

## **The Highland Council**

Minutes of Meeting of the **Nairnshire Committee** held in the Council Chamber, The Court House, High Street, Nairn on Monday 24 August 2026 at 10.00 am.

### **Present:**

Mr L Fraser  
Mr M Green

Mr P Oldham

### **In attendance:**

Mr L Hannah, Community Development Manager  
Mr S Grant, Roads Operation Manager  
Mr R Bartlett, Principal Officer  
Mr L Marachi, Housing Investment Officer  
Ms J MacLennan, Democratic Services Manager  
Ms K Arnott, Committee Officer

### **Also in attendance:**

Ms L Stubbs, Station Commander, Scottish Fire and Rescue Service  
Ms K Stevenson, Group Commander, Highland Centre, 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 M Green in the Chair**

### **Business**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence Leisgeulan**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Mrs B Jarvie.

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

There were no Declaration of Interest or Transparency Statements.

#### **3. Recess Powers**

The Committee **NOTED** that the Recess Powers granted by the Council at its meeting on the 25 June 2026 had not been exercised in relation to the business of the Nairnshire Committee.

#### **4. Good News Naidheachdan Matha**

Nairn Highland Games took place on Saturday 15 August 2026 and proved a huge success. Attendance figures would be made available in October, but it was expected to surpass the 16,000 attendees in 2025. Members acknowledged the Games Committee and Highland Council working in collaboration.

A special tribute was given to the charities and volunteers who gave up their day to make the Games a success. Car parking was managed at Viewfield by the Games Committee volunteer stewards and welfare provision was positive, there being only one lost child during the games who was identified and swiftly reunited with their family by Mikeysline and the Stewards.

Green Hive dealt with the waste and recycling and were praised for their outstanding effort. They ran a children's competition during the games to encourage children to pick up discarded plastic bottles during the day, with 12 sets of children taking part. Also, the 12 volunteers who worked alongside the Highland Council waste team clearing the field on Sunday were commended. Green Hive's waste statistics showed they collected 951.5 kgs of waste on the day.

Whilst the success of the Games was acknowledged, disappointment was expressed about social media claims suggesting the games would incur charges and risk financial loss. The Games had broken even, as indicated by the press, and there would be no need for future charges.

## **5. Fire Performance Report - Annual Report** **Aithisg Coileanaidh Smàlaidh – Aithisg Bhliadhnail**

There had been circulated Report No NC/14/26 by the Local Senior Officer for Highland.

Members commended the local Fire and Rescue service for their response to the recent wildfires, including the involvement of the Nairn crew in tackling the Dava Moor fires. Recognition was also given to the strong support shown by local communities throughout the incident.

Questions were raised as to whether the fire service should be given more powers around the sale of portable BBQs to try and curtail fires with education provided early in the year on the risks of such items.

Members welcomed the comprehensive report provided by the Fire Service and acknowledged its proactive approach to fire prevention, together with its commitment to tackling the underlying causes of fire incidents.

The Committee **NOTED** the attached Area Performance Report.

## **6. 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/15/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive-Place.

Members commented that almost £10,000 had been generated through motorhome parking. However, it was recognised that the current legislation was insufficient to address issues such as inappropriate or obstructive parking. Members further acknowledged a slight decrease in general income, alongside an increase in camper van income, which could be affected by any future changes to the £10 scheme.

It was recognised that another Area Committee was considering the impact of removing the scheme, as motorhome sites often benefitted from the £10 contributions. Members considered the loss of this income could have significant financial implications, particularly for areas that were heavily reliant on the revenue generated. Members were informed that a Motion relating to the £10 scheme would be submitted to the Full Council in September, which would be monitored closely.

The Committee:-

- i. **AGREED** that £5,874.60 costs incurred by the Council's Parking Enforcement Team for financial year 2024/25 to operate the Invitation to Pay Parking Scheme at the Nairn Common Good sites was charged against the Nairn Common Good Fund; and
- ii. **AGREED** that £5,659.50 costs incurred by the Council's Parking Enforcement Team for financial year 2025/26 to operate the Invitation to Pay Parking Scheme at the Nairn Common Good sites was charged against the Nairn Common Good Fund.

## **7. Winter Service Plan 2026/27 Plana Seirbheis a' Gheamhraidh 2025/26**

There had been circulated Report No NC/17/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Members welcomed the new arrangements highlighting that the appropriate number of vehicles were now available to support service delivery. Discussion took place regarding the Community Self-Help Scheme, which provided communities with snow shovels, gloves and personal protective equipment (PPE) to assist with clearing cul-de-sacs and other local areas during periods of snowfall. The scheme was commended and it was suggested that examples of good practice within local communities could encourage wider participation across the area.

Members emphasised the importance of public awareness and readiness during severe winter weather, including ensuring access to appropriate equipment, monitoring weather forecasts and, where possible, considering the use of public transport rather than private vehicles. Members were made aware that public transport routes would continue to be prioritised during winter maintenance operations.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Winter Service Plan for 2026/27.

## **8. Nairn Common Good Fund Update – Quarter 4 2025/26 and Quarter 1 2026/27 Financial Monitoring Ùrachadh air Maoin Mhath Choitcheann Inbhir Narann – Sgrùdadh Ionmhais Ràithe 4 2024/25 agus Ràithe 1 2025/26**

There had been circulated Report No NC/18/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Members again discussed the success of the Nairn Games acknowledging the large crowds and the capacity for growth. The professional manner and security in which the Games were run was highlighted, with gratitude expressed to the team for all the

efforts in making it a success. The importance of fundraising efforts was discussed as well as the collaboration with all parties involved.

An update on the Links Toilet Project was provided, recognising the extensive work done by various team members and project architects. It was acknowledged that the project had made significant milestones but the need for external fundraising efforts to secure a sufficient budget was required. A request for £200k as an initial capital build contribution from the Common Good Fund to strengthen applications for external funding was sought.

Questions were raised regarding the responsibility of the Project Board in identifying external sources of funding and concerns regarding the costs of option 3 were expressed. It was briefly suggested the project be paused to consider the potential impact on the Common Good Fund as well as considering the costs of running the toilets once it was built. Further clarification was provided. Questions were raised around the use of the £200k funding and clarification was provided. The importance of effective consultation was highlighted, however, despite the work completed by the Project Board, Members considered the potential to revisit option 2 if funding was not secured. Reassurance was given that the Project Board included representatives from the Council and included significant community involvement. However, concern was expressed about the substantial sum from the Common Good Fund and the potential overdevelopment of the project. It was explained that the use of the old toilet block as a commercial letting opportunity to fund the revenue running costs of the new toilet block was being progressed. Assurances were requested, and provided, that the £200k was the maximum contribution by the Common Good Fund. There was a range of funding options available, including Highland Council's Regeneration funding and the Scottish Government's Changing Places Toilet Scotland Fund. It was agreed to amend the allocation of funds from the Common Good Fund to reflect up to £200k.

The Committee:-

- i. **NOTED** the near final outturn of the Nairn Common Good Fund (NCGF) for 2025/26;
- ii. **NOTED** the position of the (NCGF) as shown in the Quarter 1 Revenue Monitoring Statement against the Budget for 2026/27;
- iii. **NOTED** the progress of the Links Toilet Project Board; and
- iv. **AGREED** to allocate **up to £200k** from NCGF Cash reserves towards the capital funding required to deliver the Links Toilets Project.

## **9. Housing Repairs and Capital Report – 1 April 2026 to 30 June 2026** **Aithisg Chàraidhean Taigheadais agus Calpa – 1 Giblean 2026 gu 30 Ògmhios 2026**

There had been circulated Report No NC/19/26 by the Assistant Chief Executive – Place.

Members commended the Housing Service on the effective management of voids and emergency repairs, acknowledging that their performance was above the Highland average. However, it was requested that future reports include comparisons with previous years to provide a clearer trend of performance.

Assurances were sought regarding the resetting of gas and electric meters in void properties. Members acknowledged the challenges associated with meter suppliers and existing debt issues, but assurance was provided that the situation had improved. Issues relating to meters could cause delays, particularly where replacement meters were required, but Members were assured that the team had consistently addressed such issues within the required timescales. Member were offered further information on the specific challenges associated with gas and electricity meters.

The Committee **NOTED** the information provided on housing performance in the period 1 April 2026 – 30 June 2026.

#### **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:-

| <b>Applicant</b>                          | <b>Project</b>                            | <b>WDF Award</b> |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------|
| THC Property                              | Nairn War Memorial Maintenance            | £4,250.00        |
| Rosebank Primary                          | Playground Improvements Art Boards        | £900.00          |
| Inverness Rowing Club and Scottish Rowing | Home Internal Beach Springs Championships | £1,000.00        |

#### **11. Minutes** **Geàrr-chunntas**

**NOTED** the Minutes of the Meeting of the Nairnshire Committee held on 25 May 2026 which were approved by the Council on 25 June 2026.

The meeting concluded at 11.00am.