

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee** held remotely on 20 February 2023 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mrs I Campbell
Dr C Birt

Mrs E Kraft
Mr P Logue

In attendance:

Mr W MacKinnon, Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Ms J Wileman, Assistant Ward Manager, Communities and Place
Mr J Henderson, Policy Assistant Empty Homes & PRS Liaison
Mr I Moncreith, Roads Operations Manager
Mr D Manson, Principal Housing Officer
Ms S Lamb; Project Officer (Community Regeneration)
Miss J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager, Corporate Governance
Ms R Ross, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Governance

Also in attendance:

Insp. R.Ross – Police Scotland

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

Business

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Declarations of Interest Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt

The Committee **NOTED** the following Transparency Statement:-

Item 7 – Mr P. Logue

3. Police – Area Performance Summary Poilis – Geàrr-chunntas Dèanadais Sgìreil

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/001/23 dated 9 February 2023 by the North Area Commander.

During discussion the following issues were raised:-

- the Rural Watch programme was welcomed as it would help Members to spread information to the community especially in relation to fraud;
- concern was expressed about the increase in the number of missing people, especially adults; and
- the work being done with children's homes to help decrease the number of missing looked after children was welcomed.

The Committee **NOTED** progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2020-2023 Year 1, attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 01 April 2022 - 31 December 2022.

4. Area Roads Capital Programme 2023/24 Prògram Calpa Rathaidean Sgìreil 2023/24

There had been circulated Report No WRS/002/23 dated 15 December 2022 by Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

During discussion the following issues were raised:-

- it was queried how the areas selected for repair were chosen with attention being drawn to the road between Dingwall and Strathpeffer which was not listed on the report despite being thought to be in a worse condition than the area near Kinellan Drive which was listed;
- in response to a query it was confirmed that the sections of road listed on the report as being dependent on additional funding were not presented in any particular order;
- plans for a section of the C1055 to be overlaid were welcomed;
- confirmation was sought, and provided, that ongoing repairs and patching would still be done on roads that were not on the Capital Plan;
- attention was drawn to the bad condition of the road between Achnashellach and Garve;
- in response to a query, it was clarified that Lochalsh was included within the Ross and Cromarty Capital Roads budget;
- clarification was sought on why surface dressing was used instead of overlay in some cases; and
- the use of the Pothole Pro machine was welcomed.

The Committee:-

- **APPROVED** the proposed 2023/24 Area Roads Capital Programme for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Area; and
- **AGREED** to remove the section of road from Glenelg to Donovan Sawmill from the Area Roads Capital Programme with the funds instead being spent on Glenbeag and Moil Road.

5. Wester Rosss, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh HRA Capital Programme 2023/27

Prògram Calpa Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais Rois an Iar, Shrath Pheofhair is Loch Aillse 2023/27

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/005/22 dated 3 February 2023 by Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the update on the 2022-23 Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh HRA Capital Programme at section 5 of the report;
- ii. **NOTED** the resources available to Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh at paragraph 6.7 of the report;
- iii. **AGREED** the proposed investment priorities in the HRA Capital Programme for Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh 2023-27 as set out in Appendix 1 of the report; and
- iv. **NOTED** that updates on the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme would continue to be provided through ward briefings and at future Local Committees as requested by local Members, in addition to reporting to Housing and Property Committee.

6. Housing Revenue Account: Garage Rents 2023/24 Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais: Màil Gharaidsean 2023/24

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/004/22 dated 6 February 2023 by Executive Chief Officer Housing and Property.

During discussion the following issues were raised:-

- attention was drawn to the fact that garages were often too small for modern cars;
- a question was asked about the viability of installing EV charging points in garages;
- in response to a question, it was clarified that a consultation with garage tenants was included in the consultation with housing tenants; and
- attention was drawn to the fact that a rent increase of 7% would amount to an increase of about £3 per month.

The Committee **AGREED** a 7% rent increase to apply to Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Garages and Garage Sites.

7. Community Regeneration Fund Applications Iarrtasan Maoin Ath-bheothachadh Coimhearsnachd

Transparency Statement: Mr P Logue made a Transparency Statement in as a close family member had recently resigned from the board of Balmacara Community Trust. However, having applied the objective test, he did not consider that he had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No WRSL/005/22 dated 3 February 2023 by Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure, Environment & Economy.

The Committee **AGREED** to grant funding for all applications less the generic overhead costs for Gale Action forum and less £3101 for Strathpeffer Residents Association.

8. Minutes
Geàrr-chunntas

There had been circulated for noting Minutes of Meeting of the Wester Ross, Strathpeffer and Lochalsh Committee held on 8 November 2022 which were approved by the Council on 8 December 2022.

The Committee **NOTED** the minutes.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 am