

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth Committee** held remotely via Microsoft Teams on 26 April 2021 at 2.00 pm.

Present:

Mr G Adam
Mrs J Barclay
Mr A MacKinnon

Mrs A MacLean
Mrs M Paterson

In attendance:

Mr M Rodgers, Executive Chief Officer - Housing and Property
Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Ms D Agnew, Ward Manager (Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth), Chief Executive's Office
Mr D Martin, Area Education and Learning Manager
Ms H Cameron, Early Level Commissioner
Mr R Campbell, Estate Strategy Manager, Development and Infrastructure
Mr I Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager
Mr J Holden, Area Housing Manager
Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager, Development and Regeneration
Ms N Wallace
Miss S Tarrant, Corporate Communications and Engagement Officer
Mrs A MacArthur, Administrative Assistant, Chief Executive's Office

Also in attendance:

Chief Inspector Wilson, Police Scotland
Inspector R Ross, 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.

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulans

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Mr C Fraser and Mr G MacKenzie.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

Item 8 – Mr A MacKinnon (financial)

3. Police – Area Performance Summary Poilis – Geàrr-chunntas Dèanadais Sgìreil

There had been circulated Report No BIDS/009/21 dated 31 March 2021 by the North Area Commander. Chief Inspector Jamie Wilson advised that Inspector Richard Ross had replaced Inspector Kevin MacLeod who was on secondment for a period of 7 months.

In discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- on a query as to whether Police Scotland had received complaints on the new 20 mph speed limit restrictions in Dingwall, Chief Inspector J Wilson advised that there had not been many complaints for the new 20 mph speed restrictions, however people do not appear to be complying;
- further information was sought and provided on drug seizures and how this would be managed. Police Scotland would ask that people continue to report the misuse of drugs or drug dealing in the area. Members were pleased to see that officers had now had training in detecting drivers driving under the influence of drugs;
- the Chief Executive, through the Tourism Committee and the Visitor Management Group was looking to provide extra resources to assist with tourism and the related NC500 route. Members suggested the following resource requirements: help with congestion in areas which were unable to take a high volume of vehicles; human waste disposal and other waste management issues. In relation to social distancing the figures had not changed. A significant number of calls were received in relation to people not complying. There had been ten new Rangers appointed and dedicated to the NC500, these were to be increased to 17. Although there had been no additional police officers, demand on the police would increase;
- CHAMPS – Dingwall Academy supports a social group for care experienced young people in the Dingwall ASG. This group is fully embedded into the wider work of Who Cares Scotland in Highland and beyond;
- following a query on fraud it was suggested that a member of the Prevention and Intervention Team be involved in each of the Community Councils and give a short briefing on the different types of fraud. The Community Councils once informed of frauds in the area could broadcast the message within their forums;
- in relation to anti-social behaviour, instances are coded to specific properties and they are easily retrieved to ascertain the amount and type that have occurred;
- if a vulnerable adult was encountered during a property visit we would share with the concern hub who would share with the relevant department or service; and
- a meeting had been held with the Divisional Commander, members of the community and elected Members regarding safety issues at the Munloch junction where the intention of the community was to extend the 50 mph

speed limit from beyond the Munloch junction to North Kessock. Following that meeting the Divisional Commander had had a meeting with Transport Scotland which had gone very well. Another meeting was expected very soon.

The Committee **NOTED**:

- i. progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-23 Year 1, attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2020 – 31 January 2021.
- ii. that Police Scotland would give a short presentation to Community Councils on the different types of frauds and arrange for Community Councils to broadcast the information through their forums; and
- iii. that Police Scotland would give a short presentation to the Committee on the different types of fraud.

4. Early Years provision in BIDS – Delivery and Expansion Solar Thràth-bhliadhnaichean ann an BIDS – Lìbhrigeadh agus Togail

There was a verbal report on Early Years provision in BIDS by Hayley Cameron.

In discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- Avoch were currently building an extension to the current nursery building. Completion had been hoped for during the summer but there had been a delay so a precise date could not be given.

The Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the report.

5. St Clement's School, Dingwall Sgoil Naomh Chliamhainn, Inbhir Pheofharain

There was a verbal report by the Area Education and Learning Manager and the Estate Strategy Manager.

In discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- site investigations had been undertaken and an interim report was expected at the end of April with a full report in June;
- pre-planning application advice had been sought from the Planning Department and several constraints had been highlighted which led to a lengthy exercise and investigation into the feasibility of the site;
- local Members and parents, the Chief Officer and Executive Chief Officer had had significant engagement with meetings and visits to the site; and
- Members queried the ownership of the railway bridge and whether there was likely to be objections to the site from the owners of the bridge.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

6. Housing Performance Report Aithisg Dèanadais a thaobh Taigheadais

There had been circulated Report No BIDS/010/21 dated 31 March 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer – Housing and Property which provided Members with information on how the Housing Section performed in relation to the Scottish Social Housing Charter and other performance indicators during the period up to 31 December 2020.

Members expressed thanks for the helpful and dedicated work of housing staff and wished Jim Holden well on his retirement.

In discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- concern was expressed at the Council garages many of which were in a poor condition. There was currently a pilot project for refurbishing garages in Dingwall and once costings were available, Members would be briefed;
- the increase in housing stock from the Housing development programme has not had an impact on housing repair capability, as the requirement for repairs in new houses was significantly less than older housing stock;
- analysis to date showed no direct correlation between the pandemic and an increase in rent arrears but the Housing team was closely monitoring this;
- a breakdown of garage sites in relation to how many were occupied and unoccupied, how many on a waiting list for garages and what the condition of the garages were; and
- it would be worth looking at the garage pilot project above to see if it did produce an income or whether there was an irretrievable cost to refurbishing the garages.

The Committee

- i. **NOTED** the report; and
- ii. **AGREED** the garage rent increase at 2%.

7. Common Good Funds Maoin Maith Choitchinn

There had been circulated Report Nos BIDS/011/21 – BIDS/013/21 dated 1 April 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and Executive Chief Officer Resources and Finance which provide information on the following Common Good Funds:-

- a. Dingwall Common Good Fund BIDS/011/21
- b. Cromarty Common Good Fund BIDS/012/21
- c. Fortrose and Rosemarkie Common Good Fund BIDS/013/21

The Committee **NOTED** the updated information provided in relation to each Fund and **AGREED** to approve the proposed budgets for 2021/2022.

In relation to the Dingwall Common Good Fund, the Committee:

- i. **AGREED** to set Project Expenditure budget of £55,000 towards Town Centre Funded - Roof and Rainwater Project in Dingwall Town Hall as described fully in paragraph 8.3.

8. Highland Coastal Communities Fund Maoin Coimhearsnachdan Cladaich na Gàidhealtachd

There had been circulated Report No BIDS/014/21 dated 26 March 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment which outlined the Highland Coastal Communities Fund.

The Committee:

- i. **AGREED** the overall allocation should be split by ward;
- ii. **AGREED** to approve:
 - Maryburgh Men’s Shed funding of £5,000 from ward 8; and
 - Culbokie Community Trust funding of £4,450 from ward 9.

9. Area Capital Programme 2021-2022 Prògram Calpa Sgìre 2021-2022

There had been circulated Report No BIDS/015/21 dated 25 March 2021 by the Interim Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment which details the proposed 2021/2022 Roads Maintenance Programme for Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth Area.

In discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- resurface dressing and surface dressing on Station Road, Riverford Crescent and Riverford Drive had been on the last programme and that had been accepted;
- the detailed works were what could be afforded at the moment. There was still the Roads Ward Discretionary Budget of £100k to be decided. A discussion was also taking place about spending some of the unspent Council reserves on roads but these had not been included as they had yet to be confirmed;
- Station Road was likely to be undertaken at the end of June beginning of July 2021, the exact dates had still to be confirmed;
- the Distillery bends at Muir of Ord required to be undertaken. These works would be undertaken this year should additional funding be made available and this homologated at the next meeting of the Committee;
- Members requested that when undertaking Station Road the red marking for the cycle route be undertaken at the same time.
- that a special Area Committee meeting be arranged to consider the spend for the Roads Ward Discretionary Budget for Ward 8; and
- for the Roads Ward Discretionary Budget Ward 9 – Avoch - High Street, Fortrose – High Street, Ness Road, Cromarty - Braehead, top of the Denny should be agreed.

The Committee:

- i. **APPROVED** the proposed 2021/22 Roads Maintenance Programme for Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth Area;
- ii. **AGREED** that works on Distillery Road, Muir of Ord be approved subject to additional funding becoming available;
- iii. **AGREED** that a special Area Committee meeting be arranged to consider the spend for the Area Roads Discretionary Budget for Ward 8; and
- iv. **AGREED** the Roads Ward Discretionary Budget spend for the following in Ward 9: Avoch – High Street, Fortrose – High Street, Ness Road, Cromarty - Braehead, and the top of the Denny.

3. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There was circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth Committee held on 13 January 2021 which were approved by the Council on 25 March 2021.

The meeting closed at 4.00 pm.