

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Black Isle Committee** held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Monday 8 August 2022 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Ms S Atkin
Ms L Johnston
Ms M MacCallum

In attendance:

Ms D Agnew, Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Ms L MacAllister, Roads Officer, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Performance and Governance
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

Also in attendance:

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 Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Recess Powers Cumhachdan Fosaidh

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 30 June 2022 had not been exercised in relation to the business of the Black Isle Committee.

4. Appointment of Chair of Black Isle Committee Cur an Dreuchd Cathraiche Comataidh an Eilein Duibh

Ms L Johnston was nominated by Ms S Atkin and this was seconded by Ms M MacCallum.

There being no further nominations, Ms Johnston was appointed as Chair of the Committee and took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**5. Appointment of Vice Chair of Black Isle Committee
Cur an Dreuchd Leas-Chathraiche Comataidh an Eilein Duibh**

Ms M MacCallum was nominated by Ms S Aitkin and this was seconded by Ms L Johnston.

There being no further nominations, Ms MacCallum was appointed Vice Chair.

**6. Police – Area Performance Report
Poilis – Geàrr-chunntas Dèanadais Sgìreil**

There had been circulated Report No BI/8/22 by the Area Inspector, Police Scotland. Inspector Richard Ross highlighted several key areas of the report.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- County Lines was a very serious issue that affected a lot of young people and that members of the community did not necessarily know that this issue existed. It was suggested that there should be a meeting with police and community councils to discuss this issue and inform people of how the police were tackling it;
- in response to a question about numbers of alcohol related driving offences it was stated that numbers of these offences were probably not higher in the Black Isle than in other areas of Highland. It was also suggested that an increase in these numbers was likely due to having new and better equipment with which to test people driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; and.
- the “coffee with a cop” initiative in Avoch was very welcome and that it was hoped this could continue.

The Committee **NOTED** progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 2, attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 1 April 2021 to 30 March 2022.

**7. Black Isle Ward Discretionary Budget applications approved since 1 April 2022
Iarrtasan Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàrd an Eilein Duibh air an aontachadh bho Ghiblean 2022**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Black Isle Ward Discretionary Budget applications had been approved since 1 April 2022:

- Cromarty Camera Club: Highland Challenge Photographic Competition - £800
- Avoch Primary School: Improving Play and Learning experiences P1 and P2 - £1,500
- Highland Historic Trust (HBT): Churches Heritage Trail - £400

**8. Common Good Funds
Maoin Maith Choitchinn**

a. Cromarty Common Good Fund

There had been circulated Report No BI/10/22 dated 26 July 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and the Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism.

During discussion clarification was sought, and received, concerning the landlord for the Townlands Playpark.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the position of Cromarty Common Good Fund as shown in the 2022/23 Quarter One monitoring statement; and
- ii. the budget for 2022/23 approved by Committee on 15 February 2022.

b. Fortrose and Rosemarkie Common Good Fund

There had been circulated Report No BI/11/22 dated 26 July 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and the Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism.

During discussion clarification was sought, and received, on the terms of the Fortrose Bay lease.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the position of Fortrose and Rosemarkie Common Good Fund as shown in the 2022/23 Quarter One monitoring statement; and
- ii. the budget for 2022/23 approved by Committee on 15 February 2022.

9. Winter Service Plan for 2022/23 Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh airson 2022/23

There had been circulated Report No BI/11/22 dated 13 July 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

Following a detailed explanation of the winter service plan, both regionally and locally, the following issues were raised:-

- in response to a question it was confirmed that there were plans in place to deal with problems arising from staff absences due to Covid;
- it was explained that it could take anywhere from one hour to a full day to treat all the roads on the Black Isle depending on conditions;
- Information was sought, and received, surrounding the procurement of salt for the treatment of roads; and
- In response to a request information was provided concerning how the Community Resilience plan was promoted and monitored. In particular, it was commented that the uptake of this scheme on the Black Isle had been very good.

The Committee:-

- i. **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2022/23; and
- ii. **NOTED** that Covid-19 and drivers' hours regulations would potentially have an impact on the winter service provided.

10. Minutes
Geàrr-chunntas

The Minutes of Meeting of the Black Isle Committee held on 15 February 2022, which had been approved by the Council on 10 March 2022, were **NOTED**.

The meeting concluded at 11.25 am