

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held remotely on 4 March 2024 at 10.30 am.

Present:

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

In Attendance:

Mr L Hannah, Community Development Manager, Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey
Ms L Harrison, Accountant
Mr A Garrow, NCGF Project Officer
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/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/ Aithris Fhollaiseachd

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Nairn Common Good Fund – 2022/23 Audited Accounts, 2023/24 January Monitoring and General Update, Proposed Budget 2024/25 Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Cunntasan Sgrùdaichte 2022/23, Sgrùdadh agus Cunntas Coitcheann an Fhaoilich 2023/24, Buidseat ga Mholadh 2024/25

There had been circulated joint Report No NC/06/24 by the Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place and the Head of Corporate Finance.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- information was sought and provided on the following issues; the rise in administrative charges and “other costs”; special grants; revaluation losses; the feasibility study on Community Food Growing at Sandown; the funding of the public conveniences on Harbour Street; the ongoing maintenance of the Splash Pad; and the vandalism of life belts;

- in response to a request for further information Ms L Harrison, Accountant undertook to provide Members with a full breakdown of the administrative charges and “other costs” from the 2022/2023 accounts;
- while it was welcomed that the Council was charging for officers’ time in relation to Common Good issues it was highlighted that questions from the community often take up officers’ time and, in turn, incur a cost for the Common Good Fund;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that the money set aside in the budget for the Links Development Fund was a contingency fund to allow Members the flexibility to deal with issues as they arose, and this was welcomed;
- the invitation to pay scheme for the NCGF Links amenity facilities was welcomed but the CCTV in the area needed to be updated;
- the post of Common Good Officer was getting closer to becoming cost neutral;
- the availability of Common Good land for use and the charges for doing so needed to be more widely publicised; and
- clarification was sought and provided on several points including; what was classed as a “large” or “small” circus or fairground ride; who was considered a resident of Nairn for use of Common Good land including weddings; the charges for charity events; the rental and sale of equipment by wellbeing and fitness providers; and charges for musicians.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** the Nairn Common Good Fund Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 at Appendix 1a and the final 22/23 Monitoring Statement at Appendix 1b to the report;
- ii. **NOTED** the position of the Nairn Common Good Fund and 2023/24 outturn as shown in January monitoring statement against budget presented at Appendices 2a and 2b to the report;
- iii. **AGREED** the Nairn Common Good Fund budget for 2024/25 detailed at Appendix 3 to the report; and
- iv. as part of that 2024/25 budget, **AGREED** the revised Nairn Common Good Fund Lets Charging Framework at Appendix 4 to the report for implementation from 1 April 2024 with minor updates for clarity as suggested by Members.

At this stage Members extended thanks to and commended the work of Community Development Manager, Mr Lewis Hannah who was moving to a new role as part of a team restructure.

The meeting concluded at 12.20pm.