

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee** held remotely on 12 June 2023 at 10.30 am.

### **Present:**

Mrs I Campbell  
Mrs E Kraft

Mr P Logue

### **In attendance:**

Mr W MacKinnon, Ward Manager, Communities and Place  
Ms J Wileman, Assistant Ward Manager, Communities and Place  
Mr D Manson, Principal Housing Officer, Housing and Property  
Mr C Sharp, Repairs Manager, Housing and Property  
Ms S James-Gaukroger, Infrastructure Environment and Economy  
Ms R Ross, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Governance

**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**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Dr C Birt.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/ Aithris Fhollaiseachd**

There were no Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements.

#### **3. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas**

There had been circulated Minutes of Meeting of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee held on 20 February 2023 which were approved by the Council on 9 March 2023.

The Committee **NOTED** the minutes.

#### **4. Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report Aithisg Coileanaidh Comataidh Sgìreil Smàlaidh agus Teasairginn na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/006/23 dated 12 June 2023 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

The Committee **NOTED** that the Local Senior Officer was unable to attend the meeting.

#### **5. Housing Performance Report Aithisg Dèanadais a thaobh Taigheadais**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/007/23 dated 12 June 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer – Housing and Property.

During the discussion the following points were raised:-

- on the point being raised, it was clarified that certain areas such as Laide and Aultbea were classed as low demand areas for housing and therefore available properties in those areas took longer to allocate;
- information was sought on what help was available for tenants who struggled with garden upkeep due to disability; and
- thanks were expressed for the work of the housing team.

The Committee:-

- i) **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023; and
- ii) **AGREED** that the Principal Housing Officer would contact the Community Payback Team to get an update of their capacity to assist with garden upkeep for tenants who are unable to do this themselves.

#### **6. Strathpeffer Conservation Area Appraisal & Management Plan – Update Measadh & Plana Stiùiridh Sgìre Ghlèidhteachais Shrath Pheofhair – Cunntas às Ùr**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/008/23 dated 17 May 2023 by Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment.

During discussion the following issues were raised:-

- concerns were raised about changes made to properties that would be included in the extended conservation area;
- the relaxation of the planning policies was welcomed;
- the importance of concentrating on eco-friendly solutions for heating homes was emphasised;
- concerns were raised over the state of MacKay's hotel and information was sought on how concerns over the disrepair of such buildings could be reported; and
- the Conservation Area Project Officer undertook to investigate the available actions that could be taken by concerned members of the community and to report these back to the Ward Members.

The Committee:-

- i) **NOTED** the public comments and agree the Council response; and
- ii) **RECOMMENDED** that the Economy and Infrastructure Committee formally approve and adopt the Strathpeffer Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, including the amended Conservation Area boundary on 17 August 2023.

**7. Allocation Process for Area Share of Invitation to Pay Income  
Pròiseas Riarachaidh airson Co-roinn Sgìreil a thaobh Cuireadh Teachd-a-steach a Phàigheadh**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/009/23 dated 24 May 2023 by Executive Chief Officer – Communities and Place.

- information was sought on what would happen in the case that the Community Council and Community Trust did not agree on which project should be funded from the Invitation to Pay income;
- on the point being raised, it was confirmed that the funds could be used for match funding towards larger projects and that, if there were funds left over after any allocations, these would roll forward to the following year; and
- money from visitors coming back into community was welcomed.

The Committee:-

- i) **APPROVED** the proposed process for the area allocation of invitation to pay income;
- ii) **NOTED** that the process will be reviewed after the first year of implementation;
- iii) **NOTED** that the delegated powers for the authorisation of spend up to £10,000 would be assigned to the Senior Ward Manager and over £10,000 would be subject to Committee approval.

**8. Ward Discretionary Grants 2023/24  
Tabhartasan fo Ùghdarras Uàird 2023/24**

The Committee **NOTED** the following Ward Discretionary Fund Grants for Ward 5 in the financial year 2022/23 and to date for 2023/24:-

**Financial Year 2022/23**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
CALA	Childcare provision, Ullapool	£2700
Headway Highland	Support vulnerable adults with an acquired brain injury (ABI)	£71.43
Lochalsh Community Council	Purchase of barrels for use as planters	£445
Wester Loch Ewe Community Council	Improving WLECC area	£1047

Auchtertyre Primary School Parent Council	Installation of equipment at Auchtertyre Primary School	£1300
Balmacara Community Trust	Balmacara Gala	£510
Drumbuie Common Grazings	Furniture for new bus shelter at Drumbuie	£450
Lady Haig Poppy Wreaths	5 Wreaths	£143.89
Lochbroom Community Council	Remembrance Parade Wreaths	£80
Loch Duich Community Council	Installation of Defibrillator in Ratagan Village	£500
Plockton & District Community Council	6 Replacement Defibrillation equipment	£1320
Wester Ross Radio Ltd (broadcasting as "Two Lochs Radio" & "Lochbroom FM)	Community Radio digital playout system	£2650
Skye & Lochalsh Community Sport Hub - High Life Highland in collaboration with Lochalsh and Skye Housing Association	Community Football Project	£1602
North West Highlands Geopark Ltd	North West Highlands Geopark Information Leaflet	£500
Strathpeffer Community Development Trust	To provide funds to carry out a Science Fair Event	£1829
Lochalsh Community Council	Continue provide attractive floral displays across the Lochalsh CC area	£500
Lochcarron Parent Council	Purchase a Basketball Hoop for the playground	£350

### Financial Year 2023/24

Organisation	Project	Amount
Lochbroom Community Council	Beach Cleaning & Litter Picking	£800
Strathpeffer Primary School Parent Council	Creation of a multi-sensory learning zone – The Den	£1808
Loch Duich Community Council	Kings Coronation Community Celebration	£500
Wester Ross Fisheries Trust	River Catchment Management Workshop	£800

The meeting concluded at 11am.

