

**The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held **remotely** on Monday 31 January 2022 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr I Brown
Mrs C Caddick
Miss J Campbell
Mrs H Carmichael

Mr A Graham
Mrs I Mackenzie
Mr D Macpherson
Mrs E McAllister

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office
Ms F MacBain, Committee Administrator, Performance & Governance Service

Mr A Graham in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted for Mr A Jarvie and Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair.

2. Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Miss J Campbell (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of the 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 items 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 2021/22

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/01/22 dated 19 January 2022 by the Inverness City Area Manager, and circulated separately a copy of the applications.

The City Area Manager highlighted key issues from the report and clarified the position in relation to projects funded through Inverness Bid, some of which had historically been supported by the Council.

Booklet A – Applications under £5,000

Junior Parkrun (£2150 sought)

Torvean Junior Parkrun

APPROVED £2,150

During discussion, consideration was given to the location and use of defibrillators in Inverness and the Inverness City Area Manager explained the work being undertaken on this by a community working group. It was **AGREED** the Inverness City Area Manager discuss the use and deployment of the Junior Parkrun defibrillator.

Booklet B - Applications £5,001 - £10,000

Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland (£8,000 sought)

Bereavement support for children and adults in Inverness

DECLINED

Members declined this application due to concerns that alternative services were already available and that the Inverness Common Good Fund only covered a small part of the area which would benefit from the services. The Sub-Committee **AGREED** the Inverness City Area Manager should inform Cruse that should they wish to reapply, statements from local partners, such as GPs or other bereavements services, informing of any gap in service delivery, be provided.

Inverness Angling Club (IAC) (£9,500 sought)

Financial Support for the continuing management of the inverness Common Good Fund Town Fishings

APPROVED £9,500 from the Other Properties budget

Clarity Walk CIC (£8,600 sought)

Men's Only Project

APPROVED £5,000

Members suggested the organisation could also apply for ward discretionary funds and emphasised that the funding was being provided for this year only with no undertaking for support in future years.

Inverness High School (£8,972 sought)

S1 Outdoor Transition Project 2022

APPROVED £8,972

Members supported the project although pointed out that there were other secondary school catchment areas in Inverness which would benefit from this type of project.

Booklet C- Applications over £10,000

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:-

The Kings Golf Club Inverness (£25,240 sought)

On-Course Toilet Block

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £25,240

Following discussion, Mr A Graham, seconded by Mrs C Caddick, **moved** to approve £25,240 as requested.

Mr I Brown moved as an **amendment** that the request be declined. Mr Brown's amendment failed to find a seconder and fell.

Booklet D – Conference Support

Declaration: Mrs H Carmichael declared that she had a connection to this item by reason of her position as Provost of Inverness. However, having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest to declare because it was a council appointment and non-financial.

LCC Live Event Services Ltd (£40,000 sought)

Hosting of the European Pipe Band Championships in Inverness in June 2022

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £29,000

Members discussed the benefits to the residents of Inverness, and the level of risk taken on board by the organisers of such events, noting that it was a profit-making company. It was suggested that some of the funding should be used to purchase equipment which could be used for future events and that audience feedback and information should be sought.

Mr D Macpherson, seconded by Miss J Campbell, **moved** to approve £17,000.

Mrs C Caddick, seconded by Mrs E McAllister, moved as an **amendment**, to approve £29,000.

There were two votes for the motion and six votes for the amendment, the votes having been cast as follows:

For the motion: Miss J Campbell, Mr D Macpherson

For the amendment: Mr I Brown, Mrs C Caddick, Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Graham, Mrs I MacKenzie, Mrs E McAllister

Booklet E – Partnership Working

Declaration: Mrs H Carmichael declared that she had a connection to this item by reason of her position as Provost of Inverness. However, having applied the objective test she did not consider that she had an interest to declare because it was a council appointment and non-financial.

Visit Inverness Loch Ness (£30,000 sought)

Inverness City Recovery Marketing

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £30,000

Members pointed out that no commitment was being made to provide funding in future years. Clarification was sought and provided about the roles of VisitScotland and VisitBritain. The Sub-Committee **AGREED** the Inverness City Area Manager seek information from Visit Inverness Loch Ness on how they would publicise the Common Good Fund's support of the recovery marketing initiative.

Visit Inverness Loch Ness (£5,000 sought)

"Love Local, Choose Local" Lamppost Banners

APPROVED £5,000

The Sub- Committee:-

- a. **NOTED** the applications listed in the attached Appendix 8 and detailed in the circulated applications;
- b. **APPROVED** or **DECLINED** the applications for up to and including £10,000, as detailed;
- c. **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting on 17 February 2022 for those applications for more than £10,000, as detailed;
- d. **NOTED** the allocations made from the small grants budget of £75,000 and the larger grants budget of £200,000; and
- e. **NOTED** that after the allocations made at this meeting, there would remain £5,333 in the grants budget which would be carried forward into the reserves.

5. Inverness BID

Miss J Campbell declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Council appointed representative on the Community Safety Partnership but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that her interests did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/02/22 dated 13 January 2022 by the Inverness City Area Manager, inviting Members to consider applications from Inverness BID as follows:

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee on 17 February 2022 to approve the applications for funding as follows:

- a. Floral Displays 2022 - **£64,150**
- b. Operation Respect task Team Easter/Summer/Autumn 2022 - **£10,795**
- c. Inverness Gull Project 2022 - **£12,000**
- d. Inverness Community Safety Partnership 2022 - **£9,700**
- e. Coach Friendly Project 2022 - **£10,800**

6. Internal Applications

a. River Ness Hydro

The Sub-Committee **APPROVED** the application from Transformation towards a laser cut tree grate for the Jubilee Tree to be planted at the River Ness Hydro - **£7,200 to be paid from the Grants Budget.**

b. Fisherman's Hut Landscaping

The Sub-Committee **APPROVED** the application from the Inverness City Area Manager towards the provision of Landscaping at the Fisherman's Hut - **£8,500 to be paid from Other Properties.** It was also **AGREED** the City Area Manager request that the reparation of two riverside benches be included in the project.

7. Castle Wynd Conveniences/Transfer of Funds to the Victorian Market Budget

The Sub-Committee was aware of the annual commitment made to allow for the seasonal operation of the Castle Wynd Toilets, undertaken since 2012. The Castle was under redevelopment which would significantly reduce footfall. The Victorian Market would provide state of the art public toilets to include individual disabled access facilities, once the refurbishment completes, planned for Spring.

During discussion, assurance was sought and provided that the toilets at the Victorian Market would be open until at least 10pm, that appropriate signage would be put in place at the Castle about alternative toilet location and opening hours, and that the Castle project included the provision of public toilets.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that it was planned to transfer the annual budget allocation of £22,000, within the ICGF 2022/23, towards the cost of providing public toilets within the Victorian Market and not to open the facilities at Castle Wynd for the 2022 season.

8. Festive Lights

The Sub-Committee was updated by the Inverness City Area Manager on the proposals to generate a project to enhance:

- General Lighting within the City Centre,
- Festive Lighting within City Streets, providing for more permanent features which can be left up all year round; and
- Light trials along the Riverside.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the above would form a recommendation within the report to be taken to the CIAC on 17 February 2022 on the ICGF Budget for 2022/23.

9. Operation Respect Festive 2021 – Evaluation Report

There had been circulated a Joint Report dated 21 January 2022 by Inverness Community Safety Partnership and Operation Respect Festive Partners including Area Commander Inverness (Highland and Islands Division) Police Scotland, Highland Council Inverness City Area Manager, Inverness BID, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Highland, Scottish Ambulance Service, MERT Highland First Aid, Inverness Street Pastors and the Highland Third Sector Interface. This report provided an overview of resources, actions, and evaluation of the multi-agency Operation Respect for the Winter Festive Period 2021.

During discussion, Members emphasised the importance of raising awareness of the initiative with the public.

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the report.

10. Inverness Clachnacuddin Football Club

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Report submitted by Inverness Clachnacuddin Football Club.

11. Inverness Rowing Club

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** the request from the Inverness Rowing Club to extend the the time period of their grant which was approved in May 2021.

12. Homologation Requests

a. River Ness Weir Maintenance

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision by the Inverness City Area Manager to commit £10,000 towards the cost of carrying out essential maintenance to the salmon smolt pass at the Ness Weir, which was within the ownership of the ICGF.

b. Archie Foundation

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision to approve the change of use for the grants approved to the Archie Foundation for the “Fresh Air Project”.

c. Cavell Garden Benches

The Sub-Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the decision to spend £1,588 on improvements to the public seating at Cavell Gardens.

13. Evaluation Forms

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the Evaluation Forms submitted by applicants on completion of their projects.

14. Civic Hospitality Requests

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/03/22 dated 17 January 2022 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 following application, which was **APPROVED**:

Visit Inverness Loch Ness

HighTech in the Highlands – Klausurtagung der MIT NRW

£1534.10

The Sub-Committee:

- a. **NOTED** the implications of Covid 19 Guidance which might act to restrict numbers in attendance or require the cancellation of events at short notice;
- b. **NOTED** that successful applicants would be responsible for their own costs in the event of an event being cancelled or restricted due to the application of Covid19 Guidance no matter when the event had been cancelled or subjected to restrictions; and

- c. **NOTED** the application listed in the attached Appendix 2 and detailed in Booklet F and **AGREED** to delegate power to approve the applications to the Inverness City Area Manager.

15. Recurring Events

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/04/22 dated 14 January 2022 by the Inverness City Area Manager, inviting the Sub-Committee to consider approval in principle for recurring annual events and to decide which option from paragraph 2.4 they would like to determine them.

The Sub-Committee:

- a. **NOTED** the applications; and
- b. **APPROVED** them in principle and **AGREED** to delegate authority to the City Area Manager in consultation with the ICGF Chairman and the Provost to approve the necessary expenditure in 2022/23

16. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 27 June 2022 at 9.30am.

The meeting ended at 12.30pm