

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, 30 January 2017 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr I Brown
Mrs H Carmichael
Mr A Christie
Mr A Graham

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 MacLennan, Principal Administrator, Corporate Development Service

Mr A Christie in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mr R Laird.

2. Declarations of Interest

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

Item 4 Booklet A – Mr T Prag (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

Mr T Prag declared a non-financial interest in this item as he was acquainted with some members of Inverness Chamber Music Strategy 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/01/17 dated 23 January 2017 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 and B.

Booklet A

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

Inverness High School (£9,535 sought) **APPROVED £9,535**
S1 Outdoor Transition Project 2017

Highland Rugby Football Club (£9,500 sought) **APPROVED £9,500**
Community Rugby Development Programme 2017-2020 year 1

Inverness College (£9,568 sought) **APPROVED £9,568**
Scotland's Salmon Festival

Although there was a relatively small number involved in the event it was recognised that this was a new event which would take time to grow and Members were of the view that it was important, at this stage, to support it.

Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust (£9,800 sought) **APPROVED £4,500**
Northern Meeting World Solo Piping Championships 2017

Members were of a mind to support this application in line with the previous year.

Inverness Chamber Music Society (£4,200 sought) **APPROVED £4,200**
Annual Series of Chamber Music Concerts for 2017/18

Members recognised that these events would attract people into the Town House. Also, it would make good use of the piano, originally purchased by the Society and gifted to the Town House with a Grant from the Common Good Fund. The application originally had been for three years but it was recognised that the Grants Sub Committee would only commit funding on a one year basis.

Inverness Foodstuff (£8,736 sought) **APPROVED £8,736**
Inverness Foodstuff

Again, the applicant had sought funding for a three year period, given the length of the project, but it was acknowledged that the funding requested would be for the project's first year. Whilst not generally supportive of applications seeking 100% funding, the aims and objectives of this project were commended.

City of Inverness Pipe Band (£10,000 sought) **APPROVED £10,000**
Community Pipe Band

The success of the Pipe Band was highlighted and their profile had increased considerably. The Band was working hard to source other third party funders and this demonstrated the need to be self-sufficient. There was now also a clear progression for those leaving the Youth Pipe Band to continue into the main Band.

European Highland Dancing Festival (£4,000 sought) **DEFERRED**
'European Highland Dancing Championships to take place in Inverness on 3rd and 4th April 2017

In considering the merits of the application the contribution made by volunteers of similar events was recognised, many of which were self-funded. Further information was sought as to the benefit which would be gained and what local involvement would be. Whilst it was acknowledged that such competitions required considerable space in terms of performance areas and changing facilities, the estimated cost of hall hire was questioned. Generally, Members were of the view that further information surrounding the application was required before it could be determined and accordingly the application was deferred meantime with the Inverness City Area Manager delegated with authority to determine it, in consultation with the Sub Committee, once the necessary information had been obtained.

Booklet B

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** the following to the City of Inverness Area Committee (at its meeting on 23 February 2017) as it related to an application for more than £10,000:-

The Ledge (£45,000 sought) **APPROVED £45,000**

Marina Climbing Walls and Adventure Sport Gym

The aim was to develop a professional/community facility. The applicants were sure that there was a demand for such a facility and had put forward a strong business case. Accordingly, an indication of support was sought on the basis that other funding sources were confirmed.

Booklet C

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

Association for Heritage Interpretation (£5,400 sought) **APPROVED £5,400**

Heritage Interpretation Conference "Making Connections - Re-imagining Landscapes" at Eden Court in October 2017.

This event had close links with tourism and would benefit the local area not only in terms of hosting it but also by exploring best practice in the interpretation of culture, heritage and nature.

5. Request for Extension to Grant Period

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to extend the grant period to the grants awarded to Caledonia Community Leisure Ltd – Inverness Leisure Queens Park Upgrade.

6. Request for Amendment to Grant

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to the request from Inverness Youth Pipe Band.

7. Inverness BID

There had been circulated Report No GSC/02/17 dated 23 January 2016 by the Inverness City Area Manager which invited Members to consider applications from Inverness BID, totalling £43,540, for the following projects:-

- Operation Respect Easter/Summer 2017

- Inverness Community Safety Partnership 2017
- Inverness Gull Project 2017
- Inverness Street Festival 2017
- Coach Ambassador 2017

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to recommend to the Area Committee to accept the applications for funding.

8. Civic Hospitality/Conference Funding Budgets

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to transfer £26k from the Civic Hospitality Budget for 2016/17 to the Conference Funding Budget for 2016/17.

9. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

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

Alan MacLennan - PSYV Inverness – Passing Out/Awards Ceremony - Civic Reception on 28 January - cost £1891.38.

10. Recurring Annual Events

There had been circulated Report No GSC/04/17 dated 18 January 2017 by the Inverness City Area Manager which invited Members to consider approval in principle for recurring annual events and to decide which by option they would like to determine them.

The Sub Committee:-

- NOTED** the applications;
- APPROVED IN PRINCIPLE** the expenditure for the annually recurring events listed in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- AGREED** to delegate authority to the City Area Manager in consultation with the Inverness Common Good Fund (ICGF) Chairman and the Provost to approve the necessary expenditure in 2017/18.

At this juncture, it was suggested that some form of annual reception should be held at which recipients of grants could give a presentation to City of Inverness Area Members of how the money had been used. This would also promote the benefit that the Common Good Fund made. There was a lack of understanding about the Common Good Fund and a strategy to raise awareness should be pursued. It was acknowledged that this could encourage additional applications to be made and, in so doing, a better system of allocating money would need to be considered to manage demand and to ensure funding was available throughout the year.

The Sub Committee **AGREED**:-

- that a report be prepared for its next meeting exploring the merits of developing a strategy to promote the Common Good Fund, including the possibility of an annual event for grant recipients to showcase how they had used their grants; and

- v. that applicants seeking grants exceeding £25,000 be invited, in consultation with the Chair of ICGF Sub Committee, to make a presentation to the Sub Committee.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 27 March 2017 at 9.30 am.

The meeting ended at 10.05 am.