

**The City of Inverness Area Committee
Inverness City Arts Working Group**

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held Remotely on Friday, 12 November 2021 at 2.00pm.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael
Mr I Brown
Mr A Jarvie
Mrs I Mackenzie

In Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Communities and Place Service
Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland
Ms S Barrie, Programme Manager, Properties & Facilities Management
Mr D Mckenzie, Corporate Communications
Ms M Zavarella, Committee Officer, Performance & Governance Service

Mrs I MacKenzie in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declaration of Interest

Mr A Jarvie declared a general non-financial interest as a Council appointed Director of High Life Highland.

3. Exclusion of the Public

During discussion, Mr Jarvie sought explanation as to the reason the entirety of the agenda had to be held in private and requested that the meeting be held in public until Item 6. It was explained that in accordance with Council policy, Working Groups were held in private to protect any sensitive third-party information. Discussions of the Group would be noted in the Minute and details of the Minute, excluding any exempt information, would be reported to the City of Inverness Area Committee (CIAC) and made available to the public at that time.

On that basis, Mrs I Mackenzie, seconded by Mr I Brown, **MOVED** the recommendation to **RESOLVE** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public be excluded from the meeting. Mr Jarvie **MOVED** an **AMENDMENT** to not take the meeting in private at that time and there was no seconder.

Therefore, the Group **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 items in respect of any issues relating to the circumstances of third parties on the grounds that they involved the likely

disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 Part 1 of schedule 7A of the Act.

Mr Jarvie requested his dissent be noted.

4. **Actions from Previous Minutes**

There had been circulated and **NOTED** the minutes of the Working Group held on 19 August 2021.

The City Area Manager highlighted that the project had been delivered in accordance with the update given at Item 5 of the Agenda.

5. **Project Programme Update**

The final project of the ICArts Project Programme, My Ness (The Gathering Place) completed on 12 October 2021. The report being presented to the CIAC on 18 November 2021 was included for information.

Gathering Place (My Ness) Timeline 2020-2021	
Ecology surveys completed February 2020	Feb-20
Tender Awarded	28 February 2020
Prestart Meeting	11 th March 2020
SEPA CARs Licence submission	Mar-20
Test Boreholes completed	Aug-20
Site set up and start on site (Delayed due to Covid-19 including precast concrete delays)	12 April 2021
SEPA Consent received	30 April 2021
Piling commenced (including watching brief by SEPA, Ness DSFB and Ecology Officer)	04 May 2021
Precast structure walls poured	27 May 2021
Works to bench area commenced	22 June 2021
Prefabricated sections installed	09 July 2021
Stone cladding	July/August 2021
Project handover	October 2021

The financial position was detailed under the Financial Monitoring information at Item 6 of the Agenda.

The final piece of the programme was completed and the report would show that ICArts had delivered in accordance with the governance set up by the CIAC. The Group had considered all projects, scrutinised financial workings, contractual planning, consultation and impact assessments for each of the individual projects. In addition, arrangements were in place to manage the ongoing maintenance of the art pieces. It was also noted that minimal expenditure would be required in this regard, with a Collateral Warranty being in place in respect of the design and construction of the Gathering Place Art Piece.

Ongoing monitoring and scrutiny of the projects would be undertaken through the regular reporting of Capital Projects and revenue spend of the Inverness

Common Good Fund at the CIAC and therefore Officers were able to recommend to Members of the CIAC that the work of the Group had been concluded and could be dissolved with immediate effect from 18 November 2021.

The Group included a representative from the main funder, Creative Scotland. The Chair expressed gratitude for the generous and continuous support from Creative Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (HIE).

The work of the Group had also been supported by an Evaluation Panel who had evaluated proposals received from artists to ensure they met the requirements of the project briefs. Appreciation was expressed to Professor Jim Mooney, Professor Ken Neil, Mark Lomax and Will Maclean for all their excellent advice and support in delivering the projects. The contractors, Simpsons Builders, were highlighted for their professional work, craftsmanship and for using the young workforce through apprenticeships.

Additional thanks were given to local students, the general public, Members of the CIAC, artists, individuals and community groups that had been involved. Gratitude was expressed to the following artists; Sans Facon and OSA – The Gathering Place, River Connections by Mary Bourne – completed July 2017, The Seer by Annie Cattrell – installed November 2018. The Working Group also had the assistance of a small team of Council officers who along with support from Highlife Highland had given advice on delivering the projects on budget.

Finally, the Chair highlighted that she had attended a seminar with the Project Team on 19 October 2021 with students from Inverness College UHI and was inspired by their enthusiasm for the Gathering Place and for the future of the City, which she shared.

Appreciation was expressed to the Chair for her commitment to the Project.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED**:-

- i. the presentation and that the Gathering Place (My Ness) Project remained fully funded with the remaining funding available to be drawn down as follows:-
 - Creative Scotland £161,546
 - Inverness Common Good Fund £8,237
 - Highlands and Islands Enterprise £55,626
- ii. the balance between expenditure and income for cashflow purposes had been funded from Highland Council's general fund.
- iii. that My Ness was forecast to remain within the allocated budget.

6. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 02/21 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 3 November 2021. The report set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 31 October 2021 and showed the actual expenditure to date.

Regarding the £34,000 positive variance against the Gathering Place in Financial Monitoring Statement, it was explained that this was due to one of the invoices still being in process and not yet on the ledger. Once it was entered, the project would be balanced and the account would be closed, once the final claims had been paid by Funders. Further, that once this occurred it would be reported back to Members by way of the Inverness Common Good Fund section of the Capital Monitoring report as reported to CIAC.

The Working Group **NOTED** the content of the report.

7. Press relations and forthcoming PR opportunities and risks

The City Area Manager gave an update that the launch process engaged with the media, publicised that the piece was open to public and the art piece received coverage in several notable arts and architectural magazines. Further work was undertaken with Inverness College UHI Arts students which was a success and appreciation was expressed to Ms Shankland from High Life Highland for her assistance in this area. There were acts of vandalism which had been addressed and police had been involved in this regard. There was no other media management required at that time. Thanks were expressed to Mr Mckenzie, Corporate Communications for his effort around the launch and introducing the piece to the public.

Additional appreciation was expressed to the City of Inverness Area Manager and Mr Kelman, Principal Project Manager for their efforts on the Project overall.

Thereafter, the Working Group **NOTED** the presentation.

8. Date of next Meeting

The Committee **NOTED** that dependent on the decision by the City of Inverness Area Committee there would be no future meetings of the Group.

The meeting ended at 2.59pm.