

**The Highland Council
City of Inverness Area Committee**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee** held in the 1st Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Monday, 15 February 2016 at 9.15 am.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael
Mr A Christie
Mrs E McAllister

Mr T Prag
Mr G Ross
Mrs J Slater

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

Mr A Christie in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

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

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 4 – Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Christie, Mrs E McAllister and Mr G Ross (non-financial)
Item 5 – Mrs H Carmichael

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 item on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 and 9 of Part 1 of schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Requests for Financial Assistance 2015/16

Declarations of Interest –

Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in the application from the Highland Skate Parks Association on the basis that he had met with the association and left the room during discussion of the application.

The following Members declared non-financial interests in relation to part of this item 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 them from taking part in the discussion:-

Mrs H Carmichael – having met with the Highland Skate Parks Association

Mr A Christie – having known several members of the Highland Multicultural Friends

Mrs E McAllister – family members attended Colin Baillie's classes

There had been circulated Report No GSC/01/16 dated 28 January 2016 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, C and D.

Prior to discussion of the applications, Members were advised that the total amount requested exceeded the balance available in the 2015/16 budget. In accordance with the policy, recent beneficiaries would be asked to return any grant which had not been taken up within the 6 month period. In this connection, it was confirmed that the Starlight Musical Theatre had made a profit and therefore the sum of £5,000 approved to underwrite any losses would be returned to the Inverness Common Good Fund Grants budget.

Booklet A

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

Highlanders Army Cadet Force (£6,000 sought) **APPROVED £4,000**

Battlefield Tour of the Mons Battlefield and Ypres Salient in June 2016

Some Members felt that the application was more appropriate for Ward Discretionary Funding and that the organisation were requesting a large proportion of the project cost from the Common Good Fund whilst their contribution was low in comparison to their balances. In response to a question, it was confirmed that 20 out of the 24 cadets were from the Inverness area. Following discussion on the amount to award, it was **AGREED** to approve a reduced sum of £4,000.

Inverness High School (£7,880 sought) **APPROVED £7,880**

S1 outdoor transition project 2016

Members expressed support for this scheme and confirmed that additional funding had been awarded from the Inverness West Ward Discretionary Fund and it was likely that additional funding would be awarded from the Inverness Central Ward Discretionary Fund.

Inverness Angling Club (£9,500 sought) **APPROVED £9,500**

Management of the Town Fishings

It was explained that the grant was required to allow the Club to continue to operate however Members expressed dissatisfaction at the layout of the financial accounts. It was therefore **AGREED** to approve the request on the basis that a revised set of accounts be reported to the next meeting.

Baillie Cup Committee (£1,350 sought) **APPROVED £1,350**

Baillie Cup

Members were minded to approve the funding for this year and suggested that the Committee seek Ward Discretionary Funding in future years.

Stay Safe Highland (£4,250 sought) **APPROVED £2,000**

Stay Safe Highland Project

Members supported the aims of the project, noting that Police Scotland were supportive and that it would contribute to the work of the Council's Trading Standards team. However, concern was expressed regarding the applications focus on a contribution towards the salary of a Development Officer and the costs and duration of delivering talks to 24 groups. Following discussion, it was **AGREED** to approve £2,000 for one year.

Highland Rugby Football Club (£7,000 sought) **APPROVED £7,000**

Community Rugby Development Programme 2015-2017

Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust (£9,800 sought) **APPROVED £4,500**

Northern Meeting World Solo Piping Championship 2016

An update was requested on the development of a fringe event to attract a wider audience. In response, it was explained that there were resourcing issues. Members expressed concern at the level of funding sought and in line with previous years, it was **AGREED** to approve a reduced sum of £4,500. Members were reminded that this was also an application for Civic Hospitality.

LGBT Youth Scotland (£9,995 sought) **REFUSED**

Challenging Homophobia Highland

Members noted that the Council's Principal Policy Officer for Equality was supportive of this application and while it was felt that the project was worthwhile it was **AGREED** to refuse the application on the basis that there were other available sources of funding.

Booklet B

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 3 March 2016) as they related to application for more than £10,000:-

Highland Skate Parks Association (£30,000 sought) **APPROVE £30,000**

Inverness Bike and Cycle Coaching

During discussion, Members expressed support for the project and were minded to approve the application on the basis that a one-off grant was used towards the capital costs and not the revenue costs which were outlined in the application. Thereafter, the Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to approve £30,000 towards the capital cost.

Everything Baby (£14,040 sought) **REFUSE**

Play Highland - City of Inverness Play day events 2016 & 2017

While supportive of the principles of the project, Members suggested that as the event was based in the Old Town it would be more appropriate for Inverness BID to submit the application. Members also commented that the organisation appeared to have adequate resources. It was therefore **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** that the application be refused.

Highland Print Studio (£15,272 sought) **APPROVE £9,000**

Development of a high grade digital imaging facility

Members were advised that the organisation regularly received revenue funding from the Highland Council and had received £14,500 for the financial year 2015/16. Some Members felt that investment in upgrading technology should be included in the Business Plan and that it was not necessary for all equipment to be purchased at once. It was further suggested that it was possible that the organisation would be eligible for funding from other sources. Members were generally supportive of the organisation's work and were interested in having a tour of their premises and a presentation on their work. It was therefore **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to approve £9,000.

Booklet C

The Sub-Committee determined an application for subvention funding as follows:-

Inverness College UHI, School of Forestry (£2,000 sought) **APPROVED £2,000**
24th Annual Meeting of the Erasmus Forestry Network

Booklet D

The Sub-Committee determined an application for a variation of grant as follows:-

Highland Multicultural Friends (£5,000 sought) **APPROVED £5,000**
Highland Multicultural Friends Building Community Links

5. Inverness BID

Declaration of Interest –

Mrs H Carmichael declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Director of Inverness BID but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that her interest did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No GSC/02/16 dated 29 January 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which invited Members to consider applications from Inverness BID.

Prior to consideration of the applications, Members were advised that there was a specific budget to fund Partnership Projects which could fully fund all ongoing projects. It was further reported that the overall sum applied for was reduced compared to the previous year and that the projects were performing as expected.

During discussion, the following comments were raised:-

- ongoing concern was expressed in relation to the lack of funding from NHS Highland;
- the Gull Project worked very well and clarification was sought on the additional areas for intervention that were identified for 2016; and
- in relation to the floral displays, it was requested that the flowers were purchased locally. In response it was confirmed that the supplier was Bought Nursery, High Life Highland.

Having considered the applications, the Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 3 March 2016) to approve the applications for funding.

6. Request for Extension to Grant Period

There had been circulated a letter dated 14 December 2015 from the Inverness Fairtrade Group which requested an extension to the grant period of their award.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to the request from the Inverness Fairtrade Group to extend the grant period of their award by six months.

7. Civic Hospitality Requests

There had been circulated Report No GSC/03/16 dated 1 February 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund. A copy of the applications and supporting documentation had been circulated as Booklet E.

The Sub-Committee determined applications for civic hospitality as follows:-

The Erasmus Forestry Network
24th Erasmus Forestry Network Meeting

AGREED

Scottish School of Rural Health and Wellbeing (SSRH&W), the University of Aberdeen (Centre for Rural Health), the Institute of Remote Healthcare, Royal College of Surgeons Edinburgh, the University of the Highlands and Islands, and

AGREED

NHS Highland
Rethinking Remote, Innovative Solutions in Remote Health
Care Conference

Knox Grammar School
Pipe Band Performance

AGREED

The Salvation Army
The Salvation Army Congress

AGREED

8. Cancelled Events

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the following event was cancelled and did not take place:-

- Lovat Shinty Club – Civic Reception

9. Recurring Annual Events

There had been circulated Report No GSC/04/16 dated 28 January 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which invited Members to consider approval in principle for recurring annual events and to decide an option from paragraph 2.4 to determine the applications.

During discussion, it was suggested that various events could be combined into one themed event.

Having reviewed the list of annually recurring events, the Sub Committee:-

- APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** the expenditure for the annually recurring events listed in Appendix 1; and
- AGREED** to delegate authority to the Inverness City Area Manager in consultation with the Chair and the Provost to approve the necessary expenditure in 2016/17.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting will take place on Monday 9 May 2016 at 9.15 am.

The meeting ended at 10.00 am.