

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee** held remotely on 29 January 2024 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 Martin, Area Education Manager

Mr I Moncrieff, Area Roads Operations Manager

Mr M Crowe, Project Officer

Ms M Ross, Principal Housing Officer

Mr M McGinty, Trading Standards Team Leader

Mrs O Bayon, Committee Officer

### **Also in attendance:**

Inspector Richard Ross, Police Scotland (Item 3)

Station Commander Allan McLean, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Item 4)

Group Commander Mike Colliar, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (Item 4)

**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**

### **Preliminaries**

Prior to the commencement of the formal business, and on behalf of the Council, the Chair paid tribute to Mrs Julie Wileman who had recently passed away and extended deep condolences and sympathy to her family.

### **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. Police – Area Performance Report Poilis – Geàrr-chunntas Coileanaidh Sgìreil**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/01/24 by the Chief Inspector - Area Commander.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- thanks was expressed to the Police for all their work;
- Members highlighted that a murder incident had not been recorded within the report's statistics. In this regard the Police Officer confirmed that was a mistake and the total number was 3 for the area during the period 2023/24;
- it was queried if the Police had plans to increase road traffic speed checks in Wester Ross, especially as many local complaints had emanated from that area;
- the reduction in the number of missing persons was encouraging and welcomed; and
- Members were seeking local community feedback on the implementation of 20mph speed reductions within villages and towns.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023 – 2024 Year 1 attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 01 April 2023 – 30 November 2023; and
- ii. the change in format necessitated by a reduction in back office capacity to prepare additional Area Committee reports.

#### **4. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/02/24 by the Local Senior Officer for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- the report was unclear on where Contin and Garve were to receive SFRS emergency responders from and if the cover was considered adequate;
- it was queried if the SFRS were actively seeking to recruit from all sections of the community;
- it was confirmed that the Kinlochewe station was still active; and
- thanks were expressed to the SFRS for all of the hard work they carry out.

The Committee **NOTED** the attached Area Performance Report.

#### **5. Avoiding Financial Harm At Home A' Seachnadh Cron Ionmhasail san Dachaigh**

The Trading Standards Team Leader gave a presentation providing information on Avoiding Financial Harm at Home which included Doorstep Crime and Scams Prevention. The presentation highlighted means for residents to protect themselves against scams.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- Members thanked the Trading Standards teams for their hard and important work to help protect highland residents as it was making a positive difference;
- it was queried if there had been a perceived reduction in bank transfer scams now that Banks had implemented software to match bank accounts with the specific account holder name when conducting a transfer; and
- information was sought, and provided, on how elderly persons could have call blockers installed on their phonenumber or account.

The Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

## 6. **Area Roads Capital Programme 2024/25** **Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2024/25**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/03/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- information was sought, and provided, on the definition where Capital expenditure ended and Revenue expenditure began in relation to roads;
- it was queried why a small section of road resurfacing had been left out on the A890 Stromferry bypass tunnel and when these works would take place. It was also queried when SSE were going to build laybys on the Glenelg Road; and
- Members highlighted that the Bealach Road repairs required urgent attention and there should be further discussions on this, and other projects, at a ward business meeting.

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed 2024/25 Area Roads Capital Programme for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area.

## 7. **Duncraig Trust Scheme 1999 Review** **Ath-sgrùdadh 1999 Sgeama Urras Dhùn na Creige**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/04/24 by the Area Education & Learning Manager.

Members welcomed the offer to still receive an annual report itemising awarded funds.

The Committee **APPROVED**:-

- i. the introduction of a new third category of awards to local training clubs and organisations;
- ii. the criteria for individual applications for sports; further and higher education; and local training clubs/organisations;
- iii. the scope of award levels; and
- iv. to maintain the current, officer led, grant allocations decision making process with reports to the committee.

## 8. **Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2024/25**

## **Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Màil Gharaidsean 2024/25**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/05/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

The Committee **AGREED** that a 7.95% rent increase be applied to Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee Garages and Garage Sites.

### **9. Community Regeneration Fund Applications Iarrtasan Maoin Ath-bheòthachadh Coimhearsnachd**

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/06/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

In considering applications for Community Regeneration Funding (CRF), the Committee also requested that applicants whose request for funding had been rejected, be advised that it was still open to them to submit updated applications to a future round of CRF.

The Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** that funding be awarded from the Community Regeneration Fund as follows:
  - The Howard Doris Centre - £59,335.00
  - Torridon District Community Association - £30,000.00
  - Dornie & District Community Hall Committee - £38,440.00
  - Gairloch Community Council with Gairloch Area Development Ltd - £22,817.00
  - Plockton & District Community Trust - £15,000.00
  - Coigach Community Development Company - £57,942.00
  - Lochbroom and Ullapool Community Trust- £33,180.00
  - Strathpeffer Residents' Association - £59,335.00
  - Lochbroom and Ullapool Community Trust – Rejected
  - Dornie Moorings Association - £30,910.00
  - Strathpeffer Pavilion Community Trust – Rejected
  - Toybox Children's Centre - £12,500.00
- ii. as there was a balance of funding remaining, **AGREED** to ringfence remaining grant within the 2023/24 allocation to deliver area priorities identified through work to develop an area-based plan, subject to full applications being brought to a future committee meeting for consideration.

### **10. Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Ward Discretionary Budget Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird Rois an Iar, Shrath Pheofhair agus Loch Aillse**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Ward Discretionary Fund applications had been approved since 4 September 2023:-

- 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 – King’s Coronation Community Celebration - £500
- Wester Ross Fisheries Trust - River Catchment Management Workshop - £800
- High Life Highland Skye & Lochalsh Archive Centre – Angus Og Exhibition - £500
- Hebridean Whale and Dolphin Trust – Floating Classroom - £1000
- Wester Loch Ewe Community Council, Dog Fouling Initiative - £500
- Gairloch Community Council & Gairloch Area Development, Local Place Plan - £310
- Contin Football & Sports Club, Football Pitch Maintenance - £1000
- Gairloch & Area Development – Gairloch Beach Toilet & Camper Van Facilities - £2770
- Peffery Way Association, all abilities path project - £2550
- Scottish Poppy Appeal – Lighting Request - £250

## 11. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of Meeting of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee held on 4 September 2023 which had been approved by the Council on 26 October 2023.

The meeting concluded at 12:55 pm