

The Highland Council

Minutes of Meeting of the **Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee** held in the Council Chamber, Council Offices, Dingwall on Monday 25 May 2026 at 10.30 am.

Present:

Mr S Kennedy
Mr G MacKenzie

Mrs M Paterson

In attendance:

Ms Lynn Bauermeister, Community Development Manager
Ms F Shand, Principal Housing Officer
Ms C Murray, Project Officer, Community Regeneration
Mrs G MacPherson, Senior Committee Officer

Also in attendance:

Mr P Young, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
Ms F Dalgetty, Chief Executive, Fèis Rois

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

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs A MacLean.

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

There were no Declarations of Interests/Transparency Statements.

3. Dingwall 800 Celebrations Update Subhachasan Inbhir Pheofharain 800 – Cunntas às Ùr

There had been a presentation by Fiona Dalgetty, Chief Executive, Fèis Rois.

The Committee welcomed the informative presentation, which provided an overview of the wide range of events and activities planned and delivered in Dingwall throughout 2026, along with an update on the funding secured to support them, as well as future projects and opportunities to strengthen community connections.

Members expressed enthusiasm for the upcoming programme and commended the evident hard work and partnership working involved.

During discussion, it was asked if there could be more hard copy advertising as not everyone could access information online and it was confirmed that, following an uplift in funding, there would be a maildrop via Royal Mail soon.

The Committee **NOTED** the update.

4. Scottish Fire and Rescue Service Seirbheis Smàlaidh is Teasairginn

There had been circulated Report No DSA/9/26 together with the Dingwall and Seaforth Performance Report by the Local Group Manager for the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- the availability of appliances continued to be excellent and the crews were commended for this. A new member of staff would be starting soon and there was still room for more;
- deliberate fires were frustrating, particularly as they could take a crew away from a job elsewhere. Incidents of this nature were passed to the Police;
- community safety engagement and early education continued to be important. Fire safety courses had received good feedback and were in demand, however, resources were limited; and
- the Home Fire Safety Visit system was working well and with the help of carers etc, those most needing a visit were being identified.

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

5. Housing Management Performance Report Aithisg Choileanaidh Stiùireadh Taigheadais

There had been circulated Report No DSA/10/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

During discussion, the following points were raised:-

- an explanation was sought, and provided, regarding what happens to those who are evicted, in terms of homelessness. The Service worked closely with tenants, although it was said that not everyone chose to work with the Service, and each instance was dealt with on a case-by-case basis;
- it was felt that the report did not reflect the full picture in terms of anti-social behaviour. It was still felt that some tenants were too scared to report their neighbours for fear of repercussion, however, without reports or evidence of any anti-social behaviour, it was difficult for the Service to take action; and
- it was discussed the requirement of more one-bedroom or single-person properties to help address the housing demand, particularly young people currently unable to afford private rents, however, the Council could only offer what housing it had available.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026.

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

There had been circulated Report No DSA/11/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Following a brief discussion on the specific projects, the Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the Community Regeneration Funds (CRF) currently available in Dingwall and Seaforth, including the previous ringfenced sum of £34,140.60;
- ii. considered and **AGREED** to approve the applications; and
- iii. **AGREED** that funding be awarded from the CRF as follows:
 - Peffery Way Association, Final Path Section - £35,800
 - Maryburgh Community Woodland, Accessibility and Sustainable Drainage Improvements - £5,043.

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

The Committee **NOTED** the following Dingwall and Seaforth Ward Discretionary Budget applications which had been approved between 17 January and 30 April 2026.

- i. Young Enterprise – Strengthening Career Opportunities for Young People in Highland and Moray (Multi-Ward) - £300
- ii. Dingwall Academy – Ocean Youth Trust Sailing Experience - £639
- iii. Dingwall Community Council – Upgrading PA system - £1,880
- iv. Dingwall Fire Brigade Community Group – Senior Citizens Lunch - £525
- v. Dingwall Fire Brigade Community Group – Purchase of Gazebos - £1,500
- vi. Dingwall Scottish Womens Institute – Dingwall 80th Anniversary Celebrations - £500
- vii. Maryburgh Amenities Company – Purchase of New Kitchen Equipment for Community Events - £400
- viii. Killearnan Community Council – Connecting Communities Newsletter (Multi-Ward) - £229
- ix. Ross County Football Club – Community Engagement and School Engagement pre and post Four Nations Transplant Football Tournament - £1,000

8. Minutes Geàrr-chunntas

The Committee **NOTED** the Minutes of Meeting of the Dingwall and Seaforth Area Committee held on 9 February 2026 which were approved by the Council on 26 March 2026.

The meeting ended at 11.40am.