

AGENDA ITEM 9

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee** held remotely on 22 August 2022 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mrs A MacLean
Mr G Mackenzie

Mrs M Paterson
Mr S Kennedy

In attendance:

Ms D Agnew, Ward Manager (Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth), Communities and Place
Mr M Rodgers, Executive Chief Officer, Property and Housing
Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager (Ross, Skye and Lochaber, Communities and Place
Ms C McIver Community Support Officer, Policy and reform, Communities and Place
Mr I Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Ms J Wileman, Assistant Ward Manager, Policy and Reform, Communities and Place
Miss J MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Corporate Governance
Ms R Ross, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Governance

Also in attendance:

Inspector Richard Ross, Area Inspector, Police Scotland

Miss J MacLennan in the Chair for Items 1-4.

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**

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Recess Powers
Cumhachdan Fosaìdh**

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 30 June 2022 did not require to be exercised in relation to the business of the Dingwall and Seaforth Committee.

**4. Appointment of Chair of Dingwall and Seaforth Committee
Cur Cathraiche an Dreuchd airson Comataidh Inbhir Pheofharain agus Shìophort**

Nominations were sought at the meeting for the position of Chair of the Dingwall and Seaforth Committee.

Mr G McKenzie was nominated by Mrs M Paterson, seconded by Mr S Kennedy. There were no further nominations.

Mr G Mackenzie was elected as Chair of the Dingwall and Seaforth Committee.

**5. Appointment of Vice Chair of Dingwall and Seaforth Committee and Civic Leader
Cur Iar-Chathraiche an Dreuchd airson Comataidh Inbhir Pheofharain agus Shìophort**

Nominations were sought at the meeting for the position of Vice Chair of the Dingwall and Seaforth Committee and Civic Leader.

Mrs M Paterson was nominated by Mr G Mackenzie, seconded by Mrs A MacLean. There were no further nominations.

Mrs M Paterson was elected as Vice Chair of the Dingwall and Seaforth Committee and Civic Leader.

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

There has been circulated Report No DSA/8/22 by the North Area Commander.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:-

- in response to a question about low detection rates in some areas it was stated that in the case of sexual crimes inquiries can take a long time to complete which led to figures appearing lower;
- following a concern raised about the number of missing persons, especially looked after children missing from care, it was confirmed that these figures related to the whole of the North Area Command and not just the Dingwall and Seaforth area;
- in regard to the increase in numbers of scams, it was welcomed that Police Scotland were undertaking regular preventative work to keep the public safe;
- the post of Harm Prevention Officer was welcomed and hopes were expressed that this post would continue to be funded after the initial 18 months;
- concerns were raised about road safety and the number of people driving recklessly;
- assurance was sought, and given, that police officers would be asked to be vigilant on the issue of littering and to ensure that action was taken when people were seen dropping litter;
- in response to the vandalism of public toilets in Dingwall, Members welcomed that officers would be asked to patrol the area in the evenings. This was not a

problem that was unique to Dingwall and that the installation of CCTV cameras might help to solve this problem;

- assurance was sought, and given, that the police were aware of drug related issues in Dingwall and that control plans were in place; and
- it was hoped, in regard to police presenting reports to Community Councils, that officers would try to attend Community Council meetings but it was acknowledged this was subject to available resources. In relation to twice yearly meetings between police officers and Community Council chairs being trialled in the Black Isle area, it was hoped this pilot could be extended to other Council Wards.

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 – 31 March 2022.

7. Dingwall and Seaforth Ward Discretionary budget applications approved since 1 April 2022
Iarrtasan buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàrd Inbhir Pheofharain agus Shìophort air an aontachadh bho 1 Giblean 2022

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Dingwall and Seaforth Ward Discretionary Budget applications had been approved since 1 April 2022:

- i. Headway Highland – to support vulnerable adults - £71.43
- ii. Dingwall Players – Summer Arts Festival - £1,500
- iii. Black Isle Farmer Society – Category Sponsorship - £500

8. Common Good Fund - Dingwall
Maoin Maith Coitcheann - Inbhir Pheofharain

There had been circulated Report No DSA/10/22 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and the Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism.

The Committee **NOTED** and **SCRUTINISED** the position of Dingwall Common Good Fund as shown in the 2022/23 Quarter One monitoring statement.

9. Development Infrastructure Dingwall Update
Fios às ùr mu Leasachadh Bun-structar Inbhir Pheofharain

There had been circulated Report No DSA/11/22 dated 18 July 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

As there had been no discussion of the contents of this report before the meeting with Local Members, there was no officer present to discuss the report and that, overall, more information was needed, the Committee **AGREED** to **DEFER** this item until its following meeting.

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

There had been circulated Report No DSA/12/22 dated 13 July 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

During discussion the following issues were raised;

- in response to a question it was stated that grit bins should be filled by mid-October; and
- a request for further information was made regarding Community Resilience. It was explained that the Community Resilience Plan was a top up measure that could be very effective for treating crucial areas which could make a big difference to residents. Whilst community volunteers would be provided with basic equipment, no plant would be used but they would have access to push spreaders.

The Committee:-

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

11. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated and were **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Dingwall and Seaforth Committee held on 7 February 2022 which were approved by the Council on 10 March 2022.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am