

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Dingwall on Monday, 26 May 2025 at 10.30am.

Present:

Mr S Kennedy
Mrs G MacKenzie
Mrs A MacLean

In attendance:

Ms L Bauermeister, Community Development Manager
Mr I Moncrieff, Roads Operations Manager
Ms F Shand, Principal Housing Officer - Mid Ross
Ms C Murray, Project Officer, Community Regeneration
Mrs G MacPherson, Committee Officer

Also in attendance:

Mr P Young, 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 G MacKenzie in the Chair

1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan

Apologies were intimated on behalf of Mrs M Paterson.

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

There were no Declarations of Interests/Transparency Statements.

3. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn

There had been circulated Report No DSA/9/25 together with the Dingwall and Seaforth Performance Report by the Local Group Manager for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service. This was a new style of report, which was said to provide a more in depth analysis.

The Fire Service continued to work with local agencies, both to carry out Home Fire Safety Visits in households deemed most at risk of fire, and in terms of road safety.

The Dingwall Station refurbishment was now complete and had recently been officially opened, an event which Members attended.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- delight was expressed at the completed refurbishment;
- information was sought, and provided, in terms of premises considered high risk of fire, and how a referral of concern could be made to SFRS;
- information was sought, and provided, regarding deliberate fires. A Fire Skills course would be held in Dingwall Fire Station for children and young people in education in the third week of June. The course had already been successful in other areas of Highland and Members looked forward to an update at a later Committee;
- information was sought, and provided, regarding weather related incidents and wild fires. Many crews in the local area had been upskilled to assist with wild fires, which were generally difficult to deal with. Spreading the message was vital and SFRS continued to engage with local camping sites and tourists; and
- information was sought, and provided, in terms of an incident that occurred near Dingwall High Street.

The Committee **NOTED** the Dingwall and Seaforth Performance Report.

4. Area Roads Capital Programme 2024/25 Update Cunntas às Ùr mu Phrògram Calpa Rathaiden na Sgìre 2024/25

There had been circulated Report No DSA/10/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Prior to discussion, Members were informed of changes to the report. In terms of section 6.7 of the report, the local area allocation amounted to £105,205, and in terms of section 6.8, the capital budget had been increased to £1,454,205.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- information was sought, and provided, in terms of the works on Newton Road;
- improvements to the road network had made a difference to communities and it was asked if there would be an opportunity to provide more dropped kerbs on footways this year. A response was provided;
- it was asked how much of the work had been put out to contract;
- there was concern that the allocation of funding by way of road length was not the fairest way. This would be discussed at a future Ward Business Meeting; and
- there was a need for major road works in the Ward of Dingwall and Seaforth.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- i. the final budget allocation for Dingwall and Seaforth area for 2024/25;
- ii. the works completed on the approved list to date; and
- iii. the additional works identified and prioritised throughout the year.

5. Comparison of Recent Capital Programmes and Required Works
Coimeas eadar Prògraman Calpa agus Obraichean Riatanach o Chionn Ghoirid

There had been circulated Report No DSA/11/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- Members were concerned about the deterioration of the road network. As a central ward, there was high road usage, and it was asked what the worst roads were and how they would be prioritised. A response was provided;
- in response to a question, it was clarified that the deferred works from last year would be funded from this year's budget, as the original funds were redirected to resurfacing. However, there was concern for this year's funding;
- information was sought, and provided, in terms of the GPS tracker detection system and the calculation of insurance claims;
- information was sought regarding revenue works and it was said that the repairing of potholes, along with weeding and verge works would make a big difference to the road network; and
- Members were eager for Dingwall and Seaforth to benefit from the use of the thermal heat machines as soon as possible.

The Committee **NOTED** the contents of the report.

6. Housing Management Performance Report
Aithisg Choileanaidh Stiùireadh Taigheadais

There had been circulated Report No DSA/12/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- information was sought, and provided, in terms of the reasons for technical rent arrears;
- information was sought, and provided, in terms of anti-social behaviour and it was confirmed that the Safer Ross meetings allowed the Police, Fire Service and Council Services to work together; and
- in response to a question regarding homeless allocations, it was confirmed that the Council worked from the same allocation list as local Housing Associations.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2024 – 31 March 2025.

7. Community Regeneration Fund Assessment of Applications
Measadh Iarrtasan Maoin Ath-nuadhachadh Coimhearsnachd

There had been circulated Report No DSA/13/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Members were delighted with the support from Fèis Rois in leading the delivery of the Dingwall 800 celebrations. Along with the Community Council and Dingwall Community Development Trust, Members were keen to move this project forward as soon as possible.

The Event Producer had been appointed and was due to start in July 2025.

Clarification was sought, and provided, regarding the budget allocations.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the application form and summary RAG assessment carried out by the CRF team; and
- ii. **AGREED** to homologate the Council committing £51,000 for project CRF4004: Feis Rois – Dingwall 800 Event Producer.

8. Approval of New Street Names, Conon Bridge Aonta airson Ainmean Sràide Ùra, Drochaid Sguideil

There had been circulated Report No DSA/14/25 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

The Committee **AGREED**:-

- i. to homologate the approval of one street name for a new development in Conon Bridge as Riverside Place; and
- ii. four further street names as: Holly Drive; Larch Drive; Harvest Way; and Scots Pine Road.

9. Dingwall and Seaforth Ward Discretionary budget applications approved since last meeting Iartasan buidseat fo Ùghdarras Uàrd Inbhir Pheofharain agus Shìophort air an aontachadh bho choinneamh mu dheireadh

The Committee **NOTED** that the following Dingwall and Seaforth Ward Discretionary Budget applications have been approved between 10 February and 31 March 2025.

- i. The Neil Gunn Trust – Writing Competition: £630
- ii. Muir of Ord Golf Club – Hickory Club Event: £300
- iii. Dingwall Academy – The Coffee and Truck Garden: £950
- iv. Conon/Maryburgh Outdoor Bowling Club – Bowls Scotland Finals: £1,800
- v. Muir of Ord Golf Club – 150 Year Anniversary: £1,500
- vi. Dingwall Fire Brigade – Senior Citizens Party: £500
- vii. Dingwall Community Council – Dingwall in Bloom: £1799.80

10. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** Minutes of Meeting of the Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee held on 10 February 2025 which were approved by the Council on 27 March 2025.

The meeting ended at 12.05pm.