

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held in the Chamber, The Court House, High Street, Nairn on 22 January 2024 at 10.30 am

Present:

Mr L Fraser
Mr M Green
Ms B Jarvie
Mr P Oldham

In Attendance:

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

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements.

3. Good News Naidheachdan Matha

The Chair drew the Committee's attention to the great progress being made by the Nairnshire Community Newspaper Steering Group.

During discussion Members highlighted the following additional items of good news:-

- thanks were extended to the people of Nairn for their efforts in helping make the town festive over the Christmas period; and
- the success of the local place plan meeting was highlighted with thanks extended to Inspector Ross McCartney for attending.

4. Police Area Performance Report Poileas – Geàrr-chunntas air Coileanadh Sgìreil

There had been circulated report No NC/01/24 dated 17 January 2024 by the Area Commander (South Highland Area Command)

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- it was queried why rates of speeding and shoplifting had increased;
- information was sought and provided on how a 103% detection rate for drug possession could have been achieved;
- in response to a question it was confirmed that the expected new speeding detection equipment could be tested in Cawdor and the recently acquired new speed detection gun had been used in the Nairnshire Area;
- it was emphasised that the area around the hospital was an area of concern for speeding;
- the Committee had been invited to visit the CCTV headquarters in Inverness; and
- the new report format was welcomed.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. 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 1 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.

5. Community Regeneration Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoin Ath-bheòthachadh Coimhearsnachd – Measadh Iarrtasan

There is circulated Report No NC/02/24 dated 10 January 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- the team Hamish project had significant public support and would be of great benefit to the town; and
- the Nairn BID Heritage Trail would be invited to apply to the Ward Discretionary Fund for additional funding to assist with their remaining funding gap.

The Committee **APPROVED** all of the applications presented for a funding award from the Community Regeneration Fund as follows:-

- Nairn Improvement Community Enterprise, Team Hamish - £11,000; and
- Nairn BID Heritage Trail - £5093.53.

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

There is circulated Report No NC/03/24 dated 12 January 2024 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- Nairnshire was very lucky compared to other parts of the Highlands where many roads, including major roads were in a much worse condition;

- the work planned for the A9007 and Lochloy Road was welcomed;
- it was queried when the yellow lines would be painted on Marine Road;
- information was sought on the cost of repairs to the Howford and Dava bridges;
- in the response to a question, it was confirmed that the person who caused damage to the Dava Bridge had been identified and an insurance claim for the cost of repairs had been instigated;
- attention was drawn to the poor condition of the road at Drynachan which was a route that was included in many scenic maps; and
- information was sought and provided concerning the bridge at Millhill near Drumduan.

The Committee **APPROVED** the proposed 2024/25 Area Roads Capital Programme.

7. Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2024/2025 Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Màil Gharaidsean 2024/25

There is circulated Report No NC/04/24 dated 19 December 2024 by the Executive Chief Officer Property and Housing.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- over 80% of garages were not being rented by Council tenants and were benefiting from a very low rental rate;
- the garages were currently in good repair but costs of repairs were rising and the Council had a requirement to meet future repair needs; and
- it was highlighted that the greater increases were not included in the consultation.

Mrs B Jarvie proposed that garage rents should increase by 7.95% for Council tenants and 20% for non-tenants but did not find a seconder.

The Committee **AGREED** a rent increase of 20% be applied to Nairnshire Garages and Garage Sites for 2024/25.

8. Nairn Common Good Fund Engagement – Consultation Responses Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann

There is circulated Report No NC/05/24 dated 11 January 2024 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- the youth input in the Engagement Group was welcomed;
- some of the comments in the consultation responses were disappointing, incorrect and potentially defamatory;
- it was emphasised that the Engagement Group had no decision making powers;
- Engagement Group meetings could become very challenging based on the views contained in some consultation responses;

- it was suggested that the group be trialled for 12 months only;
- the importance of flexibility and diversity in membership was emphasised as it was unknown which new community groups might form in the following two years; and
- it was queried which Council officers would be supporting the Group meetings.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the update provided in the report along with the consultation responses received detailed at Appendix 1;
- ii. **AGREED** the proposed replies to the consultation responses received as set out at Appendix 2;
- iii. **APPROVED** the proposed Terms of Reference for a Nairn Common Good Fund Engagement Group as set out in Appendix 3;
- iv. **NOTED** that the Terms of Reference at Appendix 3 did not impinge on the need for decisions in relation to the Nairn CGF to be taken at this Committee; and
- v. **AGREED** the work of the Common Good Fund Engagement Group be trialled for 24 months however reviewed after 12 months at a future meeting of the Committee.

9. Ward Discretionary Budget Buidseat Fo Ùghdarras Uàird

The Committee **NOTED** the following Ward Discretionary Fund payment that had been approved since the previous meeting of this Committee:-

- Millbank Primary Parent Council, Millbank Reading Refresh, £1,000.00

10. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The committee **NOTED** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 30 October 2023 which had been approved by the Council on 14 December 2023.

The meeting concluded at 11.30am.