

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held in the Chamber, The Courthouse, High Street, Nairn, on Wednesday 27 November 2019 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mr L Fraser
Mr T Heggie

Mrs L MacDonald
Mr P Saggars

In attendance:

Mrs A Clark, Acting Head of Policy, Chief Executive's Office
Mr W Munro, Interim Ward Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Mr R MacLeod, Principal Housing Officer, Community Services
Mrs L Dunn, Principal Administrator, Chief Executive's Office

Also in attendance:

Mr D Wilson, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service (Item 3)

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to the Committee.

Mr T Heggie in the Chair

Preliminaries

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, the Chair advised that the press would be allowed to record the meeting since it was a committee meeting held in public and was not webcast. The Chair also welcomed the Interim Ward Manager, Mr Munro to his first meeting of the Committee.

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Committee **NOTED** the following Declaration of Interest:-

Item 5 – Mr L Fraser (non-financial)

3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service – Local Committee Performance Report for 2019-20
Seirbheis Smàlaidh agus Teasairginn na h-Alba – Aithisg Coileanaidh na Comataidh Ionadail airson 2019-20

There had been circulated Report No N/**19**/19 dated 26 October 2019 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- A request was made for the number of deliberate fires that had taken place during October 2019;
- Overall the performance results were excellent and demonstrated the positive impact being achieved as a result of the targeted engagement work and collaborative working with key partners such as Police Scotland and Community Wardens;
- Further information was sought and provided in relation to equipment upgrades and vehicle replacements; and
- It was requested that the Committee's appreciation be conveyed to the local fire fighters for their diligent work and their commitment to the safety of the community.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the Area Performance Report and **AGREED** to report back to the Committee on the number of deliberate fires during October 2019.

4. Nairn Common Good Fund

- a. **Audited Accounts, Annual Report 2018/19 and Quarter 2 Monitoring 2019/20 Report**
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Cunntasan Sgrùdaichte, Aithisg Bhliadhnaile 2018/19 agus Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Cairteil 2 2018/19

There had been circulated Joint Report No N/20/19 dated 15 November 2019 by the Executive Chief Officer Resources and Finance and Acting Head of Policy.

During discussion, the following key points were raised:

- The Committee was informed that the resurfacing works at the Riverside car park were not yet fully complete and it was anticipated that these would be concluded in the coming weeks. It was further highlighted that although this was an experimental surface that had been used, it was felt that this would be a more permanent solution thus provide wider community benefit, reduce maintenance costs, and could potentially be used in other areas across the Highlands;
- Further information was requested on when the Asset Register would be published; and
- It was reported that an investment fund (currently valued at £532,000) had been established and it was intended to continue to build on this until it could provide a meaningful annual income which could then be dispersed to support local projects.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the Nairn Common Good Fund Annual Report for 2018/19;
- ii. **NOTED** the position of the Nairn Common Good Fund and outturn as shown in the 2019/20 Quarter 2 monitoring statement against budget;
- iii. **AGREED** to homologate the decision taken to accept the offer from Springfield Properties to resurface the Riverside car park; and
- iv. **NOTED** that the Asset Register publication date would be circulated to the Committee.

**b. Nairn Links Development Plan – Phase 1 Splash Pad Update
Plana Leasachaidh Fighdeach Inbhir Narann – Fios às Ùr mu Cheum 1
‘Splash Pad’**

There had been circulated Joint Report No N/21/19 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment and Acting Head of Policy.

During discussion, the Committee raised the following main points:-

- The Council had been very proactive in taking this project forward and appreciation was expressed for their support and also their support towards the internal project management costs of £25,000;
- In addition to being responsible for the ongoing maintenance, the Nairn Common Good Fund should also make long term provision for future replacement of the equipment at the conclusion of its lifespan of 25 years. This would affect the ability of the Common Good Fund to support other projects therefore alternative methods of income generation must be considered and it was anticipated that proposals in this regard would be presented to a future meeting;
- Concern was expressed that the lifespan of the project was too short in comparison the current paddling pool which had been in existence for the past 75 years; and
- It was queried whether the Splash Pad came with an Insurance Backed Guarantee.

Thereafter, the Committee:

- NOTED** the update on the Splash Pad development, including the business plan;
- AGREED** that £100,000 be committed from the Nairn Common Good Fund towards phase 1 of the Nairn Links Development Plan;
- AGREED** that the ongoing maintenance for the Splash Pad be met from the Common Good Fund; and
- NOTED** that confirmation would be provided on whether the Splash Pad came with an Insurance Backed Guarantee.

**5. Housing Performance Report – 1 April 2019 to 30 September 2019
Aithisg Coileanaidh Taigheadais – 1 Giblean 2019 gu 30 Sultain 2019**

Declaration of Interest: Mr L Fraser declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Sub-Contractor for the Housing Service in Nairn but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors’ Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude his involvement in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No N/22/19 dated 6 November 2019 by the Executive Chief Officer Customer and Communities.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- It was queried how many people/families had to move out of the local area to access temporary emergency accommodation;

- It was highlighted that the time for repairs had been consistently good and it was queried whether the model being used in Nairn could be replicated across the Highlands;
- The work of local Tenant Participation Officer was commended;
- The need for more affordable housing in Nairn had been emphasised at a recent community council meeting and Members indicated their desire to work collaboratively to achieve this for the development of the community; and
- Assurance was provided that early intervention/escalation measures were implemented in regard to Rent Arrears and appreciation was expressed for the work undertaken by staff to support tenants in this regard.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance for the period 1 April to 30 September 2019.

6. Minutes of Previous Meeting **Geàrr-chunntas na Coinneimh Roimhe**

There had been circulated and **NOTED** the Minutes of Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 11 September 2019, which were approved by the Council on 31 October 2019.

The meeting concluded at 11.25am.