

**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, 9 May 2016 at 9.15am.

Present:

Mr I Brown
Mr A Christie
Mr G Ross

Mrs E McAllister
Mr T Prag

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Ms L Mackay, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office

Mr A Christie in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mrs J Slater, Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Graham and Mr R Laird.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Mr T Prag Item 4 – Application 6 (non-financial)
Mr G Ross Item 4 – Application 8 (non-financial)
Mr T Prag Item 4 – Application 11 (non-financial)
Mr A Christie Item 7(i) (non-financial)
Mr G Ross Item 7 (ii) (non-financial)
Mr A Christie Item 8 – Application 1 (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of Public

The Sub-Committee **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following item on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. Requests for Financial Assistance 2016/17

Declarations of Interest – 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:-

Mr T Prag – on the basis that the Highlander Museum received some benefit from the Highland Military Tattoo and in relation to a family member who was a counsellor at Friends of Counselling Inverness

Mr G Ross – on the basis that a family member was a recipient of the Music in Hospitals scheme

There had been circulated Report No GSC/05/16 dated 28 April 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 and C.

Prior to discussion of the applications it was **NOTED** that the budget for this year is reduced to £315,000 for grants and £30,000 for Conference Subventions

Members asked that Inverness Leisure Provide an update report, noting the length of time the Grant award has been outstanding

Members noted that Merkinch Community Centre have had some expenditure paid to date however that the windows contract is under review to ensure compliance with Standing Orders and will have to go back out to tender.

Booklet A

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

Clachnacuddin FC Youth Development (£2,500 sought) **APPROVED £2,500**
Participation in the Dana Cup U17 Football Tournament in Denmark in July 2016

During discussion members expressed support for this application and suggested some publicity for the grant and event

Inverness Blitz (Highland Wildcats) (£8,000 sought) **APPROVED £8,000**
Young Champions

During discussion members expressed support for this application however noted that this group approaches the Common Good Fund for funding every year. A three year plan is to be sought from the group and a request to find out which Associated School Groups they work with. **AGREED** but if funding is sought for this programme in future, more information will be needed to show

how the programme links with other sports and promotes disadvantaged communities.

Highland Disabled Ramblers (£2,000 sought) **APPROVED £2,000**
Purchase of Container for Garaging Mobility Scooters
Members expressed support for this application.

Inverness Street League (£3,500 sought) **APPROVED £3,500**
Under 13 Inverness Football Tournament - Manchester UK
Members expressed support for this application to cover travel costs.

For The Right Reasons (£1,500 sought) **APPROVED £1,500**
Inverness History Book project
Members supported the aims of the group but it was **AGREED** that permission would need to be sought from the head teachers of the schools to ensure that they were in agreement of the book being used in their schools

Highland Military Tattoo (£9,950 sought) **APPROVED £9,950**
Highland Military Tattoo 2016
During discussions Members referred to the major nature of and that the project is very close to finding a sustainable way forward . It was **AGREED** that the funding should be awarded but that they should produce an evaluation report by December 31st 2016 so that the projections can be compared to the Outturn.

Merkinch Enterprise (£7,500 sought) **APPROVED £7,500**
IT Training for the Community
Members noted the significant size of the financial reserve and the need for the applicant to evidence how they will be utilised. There have been outcomes and monitoring reports supplied to other funders, and it was **AGREED** that copies of the reports supplied to other funders be requested.

Music In Hospitals (£4,608 sought) **APPROVED £4,608**
Live Music in Inverness Care Homes
During discussion it was noted that this is a nationwide organisation that employs local musicians to attend care homes and hospitals. This is very well received though there is no indication on numbers who take up the service. It was **AGREED** to approve the funding subject to any future application being closely scrutinised with a view to reducing the percentage level of support.

The Camanachd Association (£6,000 sought) **APPROVED £6,000**
2016 Marine Harvest Shinty/Hurling International
It was **AGREED** to underwrite the event costs detailed in the application up to a maximum of £6,000

Dogstar Theatre Company (£3,632 sought) **APPROVED***
Mungo Park - Travels in the Interior of Africa - Education Programme.
*Approval is subject to individual secondary schools within the seven city wards each writing to the Council (c/o Inverness City Area Manager) requesting up to £500 per school in support of this project.

Friends of Counselling Inverness (£3,300 sought) **APPROVED £3,300**
Help with expenses, supervision costs and CPD funding for volunteer Counsellors for 6 months

Inverness Jazz Festival (£5,000 sought) **DEFERRED**
Inverness Jazz Festival 2016
Members **DEFERRED** the application for submission of a detailed Business Plan acceptable to the Council.

Booklet B

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 2 June 2016) as they related to applications for more than £10,000:-

Raigmore Primary School (£18,500 sought) **REFUSE**
Outdoor Classroom and Gym
Members agreed that granting this application may set a precedent among schools to apply to the Inverness Common Good Fund for school specific equipment. This facility would not be a city wide resource and it was **AGREED to RECOMMEND REFUSAL** of the application on the basis that there were other available sources of funding.

Visit Inverness Loch Ness Ltd (£20,000 sought) **APPROVE £20,000**
Promoting Inverness for Business Tourism
Members were supportive of this application and it was **AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL** provided the applicant can prove that there are plans to ensure that more than one place benefits from this project.

Partnerships For Wellbeing (£10,466 sought) **APPROVE £10,466**
Inverness Voluntary Transport Scheme
Members were supportive of this application and it was **AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

Booklet C

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 2 June 2016) as they relate to a Subvention application for more than £10,000.

Visit Inverness Loch Ness (£21,600 sought) **APPROVE £21,600**
Three Conferences for Inverness
Members noted that as part of the application, two conferences from the same provider (the 5th and 6th International Symposium of Energy Challenges and Mechanics Conferences, 300 international delegates per conference) will be held in Inverness in 2016. The three conferences include the 3rd Social Travel Summit (120 international delegates) also set to take place in 2016. The Conferences are also being supported by the Visit Scotland Conference BID Fund.

Members were supportive of this application and it was **AGREED to RECOMMEND APPROVAL**

5. Gaelic Society of Inverness

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO HOMOLOGATE** the decision to award £350 to the Gaelic Society of Inverness from the 2015/16 Budget.

6. Request for Amendment to Grant

There had been circulated Letter dated 6 April 2016 from Highland Print Studio which advised Members of a revised budget for the development of a digital facility.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to the request from Highland Print Studio to revise their project budget.

7. Request for Extension to Grant Period

Declarations of Interest – 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:-

Mr G Ross – on the basis that he had met with the Highland Skate Parks Association

Mr A Christie – on the basis of connections with members of the Highland Multicultural Friends

There had been circulated letters from Highland Multicultural Friends and Highland Skate Park Association both dated 23 March 2016 which requested extensions to the grant period of their awards.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** the requests to extend the grant period of the awards as follows:-

- i. Highland Multicultural Friends – two month extension
- ii. Highland Skate Park Association – six month extension

8. Civic Hospitality Requests

Declaration of Interest –

Mr A Christie declared a non-financial interest in relation to part of this item (namely connections to the Highland Third Sector Interface application) but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No GSC/06/16 dated 27 April 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 D.

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

<u>Highland Third Sector Interface</u> Celebration of Reshaping Care for Older People Project, Highland Volunteering and Queen's 90 th Birthday – Civic Buffet	AGREED £1,175.45
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<u>Scottish Canals, Caledonian Canal Office, Muirtown Wharf, Inverness</u> World Canals Conference 2016	AGREED £3,750
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<u>The Highland Council</u> Italian Consul sponsored Concert	AGREED £2,839.69
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LATE APPLICATION

<u>The Highland Council</u> Armed Forces Day	AGREED £2,800
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9. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO HOMOLOGATE** the decisions to award the following Civic Hospitality requests:-

- i. North Sea Commission Energy and Climate Change and Economic Development Working Groups – £1776.17
- ii. 19th Regiment Royal Artillery (The Scottish Gunners) Freedom of Entry to the City of Inverness – £2,654.56
- iii. Highland Military Tattoo Launch Reception – £1,247.45
- iv. Rethinking Remote, Innovative Solutions in Remote Health Conference – contribution of £1,800 towards event in Kingmills Hotel, Inverness

10. Freedom of the Highlands Ceremonies

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that an overspend of £2,341.14 had been incurred due to the success of the Freedom of the Highlands event which had entailed additional expenditure on equipment hire.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 8 August 2016 at 9.15 am.

The meeting ended at 10.25 am.