

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held in the Chamber, The Court House, High Street, Nairn on 7 August at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mr L Fraser
Mr M Green
Ms B Jarvie (remote)
Mr P Oldham (remote)

In Attendance:

Ms T Urry, Interim Executive Chief Officer – Infrastructure and Environment
Ms S Murdoch, Common Good Fund Officer
Ms F Cameron, Programme Manager – Economic Development and Regeneration
Mr A Bryce, Project Officer (Active Travel)
Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager, Nairn and Badenoch and Strathspey
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

Also in Attendance:

Nick Nethercott, Scottish Fire and Rescue 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 M Green 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 Transparency Statement:-

Item 10 – Ms B Jarvie

3. Recess Powers Cumhachdan Fosaidh

The Committee **NOTED** that the recess powers granted by the Council at its meeting on 29 June 2023 had not required to be exercised in relation to the business of the Nairnshire Committee.

4. **Good News** **Naidheachdan Matha**

The Chair spoke to three items of good news as follows:-

- the Feasibility Study for the Recycling Centre was progressing well. A draft report was expected within the following two weeks with a final report to be ready at the end of the month;
- the Local Place Plan was progressing well and congratulations were extended to Nairn Improvement Community Enterprise for their efforts on this; and
- congratulations were extended to the Nairnshire Farming Society for their hard work, creativity and professionalism in making the Nairn Farmers' show a successful event.

During discussion, Members commented on the following additional items of good news:-

- the roll out of 20mph Speed Limits had begun in Nairn and had received mainly positive feedback from members of the public;
- Team Hamish had received planning permission for Phase 2 of their project on Common Good land at the Links;
- congratulations were extended to Nairn Academy students for their achievements and a welcome was extended to new first year students;
- Queenspark Residents Association had celebrated their first Anniversary and had achieved great things including Picnic in the Park; and
- the Nairnshire Book and Arts Festival and Nairn Highland Games would be taking place later in the summer.

The Committee **NOTED** the Good News.

In terms of Standing order 9, the Committee **AGREED** to take item 12 followed by item 11 at this stage.

12. **Winter Service Plan for 2023/24** **Plana Seirbheis Geamhraidh airson 2023/24**

There had been circulated Report No NC/17/23 dated 12 July 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure & Environment.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- the use of monitoring stations to provide data to inform decisions around road treatment was commended;
- attention was drawn to the service map not showing the agreed updated route through the Lochloy Estate. The Interim Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure and Environment undertook to ensure that the map was updated to reflect the agreed route;
- it was requested that all gritter drivers be made aware of changes to routes as there had been some issues with this previously;
- information was sought on how the new 20mph zones would impact on the delivery of the service and what had been put in place to accommodate this; and

- information was sought, and provided, as to how many spare gritters could be available if needed.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2023/24.

11. Proposed Deletion from the list of Roads - U2218 McDermott's Road, Ardersier Rathaidean Sgìre Inbhir Narann – Dubhadh às ga Mholadh bho liosta nan Rathaidean Poblach – U2218 Rathad MhicDiarmaid, Àird nan Saor

On 21 March 2023 the Nairnshire Committee had deferred the decision on de-listing McDermotts Road, Ardersier until legal advice had been received on the preservation of access and repair post de-listing. The owners of Ardersier Port had since withdrawn their request to have McDermotts Road de-listed.

During the discussion, it was queried whether the works scheduled to take place at the junction with the A96 were being led by the Council or Transport Scotland. The Interim Executive Chief Officer, Infrastructure and Environment undertook to make investigations into the nature of this work and feed back to Members.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** that the owners of Ardersier Port had since withdrawn their request to have McDermotts Road de-listed; and
- AGREED** Port invitation to Nairnshire Members for a site visit would be arranged with appropriate Area and Strategic Committee Members in due course.

5. Fire Performance Report - Annual Report Aithisg Coileanaidh Smàlaidh – Aithisg Bhliadhnail

There had been circulated Report No NC/12/23 dated 21 July 2023 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- thanks were expressed for the swift and professional action of the Fire Service at the fire on Harbour Street. In response to a question, it was stated that it was not safe to carry out an investigation after the fire to ascertain the cause; and
- in response to a query about recruitment, it was confirmed that the Nairn Station was at full capacity with both appliances being available a large percentage of the time.

The Committee **NOTED** the report.

6. Exclusion of the Public Às-dùnadh a' Phobail

The Committee resolved that, under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting for item 7 only on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

**7. Nairn Common Good Fund – Grant Street Yard and Store
Maoin Math Coitchean Inbhir Narann – Lios agus Stòr Shràid nan Granddach**

There had been circulated Report No NC/13/23 dated 17 July 2023 by the Interim Depute Chief Executive.

The Committee **APPROVED** the recommendations as detailed in the report.

**8. Nairn Harbour Active Travel Footpath Link
Ceangal Ceum-coise Siubhal Gnìomhach Caladh Inbhir Narann**

There had been circulated Report No NC/14/23 dated 12 July 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer Infrastructure & Environment

During the discussion the following main points were raised:-

- congratulations were extended to the Active Travel Team and the Access Panel for the project;
- surprise was expressed at the high cost of the project;
- the project was utilising a route that people were already using and making it safer;
- it was queried whether the new disabled parking bays could be located on the more level surface nearer the harbour; and
- on the point being raised it was clarified that signage options for cyclists were being explored.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the content of this report;
- ii. **APPROVED** the development of the Nairn Harbour Active Travel Footpath Link upon Common Good Land; and
- iii. **AGREED** that placement of affected disabled parking bays would be amended in line with Member comments.

**9. Nairn Common Good – Harbour Street Consultation and Proposal.
Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Co-chomhairleachadh agus Moladh Sràid a' Chalaigh**

There had been circulated Report No NC/15/23 dated 11 July 2023 by Acting Executive Chief Officer – Performance and Governance and Executive Chief Officer – Communities and Place

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- the issues raised in the consultation had been effectively and comprehensively addressed and the work done for this consultation could be used as a framework for possible future consultations;
- concern was expressed that disposal at nil value would deliver no financial benefit to the Common Good Fund;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that Greenhive would cover all costs relating to the consultation that had been incurred to date;

- it was queried whether the current situation concerning the strip of land could be the result of an historical conveyancing error;
- reference was made to the fact that Greenhive had undertaken to do the investigation and had been transparent about their findings, the support for the proposed solution from the neighbouring business and the current untidy state of the area of land which would be improved following its sale to Greenhive;
- it was queried whether it would be possible for Nairn Common Good Fund to be given first offer if the land was to be sold in the future; and
- one Member was in favour of giving the land to Greenhive at no cost. However, the majority were in favour of offering the land for sale to Greenhive for a cost of £500.

The Committee:-

- NOTED** the outcome of the consultation process undertaken as contained in the analysis at Appendix 1;
- APPROVED** the responses to the issues raised in connection with the proposal for publication on the Council's website as contained in the table in Appendix 1;
- AGREED** to dispose of the area of land adjacent to the Seaman's Hall for the reasons outlined in the report; and
- AGREED** to offer the land for sale to Greenhive for £500.

10. Nairn Common Good Fund – Quarter 1 Financial Monitoring Report Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Aithisg Sgrùdadh Ionmhasail Cairteil 1

Transparency Statement: Ms B Jarvie made a Transparency Statement in respect of this item as a Member of the Nairn Book and Arts Festival Committee but, having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest to declare.

There had been circulated Report No NC/16/23 dated 18 July 2023 by Executive Chief Officer Communities and Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- in response to a question, it was clarified that money from both the sale of the Grant St Yard and the Community Regeneration Fund was being requested to be ring-fenced for the re-development of the Harbour Street Public Toilets site, and that the funds for the feasibility study would come from the Place-Based Development Fund;
- concerns were expressed over the possibility of the Splash Pad maintenance becoming a recurring cost for the Common Good Fund;
- information was sought and provided on how maintenance costs for assets on Common Good land were covered;
- it was queried whether an invitation to pay scheme could be implemented for the Splash Pad in order to help cover future maintenance costs; and
- the importance of having funds available for maintenance so that equipment could continue to be in use was highlighted.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the position of the NCGF as shown in the Quarter 1 Revenue Monitoring Statement against Budget for 2023/24;
- ii. **AGREED** that income received in 2023/24 from the sale of the Grant Street Yard and Store (as detailed at item 7 on the agenda) was ringfenced for use on the redevelopment of the Harbour Street former public toilet site; and
- iii. **AGREED** that the potential for implementing an invitation to pay scheme would be investigated and the outcome reported to a future meeting of the Committee.

13. Ward Discretionary Budget Buidseat Fo Ùghdarras Uàird

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Ward Discretionary Fund applications had been approved since the May Committee:-

Organisation	Project	Amount
Ward Management Team (Nairn Splashpad)	Specialist Cleaning	£3,484

14. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 15 May 2023 which had been approved by the Council on 29 June 2023.

15. Community Regeneration Fund 2023/24 Maoin Ath-bheothachadh Coimhearsnachd 23/24

There had been circulated Report No NC/18/23 dated 2 August 2023 by the Interim Depute Chief Executive.

During discussion the building up of capital funds for a development which would benefit the community and generate income was welcomed.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the standard delivery approach of the Community Regeneration Fund; and
- ii. **AGREED** to ringfence the allocation of £57,748.71 Community Regeneration Funding 2023/24 towards Nairn Harbour Street, former public toilet site redevelopment, and request that a full application for funds be considered at a future Committee.

The meeting concluded at 11.45 am.