

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held **REMOTELY** on **Monday, 18 January 2021** at 12 noon.

Present:

Mr R Balfour	Mr K Gowans
Mr B Boyd	Mr J Gray
Mr I Brown	Mr A Jarvie
Mrs C Caddick	Mrs I MacKenzie
Miss J Campbell	Mr D Macpherson
Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair	Mr R MacWilliam
Mrs H Carmichael	Mrs B McAllister
Mr A Christie	Mrs T Robertson
Mrs M Davidson	Mr G Ross

Officials in Attendance:

Ms L Denovan, Executive Chief Officer - Resources & Finance
Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr A Webster, Regeneration and Employment Team Leader
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Ms O Bayon Committee Officer, Chief Executive's Office

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.

Mrs H Carmichael in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Graham, Ms E Knox, Ms E Roddick and Mr C Smith.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 3 – Miss J Campbell and Mrs T Robertson (both non-financial)

3. Town Centre Fund

Declarations of Interest –

Miss J Campbell declared a non-financial interest in respect of the application for the Castle Tavern on the basis of having previously made representations for the owners on a separate issue and, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of

Conduct, confirmed that she would not take part in the debate on this particular application.

Miss Campbell also declared a non-financial interest in respect of the application for 7-17 Union Street as a Board Member of the Inverness Townscape Heritage Project but confirmed that she would remain during discussion of this application.

Mrs T Robertson and Mrs M Davidson declared non-financial interests in respect of the application for the vacant shop at Drumnadrochit as a Director of the Highland Housing Alliance and a Trustee of the Glen Urquhart Rural Community Association respectively but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, confirmed that they would remain during discussion of the application.

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/1/21 dated 7 January 2021 by the Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure & Environment.

There had also been circulated additional Addendum: Revised Table and Late Proposal Submission dated 15 January 2021.

During discussion, and prior to discussion of the applications which had been received, clarification was sought on the overall process and specifically whether further bids could be sought within the timescale if any funding remained unassigned. In this regard, it was confirmed that this would be possible although the aim would be to allocate all of the available funding at this meeting if possible.

Also, and in relation to any further Town Centre Fund allocations which might come to the Council from the Scottish Government in the future, it was suggested that work should begin now in order to ensure that 'shovel ready' projects were in place to take advantage of such funding if it was received.

Thereafter, the Committee dealt with the applications which had been presented as follows:-

- 1) Glen Mhor Limited - REJECTED
- 2) MacGregors Bar - REJECTED
- 3) Browns Gallery - REJECTED
- 4) The Castle Tavern - REJECTED
- 5) High Street, Inverness – AGREED to allocate £34,510
- 6) 7-17, Union Street, Inverness –

Mrs C Caddick, seconded by Miss J Campbell, MOVED that this application should be agreed in principle (on the basis that the exact sum to be allocated would be discussed later in the meeting).

As an AMENDMENT, Mr A Jarvie, seconded by Mr R MacWilliam, moved that this application should not be approved at this time.

On a vote being taken, the MOTION received 12 votes and the AMENDMENT received 4 votes, with 2 abstentions, and the MOTION was therefore CARRIED, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion – Mr R Balfour, Mr B Boyd, Mr I Brown, Mrs C Caddick, Miss J Campbell, Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Christie, Mrs M Davidson, Mr J Gray, Mrs B McAllister, Mrs T Robertson and Mr G Ross.

For the Amendment – Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, Mr K Gowans, Mr A Jarvie and Mr R MacWilliam.

Abstentions – Mrs I MacKenzie and Mr D Macpherson.

Therefore, AGREED IN PRINCIPLE (on the basis that the exact sum to be allocated would be discussed later in the meeting).

- 7) Vacant Shop, Drumnadrochit – AGREED IN PRINCIPLE (on the basis that the exact sum to be allocated would be discussed later in the meeting).
- 8) Beaully Public Toilets – AGREED that this application should be included on a reserve list to be determined if/when further funding was made available by the Scottish Government.
- 9) The Pavilion, Victoria Drive (Mens Shed) – AGREED IN PRINCIPLE (on the basis that the exact sum to be allocated would be discussed later in the meeting).

Following further discussion on the exact sums to be allocated to the projects which had been agreed in principle –

Mr G Ross, seconded by Mr R MacWilliam, MOVED the full allocations to the Vacant Shop, Drumnadrochit (£75,000) and The Pavilion, Mens Shed (£30,000) with the remaining funding of £112,958 being allocated to the Union Street project.

As an AMENDMENT, Mr A Jarvie, seconded by Mr D Macpherson, moved the full allocations to the Vacant Shop at Drumnadrochit and The Pavilion, Mens Shed, but that full details of the Union Street project should be circulated to Members of the Committee in the first instance and prior to any final decision being taken on the allocation to this project (by the Executive Chief Officer in consultation with City Committee Members).

On a vote being taken, the MOTION received 15 votes and the AMENDMENT received 2 votes, with 1 abstention, and the MOTION was therefore CARRIED, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion – Mr R Balfour, Mr B Boyd, Mr I Brown, Mrs C Caddick, Miss J Campbell, Mrs G Campbell-Sinclair, H Carmichael, Mr A Christie, Mrs M Davidson, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Gray, Mr R MacWilliam, Mrs B McAllister, Mrs T Robertson and Mr G Ross.

For the Amendment – Mr A Jarvie and Mr D Macpherson.

Abstention – Mrs I MacKenzie

In summary, the Committee therefore **AGREED** as follows in respect of the applications which had been presented:-

- 1) Glen Mhor Limited – REJECTED
- 2) MacGregors Bar – REJECTED
- 3) Browns Gallery – REJECTED
- 4) The Castle Tavern – REJECTED
- 5) High Street, Inverness – AGREED (£34,510)
- 6) 7-17, Union Street, Inverness – AGREED (£112,958)
- 7) Vacant Shop, Drumnadrochit – AGREED (£75,000)
- 8) Beaully Public Toilets – AGREED to include on a reserve list for consideration
- 9) The Pavilion, Victoria Drive, Mens Shed – AGREED (£30,000)

The meeting ended at 2.50pm.