

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee** held in the Courtroom, Grantown Courthouse, Grantown-on-Spey/Remotely on 13 November 2023 at 10.30am.

### Present:

Mr J Bruce  
Mrs M Cockburn

Mr R Jones  
Mr B Lobban

### In attendance:

Mr L Hannah, Ward Manager (Nairn, Badenoch and Strathspey)  
Ms R Ross, Committee Officer, Performance and Governance

### Also in attendance:

Mr N Nethercott, Local Senior Officer, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Mr M Ferguson, Direct of Planning & Place, Cairngorms National Park Authority  
Mr C Simpson, Head of Visitor Services, Cairngorms National Park Authority

**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 R Jones in the Chair

### Business

#### 1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

There were no apologies for absence.

#### 2. Declarations of Interest/Transparency Statement Foillseachaidhean Com-pàirt/ Aithris Fhollaiseachd

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

Item 4 – Mr R Jones, Mr B Lobban

Item 5 – Mr B Lobban

#### 3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Area Committee Performance Report Aithisg Choileanaidh Comataidh Sgìreil Smàlaidh agus Teasairginn na h-Alba

There had been circulated Report No NC/15/23 dated 30 October 2023 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

During discussion, Members made the following points:-

- information was sought on station availability, the low availability of the second Grantown appliance, the number of homes complying with new fire alarm requirements, the different contracts for volunteer and retained firefighters, the use of the Community Asset Register and management of resources and personnel when fighting wildfires and the use of Community Resilience Plans;

- it was queried what more the Council and other partners could do to help with recruitment; and
- disappointment was expressed at the low number of female firefighters, and it was queried what could be done to encourage more women to join the Scottish Rescue and Fire Service and whether the Service had tried targeting seasonal workers for recruitment.

The Committee **NOTED** the Performance Report.

#### **4. Cairngorms National Park, Visitor Management Review Pàirc Nàiseanta a' Mhonaigh Ruaidh, Ath-sgrùdadh Stiùireadh Luchd-turais**

**Transparency Statement: Mr R Jones and Mr B Lobban declared connections to this item as members of the Cairngorms National Park Authority Board but, having applied the objective test, did not consider that they had an interest to declare.**

There was a presentation on visitor management in the Cairngorm National Park by Mr Murray Ferguson, Director: Planning and Place, Cairngorm National Park Authority.

During Discussion the following points were raised:-

- surprise was expressed that only 3 out of 11 identified visitor hotspots were in the Badenoch and Strathspey Area;
- certain hot spots such as Glenmore or Loch Morlich could be de-advertised to avoid them becoming even busier than they already were;
- information was sought and provided concerning the roadside parking at Cairngorm Mountain and the Highland and Islands Enterprise feasibility study around the creation of an active travel route;
- Council Members need to be given more information in order for partnership working to be effective;
- although progress had been made in Glenmore, over a nine year period, not enough progress had been made;
- in response to a question it was confirmed that Rangers played a part in educating the public about avian flu;
- the need to monitor campervans was emphasised; and
- information was sought and provided on the use of Police Patrols in the National Park, the access rights on the River Spey and the construction of new public toilets at Glenmore.

Thereafter, the Committee **NOTED** the presentation.

#### **5. Appointments to Outside Bodies Cur an Dreuchd gu Buidhnean on Taobh A-muigh**

**Transparency Statement: Mr B Lobban declared a connection this item as a member of the Board of Cairngorm Mountain Scotland Ltd but, having applied the objective test, did not consider that they had an interest to declare.**

During discussion it was suggested that the local area committee should have two Members appointed to the Cairngorm and Glenmore Group.

The Committee **AGREED** that Mr R Jones and Mrs M Cockburn be appointed to the Cairngorm & Glenmore Group.

## 6. **Street Naming - Carrbridge & Cromdale** **Ainmeachadh Sràide – Drochaid Chàrr & Crombail**

There had been circulated Report No NC/16/23 dated 2 November 2023 by the Executive Chief Officer, Communities & Place.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- Dolly's Way was not an appropriate street name;
- Buchan Way was suggested due to the area's Jacobite history; and
- Spey road was suggested as an appropriate alternative.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** the:-

- i. names Gordon Place and Spey Road for the two new streets in Cromdale shown attached on Appendix 1 to the report; and
- ii. name Struan Court for the new flatted development in Carrbridge shown attached on Appendix 2 to the report.

## 7. **Ward Discretionary Budget** **Buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàird**

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Ward Discretionary Fund applications had been approved since the meeting on 29 May 2023:-

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Newtonmore Camanachd Club	Safety Padding for Clubhouse	£964
Newtonmore Business Association	Centenary Garden Project Consultation	£750
Strathspey Works	Grantown Remakery	£880

## 8. **Minutes** **Geàrr-chunntas**

There had been circulated and **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Badenoch and Strathspey Area Committee held on 29 June 2023 which were approved by the Council on 29 June 2023.

The meeting concluded at 12.10pm.