

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Lochaber Committee** held **REMOTELY** on **Tuesday, 23 March, 2021 at 10.00 a.m.**

Present:

Mr B Allan	Mr I Ramon
Mr A Baxter	Mr D Rixson
Mr A Henderson	Mr B Thompson
Mr N McLean	

In attendance:

Mrs D Ferguson, Senior Ward Manager (Ross, Skye and Lochaber), Communities and Place
Ms E Taylor, Assistant Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Mr M Culbertson, LEADER Development Officer, Infrastructure & Environment Service
Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager, Infrastructure & Environment Service
Mrs A Clark, Head of Policy, Communities and Place
Mr A MacInnes, Administrative Assistant, Performance & Governance Service

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

Mr A Baxter in the Chair

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following Declarations of Interest:-

Item 3- Mr A Baxter, Mr A Henderson, Mr B Thompson (all non financial)

3. Highland Coastal Communities Fund – Assessment of Applications Maoin Coimhearsnachdan Cladaich na Gàidhealtachd

Declaration of Interests: –

Mr A Henderson declared a non-financial interest in the Thomas Telford Corpach Marina application as a Council appointee to Caol Regeneration Company 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 his involvement in discussion.

Mr B Thompson declared a non financial interest as a Council appointed Director on the Isle of Eigg Heritage Trust (parent company of Eigg Trading one of the applicants) and would not take part in consideration of this application.

Mr A Baxter declared a non financial interest as a Council appointed Trustee to the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust and would not take part in consideration of this application.

Mr A Baxter declared a non-financial interest in the Fort William Marina and Shoreline Community Interest Company, Dredging of Foreshore application as a Tourist Guide who did guide from this pier but was not employed by the Company. 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 his involvement in discussion of this application.

Mr D Rixson mentioned that he was a council appointed Adviser to the Lochaber Environmental Group. They were developing a Hydro Scheme in the Ballachulish area and there was reference to community benefit in one of the applications in the report, but it was so remote that it did not involve him directly and therefore he would not be declaring an interest.

There was circulated Report No. LA/2/21 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure and Environment.

Prior to discussion of the applications the Chairman on behalf of the Committee gave thanks to Officers for all their hard work in preparing the report before the Committee today.

An overview of the report was provided and it was highlighted that there were 11 applications for funding from the Highland Coastal Communities Fund. The total grant request was for £675,585. The available budget was £432,032 and therefore the grants requested was oversubscribed by £243,552. All 11 projects were technically eligible for approval. A RAG assessment for the projects had been completed by Officers to assist Members consideration of the applications. Late amendments to two projects and match funding updates were highlighted.

The Committee were invited to consider all applications presented for funding and agree whether to approve, defer or reject the application; and agree which applications should receive a funding award from Highland Coastal Communities Fund up to the value of the available area allocation.

It was confirmed that in the event that the full amount of funding was not spent, balances could be carried forward into subsequent bidding rounds.

It was noted that the budget and timescale for any subsequent round of Highland Coastal Communities Funding was not confirmed, although it was expected that there would be subsequent rounds of the Fund.

It was recommended that the Committee consider first, the 3 applications that Officers had highlighted as having no technical or other barriers towards being achieved at this stage, namely, Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust, Eigg Trading and Glencoe Village Car Park applications. This was accepted by the Committee. As Mr A Baxter and Mr B Thompson had declared interests in two of these applications they withdrew at this stage to allow their consideration and they re-joined the meeting thereafter and took part in the rest of the meeting.

Nominations were then invited for an Interim Chair. Mr A Henderson was unanimously appointed as Interim Chair for the 3 applications as referred to above.

Thereafter, the Committee dealt with the applications which had been presented as follows:-

Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Trust - Increasing Infrastructure Resilience and Capacity at the Ardnamurchan Lighthouse Complex

APPROVED £73,650

Eigg Trading - An Laimhrig- Eigg Community Hub Redevelopment (phase 2)

APPROVED £100,000

Glencoe and Glen Etive Community Council - Glencoe Village Car Park Phase 1 Feasibility Study

APPROVED £12,000

At this point, Mr A Baxter, resumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

**Caol Regeneration Company,
Thomas Telford Corpach Marina**

DEFERRED

Arisaig Community Trust – The Arisaig Aire

DEFERRED

Ardgour Community Council - Ardgour Area Path Network

APPROVED £10,935

National Trust for Scotland - Sustainable Visitor Infrastructure in Glencoe and Glen Etive

APPROVED £50,000.

The Committee also **AGREED** that, subject to technical advice, a condition be attached to the award of funding so that revenue raised through car parking charges at the Three Sisters Car Park be also used for funding of the new Ranger post. The scope and remit of the Ranger post would also be defined with the applicant with the Committee's preference that it also covers the Glencoe Village area.

Road to The Isles Facilities Group - Silver Sands (Tougal) Car Park Improvements

APPROVED £100,000

NOTED that Landowner consent to the development would be a condition in the award of funding.

Fort William Marina and Shoreline Community Interest Company - Dredging of Foreshore

Mr B Allan, seconded by Mr A Baxter, **MOVED** that this application should be approved.

As an AMENDMENT, Mr D Rixson, seconded by Mr B Thompson, moved that this application should be deferred on the basis of the previous decision of this Committee in relation to Town Centre Funding for this project, that this funding be available to a reserve project should the Marine Scotland Licence for the project not be in place.

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

For the Motion – Mr B Allan, Mr A Baxter, Mr A Henderson, Mr I Ramon

For the Amendment – Mr D Rixson, Mr B Thompson

Therefore, the application was **APPROVED**.

It was queried if this decision was competent given the previous Committee decision on this project for Town Centre funding. There was a short adjournment of the meeting to seek advice. Thereafter, it was confirmed that both issues could be considered separately. The decision made at a previous Committee meeting to award Town Centre Funding for this project was a separate decision. Therefore, the Committee could make this award of HCCF at this meeting. In terms of the applicant meeting the conditions made at a previous Committee to grant Town Centre Funding, including provision of a Marine Licence, this was a separate issue.

Following agreement at the end of the meeting, the funding **APPROVED** for this application was £70,447.02

It was also **AGREED** that:-

i that assurance of final costs of Infill works would be a condition of the award of funding; and

ii that the funding is available until the next round of Highland Coastal Communities Funding is confirmed. In the event that HCCF does not continue, the award for this project if not used, be reallocated by the Local Committee.

Bruce Boyd - Muck Community Store

DEFERRED

NOTED that the applicant be advised to contact Business Gateway for advice on business and project planning. Also, the Committee expressed a preference for any future application for this project to be on the basis of a constituted not for profit organisation.

Isle of Canna Community Development Trust - Corroghan Barn Redevelopment Feasibility Study

APPROVED £15,000

The Committee requested that Applicants whose request for funding had been deferred, be advised that it is still open to them to submit updated applications to the next round of HCCF.

The meeting ended at 1.15 p.m.