

The Highland Council

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held Remotely on 4 November 2024 at 10.30am.

Present:

Mr M Green
Ms B Jarvie
Mr L Fraser
Mr P Oldham

In Attendance:

Mr M Greig, Community Development Manager, Communities and Place
Ms D Sutton, Head of Community Operations and Logistics
Mr S Manning, Principal Parking Officer

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

There were no declarations of interest or transparency statements.

3. Good News Naidheachdan Matha

The Chair drew the Committee's attention to the following items of Good News:-

- the Nairnshire Community Newspaper had just released its second edition and was looking to employ an administrative assistant and an editor; and
- the third Nairn Common Good engagement group meeting had been a success.

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- thanks were extended to the Yarn Bombers for their displays around Nairn and the surrounding areas;

- the Nairn Partnership Engagement Day had been successful and thanks were extended to Lynn MacNeil for organising the event;
- the Halloween events and decorations throughout the area showed great community spirit;
- the new Nairn Academy was currently being built and was on target to be completed by summer 2026; and
- attention was drawn to the different events that would be taking place for Remembrance Day.

**4. Nairn Common Good Fund – Invitation to Pay Parking Scheme
Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Sgeama Cuireadh Pàigheadh airson Parcadh**

There had been circulated Report No NC/14/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place.

During discussion the following points were raised:-

- information was sought and provided on how the card processing fees were calculated, why costs had increased by more than revenue and the details of the parking services contract;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that the current parking services contract would come to an end this year; and
- an update was sought and provided on the parking management survey.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** that £5,242.00 costs incurred by the Council's Parking Enforcement Team to operate the invitation to pay parking scheme at the Nairn Common Good sites be charged against the Nairn Common Good Fund.

**5. Scottish Government Play Park Funding
Maoineachadh Phàircean-cluiche Riaghaltas na h-Alba**

There had been circulated Report No NC/15/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place.

During Discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- it was good that funding had been spread throughout the town;
- the new embankment slide for the Links play area was welcomed as there was a lot of interest in this from the community;
- it was queried how much smaller the new boat in the Links play area would be compared to the current one; and
- on the point being raised it was confirmed that there would be funding available for one more year and that the £7,000 contingency could be rolled over to the following financial year.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED** in Ward 18 £85,000 be allocated to the agreed projects as outlined at paragraph 6.4 of the report.

6. **Nairn Common Good Fund Update** **Cunntas às Ùr mu Mhaoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann**

There had been circulated Report No NC/16/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place

During discussion the following main points were raised:-

- the Common Good Fund was performing well, enabling up to £50,000 to be given to support the Nairn Community and Arts Centre and money to be laid aside for costal erosion works;
- it was confirmed that the status of Viewfield Stables as an alienable or inalienable asset would be for the court to decide;
- it was queried whether the most financially sound way to proceed concerning Viewfield Stables was to do nothing as it was uncertain whether anyone would wish to buy it and there would be large costs involved in renovating it; and
- further information was sought on what the costs would be to go forward with the marketing; the schedule of dilapidations was and whether Viewfield Stables formed part of the museum.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the position of the NCGF as shown in the Quarter 2 revenue monitoring statement against the budget for 24/25; and
- ii. **AGREED** that progression to consultation for future marketing concerning Viewfield Stables be deferred to enable further information to be sought.

7. **Sandown Lands Community Food Growing – Update** **Fàs Biadh Coimhearsnachd Fearann Sandown – Cunntas às Ùr**

There had been circulated Report No NC/17/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive - Place.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- there was no support for the Common Food Growing Area from the Common Good Fund Engagement Group or the wider community;
- this project was initiated by the previous Nairnshire Committee;
- the installation of a solar panel farm would mean that the land could not be used for anything else for at least 11 years without losing money;
- the best of the suggested ideas was the use of the land for beehives;
- for the Food Growing project to be viable there would need to be a group from the Community willing to take it forward;
- the photovoltaic (PV) panels would mean tying down the land for 10 to 15 years and there was space at the Council Depot at Balblair to put solar panels; and

- it was hard to see where the money would come from to employ two people to support a community food growing scheme.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- NOTED** the feasibility study and its findings contained within Appendix 2 of the report;
- AGREED** not to proceed with the recommended next steps in section 7.4 of the report; and
- AGREED** not to progress to explore the installation of a PV Panel farm within the lands for income generation.

8. Nairn Public Conveniences Update – Harbour Street Toilets and Nairn Links Toilets
Cunntas às Ùr mu Ghoireasan Poblach Inbhir Narann – Taighean-beaga Sràid a’ Chalaidh agus Taighean-beaga Fighdeach Inbhir Narann

There had been circulated Report No NC/18/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place

During discussion, the following main points were raised:

- the discussion of public conveniences at the Common Good Fund Engagement Group had been very helpful;
- only one standard toilet and one disabled toilet would be needed on Harbour Street and it was suggested that this should be trialled until Easter;
- more toilets were needed at the Links facilities;
- in response to a question it was confirmed that outdoor showers at the Links facilities would be accessible for the Nairn beach wheelchairs and that a foot shower would be installed next to the splash pad;
- it was queried whether a separate dog shower could be installed at the Links facility;
- on the point being raised it was confirmed that the Links public conveniences were on Common Good land and were therefore a Common Good asset even though they were managed by the Council;
- clarification was sought on what was the responsibility of the Common Good Fund and what was the responsibility of the Highland Council regarding the Links public conveniences; and
- support was shown for the suggestion of temporary toilets as a solution for Harbour Street.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- In respect of Harbour Street Toilets:
 - NOTED** the findings of the Harbour Street Feasibility Study;
 - AGREED** next steps as outlined in section 10.1 of the report and to proceed with options 3 & 4;

- In respect of the Nairn Links Toilets:
 - iii. **NOTED** the findings of the Nairn Links Toilets;
 - iv. **AGREED** next steps as outlined in section 10.2 of the report and to proceed with option 2; and
- In respect of the Community Regeneration Funding (CRF) Funding:
 - v. **AGREED** the previous ringfenced monies from the CRF to be reallocated for other capital projects.

**9. Highland Charities Trust – Allocation of Funds
Urras Charthannasan na Gàidhealtachd – Riarachadh Mhaoinean**

There had been circulated Report No NC/19/24 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following main points were raised:-

- the formation of a hardship fund was welcomed;
- this had received universal support from the Common Good Fund Engagement Group;
- clarification was requested on the criteria that would be used by the Citizens Advice Bureau for distributing the money;
- it was emphasised that this fund should be available for people throughout the Nairnshire area and not just in the Royal Burgh;
- the Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB) was best placed to administer this fund due to their wealth of experience in this area; and
- it was requested that a report on using Common Good money to support this fund be brought to the following meeting of the Committee.

Thereafter, the Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. funds from the Nairn and Auldearn Poor Fund be allocated as a form of Hardship Fund to serve the people of Nairn and Nairnshire; and
- ii. that officers approach the CAB to administer the funds as part of the 'Peoples Pot' currently administered by CAB.

**10. Ward Discretionary Budget
Buidseat Fo Ùghdarras Uàird**

The Committee **NOTED** the following Ward Discretionary Fund payment that had been approved since the previous meeting of this Committee:-

- Green Hive – Nairn Trike Project - £1,516
- Brent Centre Highlands – Sport and Thought Highlands - £1000

During discussion, in response to a question, it was clarified that there was approximately £6,000 left in the fund and one application pending.

11. Minutes
Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 5 August 2024 which had been approved by the Council on 19 September 2024.

The meeting ended at 11.50am.