

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee** held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Dingwall on 30 January 2023 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mr S Kennedy
Mr G MacKenzie

Mrs A MacLean

In attendance:

Ms D Agnew, Ward Manager (Black Isle, Dingwall and Seaforth), Communities and Place
Ms J Wileman, Assistant Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager, Infrastructure, Environment and Economy
Mr C Sharp, Repairs Manager, Housing and Property
Mr J Mitchell, Housing Manger, Housing and Property
Ms C MacIver, Community Support Co-ordinator, Communities and Place
Miss J MacLennan, Joint Democratic Services Manager, Performance and Governance

Also in attendance:

Inspector Richard Ross, Area Inspector, 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.

Mr G MacKenzie in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulans

There was an apology for absence from Mrs M Paterson.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following Transparency Statements:-

Item 4: Mrs A MacLean.

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

There had been circulated Report No DSA/1/23 by the Area Commander (North Highland Area Command).

During the discussion the following issues were raised:-

- clarification was sought, and provided, regarding the protocol followed when a young person didn't return to a children's home at the expected time. It was

- explained that a risk assessment was made of each case and sometimes it was the case that the young person was simply late in returning;
- data was requested as to the age profile and nature of vulnerable people who went missing. Whilst Inspector Ross would be happy to provide this, he did confirm the majority of missing persons were young people;
 - the recent drink/drug driving campaign was commended and information was requested on what future plans were proposed to enforce and educate. In this regard, it was explained those testing positive to either drink/driving tests were taken to Burnett Road Police Station;
 - new testing equipment that police officers could now use at the roadside would result in an increase in detection rates;
 - with regard to County Lines, it was important to interact with schools to inform young people what to look out for;
 - an explanation as to the monitoring process for CCTV used in incidents of vandalism was requested, and provided. The Council itself suffered from vandalism, particularly in the Ward in relation to public toilets, and this was unsustainable. It was important to recognise that the perpetrators were not necessarily young people;
 - information was requested, and provided, as to police staffing levels in the area; and
 - Community Councils had expressed frustration with the level of interaction with Police Scotland and Inspector Ross agreed to take this away to investigate.

Having scrutinised the report, the Committee **NOTED** progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 for the period covering 1 April 2022 – 31 December 2022.

4. Area Community Regeneration Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoineachadh Ath-nuadhachadh Coimhearsnachd – Measadh Iarrtasan

Transparency Statement: Mrs A MacLean made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as having written a letter of support for the Peffery Way Project to the Scottish Government. However, having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No DSA/2/23 dated 16 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:-

- in response to a specific question, it was explained that the Maryburgh Amenities Company had received funding of £14,000 from Community Led Development monies and therefore the amount requested from the Community Regeneration Fund was £14,057;
- confirmation was sought, and received, that any unspent allocation from this year's Dingwall and Seaforth Community Regeneration Fund would be carried over to the next financial year. Furthermore, next year's allocation, once agreed by the Economy and Infrastructure Committee, would be added to the unspent allocation;

- the Peffery Way project was well supported by the local community; and
- it was questioned if the vehicle and tools purchased through the Clean and Green initiative could be used by the newly established community group which had now taken over control of the wooded area in Maryburgh.

The Committee **AGREED** funding be awarded from the Area Community Regeneration Fund as follows:-

- Maryburgh Amenities Company – Community Hall Upgrade - £14,057; and
- Peffery Way Association – Peffery Way – Dingwall – Mill Street end section - £29,500.

5. **Area Roads Capital Programme Report 2023/24** **Aithisg Adhartais Prògram Calpa Rathaidean 2023/24**

There had been circulated Report No DSA/3/23 dated 15 December 2022 by the Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure, Environment and Economy.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:-

- the condition of the road leading to the camping and caravan park, adjacent to the Global Energy Football Stadium, was in a poor state of repair. As Dingwall Common Good received money from the camping and caravan park, it was queried if some of the Common Good money could augment the Roads Capital Programme to address this;
- if the Roads Capital Programme could be broken down as far as a Ross and Cromarty level, it was questioned why this could be not broken down to Local Committee level as well;
- projects agreed from the previous year were still outstanding although it was accepted that this was in part due to other works necessitating a redirection of traffic; and
- it was disappointing that there was no officer to present the report and this needed to be raised with the relevant ECO.

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed 2023/24 Area Roads Capital Programme for the Dingwall and Seaforth Area Maintenance Programme for the Dingwall and Seaforth Area.

6. **Dingwall and Seaforth Ward Discretionary budget applications approved since last meeting** **Iarrtasan buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàrd Inbhir Pheofharain agus Shìophort air an aontachadh choinneamh mu dheireadh**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Dingwall and Seaforth Ward Discretionary Budget applications had been approved since its last meeting:

- Conon Bridge Amenities Association - Christmas Meals - £500
- Conon Bridge Lunch Club - Christmas Lunch - £300
- Maryburgh Amenities Company - Christmas Lunch - £450
- Maryburgh Amenities Company - Maryburgh Gala Bunting - £300

v. Dingwall Fire Brigade Community Group - Over 60's Christmas Meal - £300

7. Dingwall Common Good Fund - 2021/22 Annual Audited Accounts and Final Monitoring, 2022/23 Quarter Three Monitoring Report and Proposed Budget for 2023/24

Maoin Maith 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 Report No DSA/4/23 dated 20 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer - Communities and Place/Head of Corporate Finance and Commercialism.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:-

- it was queried if there was a cap of what could be spent. In response, expenditure was a decision for Members and Area Committee for large projects. However it was not recommended to spend more than annual income received in one year rather to keep increase the reserves to protect the Common Good assets if necessary;
- clarification was sought, and provided, as to what properties generated rents to the Dingwall Common Good; and
- information was sought, and provided, as to the progress of the improvement works to Dingwall Town House. In this regard, it was questioned what would happen in the event that the project exceeded budget. However, it was confirmed that there was still budget available however, in the event it proved necessary, there was capital allocation from the Highland Council.

The Committee:-

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

**8. Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2023/2024
Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Mal GaraIDS 2023/24**

There is circulated Report No DSA/5/23 dated 24 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer - Housing and Property.

During the discussion the following issues were raised:-

- when setting a level for garage rents, whilst wanting to keep increases to a minimum, it was important that the overall budget was not detrimentally affected and that repairs could take place;
- it was important to establish how many garages were in the Ward and what condition they were in and, the allocation that there was in the Housing Revenue Account budget for garage improvements;

- many of the garages, some of which could not accommodate a car, were now being used for storage and perhaps a different approach was required;
- with a proposal that a 5% increase be applied an assurance was sought, and provided, that the income from the increase, would be ringfenced for the Dingwall and Seaforth Ward and would not reduce any funding already in place for the garages; and
- Members would welcome a tour of garages in the Dingwall and Seaforth Ward.

The Committee **AGREED** a rent level increase of 5% for garage and garage sites held on the Housing Revenue Account for 2023/2024.

9. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There was circulated for **NOTING** Minutes of Meeting of the Dingwall and Seaforth Committee held on 14 November 2022 which were approved by the Council on 8 December 2022.

The meeting concluded at 11.35 am.