

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2010 AT 1000 HRS
IN STEWARTON AREA CENTRE, AVENUE STREET, STEWARTON**

PRESENT: Provost Stephanie Young and Councillors Rose-Ann Cuninghame, John MacKay, John McGhee, Helen Coffey, Maureen McKay, Tom Cook, Robert Keohone, Iain Linton, Douglas Reid, Jim Buchanan, Depute Provost John Campbell, Councillors Gordon Cree, Drew McIntyre, John Knapp, Hugh Ross, Jim Todd, Alan Brown, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Jimmy Kelly, Neil McGhee, Jim Roberts, David Shaw, Barney Menzies, Kathy Morrice, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Drew Filson and Moira Pirie.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance and Asset Management; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Eddie Fraser, Head of Service: Community Care; and Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Willie Coffey and William Crawford.

CHAIR: Provost Stephanie Young, Chair.

**PRESENTATION BY GERALDINE WATT,
AYRSHIRE AREA PROCURATOR FISCAL**

1. The Provost welcomed to the Council meeting Geraldine Watt, Area Procurator Fiscal for Ayrshire.

Ms Watt then gave a presentation to Council and outlined the work of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service in Ayrshire and explained the aims and priorities for the Service for 2009/12. A copy of the Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service Strategic Plan 2009/12 was circulated to all Members.

Members thereafter had the opportunity to put questions to Ms Watt.

During discussion, Ms Watt confirmed that she would explore the suggestion of a feedback mechanism to Community Councils via Community Policing Teams in terms of outcomes of relevant cases reported to the Procurator Fiscal Service.

It was also agreed that an invitation be extended to the Procurator Fiscal Service to be represented at the forthcoming September Local Community Planning Forum where the topic for discussion would be Community Safety.

The Provost then thanked Ms Watt for her presentation to Council.

ADDITIONAL ITEM

2. The Provost intimated that a formal question had been received by the Chief Executive within the specified timescales as provided within the Standing Orders and that this formal question would be dealt with as the last item of Council business.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

3. The Provost referred to her charity appeal for the year which was going well with the totaliser now sitting at approximately £17,500 which was well over half the target sum of £25,000. Tickets for the Provost's Ball to be held on 4 June at the Park Hotel were selling well with 17 of the 25 tables on offer already sold or reserved.

The Provost advised that in May, 30 East Ayrshire employees would be sponsored to take part in a "Boot Camp" day which had been organised in conjunction with the Territorial Army where "recruits" would be put through their paces doing drill and orienteering exercises and she urged Councillors to also take part or sponsor one of the employees.

The Provost then advised of her attendance at the launch of "Enemy Within" at St James Palace, the object of this launch was to raise £30m for outreach centres for Combat Stress across the UK. The Provost advised that East Ayrshire were already responding by facilitating this provision at Stewarton and North West Centres.

The Provost then stated how proud she had been to present Robyn McCluskey from Patna Primary School and her parents to HRH The Prince Charles. Robyn's poem "Poppies" had won the Remembrance Day Poetry Competition in November. The Provost had been overwhelmed by the number of people who had informed Robyn that they had read and loved her poem. The Provost advised that the poem had been submitted to the British Legion with a suggestion that it be included in the Remembrance Concert at the Royal Albert Hall.

The Provost also advised of her visit to the Gardening Leave Scheme at Auchincruive where Anna Baker-Creswell had been running this Scheme on a voluntary basis for three years. The Provost advised that Veterans were given access to horticultural therapy, a walled garden, and had permits for fishing in the River Ayr. The Provost further advised that the Scheme had the only dedicated Poppy Garden in Scotland and she intended to visit the garden accompanied by Robyn McCluskey.

The Provost then expressed her delight at attending the opening of the Rosebank Day Centre on Wednesday 27 January. The Provost stated that this was an excellent facility for senior residents to enjoy and that it had been her pleasure to be there when the Centre was officially opened by Nicola Sturgeon, Cabinet Secretary for Health and Wellbeing and Deputy First Minister.

The Provost then asked Members to join her in congratulating Cumnock Academy Brass Band who had won first prize in the Senior Section at the Scottish Youth Brass Band Championships held in December in Perth. The Provost stated that this was a fantastic achievement for our young people and the win was even more special as they had beaten more experienced bands populated with older members, that were representing authorities as opposed to schools.

The Provost then referred to another success story for Cumnock Academy, whose pupil Rachel Coburn had been successful in gaining a place at the famed Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama in Glasgow. The Provost advised that Rachel played the double bass and wished her every success in pursuing her career through this, most coveted honour.

The Provost then referred to her first visit to St James Palace where she had been representing the Leader of the Council and accompanied by the Chief Executive, at

The Prince's Trust: Delivering Change Seminar which brought local authorities across the UK together to discuss what could be achieved in helping those who had left school and had no qualifications or support to go into the workplace. The Provost referred to Lucy Clark (daughter of Arnold Clark) who had been there with Ryan, a young person who had gone through Arnold Clark's Apprenticeship Scheme. The Provost advised that Ryan, who, for two years, had been out of work and had had no inclination to work but had been persuaded to go through the Princes' Trust Scheme and was now in full employment with Arnold Clark, owned his own car and was looking forward to buying his first house.

The Provost then expressed her delight to join Geraldine Watt PF, the Chief Executive, Councillor Kathy Morrice and Cathy Jamieson MSP and others at a question and answer evening at St Joseph's Academy on 1 March for the International Women's Week Launch. The Provost commented that some of the questions had been rather difficult but that they had managed to answer all of them to the best of their ability and that very positive feedback on the event had been received from those that had attended.

The Provost then described her welcome of youngsters aged between 14 and 16 who had come to Kilmarnock Football Club Ground Rugby Park for the Princes' Trust Excel Celebration Day. This programme supported under-achievers to reach their full potential before they left the educational system. The Provost intimated that East Ayrshire had been represented by Kilmarnock Academy and she hoped that this programme would be rolled out to all other Secondary schools this year or in the near future,

The Provost then informed of the launch of the Environmental Education Resource Pack at the Visitors Centre, Dean Castle on 2 March which had been one of the best that she had ever been to. The Provost, and on behalf of various other Councillors who had also attended, stated how impressed she had been with the presentations given jointly by the pupils and Rangers (especially the Mini Me's). The Provost advised that this project had really helped young people understand and respect the countryside and congratulated the Rangers for organising this event.

The Provost was then thrilled to advise Council that Greig Bryce, Senior Residential Worker at Sunnyside Children's House had been awarded the title of "Residential Childcare Worker of the Year" at the British Association of Social Work Awards Ceremony. The Provost stated that this highlighted the fact that the Council was fulfilling its corporate parenting responsibilities and urged any Member who had not yet visited Sunnyside Children's House to do so.

The Provost then referred to the Yipworld presentation "10 out of 10" which had been held on Tuesday 23 March celebrating the programme's 10 years. The Provost commented on how impressive it had been to see how much had been done in the community to assist both young and older people trying to get back into employment.

Finally, the Provost referred to the 5-a-side football facility at Muirkirk which had re-opened and congratulated the local community for the amount of work done to achieve this success.

Councillor Eric Ross also took the opportunity to congratulate Kilmarnock Concert Brass on winning the Third Division Regional Open British Brass Playing Championship. He also congratulated Irvine & Dreghorn Band who came a close second, who had members from the East Ayrshire area in the band.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

4. There were submitted and approved as a correct record Minutes of Council held on 3 December 2009 (pages 950-961) and Minutes of Council held on 11 February 2010 (pages 1017 to 1021).

4.1 MATTERS ARISING

4.1.1 Review Of Decision Making Structure - Portfolio Alignment (item 7, Page 953, 07/12)

It was agreed to appoint the following Portfolio Holders, viz:-

- (i) Strategic Planning, Management and Resources and Equalities - Leader Councillor Douglas Reid and Depute Leader Councillor Iain Linton
- (ii) Promoting Lifelong Learning - Councillors Hugh Ross and Jim Roberts
- (iii) Delivering Community Regeneration - Councillors Jim Buchanan and Robert McDill
- (iv) Improving Community Health and Wellbeing - Councillors John MacKay and Kathy Morrice
- (v) Improving Community Safety - Councillor Jim Todd

CABINET/COMMITTEE MINUTES

5. There were submitted (circulated) and approved, with the exception of those Minutes as recorded hereafter, both as correct records and in respect of any recommendations contained therein, with the exception of the Minutes of the Governance and Scrutiny Committee which were for noting only, Minutes of the undernoted meetings, viz:-

5.1 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 27 NOVEMBER 2009 (pages 942-943)

5.2 CABINET OF 2 DECEMBER 2009 (pages 944-949)

5.3 NORTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 4 DECEMBER 2009 (pages 962-966)

5.4 APPEALS PANEL OF 11 DECEMBER 2009 (page 967)

5.5 CABINET OF 16 DECEMBER 2009 (pages 968-975)

5.6 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 17 DECEMBER 2009 (pages 976-980)

5.7 SPECIAL SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 17 DECEMBER 2009 (pages 981-982)

5.8 GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 18 DECEMBER 2009 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) (pages 983-991)

Councillor McIntyre joined the meeting at this point.

5.9 CABINET OF 13 JANUARY 2010 (pages 992-996)

5.10 GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 15 JANUARY 2010 (pages 997-999)

5.11 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 22 JANUARY 2010 (pages 1000-1001)

5.12 CABINET OF 27 JANUARY 2010 (pages 1002-1004)

5.13 NORTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 29 JANUARY 2010 (pages 1005-1012)

5.14 APPEALS PANEL OF 4 FEBRUARY 2010 (page 1013)

MATTER ARISING - CHALLENGE BY TRADE UNIONS ON MEMBERSHIP OF PANEL

Having noted that processes and procedures were already in place for Elected Members to raise any conflicts of interests they may have when approached to sit on an Appeals Panel, further agreed that officers build into the existing process that Trade Unions should notify officers in advance of any Appeals Panel where they would want to challenge the Elected Member composition of the Panel. Officers should also ensure Trade Unions are kept updated of any changes to the Panel Membership in advance of the Panel meeting.

5.15 CABINET OF 10 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1014-1016)

5.16 GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 19 FEBRUARY 2010 (FOR INFORMATION ONLY) (pages 1022-1025)

5.17 CENTRAL NORTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 23 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1026-1027)

5.18 CENTRAL SOUTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 23 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1028-1029)

5.19 CABINET OF 24 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1030-1040)

MATTER ARISING

- (i) **AMENDMENT TO THE MINUTE (Item 22, Page 1039, 07/12)** - It was agreed that in the interests of completeness the Minute be amended at paragraph 22(i) to read "to approve the allocation of £500,000 from the uncommitted Capital budget allocations to meet the additional costs which related to the fit-out works at the Strand Street office".

5.20 NORTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 24 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1041-1042)

5.21 SPECIAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 25 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1043-1046)

5.22 SOUTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 25 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1047-1048)

5.23 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 26 FEBRUARY 2010 (pages 1049-1051)

5.24 APPEALS PANEL OF 4 MARCH 2010 (page 1052)

5.25 NORTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 5 MARCH 2010 (pages 1053-1058)

5.26 CABINET OF 10 MARCH 2010 (pages 1059-1064)

5.27 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 11 MARCH 2010 (pages 1065-1067)

COMPOSITION OF KILMARNOCK PRISON VISITING COMMITTEE

6. There was submitted a report dated 11 March 2010 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which appraised Council of a vacancy which had arisen in the composition of the Kilmarnock Prison Visiting Committee and which sought the appointment of a suitable person to fill the vacancy in terms of the Council's statutory obligations by virtue of the relevant provisions of the Prison and Young Offenders (Scotland) Rules 2006.

It was agreed to appoint Mr James Mills to the Kilmarnock Prison Visiting Committee.

FORMAL QUESTION - QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR MAUREEN MCKAY TO LEADER OF COUNCIL

7. Councillor Maureen McKay put the following question to Councillor Reid:- "Can the Leader update on progress of staff welfare facilities across all the agreed and previously identified sites?"

Councillor Reid advised that of the sites where upgrades were required, Western Road, Gauchalland, Underwood and Cathcartson in Dalmellington were all completed. In respect of Thistle, the date of delivery of showers was week commencing 5 April and he would advise Members when the installation was complete although this was anticipated to be by 16 April. In respect of the Lugar and Burnside Street sites, lockers were on site and awaiting delivery in five-six weeks of the welfare units before installation of these and the shower units and, again, he would advise Members when the installation was complete, although the estimated completion date was 14 May.

RETIREMENT OF WILLIAM STAFFORD, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

8. The Provost then took the opportunity to say a huge thank you to William Stafford, who would be officially retiring at the end of the month, for all the hard work and dedication he had shown to East Ayrshire Council and to its predecessors during his 38 years in local government.

The Provost asked everyone present to join her in wishing him all the best for a long and happy retirement and, as it was his birthday, the Council meeting marked the occasion appropriately.

Councillors Eric Ross, Douglas Reid and Tom Cook also took the opportunity to thank Bill for all his hard work and dedication over the years.

Bill then responded in suitable terms to the Council meeting.

The meeting terminated at 1210 hrs.