

City of Inverness Area Committee

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub Committee** held in the Chamber, Town House, Inverness on Monday, 17 August, 2015 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael

Mr G Ross

Mr A Graham

Mrs J Slater

Mrs E McAllister

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager

Ms A Macrae, Committee Administrator, Corporate Development

Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, Finance Service

Ms L Mackay, Assistant Civic Officer, Finance Service

Business

Appointment of Chair

In the absence of Mr A Christie, Chair, who had submitted his apologies for the meeting, the Inverness City Area Manager sought nominations for the position of Chair for the meeting.

Mrs H Carmichael seconded by Mrs J Slater, moved that Mr G Ross be appointed as Chair. On there being no other nominations, Mr Ross was duly appointed and took the Chair.

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr A Christie, Mr R Laird, Mr T Prag and Mrs G Sinclair.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 5 – Mrs B McAllister and Mr G Ross (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of Public

The Sub Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public 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.

4. Grants Analysis

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/10/15 dated 6 August 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which included an analysis of grants made from the Inverness Common Good Fund during the last two financial years.

Arising from the report the Inverness City Area Manager reported that investigations and discussions were on going in conjunction with the Provost on how best to take forward the proposal that a single event be held to celebrate all volunteering activity. He confirmed that a further report on this matter would be brought to a future meeting on this matter.

Thereafter and during discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- concern that a large proportion of the applications received over the period had been from charities and voluntary organisations and it was suggested that a more detailed analysis be undertaken to establish the extent to whether some charities were dependent year on year for Common Good funding and that this include the percentage of their income received through this source; the City Area Manager confirmed that he would undertake more detailed analysis in this regard and report back to Members;
- that organisations which were submitting repeat applications year on year be given further assistance to identify other potential funding sources;
- it was suggested that a separate budget be created for special civic events of significant importance to the City which were held annually such as Armed Forces Day and the Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust's Solo Piping Championships and which were supported by the Common Good Fund; the City Area Manager advised that he would investigate this further but cautioned that for governance purposes the third party organisations involved would be required to continue to apply annually for grants, albeit the Sub Committee had indicated in principle by setting aside a separate budget that they wished to support these events; and
- a point in regard to whether The Camanachd Association annual Shinty/Hurling Competition should also be included in the above category; the City Area Manager cautioned that this may be slightly different in that it was more of a commercial event but undertook to consider it as part of the overall investigations.

The Sub Committee **NOTED** the report and **AGREED** that a further report be brought back to the next meeting on the proposal to establish a separate budget for special civic events, including indicative costs.

5. Requests for Financial Assistance 2015/16

Declarations of Interest -

Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest, having had discussions with Inverness Blitz (branded as Highland Wildcat) in regard to this item and left the room during the discussion of that item.

Mrs B McAllister declared a non-financial interest, having an involvement in the Workers' Educational Association (WEA) and, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, each concluded that her interest did not preclude her involvement with the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/11/15 dated 7 August 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for financial assistance from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated as Booklets A, B and C.

Booklet A

The Sub Committee determined applications for funding of up to £10,000 as follows:-

Ness Bank Church (£9,500 sought) **APPROVE £9,500**
Phase 3 Heating Project – replacement of 35 year old boiler and 114 year old cast iron pipework and radiators. Confirmation was given that the further information requested by the Sub-Committee at its previous meeting on 11 May 2015 had been received and was set out at page 21 in Booklet A. Members commented that the further information received had provided the clarity and reassurance which had been sought in response to their concerns and that the overall amount applied for represented a small proportion of the overall costs of the project, the majority of which had been raised from other sources.

Partnerships for Wellbeing (£10,000 sought) **APPROVE £10,000**
Inverness Voluntary Transport Scheme – for operation of only dedicated door to door community car scheme in Inverness which offers transport to individuals who are unable to access either private or public transport. Members commented on the new and increasing demands being placed on the Scheme as referred to in the application and suggested that approval would enable the Partnership for Wellbeing to respond to that demand and support the delivery and development of this important service going forward.

Fraser School of Dancing (£6,000 sought) **APPROVE £6,000**
North of Scotland Highland Dancing Championships – assistance with cost of holding the event. In discussion clarification was sought on the opportunities for the organisation to apply for grant funding from the Sports Council and in regard to the level of income received from competitors. It was confirmed that the total cost of the event was £12,500 and that the balance would be raised through the organisation's own fundraising activities. It was suggested that while the application be approved, the organisation also be encouraged to approach the Sports Council in regard to any potential assistance they could provide.

Apex Scotland – Highland (£10,000 sought) **APPROVE £7,500**
Apex Scotland Community Challenge Team – aimed at confidence building, problem solving, communication skills and teamwork with service users and staff by undertaking group activities in the community. Members commented

that while the project should be supported, that some of the project costs such as the provision for fuel appeared high and also that the organisation had reasonable reserves. Therefore it was suggested that an award of 50% of the total cost of the project cost of £15,000 would be appropriate in this case.

Inverness Blitz (branded as Highland Wildcat) (£4,500 sought) **APPROVE**
£4,500

Mr G Ross left the room for the duration of this item.
Mrs H Carmichael in the Chair

Purchase of Furniture and storage items for new facility – to purchase furniture and secure storage items for move to refurbished facility within the grounds of Bught Park Stadium with the aim of establishing a base of operations for the organisation. Members commented on the positive work undertaken by the organisation with young people in the local area experiencing inequalities and who were at the risk of exclusion.

Talan Media Ltd T/A We are Giraffe (£3,000 sought) **REFUSE**
Highland Fashion Week – towards running costs of the Week including venue, equipment, marketing, insurance, and décor/dressing. In discussion Members expressed concern at the lack of detail and information in relation to the event contained in the application which it was suggested had been hastily prepared, noting for example there were no bank details provided apart from personal banks accounts, or reference to any income or business plan. It was confirmed that the Applicant's had been asked to provide bank details but to date this had not been received. Members therefore took the view that the application was premature and should be refused.

Comhairle nam Parantan (Parent Council BSGI) (£1,984 sought) **REFUSE**
Purchase of football equipment storage container, folding goals and jackets to be used in Saturday morning coaching sessions open to all pupils. In discussion Members suggested that as this application crossed a number of wards it would be more appropriate for this application to be funded through ward discretionary funding. Following further discussion, the Sub-Committee **AGREED** that the application be refused but that the applicant be advised to apply for ward discretionary funding.

The British Red Cross (£5,000 sought) **REFUSE**
Every Day First Aid (EDFA) – courses to provide First Aid education to support networks around the most vulnerable people in the community of Inverness. Funding support sought to allow the Red Cross to train more volunteers to deliver EDFA courses, pay for volunteer expenses, resources for courses and participants and venue hire. Members commented that the financial information submitted with the application showed healthy balances and it was also noted that the Red Cross levied a charge for their services and that should take into account costs. Members therefore took the view that the application should be refused on the grounds that the project costs could be funded within the Red Cross's existing resources or by other means.

The Camanachd Association (£6,000 sought) **APPROVE £6,000**
2015 Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling Competition – towards the marketing, accommodation, transport, catering and hospitality and other event costs for one of shinty's flagship events which would take place at the Bught Park, Inverness on Saturday 24 October 2015. Members noted that this was an annual televised event and expressed their support for the application.

Inverness College (£2,834 sought) **APPROVE £2,834**
Scotland's Salmon Festival – to celebrate, educate and build a greater awareness of Scotland's iconic Atlantic salmon within the sector, both locally and internationally and throughout the wider general public through events, a fair at Bught Park, film festival, live music, public lectures and civic reception. Funding was being sought for the remainder of the funding required for the Bught Park activities and a small amount towards the film festival at Eden Court. Members welcomed the venture and their expressed support for the application.

Booklet B

The Sub Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 10 September 2015) as it related to an application for more than £10,000:-

New Start Highland (£19,027) **DEFER**
Waste Not Want Not – to fund the position of reuse champion for a period of three years to work at the Recycling Centre, Henderson Drive, Inverness and engage with the general public to promote the benefits of reusing and recycling and direct goods which would otherwise end up in landfill to the organisation's facility at the centre, for the benefit the most disadvantaged and poorest members of the community. Members commented that while minded to support the application it be clarified that any award would be for a period of one year noting that funding was being sought for a total period of three years. Members also expressed concern that further clarity was required in relation to total projects costs for Year 1. Thereafter, the Sub Committee **AGREED** that the Applicant be advised that the Sub-Committee was minded to recommend that the application be approved for Year 1 only, subject to further information on the project costs being submitted and on the basis that this information be e-mailed to Members for comment prior to the application being considered by the City of Inverness and Area Committee.

Booklet C

Hands Up for Trad (£4,367 sought) **AGREED £3,000**
The 10th Anniversary Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame Performance Dinner 2015 – towards costs of running Hall of Fame Dinner at Inverness Airport on 11 September 2015. It was noted the organisation had been granted funding of £4,368 towards the cost of the event from the Council's Statutory Gaelic Plan Funding budget. Members commented on the projected catering costs which it was suggested appeared high and on the level of ticket sales for the event and discussion also followed on the choice of an out of town venue.

Following further discussion it was suggested that an award of £3,000 would be appropriate in regard to this application based on the known costs of hosting a similar event for 100 people. It was also requested that the Applicant be asked to provide further information on the uptake of ticket sales to date.

Visit Inverness Loch Ness (formerly Uniqueness Tourism BID) (£5,000 sought)

AGREED £5,000 split between Grants Budget and Subvention Budget.

Inverness Loch Ness International Knit Festival – to assist with the initial set up and launch of the event, costs including the event website, event launch, venue deposits and initial marketing. On hearing from the Inverness City Area Manager the Sub-Committee **AGREED** that the sum of £5,000 be approved to be split equally between the Grants and Subvention Budgets.

NHS Highland (£12,000 sought) **AGREED** £12,000 split between Subvention Budget (£8,000) and Grants Budget (£4,000).

International Conference on Innovation in Remote Healthcare, Inverness 23-24 May 2016. In discussion Members commented that this was the type of mid-range of conference which it was important to attract to the City, reference being made to the economic benefits it would generate. A query was also raised in regard whether the applicants would require the grant payment in the current or next financial year given that the conference was being held in May 2016. Following further discussion the Sub Committee **AGREED** to approve the application on the basis that it be split between the between Subvention Budget (£8,000) and Grants Budget (£4,000) and that it be clarified with the Applicant as to whether they would require payment in the current or next financial year.

Worker's Educational Association Scotland (£2,645)

WEA Scotland Annual General Meeting and 30th Anniversary Celebration of WEA Inverness Local Association. Members commented on the excellent work undertaken by the WEA and it was clarified that the actual costs of running the event were £14,723 and therefore that they were not seeking 100% funding as it appeared from the application form.

6. Inverness Harriers

The Sub Committee **AGREED** to **HOMOLOGATE** the decision to award £8,532 to Inverness Harriers towards the 10k Road Race.

7. Request for Extension to Grant Period

Following discussion the Sub Committee **AGREED** to a request from Aulnaskiach Dell to extend the grant period of their award by two months on the basis that the tree surgery works could not commence until the Autumn and that it may be difficult to complete the works by the beginning of December 2015.

8. Civic Hospitality Requests

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/09/15 dated 21 April 2015 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic

Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund. In this connection, a copy of the applications and supporting documentation had also been circulated as Booklet D.

The Sub Committee determined applications for civic hospitality as follows:

<u>Action for Children Scotland</u> 60 th Birthday – Civic Reception	AGREED
<u>The Highland Council</u> Scottish Cities Convention	AGREED
<u>Inverness Opera Company</u> 90 th Anniversary of the Company	AGREED
<u>Workers' Educational Association Scotland</u> WEA AGM Conference	AGREED
<u>Highland Military Tattoo</u> Reception for The Stadacona Royal Canadian Navy and Black Watch Bands	AGREED

9. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub Committee **AGREED TO HOMOLOGATE** the decisions to award Civic Hospitality as follows:

- Raising Awareness of YOGA in Highland – Thursday, 18 June 2015 – Civic Reception - £1,501
- St Valery Visit – 11-14 September 2015 up to a maximum cost of £2,000
- Royal British Legion Scotland – Dedication Ceremony on Post 1945 Memorial – 4 August 2015 – soup/sandwich/tea/coffee – Waterside Hotel - £350

10. Date of Next Meeting

It was **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 9 November 2015.

The meeting ended at 10.45 am