 November 2017 at 9.30 am.

The meeting ended at 11.45 am.