

## The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held in the Chamber, The Court House, High Street, Nairn on Monday 9 February 2026 at 10.00 am.

### **Present:**

Mr L Fraser  
Mrs B Jarvie

Mr M Green  
Mr P Oldham

### **In attendance:**

Mr L Hannah, Community Development Manager  
Mr T Masterton, Senior Technician, Road Operations  
Mr S Hunter, Road Safety Officer, In House Bus Service  
Mr M Gemmell, Principal Repairs Officer, Housing and Customer Services  
Mr R Bartlett, Principal Officer, Traffic and Parking (Acting)  
Ms S Lamb, Project Officer  
Mr H McHale, Senior Maintenance Officer, Housing and Customer Service  
Ms M Murray, Principal Committee Officer, Democratic Services  
Ms K Arnott, Committee Officer, Democratic Services

### **Also in attendance:**

Inspector C Johnstone, 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.**

## **Mr M Green 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**

There were no Declarations of Interest.

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

Item 3 - Mrs B Jarvie

#### **3. Good News Naidheachdan Matha**

**Transparency Statement: Mrs B Jarvie declared a connection to this item as a member of the Nairn Books and Arts Festival Committee. However, having applied the objective test, she did not consider that she had an interest to declare.**

Attention was drawn to the following items of good news:-

- collaborative work was ongoing between the Council and NICE (Nairn Improvement Community Enterprise) on feasibility studies in respect of the Links public toilets and the Nairn Riverside Development Plan. By working together, the Council and NICE were combining legal insights and strategic expertise to develop community-led proposals that supported growth, enhanced Nairn's natural environment and would ensure future investment was well-informed, deliverable and focussed on achieving real benefits for the people of Nairn; and
- according to the annual social and economic impact report, the benefit to the local economy of Nairn Book and Arts Festival 2025 had been £221,438. 90% of those surveyed had agreed that the festival increased community spirit, and it gave people a new interest, included free events, was age-inclusive and was a major asset to the Nairnshire area.

The Committee **NOTED** the good news.

#### **4. Police Performance Report – Annual Report Aithisg Choileanaidh Poileis – Aithisg Bhliadhnaidh**

There had been circulated Report No NC/01/26 by the Area Commander (South Highland Area Command).

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- concern had been expressed by Housing officers that the weekly meetings with Police officers, previously held to discuss incidents involving Council tenants and properties, had ceased several months ago. It was hoped these meetings could be reinstated due to the increasing number of incidents taking place, examples of which were provided. Inspector Johnstone undertook to look into the matter, and the Community Development Manager confirmed he would provide contact details for the Principal Housing Officer;
- there was concern locally regarding the increasing levels of aggression and drug use in the area, and information was sought, and provided, on these issues, including whether early release of offenders was a contributing factor. Questions were also raised regarding the Community Payback Scheme and whether it required more support. However, it was explained that the Community Payback Scheme was a matter for the Criminal Justice Service, and Inspector Johnstone undertook to revert to Members with a contact;
- concern was expressed regarding the rise in domestic crime, and information was sought, and provided, on whether the increase was due to new crime or historic offences now being reported. It was also queried whether there was sufficient support available for victims of domestic crime;
- reference having been made to incidences of graffiti in Nairn which appeared to be similar to graffiti at Balloch Bridge, Inspector Johnstone undertook to assign a local officer to look into the matter and establish whether there was any commonality;
- it was important that the detailed and comprehensive report received widespread coverage to raise awareness of the challenges faced by Police officers and the effectiveness with which they dealt with them;
- it was alarming that drug-related driving offences now outnumbered drink driving offences, and clarification was sought, and provided, on the process for testing and prosecuting individuals for drug driving; and

- online crime was increasing, and the importance of education was emphasised, particularly for elderly and vulnerable people who were more likely to be caught out by scams. The importance of reporting online crime was also highlighted, as the majority of such incidents went unreported.

The Committee **NOTED**:-

- progress made against the objectives set within the Highland Local Policing Plan 2023–2026 Year 1 attached as Annex A to the report, for the period covering 01 April 2025 – 31 December 2025; and
- the change in format necessitated by a reduction in back-office capacity to prepare additional area committee reports.

## **5. Area Roads Capital Programme 2026/27 Prògram Calpa Rathaidean na Sgìre 2026/27**

There had been circulated Report No NC/02/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- the Chair highlighted that roads capital allocations would be considered by the Economy and Infrastructure Committee on 12 February 2026, and there would be an increase in capital funding next financial year; and
- it was pointed out that there were significant potholes in Cawdor on the road from the Cawdor Tavern and at the Back Street junction. The Senior Technician undertook to investigate. However, it was explained that some sections of road in Cawdor were not adopted as they belonged to Cawdor Estate;

The Committee:-

- APPROVED** the rolling programme of Capital schemes as listed in Appendix 2 to the report, which would be a multi-year programme;
- NOTED** that the Area budget would be available after the February 2026 Economy and Infrastructure Committee; and
- NOTED** that the rolling programme might require to be updated once results from the Scottish Road Maintenance Condition Survey had been received and considered.

## **6. PRIME Markings A939 Grantown to Nairn Route Comharran PRIME A939 Slighe Bhaile nan Grandach gu Inbhir Narann**

There had been circulated Report No NC/03/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- in response to questions regarding Site B, which had not been recommended for PRIME as it was the last bend in a series of three and the road markings would extend into bend two, the Road Safety Officer explained that there were strict criteria in the toolkit provided by Transport Scotland and the sites had been

- assessed accordingly. He undertook to check what road markings and warning signs were already in place at Site B following recent bend improvement works; and
- the high number of motorcycle-related fatalities reinforced the importance of the PRIME initiative. In response to a question, it was confirmed that PRIME had been trialled by Transport Scotland on the trunk road network, and Highland was among the first local authorities to implement it.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the background to the proposed PRIME sign and road markings introduction; and
- ii. **APPROVED** the installation of PRIME signage and road markings at six locations on the A939 Grantown to Nairn Road.

## **7. Housing Revenue Account – Garage Rents 2026/27 Cunntas Teachd-a-steach Taigheadais – Màil Gharaidsean 2026/27**

There had been circulated Report No NC/04/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the Chair proposed a 10% increase, which was unanimously supported. It was commented that the garages were effectively being used for storage yet even with a 10% increase the rent would be less than half the average weekly cost of hiring a storage container. It was further highlighted that the majority of those renting a garage were not Council tenants. On the point being raised, it was confirmed that garage rents in Nairn continued to be below the Highland average.

The Committee **AGREED** a 10% rent increase be applied to Nairnshire Garages.

## **8. Housing Repairs and Capital Report – 1 April 2025 – 31 December 2025 Aithisg Chàraidhean is Calpa Taigheadais – 1 Giblean 2025 – 31 Dùbhlachd 2025**

There had been circulated Report No NC/05/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- effective void management had a role in addressing the housing shortage and, as performance in Nairnshire was above the Highland average, information was sought, and provided, on the approaches being taken locally that other areas could benefit from;
- in relation to Appendix 1 of the report - 2025 Delivery Output, it was queried what was meant by “Date Kitchen Installation” and “Date Heating Installation”. The Principal Repairs Officer undertook to check and feed back to Members;
- mould was an ongoing issue, and tenants had approached Members as they were unhappy with the responses they had received from officers. Discussion ensued, during which it was explained it was a legal requirement that reports of mould be addressed within a set timescale. Cases were dealt with as fairly and consistently as possible within the resources available and prioritised according to extent and severity. In response to a question, it was explained that a new policy was currently being developed that would set out the Service’s approach to addressing mould.

The Chair requested that, when the policy was available, officers attend a Ward Business Meeting to update Members. Information was also sought, and provided, on the timescale between receiving an independent mould report and action being taken, and whether the findings of an independent report were advisory or mandatory;

- reference was made to an instance of a tenant being promised a new kitchen in 2023, but it had not yet been installed. Whilst the pressures on the team were acknowledged, concern was expressed that promises were being made that could not be kept. The Principal Repairs Officer explained that strict criteria were in place to determine whether or not a kitchen would be replaced, and he undertook to look into the specific case referred to; and
- questions were raised regarding how the funding for housing repairs was apportioned between wards, and whether the age of properties/estates was taken into account. The Principal Repairs Officers undertook to clarify the position with the Repairs Manager and report back to Members;
- solar panels would reduce tenants' energy bills and help meet energy efficiency targets, and it was queried how such measures were assessed; and
- concern was expressed regarding instances of void properties being signed off with faults outstanding, and the Chair requested that the details be forwarded to the Principal Repairs Officer to investigate.

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

## **9. Community Regeneration Fund Assessment of Applications Measadh Iartasan Maoin Ath-bheothachadh Coimhearsnachd**

There had been circulated Report No NC/06/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

It was highlighted that the regeneration of old buildings was a central element of the Local Place Plan, and support was expressed for the single application in respect of the renovation and redevelopment of Viewfield Stables, which was considered to be a worthwhile project.

The Committee **APPROVED** the following Community Regeneration Fund application:-

Ref: 4221

Applicant: The Highland Council

Project: Nairn Viewfield Stables Renovation and Redevelopment

Grant requested: £57,601.05

## **10. Nairn Common Good Fund – Invitation to Pay Parking Scheme Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Sgeama Parcaidh Cuireadh gus Pàigheadh**

There had been circulated Report No NC/07/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- Members questioned the total transactions figure in the report as it represented a significant increase on the previous year. In response, it was clarified it was a typographical error and the correct figure was 17,246, not 71,246 as stated;
- a number of questions were raised regarding the figures in the report, particularly the gross income and the card transaction and processing fees, the latter of which had increased significantly on the previous year despite there being approximately 2000 fewer transactions. The Chair suggested the information in the report was not sufficiently clear for the Committee to agree the recommendation, and he proposed that the matter be deferred to the next meeting so a more detailed breakdown could be provided;
- an update having been sought on the recent consultation on parking in Nairn, it was proposed that the outcome be reported to the Ward Business Meeting, followed by a full report to the Committee;
- it was requested that information on the number of £10 parking payments being made for campervans be included in future reports; and
- the need to publicise the Maggot car park was highlighted.

The Committee:-

- AGREED** to defer the Invitation to Pay Parking Scheme report for the provision of more detailed information on gross income and card transaction and processing fees; and
- AGREED** that the outcome of the consultation on parking in Nairn be reported to the Ward Business Meeting, followed by a full report to the Committee.

**11. Nairn Common Good Fund – 2024/25 Audited Accounts, 2025/26 Q3 Monitoring and General Update, Proposed Budget 2026/27**  
**Maoin Math Coitcheann Inbhir Narann – Cunntasan Sgrùdaichte 2024/25, Sgrùdadh agus Cunntas Coitcheann R3 2025/26, Buidseat ga Mholadh airson 2026/27**

There had been circulated Report No NC/08/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place and the Chief Officer – Corporate Finance.

During discussion, the following issues were raised:-

- Members were advised of an error within the report in that section 6 referred to the Quarter 3 Monitoring Statement for 2025/26, not 2024/25 as stated;
- on the point being raised, it was confirmed that, as set out in section 5.4.1 of the report, the revaluation loss in respect of the Sandown Lands was attributable to a revaluation by the Property and Estates team in light of the recent sale of adjoining private land. It was commented that the loss was unfortunate. However, it was welcomed that the Property and Estates team had taken a current view;
- in response to a question, it was confirmed that full audited accounts would be brought to the Committee later in the year;
- in relation to the Quarter 3 2025/26 Monitoring Statement, the projected surplus of £56,000 was welcomed. In response to a question, it was confirmed that the corporate review by the Chief Officer for Corporate Finance was ongoing and further details would be available later in the year;
- the Community Development Manager provided an update on the Nairn Highland Games, during which it was explained that, as set out in the report, the 2026 Games would be delivered by the Council, as a Common Good Fund event, with

the Nairn Games Committee continuing to operate the Games arena as an attraction within the event. The Chair added that it was important to recognise the contribution the Nairn Common Good Fund was making to the Games, and emphasised that the new arrangements were very much in collaboration with the Nairn Games Committee. He commended all those involved in the success of the 2025 Games, and it was hoped to build on that success in 2026; and

- in relation to the Nairn Common Good Fund Engagement Group, engagement had improved in that it was now more focused on future developments than historic issues. However, it was considered that a review was required at the end of the current period.

The Committee:-

- AGREED** the Nairn Common Good Fund Statement of Accounts for 2024/25 (Appendix 1a) and the final 2024/25 Monitoring Statement (Appendix 1b);
- NOTED** the position of the Nairn Common Good Fund and 2025/26 outturn as shown in the Q3 monitoring statement against the budget presented at Appendices 2a and 2b to the report;
- AGREED** the Nairn Common Good Fund budget for 2026/27 detailed at Appendix 3 to the report; and
- NOTED** the summary of discussion from the Nairn Common Good Fund Engagement Group (NCGFEG) held on 16 October 2025 and **AGREED** the revised NCGFEG Terms of Reference at Appendix 4 of the report.

## 12. Ward Discretionary Budget Buidseat Fo Ùghdarras Uàird

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

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>WDF Award</b>
Nairn Community & Arts Centre	Automatic Door	£4748.40

In response to a request, the Community Development Manager undertook to circulate details of the remaining balance to Members. The Chair highlighted that the deadline for applications in 2025/26 was 31 March 2026.

## 13. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 24 November 2025 which had been approved by the Council on 11 December 2025.

The meeting concluded at 11.30 am.