

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS WORKING GROUP

Minutes of Meeting held in Committee Room 1, Town House on Thursday, 23 April 2015 at 11.00am

Present

Highland Council

Mrs G Sinclair

Mr G Ross

Mr F Parr

Other representatives

Ms J Cuddy

Mr A Dick (Highland Games)

Also in attendance

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Manager

Mr G Reynolds, Inverness Events Manager

Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager

Miss L Farquharson, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr H Wood, Mr C Marr and Mr M Smith.

2. Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Mr F Parr and Mr G Ross (both non-financial)

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 27 February 2015 which were **NOTED**.

In this regard, updates were provided at the meeting on the following –

- Mr C Forbes had now been appointed by Inverness Harriers to serve on the Games Committee;
- Meetings had been held with Inverness Harriers and the Road Race would now go ahead; and
- High Life Highland had confirmed the use of an area of the Bught Park for the Tug O' War and this would also now go ahead.

4. Exclusion of the Public

It was **AGREED** that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. Inverness Highland Games

Declarations of Interest – Mr F Parr and Mr G Ross declared non-financial interests in this item on the basis of the following but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that their interests did not preclude their involvement in the discussion –

Mr F Parr – Board Member of both High Life Highland and the MS Therapy Centre and on the basis that a family member was employed by the Highland Hospice

Mr G Ross – Member of the Highland Disability Sport Committee

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the current arrangements for the Highland Games during which the following issues were raised:-

- the recent fire in the City Centre now posed some issues for the route of the Road Race and discussions should be undertaken with Inverness Harriers at an early date in order to establish the most feasible and alternative options for the route within the available timeframe. It was confirmed that it would be desirable for the Race to start and finish in the main arena if possible and in this regard it was agreed that the City Manager and Events Manager should liaise with Inverness Harriers in order to identify the best solution and report back in due course. It was also agreed that a representative from the Harriers should be invited to the next meeting;
- consideration should be given as to whether it would be feasible to hold the Games on a Sunday in 2016;
- the budget for the Games was the responsibility of the Council and in this respect Officers would review options for generation of income wherever possible, including the most appropriate charge for participants;
- there a need to 're-brand' the Games and in this respect it was suggested that the most appropriate name going forward would be 'Inverness Gala and Highland Games Day – Supporting Local Charities';
- inclusion of other events in the outer area of the Field should be followed up;
- selling tickets in advance would be advantageous and in this respect it was suggested that ticket prices should be £5 (Adult), £3 (Child) and £15 (Family);
- consideration should be given to the inclusion of a 'Classic Car Parade';
- involvement of 'Exclusively Highland', 'Scottish Foods' and craft organisations should be followed up as part of the overall arrangements for the Marquee; and
- marketing and promotion should be commenced as soon as possible through a Press Conference which would include Members of the Working Group.

Thereafter, it was **AGREED** that a Briefing for Members of the Working Group on all of the above would be arranged by the City Manager in due course and hopefully within the following week.

6. Event Charrette

An update was provided at the meeting by the City Manager on the current arrangements for the Event Charrette during which it was confirmed that a Programme would be designed, in liaison with all partner agencies, with a clear set of key objectives for the delivery of future events. In this regard, it was stressed that there was a need to formulate a cultural focus for Inverness through an approach which included the local community.

Thereafter, it **AGREED** that further discussion should be undertaken in late May (with the exact date to be confirmed) and that thereafter a presentation should be undertaken to inform and

update all Members of the City of Inverness Area Committee.

7. Budget Update 2014/15

An update was provided at the meeting by the Events Manager on the budget for 2014/15 during which he predicted a budget underspend of approximately £8k in the current year.

The position was **NOTED**.

8. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the date of the next meeting would be confirmed in due course.

The meeting ended at 12.40pm.