

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **City of Inverness Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Glenurquhart Road, Inverness on Thursday, 1 December 2016 at 10.30am.

Present:

Mrs H Carmichael	Mr D Kerr
Mr R Balfour	Mr R Laird
Mrs C Caddick	Mrs B McAllister
Miss J Campbell	Mr K MacLeod
Mr A Christie	Mr F Parr
Mr J Crawford	Mr T Prag
Mrs M Davidson	Mrs T Robertson
Dr J Davis	Mr G Ross
Mr N Donald	Mrs G Sinclair
Mr K Gowans	Ms J Slater
Mr A Graham	Mrs K Stephen
Mr J Gray	Mr H Wood

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager, Chief Executive's Office
Mr D Goldie, Head of Housing and Building Maintenance, Community Services
Mr D Esson, Area Care and Learning Manager – West, Care and Learning Service
Mr S Dalgarno, Development Plans Manager, Development and Infrastructure Service
Ms U Lee, Urban Designer, Development and Infrastructure Service
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure Service
Mr K Forbes, Property Manager – Estates, Development and Infrastructure Service
Mr A Bryce, Road Safety and Safer Routes to School Officer, Development and Infrastructure Service
Mr N Young, Transport Planning Officer, Development and Infrastructure Service
Ms A Tanner, Inverness City Heritage Trust Project Officer, Development and Infrastructure Service
Mr J Taylor, Roads Operations Manager, Community Services
Ms S MacLennan, Housing Manager – South, Community Services
Mr S Manning, Principal Traffic Officer, Community Services
Mr P Kelly, Horticultural Officer, Community Services
Ms A MacNeill, Senior Corporate Communications Officer, Chief Executive's Office
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager, Corporate Development Service
Miss J Green, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Development Service

Also in Attendance:

Mr M Smith, Inverness BID Manager
Ms J Cuddy, Eastgate Shopping Centre Manager
Mr D Mackay, Station Manager, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

An asterisk in the margin denotes a recommendation to the Council. All decisions with no marking in the margin are delegated to Committee.

Mrs H Carmichael in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Mr I Brown and Mr A Duffy.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

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

Item 3 – Mrs H Carmichael (non-financial) and Mr K MacLeod (financial)

Item 7 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

Item 13 – Mr A Christie (non-financial) and Mr D Kerr (financial)

Item 14c – Mr A Graham (non-financial)

Item 15 – Mr A Gray and Mr K MacLeod (non-financial)

Prior to commencement of the formal business, the Chair welcomed Mrs Trish Robertson to her first meeting of the City of Inverness Area Committee following her election as a Member of Ward 18 (Culloden and Ardersier).

Also, with reference to the Inverness Partnership, it was **AGREED** that the Provost and Leader of Inverness and Area should continue to chair meetings of the Partnership until the end of the current term of the Council.

Further, and in noting that the Chair would require to leave the meeting for a short time later in the day, it was **AGREED** that Mr G Ross should chair the meeting in her absence.

3. Annual Report on Inverness Business Improvement District Aithisg Bhliadhnail Sgìre Leasachadh Gnothachais Inbhir Nis

Declarations of Interest –

Mrs H Carmichael declared a non-financial interest in this item as a Board Member of Inverness BID and Tourism 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.

Mr K MacLeod declared a financial interest in this item as a member of BID 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 CIA/46/16 dated 18 November 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which provided a summary of the activities of Inverness BID Ltd, operating as Inverness City Centre Business Improvement District (BID), for the period December 2015 to November 2016.

During a presentation, a summary of the history of the BID organisation was provided, with emphasis being placed on the current arrangements for

partnership working, such as with the Council, and the importance of the sharing of experience and good practise. It was also confirmed that BID's role covered a wide area of responsibility (including issues such as amenity, advocacy, business development, marketing & events and the promotion of Inverness as a safe and friendly City) and that it sought to both work constructively and to challenge the Council when necessary. Key achievements over the previous year were also listed and, looking to the future, a BID ballot was due to take place on 2018 and this process would define what would be included in its Business Plan for the following five years.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- consideration should be given to reviewing the BID area to include businesses on the west side of the River Ness and in the Longman as this could increase income and help to project the City's image. In this regard, clarification was also sought as to which businesses in these areas were covered by the Loch Ness and Inverness Tourism BID;
- the projects detailed in the report were broadly similar to those reported to the Committee four years previously and it was hoped that new projects could be added;
- it was important that BID lobbied a range of organisations and not just Highland Council e.g. Police Scotland in relation to anti-social behaviour and property owners in relation to rental prices;
- details were sought as to BID's input into the City Centre Development Brief which it was felt could help to define BID boundaries;
- BID should encourage businesses to bind together where possible to achieve economies of scale and to enhance the local environment, with the creation of a unified waste collection contract being cited as an example;
- much of BID's work benefited Inverness as a whole and particular mention was made of the City's floral displays which were especially appreciated by visitors;
- considerable improvements had been achieved by the Gull Project and in this regard an update was requested as to the project's success as the decline in the gull population could also be the result of a number of factors and the suggestion was made that it had in some cases displaced the problem elsewhere;
- businesses should be actively encouraged to examine what had/had not worked well in the current Business Plan; and
- there was disappointment at some of the public criticism from BID in relation to Houses in Multiple Occupation in the City Centre as many of the owners of these premises were in fact BID members.

Thereafter, the Committee otherwise **AGREED** to endorse the work detailed in the report and the on-going development of partnership working.

In accordance with Standing Order 18, the Committee **AGREED** that the following item on the agenda - Item 12 - should be considered at this point in the meeting.

12. Kilchuimen Academy Associated School Group Overview Sealladh air Buidheann Sgoiltean Co-cheangailte Acadamaidh Chille Chuimein

There had been circulated Report No. CIA/54/15 dated 10 November 2016 by the Director of Care and Learning which provided an update of key information in relation to the Schools within the Kilchuimen Associated School Group and also useful updated links to further information in relation to these Schools.

During discussion, reference was made to the extremely positive transformation of schools within this area in terms of academic attainment and position within the community, including links with local employers and industries.

It was also confirmed that further information would be provided in relation to the reference within the report to the cost per pupil within the 2014/15 and 2015/16 devolved budgets.

Thereafter, the Committee otherwise **NOTED** the terms of the report as circulated.

4. Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report for 2015/16 Aithisg Coileanaidh Comataidh Sgìreil Smàlaidh agus Teasairginn na h- Alba airson 2015/16

There had been circulated Report No CIA/47/16 dated 18 November 2016 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland which provided an update of progress against the priorities outlined in the Area Plan for the City of Inverness for 2015/16.

In this regard, priority areas had been identified through a range of intervention, prevention and protection activities delivered in partnership to reduce risk to the communities of the City of Inverness, as well as previously agreed information and performance as requested by Committee Members.

Following a summary of the report, Members raised the following issues:-

- there was concern that in many homes smoke detectors were not being maintained and therefore not always fully operational. Also, in flatted developments, alarm calls were often raised as a result of smoking in communal hallways and this could result in considerable disruption for other residents;
- the reduction in the number of fatalities was welcomed and this could often be directly attributed to the installation of smoke detectors in Council owned properties;
- in regard to the proposed changes to duty systems, assurance was required that there would still be sufficient resources in place to deal with issues as and when they arose within a continually expanding City;
- appreciation was expressed that Members' comments regarding a more modular approach, rather than a two week training programme, had been fed back to the Scottish Fire Service National Training Centre;
- in relation to Station availability, information in future reports detailing the number of times pump appliances had been off-line was requested;

- the contribution made by retained firefighters and employers was recognised;
- the increase in female fire fighters was welcomed and it was hoped that this would continue;
- clarification was sought and received as to why Fort Augustus and Drumnadrochit had higher retained Station availability than the City of Inverness; and
- an update was requested for a future meeting regarding the review of the training programme.

The Committee otherwise **NOTED** the Area Performance Report as circulated.

5. Inverness City Centre Development Brief Mion-teagasg Leasachaidh airson Meadhan Cathair-bhaile Inbhir Nis

There had been circulated Report No CIA/48/16 dated 17 November 2016 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure which presented a draft of the updated Inverness City Centre Development Brief for approval.

In this regard, it was confirmed that the purpose of the Brief was to promote and guide opportunities through planning policy for regeneration, development and enhancement of Inverness City Centre. Preparation had been informed by public and stakeholder feedback on priorities and how best these should be addressed. Following public consultation and further Committee approval, the updated Brief would be adopted as a statutory part of the Council's Development Plan.

In this connection, the draft Brief (Appendix A to the report) had been circulated separately.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- assurance was sought and received that reference to the aspiration for a Cultural Hub in the vicinity of the Castle would be included within the development brief;
- it was noted that with regard to developing the Castle as a visitor attraction, there were limitations due to its size and type and also parking issues but good progress had been made with the viewing platform;
- concern was expressed in relation to the lack of progress with the regeneration of Academy Street;
- there was also concern that property developers could avoid the 25% affordable housing requirement in some instances;
- people living and working within the City Centre were vital in terms of creating a vibrant community;
- there were a number of specific sites which had a significant amount of development potential but it was important to carefully consider planning guidelines to ensure that there was adequate waste disposal, bicycle storage and parking in place from the outset;
- a report should be presented to a future meeting to address the concerns raised in relation to the considerable number of waste bins which were currently located in the City Centre;
- it should be recognised that the purpose of the development brief was to shape development and assist in planning decisions;

- there was a need to also consider alternative methods of consultation, such as social media, in future;
- it was essential that various stakeholders, including Inverness BID, Chamber of Commerce, Trade Groups, Community Councils and Parent Councils, responded to the public consultation so that their comments could be considered before the final Development Brief was approved;
- there were different boundaries for Inverness (BID, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) policy, Conservation Area Management Plan for the Old Town and the Development Brief) and it was requested that there was some consistency between them;
- further consideration was required of the cap on new planning permissions for HMOs of 13% which was just above the current rate of 12.9%;
- an explanation was sought and received in relation to the proportion of the population residing in HMOs (which was forecast to rise to 18%);
- an explanation was also sought as to how the Development Brief related to the new requirements under the Community Empowerment Act; and
- there was a need to widen the range of attractions within the City Centre, particularly for children, to address the problem that on average tourists stayed for 1.8 days and in this regard it was suggested that the green space at the Castle was underutilised so attractions could be placed there on a rotational basis.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** the draft Inverness City Centre Development Brief as set out in Appendix A to the report for a six week public consultation commencing at the end of January 2017; and
- ii. **NOTED** the timescale for adoption of the updated Brief set out in Paragraph 6.3 of the report.

The meeting adjourned for lunch at 12.50pm and resumed at 1.50pm.

(In the absence of Mrs H Carmichael, Mr G Ross took the Chair as previously agreed)

6. Approaching Inverness Strategy Ro-innleachd Tighinn gu Inbhir Nis

It was confirmed that public consultation on the draft 'Approaching Inverness' Strategy had been completed with only one response having been received which was broadly supportive. No changes were therefore being proposed as a result of the consultation.

The Committee **AGREED** the recommendation that the draft 'Approaching Inverness' Strategy, as provided at the meeting on 2 June 2016, should now be adopted as non-statutory supplementary guidance.

7. Inverness City Arts – Annual Report
Ealain Bhaile Inbhir Nis – Aithisg Bhliadhnail

Declaration of Interest – Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds that a close relative was a local artist 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 CIA/49/16 dated 10 November 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which presented the Annual Report of the Inverness City Arts Working Group (ICArts) and provided an update on progress made by ICArts in meeting the criteria set by the Committee at the meetings held on 8 October 2012, 3 December 2012 and 15 April 2013.

In this regard, it was confirmed that update reports had since been provided on funding and project progress and this report formally updated on the Action Plan.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- consideration should be given to the membership of the ICArts Working Group as currently not all political groups were represented;
- assurance was sought and received that proper governance had been followed in appointing the Youth Convener to the Evaluation Panel
- further detailed information on the overall project budgets was sought;
- it was requested that a private Members' briefing on further detailed information on the overall project budgets be organised and that the spreadsheet be circulated to Members in advance of the meeting;
- it was hoped that the expenditure already incurred for fees for artists for the Gathering Place project was not repeated until feedback had been received from public consultation.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the terms of the report as circulated.

It was also **AGREED** that a Members' Briefing should be arranged in order to provide further detailed information on the overall project budgets and that the relevant spreadsheets should be circulated to Members in advance of this Briefing.

(At this point, Mrs H Carmichael resumed the Chair).

8. Ness Islands Management Works
Pròiseact Eileanan Nis

There had been circulated Report No CIA/50/16 dated 15 November 2016 by the Director of Community Services which detailed the allocation of work required on the Ness Islands in accordance with the current Ness Islands Management Plan and a report by Crudens Consulting Engineers dated April 2015.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- it was important that Community Services had a maintenance regime in place which included tree felling, replacement planting, clearing shrubbery and erosion repair works;
- concern was expressed on the lack of progress that had been made since the major works had been commissioned and that it was unlikely one contractor could undertake the full project. In this regard, it was requested that an update on progress should be provided for a future meeting of the Inverness West Ward Business Meeting in January and the next City Committee meeting;
- part of Ness Islands was also located in the Inverness Central Ward and therefore Members in that Ward should also be kept up to date on progress;
- clarification was sought and received in relation to the overall project costs;
- consideration should be given to the creation and placement of inspirational plaques within Ness Islands; and
- clarification should be provided on the works undertaken in relation to the Eagle Statue on the roundabout.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** that the improvement plan was in progress and that a further update would be available once works were underway and there was more progress to report.

9. Consideration of Objections to Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Order Car Club Bays
Beachdachadh air Cur an Aghaidh Bhàghannan Club Chàraichean

There had been circulated Report No CIA/51/16 dated 3 November 2016 by the Director of Community Services which advised that, subject to the Local Authorities Traffic Orders (Procedure) (Scotland) Regulations 1999, unresolved objections made to a Traffic Regulation Order had to be considered by the appropriate Committee and in making the order in part, as per Section 18 of the Act, unresolved objections could be heard without delaying the bulk of the Order.

In this regard, the Inverness Car Club Feasibility Study 2014 (Appendix 3 to the report) had been circulated separately.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- there was general support for the proposal to set up a Car Club in Inverness. However, there were concerns about the process which had been followed and particularly the lack of consultation with Local Members;
- all the proposed car parking spaces were in prime sites and it was felt that concerns from Inverness BID, the Crown Community Council and constituents were still unresolved. As such, it was suggested that a report should be brought back to the next meeting following further consultation, including with Local Members;

- this project had been ongoing since 2014 so there was no immediate need for a decision and more time could be allowed to further consider alternative proposals;
- deferring the report would not resolve the issues and would only delay a decision being made on this issue;
- there was concern that alternative proposals for Car Club parking spaces which had been proposed, considered and discussed at the Members' briefing had not been included in the report;
- there was a need for the Car Club spaces to be sited in prominent locations in order to increase publicity for the scheme;
- the Car Club Scheme differed from the e-bikes scheme in that it would be operated by a private company and therefore did not require subsidising or any cost from the Council other than for white lining.

Thereafter, Miss J Campbell, seconded by Mr D Kerr, **MOVED** that a further report be presented to the next meeting following further consultation with Local Members.

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr T Prag, seconded by Mr R Laird, moved the recommendations as outlined in the report.

On a vote being undertaken, the **MOTION** received 6 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 14 votes, with no abstentions, and the **AMENDMENT** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion:

Miss J Campbell, Mr J Crawford, Mrs M Davidson, Mr N Donald, Mr D Kerr and Mr G Ross.

For the Amendment:

Mrs C Caddick, Mrs H Carmichael, Mr A Christie, Dr J Davis, Mr K Gowans, Mr A Graham, Mr J Gray, Mr R Laird, Mr F Parr, Mr T Prag, Mrs T Robertson, Mrs G Sinclair, Mrs J Slater and Mr H Wood

The Committee therefore **AGREED** the Car Club Bays detailed in the report in the locations as advertised and that the objections should not be upheld.

**10. Winter Maintenance Plan 2016/17
Plana Obair-gleidhidh Geamhraidh Rathaidean 2016/17**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/52/16 dated 14 November 2016 by the Director of Community Services which provided information on winter maintenance preparations and arrangements for the 2016/17 winter period and invited approval of the Winter Maintenance Plans for Inverness.

During discussion, Members raised the following issues:-

- the Roads Team should be congratulated for the considerable work undertaken on the proposals and for the consultation with Ward Members;
- although the ideal would be for more roads to be gritted, it was understood that resources were limited and therefore there was no alternative but to accept the recommendations;

- it should be recognised that Inverness South had fairly elevated areas and it was therefore suggested that Caulfield Avenue and Tower Road should be added to the list of secondary routes;
- it was noted that there would be some flexibility built into the winter services so that, depending on weather conditions, there could be an opportunity to suggest some roads for additional treatment and this was welcomed;
- the concentration on bus routes would be particularly beneficial; and
- protection of the winter maintenance budget was essential and it was hoped that this could be continued in future years.

Thereafter, the Committee otherwise **APPROVED** the Winter Maintenance Plan for the Inverness Area, which included the priority roads presented in Appendices B and C to the report.

11. Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets Update Cunntas às Ùr mu Rothaireachd, Coiseachd agus Sràidean nas Sàbhailte

There had been circulated Report No CIA/53/16 dated 16 November 2016 by the Director of Development and Infrastructure which invited approval of the projects delivered through the Scottish Government funding for Cycling, Walking and Safer Streets for the City of Inverness Area Committee as set out in Appendix 1 to the report.

The Committee:-

- APPROVED** the Cycling Walking and Safer Streets/Safer Routes to School (CWSS/SRTS) Project as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report; and
- NOTED** that the Road Safety Unit would continue to work with Schools to develop further SRTS Projects for future years.

13. Housing Performance Report – 1 April to 30 September 2016 Aithisg Dèanadais a thaobh Taigheadais – 1 Giblean to 30 Sultain 2016

Declarations of Interest – Mr A Christie declared a non-financial interest in this item as General Manager of Inverness, Badenoch and Strathspey Citizens Advice Bureau 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.

Mr D Kerr declared a financial interest in this item as a Council House tenant but, in terms of the dispensation granted by the Standards Commission, remained to participate in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No CIA/55/16 dated 16 November 2016 by the Director of Community Services which provided information on how the Housing Section had performed in relation to the Scottish Social Housing Charter and other performance indicators up to 30 September 2016.

During discussion, serious concerns were expressed by a number of Members in relation to the level of rent arrears which had been highlighted within the report and also the number of homeless presentations – both of which could be

attributed in large part to welfare reform measures and specifically the introduction of Universal Credit.

In this respect, it was suggested that there was an urgent need for the UK Government to be lobbied on the effect of welfare reform measures and the roll out of Universal Credit which was driving more and more families into poverty. In this regard, figures had been recently published which confirmed that it was expected that the Highland economy was expected to lose approximately £39m per annum in future years which was of very serious concern.

In noting that representatives from the Council's Finance and Community Services teams continued to engage with DWP and other partners through the Highland Operational Forum to look at the impact of welfare reform locally in order to plan and deliver effective mitigation across the area, it was also suggested that some of the detail of the actual difficulties facing families across the area should be contained within future reports alongside the statistical information.

In relation to the HRA Capital Programme, and specifically the schedule for Window and Door Replacements, it was suggested that consideration should be given to avoiding the winter months (January/February) when undertaking such works wherever possible.

Thereafter, the Committee otherwise **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period from 1 April to 30 September 2016 as detailed.

14. Inverness Common Good Fund Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Nis

(a) Annual Report 2015/2016 Cunntasan airson 2015/16 agus Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail

There had been circulated Report No CIA/56/16 dated 18 November 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which presented the audited accounts for the financial year 2015/16.

In this regard, it was confirmed that expenditure was within budget with income higher than expected due to a refund of grant from Creative Scotland and an unanticipated compensatory payment. Also, fewer reserves than anticipated had had to be realised to fund major projects which included important ongoing work to major Inverness assets, including the Town House and 1-5 Church Street.

During discussion, and with specific reference to CCTV, it was confirmed that a further report on this issue would be submitted to a future meeting.

Thereafter, the Committee otherwise **NOTED** the final monitoring report and balance sheet for the Inverness Common Good Fund at 31 March 2016 as circulated.

**(b) Financial Monitoring
Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail**

There had been circulated Report No CIA/57/16 dated 18 November 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which presented the expenditure monitoring position for the Inverness Common Good Fund as at 31 October 2016 and the projected year end position.

During discussion, and in response to issues raised in relation to the Victorian Market, it was confirmed that both income and expenditure would continue to be closely monitored and also every opportunity would be taken to advertise vacant units as widely as possible.

Thereafter, the Committee otherwise **NOTED** the financial monitoring report as circulated.

**(c) Grants and Capital Projects
Pròiseactan Tabhartais agus Calpa**

Declaration of Interest – Mr A Graham declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds that a family member was a volunteer for Blythswood 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 CIA/58/16 dated 11 November 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which set out the current applications for grant funding to be determined and the current status of capital projects.

In this connection, there had been circulated separately a copy of supporting documentation as Booklet A.

During discussion, reference was made to the Date Stone on the east elevation of the Town House and the proposal that this should be carved with the following wording – ‘Restored 2015-17 – Helen Carmichael, Provost’.

(At this point, and in view of the subject matter, the Chair confirmed that she would leave the meeting during the remainder of this discussion and Mr G Ross would chair the meeting in her absence).

Thereafter, Mr D Kerr, seconded by Mr R Laird, **MOVED** that the Date Stone on the East Elevation of the Town House should read ‘Restored by Inverness Common Good Fund’.

As an **AMENDMENT**, Mr R Balfour, seconded by Mrs M Davidson, moved that the Date Stone on the East Elevation of the Town House should read ‘Restored 2015-17 – Helen Carmichael, Provost’ as detailed in the report.

On a vote being taken, the **MOTION** received 11 votes and the **AMENDMENT** received 4 votes, with 2 abstentions, and the **MOTION** was therefore **CARRIED**, the votes having been cast as follows:-

For the Motion:

Mrs C Caddick, Mr A Christie, Dr J Davis, Mr D Kerr, Mr K Gowans, Mr J Gray, Mr R Laird, Mr F Parr, Mrs T Robertson, Mrs G Sinclair and Mrs J Slater

For the Amendment:

Mr R Balfour, Miss J Campbell, Mrs M Davidson and Mr G Ross

Abstentions:

Mr A Graham and Mr T Prag

The Committee therefore **AGREED** that the Date Stone on the East Elevation of the Town House should read 'Restored by Inverness Common Good Fund'.

(At this point, the Chair returned to the meeting).

The Committee also **NOTED** the current status of capital projects and **AGREED** to approve applications for funding as follows:-

- i. Blythswood Care - £20,000
- ii. Community Action Raigmore Estate (CARE) – £35,000
- iii. Inverness BID - £54,800

15. Inverness City Heritage Trust – Reporting of Company Activity to Council Urras Dualchais Baile Inbhir Nis

Declarations of Interest – Mr J Gray and Mr K MacLeod declared non-financial interests in this item as Board Members of Inverness City Heritage Trust 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.

There had been circulated Joint Report No CIA/59/16 dated 22 August 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager and City Heritage Trust Officer which provided information on the work of the Inverness City Heritage Trust during the financial year 2015/16.

In this regard, particular attention had been given to the total grant allocation to the project in Inverness Riverside Conservation Areas to date and during 2015-16.

Members were also asked to note the work of the Trust in partnership with Inverness College and Historic Environment Scotland with regard to raising awareness of traditional building skills and materials amongst professionals, practitioners, local contractors and property owners and with the Council in relation to the Academy Street Townscape Heritage Project.

During discussion, it was suggested that it would be helpful if a Briefing could be arranged for Members in the New Year in order to highlight the conservation work being undertaken by the City Heritage Trust in the City Centre and surrounding areas.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the contributions made by the Inverness City Heritage Trust in delivering a programme of conservation work funded by grant assistance in Inverness since 2005;
- ii. the work carried out in partnership with Inverness College, Historic Environment Scotland and others to deliver Conferences for building professionals/ practitioners and also the work with CITB Scotland and other building professionals to try and find realistic options for retention and repair of important City buildings and features; and
- iii. the current situation with regard to future funding from Historic Environment Scotland for the Inverness City Heritage Trust.

**16. Street Naming – New Housing Development at Tornagrain
Ainmeachadh Sràide – Leasachadh Ùr aig Tornagrain**

The Committee **HOMOLOGATED** the new street names which had been agreed at the Culloden & Ardersier Ward Business Meeting for the first phase of the Tornagrain development as follows - Croy Road, Mid Coul Road, Hillhead Road, St Columba's Way, Malvina Lane, Malvina Court, Lochandinty Lane, Lochandinty Road, Lochandinty Court, South Coul Way, Douglas Court, Bishop's Hill Road and Bishop's Hill Court.

In this regard, it was confirmed that the names had been agreed between the developer and the Croy Community Council and were of local significance. Future phases of the development would continue to use local names, including names taken from the local War Memorials.

**17. Inverness Local Holidays 2017/18
Saor-làithean Ionadail Inbhir Nis 2017/18**

The Committee **AGREED** the following dates as Local Holidays for the City of Inverness in 2017 and 2018:-

2017

Monday 2 January
Tuesday 3 January
Monday 6 February
Monday 6 March
Monday 17 April (Easter Monday)
Monday 1 May (May Day)
Monday 3 July
Monday 2 October
Monday 6 November
Monday 25 December
Tuesday 26 December

2018

Monday 1 January
Tuesday 2 January
Monday 5 February
Monday 5 March
Monday 2 April (Easter Monday)
Monday 7 May (May Day)
Monday 2 July
Monday 1 October
Monday 5 November
Tuesday 25 December
Wednesday 26 December

18. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The following Minutes had been circulated for noting or approval as appropriate:-

- i. City of Inverness Area Committee held on 1 September 2016 – **NOTED**;
- ii. Events and Festivals Working Group held on 19 September and 7 November 2016 – **APPROVED**;
- iii. Inverness City Arts Working Group held on 19 October 2016 – **APPROVED**; and
- iv. Inverness Common Good Fund Grants Sub-Committee held on 7 November 2016 – **APPROVED**.

19. Exclusion of the Public Às-dùnadh a' Phobail

The Committee **AGREED** to resolve 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.

20. Inverness Common Good Account Sites and Premises Transaction Report Aithisg Gnothachais Làraich agus Togalaichean Chunntasan Maoin Math Choitcheann Inbhir Nis

There had been circulated to Members only Report No. CIA/60/16 dated 10 November 2016 by the Head of Property Partnerships which summarised the property transactions between 11 November 2015 to 14 November 2016 as approved by the Head of Development and Regeneration under the Highland Council's Scheme of Delegation after consultation with Local Members as appropriate and in accordance with policy, together with a statement on the current position in respect of the Inverness Common Good fund rents.

The Committee **NOTED** the terms of the report as circulated.

21. Inverness Common Good Fund – Civic Hospitality Application

There had been circulated to Members only Report No. CIA/61/16 dated 25 November 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which detailed an application for civic hospitality.

In this regard, the Committee **AGREED** that this item should be withdrawn from the agenda.

The meeting ended at 4.20 pm.