

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** held in **Courtroom, Grantown Courthouse, Grantown-on-Spey/Remotely** on 12 February 2024 at 10.30 am

Present:

Mr J Bruce
Mrs M Cockburn

Mr R Jones
Mr B Lobban

In attendance:

Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager (Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)
Mr M MacKay, Ward Manager
Ms A Tanner, City Heritage Project Manager
Mr R Porteous, Roads Operations Manager
Mr J Taylor, Roads Operations Manager

Also in attendance:

Inspector C Johnstone, Police Scotland

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 R Jones in the Chair (with the exception of item 4 – Kingussie Camanachd Club application where Mr B Lobban took 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**

The Committee **NOTED** the following declarations of interest:-

Item 4 – Kingussie Camanachd Club Application – Mr R Jones

and the following transparency statements:-

Item 4 – Mr R Jones, Mr B Lobban

The Committee **AGREED** to consider Item 4 at this stage.

4. Community Regeneration Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoin Ath-bheothachadh Coimhearsnachd – Measadh Iarrtasan

Declaration of Interest – Mr R Jones in respect of the application from Kingussie Camanachd Club as a club member and former Club President.

Transparency Statement – Mr R Jones and Mr B Lobban as they had previously indicated support for one or more of the applications.

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/02/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

The Committee **AGREED:-**

- i. to grant funding to all applications as follows:
 - Upgrade of Newtonmore Playpark - £30,000
 - Kingussie Tennis Club – Phase 3 - £17,500 with an additional amount of £360 due to increased contractor costs;
 - Dalwhinnie Village Hall Regeneration Project - £27,718.80, on the condition that match funding was secured;
 - Kingussie and Vicinity Community Council (KVCC) – Regeneration of the Glebe Ponds – £31,095.60;
 - Carrbridge Community Orchard - £6,000;
 - Kingussie Camanachd Club - £15,000;
- ii. an allocation of £80,000 2023/24 Community Regeneration Funding be ringfenced towards the Member identified priority of refurbishment of the pedestrian link at Glenmore, and that the full application for funds be brought for consideration at a future committee; and
- iii. 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.

3. Police Area Performance Report

Poileas – Geàrr-chunntas air Coileanadh Sgìreil

There had been circulated Report No BSAC/01/24 by Area Commander (South Highland Area Command), Police Scotland.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- the importance of enforcing the new 20 mph speed limits in towns and villages was highlighted, information was sought on how this was being done and a police presence in towns and villages to enforce these speed limits was requested;
- information was sought and provided on the incident in December 2023 where 250 motorists were stuck on the A9 due to weather conditions and on the procedures and decision-making process involved in closing the snow gates;
- the new report layout was commended;
- disappointment was expressed at the increasing number of seatbelt offences;
- information was sought and provided on the mechanism for Road Traffic Officers to report safety issues with roads, for example at junctions and Inspector Johnstone undertook to highlight problems with junctions at Lynwilg, Carrbridge, Ralia and Granish to the Roads Policing Inspector;

- in response to a request, Inspector Johnstone confirmed that updates on operation CEDAR and the work of the Health Promotion Officer in Badenoch and Strathspey would be included in his next presentation to the committee;
- it was queried whether the high rates of shoplifting were linked to the cost of living crisis; and
- it was important to look closely at the problem of Hate Crime especially when targeting visitors to the area and in schools.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

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

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

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

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- information was sought and provided on what would happen if additional capital funding was approved;
- in response to a question, it was clarified that there had never been an underspend on the Winter Maintenance Budget for Badenoch and Strathspey;
- on the point being raised, it was explained that once Cattle Grids were installed by landowners they would be adopted and maintained by the Council;
- information was sought and provided on the Timber Transport Scheme and on investment in roads from Windfarm operators; and
- the Area Roads Manager undertook to look into whether the B970 could be assessed for referral to the Timber Transport fund and to contact Bear Scotland concerning the repainting of white lines in Kingussie High Street.

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

6. **Ward Discretionary Budget** **Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird**

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- in response to a question, it was confirmed that there was £3,500 remaining in the Ward Discretionary Fund; and
- information was sought and provided on the progress with funding a scheme to provide winter jackets and shoes in the north of the area.

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Ward Discretionary Fund applications had been approved since the previous Committee:-

Organisation	Project	Amount
Newtonmore Business Association	Centenary Garden Project Consultation	£750
Kingussie Parish Church	Winter Jackets and Waterproof Shoes	£2,000

7. Minutes
Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 13 November 2023 which were approved by the Council on 14 December 2023.

The meeting concluded at 11.50am