

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee** held remotely on 4 September 2023 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mr C Birt

Mrs I Campbell

Mrs E Kraft

Mr P Logue

In attendance:

Mr W MacKinnon, Ward Manager, Communities and Place

Mr D Summers, Principal Transport Officer

Mr I Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager

Mr D Martin, Area Education Manager

Ms R Ross, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

Also in attendance:

Insp. Richard Ross, Police Scotland

Ms C Hamilton, Chair, Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council

Mr M Webster, Chair, Torridon and District Community Association

Ms C Johnson, Torridon and District Community Association Sub-Committee

Ms S Cook, Torridon and District Community Association Sub-Committee

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 Kraft in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

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

There were no Declarations of Interest or Transparency Statements.

3. Recess Powers Cumhachdan Fosaidh

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 29 June 2023 had not been required to be exercised in relation to the business of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee

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

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/10/23 dated 30 August 2023 by the North Area Commander, Police Scotland.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- in response to a question, Inspector Ross undertook to investigate Police Scotland's role in determining what was classed as a short-term let;
- concern was expressed that no Police Officer had attended Lochalsh Community Council following the violent incident that had taken place in the area last year;
- information was sought and provided on why some detection rates were shown as 0%;
- it was good to hear about the decrease in the number of missing looked after children; and
- it was necessary for Local Members to consider how they could help distribute information to protect local people from fraud.

The Committee **NOTED** progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 3, attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2023.

5. Winter Service Plan 2023/24 Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh airson 2023/24

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/11/23 dated 27 July 2023 by the Interim Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment.

During discussion, it was queried whether routes to school were prioritised. In addition, information was sought, and provided, on the filling of grit bins, which it was clarified were usually situated on steep routes that might not be gritted early in the morning.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2023/24.

6. Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Transport Schemes Sgeama Chòmhdhail Rois an Iar, Shrath Pheofhair is Loch Aillse

There was a presentation by the Principal Transport Officer on Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Transport Schemes.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- it was queried whether officers were working with the Kyle Development Trust concerning their electric bus service;
- information was sought, and provided, regarding the bus shelter in Kyle and on developments concerning the Applecross bus service; and
- it was queried what the process was for commercial bus routes opening in the area and if it would be possible for the route of the 961 Ullapool Ferry Bus to revert to going through Strathpeffer and Dingwall.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

7. Duncraig Educational Trust Report

Aithisg Urras Foghlaim Dhùn na Creige

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/012/23 dated 4 September 2023 by the Area Education and Learning Manager.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- the Trust should always be for Highland children and those of Highland descent;
- it was queried if there was a way of identifying talented young people who might be eligible for this funding;
- it was queried who had sanctioned the compensation for loss of office payments being taken from the Trust, and the Area Education and Learning Manager undertook to investigate this and report back to Members; and
- in response to a request for details of the grants awarded, it was confirmed that these details were provided directly to Members and not as part of the Committee report due to some information being confidential.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the content of the report;
- APPROVED** continuing to hold the trust funds in the deposit account;
- AGREED** to delegate authority to the Area Education and Learning Manager to reopen the grant scheme during the year between September and December 2023; and
- AGREED** to delegate authority to the Area Education and Learning Manager to review the grant scheme and propose any changes to Committee.

8. Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Development Plan for 2023-28 Plana Leasachaidh Coimhearsnachd Thoirbheartan agus Ceann Loch Iù airson 2023-28

There was a presentation by Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Council on the Torridon and Kinlochewe Community Development Plan for 2023-28.

- this was a very interesting and impressive project;
- it was interesting to see that the priorities in this Plan matched up with those in the Lochalsh Area Development Plan; and
- papers from Strategic Committees could give an idea of what was being done to help combat the issues raised in the plan throughout Highland.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

9. Ward Discretionary Grants 2023/24 Tabhartasan fo Ùghdarras Uàird 2023/24

The Committee **NOTED** the following Ward Discretionary Budget applications had been approved since 1 April 2023:-

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
Highlife Highland Skye & Lochalsh Archive Centre	Angus Og Exhibition	£500
Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust	Floating Classroom	£1000

10. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated, and were **NOTED**, Minutes of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee held on 12 June 2023 which had been approved by the Council on 29 June 2023.

The meeting concluded at 12.15 pm.