

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Black Isle Committee** held remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday 31 January 2023 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Ms S Atkin
Ms L Johnston
Ms M MacCallum

In attendance:

Ms D Agnew, Ward Manager (Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth), Communities and Place
Mr I Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Mr J Mitchell, Interim Housing Manager, Housing and Property
Mrs T Scott, Principal Planner, Planning Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Mr A Coyle, Corporate Communications and Engagement Officer, Performance and Governance
Mrs O Marsh, 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.

Ms L Johnston in the Chair

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

There had been circulated Report No BI/01/23 dated 21 January 2023 by the North Area Commander.

During discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- thanks were conveyed for the hard work spent producing the report;

- it was queried if a protocol was in place for looked after children if they went missing, similar to the Herbert protocol for persons with dementia. In this regard information was sought, and provided, on what were the main causes for looked after children going missing on the Black Isle, and what age group had been particularly affected;
- it was queried if the main issue on the Black Isle roads was drink or drug driving;
- in response to a query it was confirmed that antisocial crimes statistics only included reported crimes, and detected crimes;
- it was questioned why there had been a spike of missing adult cases, and if COVID or the cost of living crisis had impacted people in this regard; and
- information was sought on how prolific county lines was impacting the Black Isle and if young and vulnerable persons had been specifically impacted. In this regard it was confirmed that concerns or reports could be made to the Police in person, telephone, Crimestoppers, email or the internet.

The Committee **NOTED** the progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 2, attached as Annex A to this report, for the period covering 01 April 2022 – 31 December 2022.

ADDITIONAL URGENT ITEM.

At this point in the meeting, and in line with Standing Order 8, it was advised that the Chair had agreed that the following Item 10 should be considered as an urgent item of business so that an increase could be agreed prior to the start of financial year 2023/24:-

Item 10. Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2023/2024 Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Mál Garaids 2023/2024

There had been circulated Report No BI/6/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- garages were repaired when tenants request this via the housing repairs process, however a more strategic review of investment of garages would be important to ensure the stock was at a good level;
- it was confirmed that the Black Isle area had 7 vacant garages. However, some were in the process of being signed up while others required repairs and maintenance work; and
- it was felt that the middle rent increase option of 5% was reasonable in order to maintain the garages in a suitable condition, but not overburden tenants whilst already being affected by an increase in the cost of living;

The Committee **AGREED** a 5% rent increase to apply to Black Isle Garages

4. Appointment - Cromarty Court House Trust Cur an Dreuchd – Urras Taigh Cùirte Chromba

The Committee **AGREED** to appoint Ms M MacCallum to the Board of Cromarty Court House Trust.

5. Black Isle Ward Discretionary budget applications approved since 15 November 2022
Iarrtasan Buidseit fo Ùghdarras Uàird an Eilein Duibh air an Aontachadh bho 15 Samhain 2022

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Black Isle Ward Discretionary Budget application had been approved since 15 November 2022:

- Singing For Fun Ross-shire £150

6. Area Roads Capital Programme 2023/24
Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2023/24

There had been circulated Report No BI/02/23 dated 4 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

In terms of the Capital Programme 2023/24 it was queried if there was scope to include additional works to roads that might be adversely affected during the upcoming year. In this regard it was confirmed that an update would be provided at a Ward Business Meeting if additional funds became available.

Members recognised that whilst residents had reported many roads repairs the available budget only allowed for priority roads projects to commence at present and additional works might be undertaken if further resources became available.

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed 2023/24 Area Roads Capital Programme for Black Isle Area.

7. Common Good Funds
Maoin Maith Choitchinn

a. Cromarty Common Good Fund - 2021/22 Annual Audited Accounts and Final Monitoring, 2022/23 Quarter 3 Monitoring Report and Proposed Budget for 2023/24
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Pheofharain – Cunntasan Sgrùdaichte Bliadhnaile agus Sgrùdadh Deireannach 2021/22, Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Cairteal Trì 2022/23 agus Buidseat ga Mholadh airson 2023/24

There had been circulated joint Report No BI/03/23 dated 20 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and the Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the Cromarty Common Good Fund Annual Report for 2021/22;
- NOTED** the position of Cromarty Common Good Fund as shown in the 2022/23 Quarter 3 monitoring statement; and
- APPROVED** the proposed budget for 2023/24.

b. Fortrose and Rosemarkie Common Good Fund – 2021/22 Annual Audited Accounts and Final Monitoring, 2022/23 Quarter 3 Monitoring Report and Proposed Budget for 2023/24
Maoin Math Coitcheann na Cananaich agus Ros Maircnidh – Cunntasan Sgrùdaichte Bliadhnaile agus Sgrùdadh Deireannach 2021/22, Aithisg Sgrùdaidh Cairteal Trì 2022/23 agus Buidseat ga Mholadh airson 2023/24

There had been circulated joint Report No BI/04/23 dated 20 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and the Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism.

Members suggested that a meeting be arranged with Fortrose Community Council to discuss improvements to the Fortrose town hall.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the Fortrose and Rosemarkie Common Good Fund Annual Report for 2021/22;
- ii. **NOTED** and scrutinised the position of Fortrose and Rosemarkie Common Good Fund as shown in the 2022/23 Quarter 3 monitoring statement; and
- iii. **APPROVED** the proposed budget for 2023/24.

8. Community Regeneration Fund – Assessment of Applications
Maoin Ath-bheòthachadh Coimhearsnachd

There had been circulated Report No BI/05/23 dated 16 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion, Members raised the following main points:-

- Members recognised the worthiness of the projects but acknowledged that funds were limited and the need to ensure funding was maximised;
- it was queried what process a group needed to complete to become constituted and if this process was deemed complex;
- whilst acknowledging that the Black Isle Music project was a fantastic initiative, it was felt that it would be important to be a constituted group to fund the scheme appropriately;
- Members fully support the Avoch Toilet project given the relatively low grant request and the need to ensure it is fully funded in order for works to be progressed; and
- as the sum amount requested by the remaining 3 projects was a £1018.54 overspend projection, an equal split deduction would be made to these approvals to meet the available area allocation.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** all applications presented for funding; and
- ii. **AGREED** that funding be awarded from the Community Regeneration Fund

as follows:

- Black Isle Music – **Deferred**
- Toilets Avoch – **Approved** - £2,000.00
- Culbokie Village Hub – **Approved** - £29,625.49
- Avoch Boatshed – **Approved** - £34,460.49
- Ferintosh Hall – **Approved** - £38,550.03

9. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of Meeting of the Black Isle Committee held on 15 November 2022 which were approved by the Council on 8 December 2022.

The Meeting ended at 11:50am