

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

Minutes of Meeting of the **Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee** held **remotely** on Monday 8 November 2021 at 9.30 am.

Present:

Mrs C Caddick
Miss J Campbell
Mrs H Carmichael

Mr A Graham
Mr D Macpherson
Mrs E McAllister

Officials in Attendance:

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager
Mrs H Tolmie, Administrative Assistant, City Manager's Office
Ms F MacBain, Committee Administrator, Performance & Governance Service

Mr A Graham in the Chair

1. Appointment of Chair

The Sub-Committee **APPOINTED** Mr A Graham to the Chair for the remaining meetings of this Council term.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were submitted on behalf of Mr I Brown, Mr A Jarvie, and Mrs I Mackenzie.

3. Declarations of Interest

Item 5 – Mrs H Carmichael, Mrs C Caddick, Mr A Graham, Mr D Macpherson (non-financial)

Item 8a – Miss J Campbell, Mrs E McAllister (non-financial)

Item 10 – Mr A Graham (non-financial)

4. 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 involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

5. Requests for Financial Assistance 2021/22

Declarations of interest:

The following Members declared non-financial interests in this item for the reasons stated 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 A Graham as a family member was a volunteer with Blythwood, and as a season ticket holder for Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Club;
- Mrs C Caddick as a Director of Inshes Park Community Association, a member of the Inverness Community Partnership, and a member of the Northern Meeting Park Piping Trust;
- Mrs H Carmichael as a director of Visit Inverness Loch Ness and a member of Inverness BID; and
- Mr D MacPherson as a subscriber to the Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Club Centenary Club.

There had been circulated Report No. GSC/10/21 dated 27 October 2021 by the Inverness City Area Manager, and a separate copy of the applications.

The Inverness City Area Manager summarised the report and funding available, as well as the situation with some previously agreed applications which had not yet been drawn down.

Booklet A – Applications under £5,000

Balloan Football Club (£5,000 sought)

Castelo-de-Vide International Football Tournament 2022 **APPROVED £5,000**

Inverness Cathedral (£2,950 sought)

Connection of power supply to proposed kiosk **APPROVED £2,950**

University of the Highlands & Islands (£5,000 sought)

2022 Inverness Science Festival **APPROVED £5,000**

The Methodist Church (£4,000 sought)

Church Internal Improvements **DECLINED**

This application was declined because it was not sufficiently linked to a specific project with wider community benefit, and the percentage of funding sought, in comparison to the overall project costs, was considered too high. Future applications more in line with the requirements of the Common Good Fund would be welcomed.

Chamber Music Tours Scotland (CMTS) (£2,800 sought)

Inverness Piano Recitals (IPR) **APPROVED £2,800**

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

Cruse Bereavement Care Scotland (£8,000 sought)

Bereavement counselling and support in Inverness **DECLINED**

This application was declined on the basis that the project was not specific to Inverness and because of the high element of ongoing staff costs. There were no links to locally based project programs carrying out similar work. There was recognition for the work undertaken and the Inverness City Area Manager would make contact accordingly.

Inverness Caledonian Thistle Football Club (£7816 sought)

ICT Football Development Project

APPROVED £5,000

The Sub-Committee were fully supportive of the project but were unable to provide 100% of the costs of the project as requested, in line with Common Good Fund policy.

The Oxygen Works (£5,200 sought)

Annual Rent Support for ICGF premises at Burnett Road.

APPROVED £5,200

Merkinch Partnership (£9,000 sought)

Youth Employability and Life Skills Project

APPROVED £9,000

Apex Scotland (£7742.50 sought)

Apex Highland Challenge Team - Cleaning of Donkey Brae **APPROVED £7,742.50**

During discussion, the benefits of the project for Inverness and for the people involved were highlighted, and it was noted that the project was not something that the Council would otherwise undertake. It was queried why the funding was for 100% of the costs of the project, and the City Area Manager explained that this was because of the benefits of the project and that to pay a private contractor to undertake the work would be more expensive. Members queried the funding model of the organisation, which was a limited company, (with charitable status) and the Sub-Committee **AGREED** that for any future applications, further information should be provided on the contribution being made by Apex to the project. This would be communicated to the applicants by the Inverness City Area Manager. It was explained that this funding would be taken from the Other Properties budget.

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:-

Blythswood Care (£20,000 sought)

Highland Foodbank - Inverness

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £20,000

This grant would be paid from the Winter Payments Budget, should there be funds remaining after all payments had been made. Members expressed the need to ensure the continuing appropriate commitment from the applicant to the provision of Food Bank Services to the City, in the context of the additional welfare support being provided to address the four harms of COVID-19.

Inverness Ice Centre Limited (£30,000 sought)

Creation of a festival, cultural and events centre at the Inverness Ice Centre

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £30,000

Inverness Botanic Gardens, High Life Highland (£22, 470 sought)

GROW Raised Beds

AGREED TO RECOMMEND £22,470

Booklet D – Conference Support

Visit Inverness Loch Ness (£1,050 sought)

APPROVED £1,050

HighTech in the Highlands - Klauurtagung der MIT NRW in Inverness in May 2022

The Sub- Committee:-

- a. **NOTED** the applications listed in the attached Appendix 7 and detailed in the circulated applications.
- b. **APPROVED** or **DECLINED** applications for up to and including £10,000 as indicated; and
- c. **AGREED** to **RECOMMEND** to the City of Inverness Area Committee at its meeting on 18 November 2021 for those applications for more than £10,000 as indicated.
- d. **NOTED** the allocations made from the small grants budget of £75,000 and the larger grants budget of £200,000.

6. Internal Applications

a. Lord Provostship – Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Application

The Sub-Committee **APPROVED** the application for £2,000 from the Inverness City Area Manager towards the preparing of the application for the Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Application for the Lord Provostship Application. It was welcomed that the cost would be taken from the City Promotions budet.

b. City Flowering Projects

The Sub-Committee is invited to consider the application from the Inverness City Area Manager towards the City Flowering Projects 2022.

Issues raised during discussion included the importance of achieving value for money and maximum environmental benefits by, wherever possible, planting perennial flowers or trees, rather than flowers which only lasted for 4-5 months. Various locations around Inverness were considered and it was noted that due to the significant work being undertaken at the castle for the next two years, there was no value in planting on the castle bank as usual.

The Sub-Committee **AGREED TO RECOMMEND** approval of 5 mature trees with a purple halo round each tree to be planted at the following sites at a total of £21,200:

- a. Raigmore Interchange
- b. Ness Hydro Scheme
- c. Inshes District Park
- d. UHI Gardens Inverness Campus
- e. Torvean Roundabout

Each Tree would cost £1,590, and a purple halo at each tree would cost £2,650, making a total of £21,200 for all sites inclusive of 3 years' worth of maintenance for each tree. The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that this option would provide a sustainable planting solution which would reduce ongoing costs and make much better use of natural resources.

7. Operation Respect Winter 2021/22

There had been circulated Report No GSC/11/21 dated 26 October 2021 by the Inverness City Area Manager. The City of Inverness Area Committee had previously endorsed the planned activities of Operation Respect – City Centre over a number of years.

During discussion, Members praised the all involved for their excellent and valued work.

The Sub-Committee:

- i. **NOTED** the targeting of objectives for Operation Respect Festive on providing added community safety and public reassurance whilst supporting measures to reduce the impact of the pandemic on people's health and wellbeing; and
- ii. **APPROVED** funding of £9,313 for Operation Respect Festive 2021/22 from the Inverness Common Good Fund Partnership Working Budget.

8. Homologation Requests

Miss J Campbell and Mrs B McAllister declared a non-financial interests in this item as a family members were engaged with Shinty and / or the Caanachd Association, however they considered the interest to be sufficiently remote and insignificant that they would remain to participate.

a. Camanachd Association

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate grant of £6,500 awarded to the Camanachd Association towards the Shinty Ambassadors Programme and the MacTavish Cup Final 2021

b. Chamber Music Tours Scotland

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate grant of up to £500 awarded to Chamber Music Tours Scotland towards the first concert of the Piano Recital Series 2021/22 to underwrite any losses made.

c. Keep Scotland Beautiful

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to extend the timescale of the grant to cover the 2021 Canal College Course.

d. Merkinch LNR Boardwalk

The Sub-Committee **AGREED** to homologate the decision to extend the grant period for the grant awarded to the Merkinch LNR Boardwalk project to the end of the 2022/23 financial year.

9. Evaluation Forms

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

10. Civic Hospitality Requests

Mr A Graham declared a non-financial interest in this item as a family member was employed by Police Scotland 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 Report No. GSC/12/21 dated 2021 by the Inverness City Area Manager which listed the applications received for Civic Hospitality from the Inverness Common Good Fund.

In this connection there had been circulated separately a copy of the application and any supporting documentation as Booklet E, which detailed applications as follows:

- Police Scotland Long Service and Good Conduct Awards Ceremony (£2,037.00)
- Highland Area Committee of the Order of St John, Venerable Order of St John – 75th Anniversary Celebrations (£1,134.05)
- The Court of the Lord Lyon, 350th Anniversary of the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland (£1,997.85)

The Sub-Committee:

- a. **NOTED** the implications of Covid 19 Guidance which might act to restrict numbers in attendance or require the cancellation of events at short notice;
- b. **NOTED** that successful applicants would be responsible for their own costs in the event of an event being cancelled or restricted due to the application of Covid19 Guidance no matter when the event had been cancelled or subjected to restrictions; and
- c. **NOTED** the application listed in the attached Appendix 2 and detailed in Booklet E and **AGREED** to delegate power to approve the applications to the Inverness City Area Manager.

11. Homologation of Civic Hospitality Requests

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

- Maggie's – Financial Contribution - £2,000

- 2021 Springfield Scottish Open - £500

12. Date of Next Meeting

The Sub-Committee **NOTED** that the next meeting would take place on Monday 31st January 2022 at 9.30am via Microsoft Teams. The Sub-Committee **NOTED** the timetable below for applications during 2022.

City of Inverness Area Committee	Inverness Common Good Fund Sub-Committee	Applications due by Date
17 February 2022	31 January 2022	7 January 2022
10 June 2022		
	27 June 2022	3 June 2022
22 September 2022	15 August 2022	22 July 2022
24 November 2022	31 October 2022	7 October 2022

The meeting ended at 12.15pm