

**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, 4 November 2019 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr B Boyd
Miss J Campbell
Mrs H Carmichael
Mr A Graham

Mrs B McAllister
Mr G Ross

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Acting Head of Community and Democratic Engagement
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office
Mr S Taylor, Civic and Facilities Team Leader
Mrs A MacArthur, Administrative Assistant

Mr A Christie in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs C Caddick

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 4, Booklet C – Mr B Boyd (non-financial)
Item 4, Booklet C – Mr A Graham (one financial item and one non-financial item)
Item 4, Booklet C – Mrs B McAllister (non-financial)
Item 7, Booklet C – 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 be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 and 9 of Part 1 of schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Requests for Financial Assistance 2019/20

There had been circulated Report No GSC/12/19 dated 28 October 2019 by the Inverness City Area Manager. There had also been circulated separately a copy of the applications and supporting documentation as Booklets, A and B.

It was noted that in terms of sums approved but not yet released for projects, these were being monitored to ensure that if applicants were not able to take up the funding for the 2019/2020 awards, then these funds could be released for other projects. Funding awarded in previous years that had not been released could not be released for other projects without permission from the Inverness City Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** that the City Area Manager request the Inverness City Area Committee approve the release of funding from any funding that had not been released from previous years.

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

University of the Highlands and Islands (£5,000 sought) APPROVED £5,000
Inverness Science Festival 2020

The Committee supported the Science Festival although it was likely funding would be reduced next year.

Inverness Angling Club (£10,000 sought) APPROVED £10,000
Replacement of Fishermen's Hut at the Bught Park

This project was supported by the Sub-Committee.

Clarity Walk CIC (£10,000 sought) DECLINED
Clarity Walk

This event was a duplication of other events and the application had not been fully completed, therefore the Committee declined funding.

Highland Rugby Football Club (SCIO) (£9,500 sought) APPROVED £5,000
Community Rugby Development Programme 2017-2020

Funding was reduced to £5,000 as the contract had now finished. The Sub-Committee would like to see the rugby club reach further and find inclusion for the Hilton and Raigmore areas.

Hilton Family Support (£10,000 sought) APPROVED £5,000
Hilton Family Support – Project Worker's Salary

The contribution would be reduced to £5,000 as the £10,000 sought was considered high.

City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band (£9,950)

APPROVED £9,950

City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band continued development and participation in events

This Band was supported by the Sub-Committee.

Inverness Military Wives Choir (£732)

APPROVED £732

Remembrance Concerts 2019

The choir was to be encouraged to keep some money back this year to support the event next year.

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:-

Inverness Men's Shed (£30,000 sought)

APPROVED £27,554

Conversion and refurbishment of the Pavilion at Milburn Academy

As the budget was now fully committed the remaining £27,554 and any unreleased funds up to £30,000 would be given to this project.

Blythswood Care (£20,000 sought)

APPROVED £20,000

Highland Foodbank – Inverness 2019

This project was supported.

5. Operation Respect

There had been circulated Report No GSC/13/19 dated 28 October 2019 by the Inverness City Manager. The City of Inverness Area Committee had previously endorsed the planning activities of Operation Respect – City Centre over a number of years. The Inverness Common Good Fund Sub Committee was now asked to approve a contribution to the funding for activities from the Inverness Common Good Fund for the Festive Project for Winter 2019/20.

The Sub Committee **AGREED** funding of £11,852 for Operation Respect 2019/20. The funding would be reduced to £8,652 if a request for £3,200 funding from the NHS/Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, to cover the British Red Cross participation in the Safe Zone, was successful.

6. Evaluation Forms

There had been circulated and **NOTED** evaluation forms submitted by applicants on completion of their projects. The Committee welcomed the evaluation forms which would also be used for audit purposes.

It was **NOTED** that the railings at Bught Park required a coat of paint. High Life Highland managed Bught Park, but it was Highland Council's responsibility for the maintenance.

7. Civic Hospitality Requests

The following declared a non-financial interest 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 and Mrs E McAllister, Highland Senior Citizens**
- **Mr A Graham, Blythswood**
- **Mr G Ross, Inverness Hospital Radio**

Mr A Graham declared a financial interest as his employer was a substantial funder of the MOD and left the room during consideration of this item.

There had been circulated Report No GSC/14/19 dated 29 October 2019 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

In this connection there had been circulated separately a copy of the applications and any supporting documentation at Booklet C.

The Sub-Committee determined the applications listed in Appendix 2 to the report and detailed in Booklet C as follows, with the inclusion of an additional application for NORA which the Sub-Committee also considered:-

The Highland Council **APPROVED**
Rural Learn to Teach Celebration Event

An Comunn Gaidhealach **APPROVED**
Royal National MOD 2020 Inverness – Official launch of logo and organising campaign

The Gaelic MOD was a huge event that promoted the Gaelic language.

Inverness BID **APPROVED**
Inverness 2019 Best Bar None Awards

Inverness Choral Society **APPROVED**
100th Anniversary of Inverness Choral Society

Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland **APPROVED**

The Committee supported this application.

STUC **APPROVED**
Conference of Trades Unions and Trades Council in the Highlands and Islands

The Clan MacKenzie Society of Scotland and the UK **APPROVED**
Clan MacKenzie International Clan Gathering

Highland Senior Citizens Network **APPROVED**
25th Anniversary of Highland Senior Citizens Network (HSCN)

Inverness Hospital Radio **APPROVED**
50th Anniversary of Inverness Hospital Radio

Nordic Atlantic Co-operation (NORA) Reception **APPROVED**
Three day visit and stakeholders meeting considering formal co-operation with our area

The Sub-Committee congratulated Mr Taylor on the staffing and food at the event on Saturday which had been excellent. It was accepted that although Members took the Town Hall for granted, many Inverness residents had never been in the Town Hall and were in awe of the building.

8. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

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

Post 45 Memorial – Capt John McDermid - £300
Highland Recovery Walk - £1,441.18

9. Lotland Street Unit

There had been circulated Report No GSC/15/9 dated 8 October 2019 by the Inverness City Area Manager inviting the Sub-Committee to consider the development of a storage yard in a vacant lot of land in Lotland Street.

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to:

- i. **APPROVE** expenditure of £9,896.70 from the Other Properties Budget to remediate the lot to a usable storage yard; and
- ii. **APPROVE** the commercial lease of the storage yard.

10. Poppyscotland

The Committee **AGREED** to **HOMOLOGATE** the decision to decline the offer from Poppy Scotland to sponsor a dancer in their Come Dancing with Poppyscotland 2020.

11. Inverness BID Ltd – Coach Ambassadors Project 2019

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to **HOMOLOGATE** the decision to give an extra payment of £418 towards the pruning of trees in Ardross Street as part of the 2019 Coach Friendly Project.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place in February 2020.

It was suggested and **AGREED** that as funding had now closed for this year, the meeting in February be utilised to discuss grant strategy for 2020/21, with the possibility of annual applications in a reactive system. Further as there was now less grant money, that the criteria for applications be modulated.

The Sub Committee thanked Mrs H Tolmie for producing the detailed reports and for her tireless work in the collation of the information.

The meeting ended at 10.45 am.