

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

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held **remotely** on Monday 25 January 2021 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mr B Boyd

Mr I Brown

Mrs C Caddick

Miss J Campbell

Mrs H Carmichael

Mr A Graham

Mrs I Mackenzie

Mr G Ross

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager

Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office

Ms F MacBain, Committee Administrator, Chief Executive's Service

Mr G Ross in the Chair (except for part of Item 4, as indicated)

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Mrs E McAllister and Ms E Roddick.

2. Declarations of Interest

Item 4, Booklet A – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

Item 5, Appendix 4 – Miss J Campbell (non-financial)

Item 4, Booklet D – Mrs C Caddick (non-financial)

Item 4, Booklet E – Mrs H Carmichael (non-financial)

Item 5 – Mrs H Carmichael (non-financial)

3. Exclusion of the 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 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 2020/21

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/01/21 dated 15 January 2021 by the Inverness City Area Manager and, separately, a copy of the applications and any supporting documentation.

Booklet A – Applications under £5,000

Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in the Rotary Club application as a member of the Rotary Club and vacated the Chair during consideration of this application. Mrs H Carmichael took the Chair for this part of the item only.

Rotary Club of Inverness Culloden (£5,000 sought)
Inverness Historic Walk App

APPROVED £5,000

Balloan Football Club Balloan Football Club (£5,000 sought)

Castello de Vide International Football Tournament **APPROVED £4,000, subject to the proposed trip going ahead as planned.**

Creative Inverness Creative Inverness Limited (£3,000 sought)

Circus Artspace

DEFERRED

Members voiced support in principle for the proposal, but expressed concern due to the Covid-19 restrictions in place at present in the city centre. A further application would be welcomed once more detail on the proposal and its location was known. Concern was also expressed at the relatively high proportion of staff costs contained in the proposal.

Booklet B - Applications £5,001 - £10,000

Highland Wildcats Highland Wildcats (£9,400.00 sought)

#Gamechanger

APPROVED £7,520

Farmer Jones Academy CIC Farmer Jones Academy CIC (£8,432.00 sought)

Food for Thought

DEFERRED

While supportive of the principle of the proposal, Members deferred this item for further information on the group including their links to the Merkinch locality plan. The matter would also be referred to a Central Ward Business Meeting to inform local Members of the proposed activities.

Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop Ltd (£9,999 sought)

Bespoked

DEFERRED

Concerns raised by Members included the organisation being a limited company rather than a charity, and the significant proportion of the sought funds being for staff costs. The Sub-Committee deferred the application and **AGREED** benchmarking information on their activities be sought from the Council's Transport Team and Sustrans.

Velocity Café and Bicycle Workshop Ltd (£9,999 sought)

Bike-it/Scoot-it

DEFERRED as above

City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band Grant Extension Request

There had been circulated prior to the meeting a letter from the City of Inverness Youth Pipe Band seeking an extension to their grant application time-scale due to Covid-19 and the Sub-Committee **AGREED** the extension.

Booklet C- Applications over £10,000

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to make the following recommendations to the City of Inverness Area Committee in respect of the following applications for funding of over £10,000 as follows:-

Inverness Botanic Gardens – High Life Highland Inverness Botanic Gardens / High Life Highland (£16,127 sought)

Apples for All at Bought Apple Park

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £16,127

Booklet D - Conference Applications

Ms C Caddick declared a non-financial interest in this item as she was on the Trust and Board for the Northern Meeting Solo Piping Competition 2021 but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that the interest did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.

Northern Meeting Charitable Piping Trust (£9,800 sought)

Northern Meeting Solo Piping Competition 2021

APPROVED £9,800

Scottish Squash / Inverness Tennis and Squash Club (£9,000 sought)

2021 Springfield Scottish Squash Open

APPROVED £9,000

Booklet E - Partnership Working Arrangements

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

Visit Inverness Loch Ness (£30,000 sought)

Inverness City Recovery Marketing

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £30,000

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that an evaluation report would be submitted at the end of the first year of the project with a view to making a further application for 2022-23.

The Sub- Committee:-

- a. **CONSIDERED** the applications listed in the attached Appendix 8 and detailed in the circulated applications;
- b. **APPROVED, DECLINED or DEFERRED** applications for up to and including £10,000, as indicated;
- c. **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting on 18th February 2021 for those applications for more than £10,000, as indicated; and
- d. **NOTED** that for this meeting an allocation of £50,399 was available for allocation along with £11,704 available for redistribution for sums held for grants awarded in principle only due to Covid.

5. Inverness BID

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

Miss J Campbell declared a non-financial interest in Item d as a member of the Inverness Community Safety Partnership but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that the interest did not preclude her from taking part in the discussion.

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/02/21 dated 14 January 2021 by the Inverness City Manager. This report invited Members to consider applications from Inverness BID, as follows:

- a. Floral displays 2021 – **AGREED TO RECOMMEND £61,100**
- b. Operation Respect – **AGREED TO RECOMMEND £9113**
- c. Gull Project – **AGREED TO RECOMMEND £11, 200**
- d. Inverness Community Safety Partnership – **AGREED TO RECOMMEND £9,700**

With reference to the Gull Project, Members expressed concern about gull problems in other areas of the city of Inverness and **AGREED** the City and Area Manager would discuss this with the Council's Environmental Health Manager.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND FOR APPROVAL** the applications from Inverness BID as detailed in the Appendices to this report and to make a recommendation the City of Inverness Area Committee either to accept or refuse the applications for funding.

6. Homologation of Grant Applications Approved in Principle

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the following grant approval this application was approved in principle at the Sub-Committee Meeting on 2nd November 2020:

- 1. University of the Highlands and Islands - £5,000 towards the Inverness Science Festival 2021

7. Evaluation Forms

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the Evaluation Forms submitted by applicants on completion of their projects.

8. Festive Bounceback Campaign

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the report on the Festive Bounceback Campaign.

9. Civic Hospitality Requests

Members **NOTED** that there were no current applications pending. The underspend remained at £123,000 against the Civic Hospitality Budget.

10. Recurring Events

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/03/21 dated 14 January 2021 by the Inverness City Area Manager. This report invited the Sub-Committee to consider

approval in principle for recurring annual events and to decide which option from paragraph 2.4 they would like to determine them.

The Sub-Committee:

- a. **NOTED** the applications; and
- b. **APPROVED** them in principle and **AGREED** to delegate authority to the City Area Manager in consultation with the ICGF Chairman and the Provost to approve the necessary expenditure in 2021/22.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 26 April 2021 at 9.30am via Microsoft Teams.

The meeting ended at 11.15am.