

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

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Monday 29 October 2018 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr B Boyd	Mr G Cruickshank
Mrs C Caddick	Mrs E McAllister
Miss J Campbell	Mr G Ross
Mrs H Carmichael	

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office
Mr S Taylor, Civic & Facilities Team Leader, Corporate Resources Service
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Service

Mr G Ross in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr I Brown, Mr A Graham, Mr A Jarvie and Mr R Laird.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 4, Booklets A and B – Mr B Boyd (non-financial)
Item 4, Booklet A – Miss J Campbell (non-financial)
Item 4, Booklet A – Mrs H Carmichael (non-financial)
Item 4, Booklet A – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

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 items on the grounds that they 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 2018/19

Declaration of Interests –

The following declared non financial interests, having provided advice, and left the room during discussion on the applications:-

- Miss J Campbell - Signpost-Inc
- Mrs H Carmichael – Heartstone
- Mr G Ross – 12th Inverness Boys Brigade and Signpost-Inc

The following declared non financial interests but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interest did not preclude them from taking part in the discussion of the applications:-

- Mr B Boyd - 12th Inverness Boys Brigade and ActivNess Ltd
- Mrs J Campbell - MS Therapy

There had been circulated Report No GSC/11/18 dated 22 October 2018 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 in Booklets A and B.

It was confirmed that the balance of funds available for allocation from the 2018/19 budget was £96,715 for Grants and £35,250 for conferencing.

The Sub Committee **NOTED** the following:-

- i. the grant for the Queens Park Upgrade, Floodlighting Installation had been withdrawn;
- ii. the grant award for the appointment of an Armed Forces Community Covenant Officer had now been paid out;
- iii. further detail was still awaited from Inverness Floral Art Club regarding their Exhibition;
- iv. 90% of the grant to the Inverness Science festival had been paid;
- v. the Piano recital had proved successful;
- vi. the Loch Ness Knit Fest had been a success attracting international attendees; and
- vii. the Inverness Street Festival would not take place. The reasons for this would be sought from the Inverness BID team.

There had been a low take up on the Conference budget and this was partly due to the difficulties for conference organisers being able to negotiate packages for accommodation. During the summer months accommodation was difficult to come by and, when available, hotels were charging a premium. It was hoped that the proposed 3 new hotels on Church Street, Inverness would help ease the situation but the University of the Highlands and Islands should be encouraged to make their student accommodation available.

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to recommend to the City of Inverness Area Committee that £35,250 held in the Conference Support Budget be transferred to the Grants Budget for 2017/18.

Booklet A

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

12 th Inverness Boys Brigade (£4,000 sought)	APPROVED £4,000
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French Opal Coast Adventure – Summer 2019

Scottish Waterways Trust (£8,972 sought) **APPROVED £4,486**
Canal Life

Whilst recognising the merits of this project, concern was expressed that the request for funding would go towards staff costs. As a result, Members were of the view to fund half of the amount requested, as a one off.

For the Right Reasons (£8,000 sought) **APPROVED £8,000**
First Steps to Recovery

The work undertaken by this organisation was acknowledged. However, the supporting paperwork lacked detail as to how the money would be spent and there was a danger that they could be overspending their budget. Whilst taking a view to support the application, any future applications would require additional information.

Shopmobility Highland SCIO (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**
Changing Places

Highland Hospice (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £2,500**
Go Nuts Arts Trail

This trail, comprising 20 5ft squirrels in 13 towns, would coincide with an Archie Foundation "Oor Willie" trail. As many of the squirrels would be located outwith Inverness, clarification was sought as to the level of support other areas would be providing. However, the Sub-Committee agreed to approve £2,500 to be taken from the City Promotions Budget.

University of the Highlands and Islands (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**
2019 Inverness Science Festival

Signpost-Inc (£9,405 sought) **APPROVED £9,405**
The work of Signpost-Inc was commended, providing a place for those with chaotic lifestyles to recover and support during the transition phase. However, additional information was sought as to the sustainability of the project and consequently, whilst supporting the application, a progress report after 6 months was requested.

Heartstone (£9,800 sought) **REFUSED**
Heartstone Cura on Ness Islands

The Sub-Committee felt that the project did not fit with the objectives of the Common Good Fund.

Flow Photography Festival (£10,000) **APPROVED £5,000**
FLOW Photofest 2019

Although the Flow Country was in Sutherland, this festival was to be based in Inverness. This festival had received funding in the past and disappointment was expressed that it was not on a more of a commercial. Funding to provided from the City Promotions Budget.

Crown Church (£9,500 sought) **REFUSED**
Conservation of Memorial Stained Glass Window

The Sub- Committee recognised the merit of the project, however, it was felt in this case that it was not an appropriate use of the Common Good Fund as Alternative sources of funding were available including the National Churches Trust.

MS Therapy Centre Inverness Ltd (£3,750) **£3,750**
Ground Rent for Year to 31st March 2019

Booklet B

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to make the following recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee in respect of the following applications for funding of over £10,000 as follows:-

Blythswood Care (£20,000 sought) **APPROVED £20,000**
Highland Foodbank - Inverness

The Shirly Project (£24,200 sought) **APPROVED £24,200**
Bigger Picture School Transition Service

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to suspend Standing Order 35 to allow the following application for funding to be re-considered, the original application having been determined in the previous 6 months.

ActivNess Ltd (£13,200 sought) **REFUSED**
Active Inverness Project

The aspirations of the project were welcomed. The view of the applicants was that there was a gap in Primary Care which they could address. However, although having letters of intent, there were no firm commitments. Furthermore, the estimated costings were questionable and there were potentially other sources of funding and support more suitable such as High Life Highland.

5. Operation Respect

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/12/18 dated 17 October 2018 by the Inverness City Area Manager. The City of Inverness Area Committee had previously endorsed the planned activities of Operation Respect – City Centre over a number of years. The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee was therefore being asked to approve a contribution to the funding for activities from the Inverness Common Good Fund for the Festive Project for Winter 2018/19.

The incredible work carried out by the Street Pastors was acknowledged and it was understood that the service they provided was to be extended to Huntly Street.

The Sub Committee **APPROVED** funding of £9,015 for Operation Respect 2018/19 from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

6. Merkinch Community Centre

The Sub Committee **NOTED** an error in the Minutes of the last Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee meeting where it was confirmed that the Merkinch Community Centre received an award of £4,900 being 50% of the amount requested (£9,800) towards the purchase of new chairs.

7. Homologation of Grant Award

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to homologate the award of £4,594 made to the Highland Council – Civic Team towards the Armistice 100 Weekend – Return to Light Parade.

8. Civic Hospitality Requests

There had been circulated Report No GSC/13/18 dated 22 October 2018 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 C.

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

<u>Clan Munro Gathering 2019</u> Civic Buffet	AGREED £3,347.63
<u>Institute of Health Reseach & Innovation</u> Scottish Cardiovascular Forum – Civic Dinner	AGREED £2,405.78
<u>Impact Hub</u> 17 th Rural Entrepreneurship Conference - Civic Reception	AGREED £1,299.68
<u>Inverness Ice Rink</u> 50 th Anniversary – Civic Dinner	AGREED £3,059.00
<u>Police Scotland Youth Volunteer (Inverness)</u> Annual Awards Survey – Civic Buffet	AGREED £1,850.00

Given the recent world record breaking achievement by an Inverness mother and Council employee, in terms of Standing Order 8, the Chairman agreed the undernoted as an urgent additional item of business.

The Sub Committee **AGREED** that a Civic Reception, costing £907.50, be held to congratulate Jenny Graham, on her accomplishment and thank her for bringing the achievements of an Inverness mother to a global audience by being the fastest self-supported female to circumnavigate the world by bike.

The Sub Committee took the opportunity to thank the Civic & Facilities Team for their sterling work in organising and preparing for the wide range of civic functions held at the Town House. The standard of catering was exceptional and it was recognised that, at times, the team needed to turn around events particularly quickly. It was evident from the appearance of the Town House that the team had a pride in the place and in themselves collectively.

9. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to award the following Civic Hospitality requests:-

- Armistice 100 Weekend – Catering - £2,000
- Mayor of St Valery en Caux – Visit to Inverness – Civic Dinner £941.50

10. High Street Benches

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to purchase three benches for the High Street at a cost of £699.99 each, to be met from the Other Properties Budget.

11. Travelling Persons Site

At the City of Inverness Area Committee on 14 September 2017, Members agreed that the Council should be charged rent for the Travelling Persons Site (Common Good Fund Property). The rent is £6,000 per annum and came into effect from 14 September 2017. Housing had requested to commence payment from 1 April 2018.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to the request.

12. Children's Water Feature, Ness Islands – Access Paths

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to upgrade the paths in the Islands adjacent to the above up to a maximum of £5,000 from the Other Properties Budget.

13. St Valery en Caux

Taking in to account that the Provost had been invited by the Mayor of St Valery en Caux to visit, as part of the civic relations as a twin town, in June 2019, the Sub Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. to support the trip from the Town Twinning Budget with costs of a maximum of £2,000; and
- ii. that the costs were in relation to travel and incidental expenses for the Provost and the Inverness City Area Manager and, if there was a viable economic link to be developed, the addition of a member of the Economy and Regeneration Team.

14. HighlandAR Legends

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to contribute to an online promotion of HighlandAR at a cost of £500 with Aberdeen Journals.

15. Poppy Scotland

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to award £250 to Poppy Scotland for sponsorship of their Strictly Come Dancing with Poppy Scotland event.

16. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. that the next meeting would take place on Monday 28 January 2019 at 9.30 am; and
- ii. the dates of the other 2019 meetings as Monday 13 May, Monday 5 August and Monday 28 October.

The meeting ended at 11.00 am.