

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held in the Chamber, The Court House, High Street, Nairn on 15 May 2023 at 11.00 am

Present:

Mr L Fraser
Mr M Green

Ms B Jarvie
Mr P Oldham

In attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager, Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer, Performance and 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.

Mr M Green in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following Declarations of Interest:-

Item 5 – Mr L Fraser

and the following Transparency Statements:-

Item 3 – Mr M Green and Mr L Fraser

Item 6 – Mr L Fraser

At this point the Chair drew Members' attention to the following items of Good News:-

- the development of the Nairn Common Good Fund engagement Group and creation of a Common Good Officer post;
- the creation of a new Events and Festivals budget for 2023 of £10,000;
- the support given to many Common Good Projects including Community Food Growing, Harbour Street toilets and Link Street Development;
- support given to the Nairn BID;
- funding support provided for Christmas lights;
- a £10,000 support package agreed for the Nairn Games;
- continued support for the Book and Arts Festival; and

- the Reduce, Reuse. Recycle feasibility study funding which was due to be awarded in the near future.

During Discussion the following points were raised:-

- support was expressed for the work of the Local Access Panel;
- the work put into the Moray Firth Development plan was commended;
- the good working relationship between councillors and the Lord Lieutenant was highlighted; and
- attention was drawn to the success of the Clean Up the War Memorial Day in recognition of the Coronation

3. Nairn Business Improvement District Proposal Moladh Sgìre Leasachadh Gnothachais Inbhir Narann

Transparency Statement: Mr M Green and Mr L Fraser declared connections to this item as Nairn BID payers but, having applied the objective test, did not consider that they had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No NC/09/23 dated 5 May 2023 by the Interim Depute Chief Executive and the Executive Chief Officers Communities and Place and Economy and Regeneration.

During Discussion disappointment was expressed at the lack of response from the Transport Minister regarding the Nairn bypass.

The Committee :-

- NOTED** the proposal for the renewal of Nairn BID; and
- AGREED** to recommend to full Council at its meeting on 29 June 2023 that, as a potential BID levy payer, the Council supports the Nairn BID Ltd Proposal in the BID ballot.

4. Ward Discretionary Budget Buidseat Fo Ùghdarras Uàird

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Ward Discretionary Fund applications have been approved since 1 April 2023:-

Organisation	Project	Amount
Nairn Games Committee	Nairn Games (Massed Pipe Bands)	£1,000
Green Hive	Trike Nairn	£1,000 Comprising of £262.84 (Ward Discretionary Fund) and £737.16 (Ward COVID Resilience Budget balance)

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- the allocation shown of £1000 for the Nairn Games was no longer correct as funding had since been provided from the Events and Festivals budget instead; and
- attention was drawn to the fact that not all the money in the Ward Discretionary Fund had been spent by the end of the year and groups should be encouraged to apply for funding for one off projects.

5. Nairn Common Good Fund – Consultation on proposal to dispose, by sale, of Grant Street workshop and yard, Grant Street, Fishertown, Nairn
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Co-chomhairleachadh air moladh gus faighinn cuidhteas, le reic, de bhùth-obrach is lios Shràid nan Granddach, Sràid nan Granddach, Baile an Iasgaich, Inbhir Narann

Declaration of Interest: Mr L Fraser declared an interest in this item on the basis that he had an interest in leasing the Grant Street yard and, in accordance with paragraph 5.6 of the revised Code of Conduct, left the meeting for the duration of the item.

There had been circulated Report No NC/10/23 dated 17 April 2023 by the Interim Executive Chief Officer Performance and Governance and the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- information was sought, and provided, on how a further consultation could be avoided and on whether the property could be sold at a reduced price;
- the possibility of a Community Asset Transfer was discussed;
- suggestions were made of ways to use the land that would be of benefit to the community;
- it was emphasised that income from the sale of the property would go to the Common Good Fund for re-investment in the local community; and
- attention was drawn to the current unsafe state of the building and the financial implications of making the property safe to rent.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the outcome of the consultation process undertaken as contained in the analysis at Appendix 1 of the report;
- APPROVED** the responses to the issues raised in connection with the proposal for publication on the Council's website as contained in the table in Appendix 1 of the report ; and
- AGREED** to dispose of the Grant Street workshop and yard in its current condition for the reasons and implications outlined in the report.

6. Housing Performance Report – 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023
Aithisg Coileanaidh Taigheadais - 1 An Giblean 2022 gu 31 Am Mart 2023

Transparency Statement: Mr L Fraser declared a connection to this item on the grounds that he undertook work for the Housing Service but, having applied the objective test, did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No NC/11/23 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

- in response to a question it was confirmed that there were 270 cases of rent arrears;
- on the point being raised, it was confirmed that the shaky start in quarters 1 and 2 was due to the installation of new computer system and some repairs taking longer than expected;
- in response to a question it was confirmed that 90% of the homeless people accommodated in Nairnshire needed to remain living in the area;
- attention was drawn to the links with the welfare team, housing support and CAB to provide support for struggling tenants; and
- face to face engagement with tenants was welcomed.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance for the period 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023.

7. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated and were **NOTED**:-

- i. Minutes of the Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 23 January 2023 which were approved by the Council on 9 March 2023; and
- ii. Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 21 March 2023 which were approved by the Council on 11 May 2023.

The meeting concluded at 11.40am