

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee (Comataidh an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Ratharsair)** held remotely on **Monday, 29 March, 2021 at 10.30 am.**

Present:

Mr John Finlayson
Mr John Gordon

Mr Calum MacLeod
Mr Calum Munro

Participating Officials:

Mr Willie MacKinnon, Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Ms Fiona Cameron, Programme Manager, Infrastructure and Environment Service
Ms Wendy Anderson, Programme Administrator, Infrastructure & Environment Service
Ms Jennifer Bruce, Principal Housing Officer, Property & Housing Service
Mr Iain Moncrieff, Road Operations Manager, Infrastructure and Environment Service
Mr Andrew Hunter, Technician, Infrastructure and Environment Service
Mr Alasdair MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Performance & Governance Service

Also in Attendance:

Inspector L Allan, Police Scotland

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 J Gordon – Cathraiche (Chair)

1. **Apologies for Absence** **Leisgeulan**

There were no apologies for absence.

2. **Declarations of Interest** **Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt**

Item 5 – Mr John Finlayson, Mr John Gordon, Mr Calum Munro (All Non financial)

3. **Minutes** **Geàrr-chunntas**

There were circulated for information, Minutes of Meeting of the Isle of Skye and Raasay Committee (Comataidh an Eilein Sgitheanaich agus Ratharsair) held on 30 November, 2020 and 25 January, 2021, the terms of which were **NOTED**.

4. **Police Scotland Local Committee Performance Report** **Aithisg Choileanaidh Comataidh Ionadail Poileas Alba**

There was circulated Report No SR/2/21 by the Area Inspector for Police.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- A significant amount of Police time was spent in responding to reports of lockdown breaches, such as irresponsible camping or checking on reports of holiday homes being used during lockdown.
- It was queried what the staffing numbers were in the area given that it was likely to be a very busy tourist season. It was advised that there was currently a full staffing complement of Officers in the area. However, there would be some changes in staff in the next few months, but contingency plans were in place to fill any vacancies.
- It was requested that a list of local Police Officer representatives for each Community Council in the area be forwarded to Members as this would be helpful in resolving issues locally;
- There was good joint working with Partners in the area. Two Highland Council Countryside Rangers were to be appointed in this area and Police Scotland would be working with them during the busy tourist season that was expected.
- There was good adherence to the Covid-19 guidelines in the area;
- It was advised that stop and searches were based on intelligence and upon certain circumstances where Officers felt it appropriate to use their stop and search powers. Stop and searches were reviewed to ensure that there was good reason to use these powers.
- Some Officers had received their Covid vaccinations early as there had been spare vaccinations available that had to be used by a specific date. Officers had appropriate Personal Protection Equipment when social distancing may not be possible.
- Officers did target speeding hotspots identified by Community Councils;
- Officers were in liaison with Partner agencies and the Public regarding wildfires, some of which had been started deliberately. If there was criminal liability from deliberate fire raising this would be reported and dealt with accordingly.
- In terms of what the community could do to help prevent the supply and misuse of drugs, it was advised that if the public had information then they should forward it to Police Scotland who would target those involved. Information could be supplied anonymously via Crimestoppers.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

i progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 1, attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 01 April 2020 - 31 December 2020; and

ii that a list of Police Officer representatives for each Community Council in the area would be sent to all Members.

**5. Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of Applications
Maoin Choimhearsnachdan Cladaich na Gàidhealtachd – Measadh
Iarrtasan**

Declaration of Interests:-

Mr John Finlayson declared a non financial interest in the Castle Moil Access Path application as his partner was a member of Kyleakin and Kylerhea Community Council and he took no part in the discussion of this application.

Mr John Gordon declared a non financial interest in the Climavore Builds application as a member of the Steering Group for Climavore and he took no part in the discussion for this application.

Mr Calum Munro declared a non financial interest in (1) Kilmuir Community Hub application as Chair of Kilmuir Community Trust and (2) the Voices of the Land application as a Director of Ionad Thronairnis, and he took no part in the discussion of these applications.

There was circulated Report No. SR/3/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment.

The available Highland Coastal Communities Funding (HCCF) for the Isle of Skye & Raasay was £505,492.06. There were 19 applications all of which were eligible for funding. The total value of grant requested was £689,469.27.

Members expressed their thanks to Officers for their work on HCCF. It had been a transparent, rigorous process and engagement with applicants. This funding was very welcomed and would make a positive change to communities across the Isle of Skye and Raasay. The funding would meet the ambitions of supporting economic recovery, community resilience and mitigating the impact of climate change and address the challenges of rural depopulation.

The Committee was invited to consider all applications presented for funding and agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application; and agree which applications should receive a funding award from HCCF up to the value of the available area allocation.

The Committee considered applications for Highland Coastal Communities Funding as follows:-

Radio Skye (Cuillin FM Ltd) – Radio Skye Signal Expansion Project

APPROVED £18,400

Kyleakin & Kylerhea Community Council – Castle Access Paths

APPROVED £6,278

Geary Common Grazings Committee – Geary Crofting Township Regeneration

APPROVED £15,125

Broadford & Strath Community Company – Elgol Toilets & Visitor Facilities

APPROVED £34,500

Portree & Braes Community Trust – Camanachd Square Feasibility Study

APPROVED £31,500

Edinbane Community Company Ltd – Lyndale Multi User Path

APPROVED £25,000

Skye Sailing Club – Safety Boat Renewal

APPROVED - £22,556

Sleat Community Trust – Toremore Forest

APPROVED £13,560

Minginish Community Hall Association – Path and Habitat Improvement

APPROVED £5,000

Broadford and Strath Community Company – Corry Capers

APPROVED £11,612.50

Mr Gordon had declared a non financial interest in the following application, and would not be taking part in the discussion. Nominations were then invited for an Interim Chair for the Climavore application. Mr J Finlayson was unanimously appointed as Interim Chair.

Climavore CIC – Climavore Builds

APPROVED £7,000

At this point, Mr J Gordon resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Raasay Development Trust – Raasay Community Pontoon & Offshore Facilities

APPROVED £74,003

Broadford & Strath Community Company – Community Co-ordinator

APPROVED £34,200

Kilmuir Community Trust – Kilmuir Community Hub (Phase 1)

APPROVED £50,000

The Highland Council – Kilt Rock Car Park Extension

APPROVED £57,100

Kyleakin Connections – KC Plus

APPROVED £64,578.27

Ionad Thronndaimis – Guthan na Tire/Voices of the Land

The application while supported in principle was **DEFERRED** for consideration at the next round of Highland Coastal Community Funding.

Hebridean Diving Services - Coastal Defence Adjacent to Stein Jetty

APPROVED £25,000

Staffin Community Trust – The Staffin Slipway Redevelopment

The application while supported in principle was **DEFERRED** until the project was progressed further.

6. Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2021/22 Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Màil Gharaidsean 2021/22

There was circulated Report No. SR/4/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Property and Housing which provided information on garage rents for Skye & Raasay and invited the Committee to set rent levels for garage and garage sites held on the Housing Revenue Account for 2021/2022.

Following consideration, the Committee **AGREED** a 2% rent increase to apply to Skye & Raasay Garages and Garage Sites.

7. Roads Maintenance Programme 2021/22 Prògram Càradh Rathaidean 2021/22

There was circulated Report No. SR/5/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- In terms of the frustration felt by many regarding the state of the roads in the area and across Highland, it was reassuring to see the proposed roads maintenance programme included a lot of the work on roads that required to be carried out;
- Increased investment in roads was very welcomed. In terms of extra funding, there would be £88k revenue and £500k extra capital funding to be allocated to the Skye/Raasay area.
- In relation to the works that did not go ahead last year, the amount of carry forward funding was unknown at this stage. An assurance was sought as soon as possible that the carry forward funding for this area would not be lost.
- This was an ambitious roads maintenance programme and the need to ensure the work was done was emphasised. With the extra funding, it was important to

make an early start on the works and maintain that momentum. Programming of works was key to ensure the maximisation of labour, plant and equipment.

- Progress on works on the Torrin road was requested;
- It was advised that surface dressing was weather dependant;
- It was advised that all areas were currently reviewing what their fleet plant requirements were as there was additional money available.
- It was requested that a progress report on the Road Maintenance Programme be submitted to the Committee meeting in August, 2021;
- Making progress on drainage, pot holes and white lining was emphasised.
- Members recognised the dedication and hard work of the road maintenance team in Skye/Raasay. It was a very challenging job and their efforts were much appreciated.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED**:-

i the proposed prioritised 2021/22 Roads Programme for the Isle of Skye and Raasay Area; and

ii that a progress report on the Roads Maintenance Programme would be submitted to the Committee meeting in August, 2021.

8. Ward 10 Discretionary Grant Awards 2020/21- Presentation Duaisean Tabhartas fo Ughdarras Uàrd 10 2020/21 – Taisbeanadh

The Ward Manager gave a verbal presentation on the Ward 10 Discretionary Grant Awards 2020/21

It was advised that there had been 56 community resilience applications awarded funding from the Covid-19 fund and 10 applications awarded funding from the Ward discretionary grant fund. A total of £52,000 had been awarded. The awards mainly supported community groups that supported a wide range of services during the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Members acknowledged the resilience shown by communities over the last year and also that the Council had been able to support these communities in the tremendous work that they had carried out. It was intended to support communities going forward.

A point was made that localism needed to be backed up with sufficient funding. Local Members could make a big difference to local communities if more funding was available.

The contribution of the Ward Manager on his work in managing the Covid-19 and Ward Discretionary grants was recognised.

The Committee **NOTED** the Ward 10 Discretionary Grant Awards 2020/21.

The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.