

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 10 JULY 2009 AT 1005 HOURS IN THE BARRHILL CENTRE, BANK AVENUE, CUMNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Neil McGhee, David Shaw, William Crawford, Kathy Morrice and Elaine Dinwoodie.

ATTENDING: Margo Houston, Technical Support Manager; Hugh Melvin, Principal Planning Officer; Julie McKinlay, Solicitor; and Lynn Young, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew Filson, Jim Roberts, Barney Menzies, Eric Ross and Jim Sutherland.

CHAIR: Councillor Kathy Morrice.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

1. The Administrative Officer invited nominations for Chair and Councillor Kathy Morrice was unanimously appointed and took the Chair.

HEARING PROCEDURE

2. The Administrative Officer established that the Hearing Procedure was understood by all participants (circulated).

CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATION

3. **APPLICATION NO 09/0286/FL: SCOTTISH COAL COMPANY LIMITED: HOUSE OF WATER OPENCAST COAL SITE, NEW CUMNOCK**

- 3.1 **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Crawford declared a significant non-financial interest in accordance with Paragraphs 5.17 and 5.18 of the Code of Conduct and withdrew from the meeting.

- 3.2 **Consideration of Item**

There was submitted an executive summary sheet and report dated 22 June 2009 (both circulated) by the Head of Planning and Economic Development on a full planning application for an extension of the existing House of Water site for the winning and working of coal by opencast method at the House of Water Opencast Coal Site, New Cumnock.

The Principal Planning Officer reported that one letter of objection had been received, details of which were contained within the report; summarised the planning considerations in respect of the application; and gave the recommendation of the Head of Planning and Economic Development: Approval, subject to the conditions detailed in the report and that issue of the Decision Notice be withheld until the Solicitor to the Council had satisfactorily concluded a formal agreement under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 with the applicant in respect of matters detailed in Paragraph 8.5 of the report.

3.3 Planning Hearing

The Committee heard Mr David Paton in respect of his objections.

Members asked questions of the objector who responded to the issues raised, all in accordance with the Hearing Procedure.

The Committee then heard Mr Matt Ferguson and Mr Phil Rayson, applicants, in support of the application. Members asked question of the applicants, all in accordance with the Hearing Procedure.

The Chair closed the Hearing.

3.4 Determination of Application

It was agreed to approve the application subject to the conditions, and for the reasons detailed in the report and that the Decision Notice be withheld until the Solicitor to the Council had satisfactorily concluded a formal agreement under Section 75 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997 with the applicant in respect of matters detailed in Paragraph 8.5 of the report.

Councillor Crawford rejoined the meeting and Councillor Dinwoodie left the meeting at this point.

PRESENTATION

4. E-PLANNING

The Committee received a presentation from the Technical Support Manager on the Scottish Government's recommended introduction of e-planning as it affected East Ayrshire Council.

The Technical Support Manager advised that Members would be issued information on the e-planning process in the form of a guidance document and a DVD to highlight the advice given during the presentation.

The meeting terminated at 1055 hours.