EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 18 AUGUST 2016 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK


ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Chris McAleavey, Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities; Eddie Fraser, Director of Health and Social Care Partnership; David Mitchell, Chief Governance Officer; Susan Taylor, Head of Children's Health, Care and Justice Service; Craig McArthur, Head of Finance and ICT; Katie Kelly, Head of Housing and Communities; Stewart Turner, Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance; and Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.

ALSO ATTENDING: John Griffiths, Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Leisure Trust.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Barney Menzies, Kathy Morrice and Eric Ross.

CHAIR: Provost Jim Todd, Chair.

PROVOST'S OPENING REMARKS

1. The Provost welcomed to the meeting Joanna Rae who was on a work experience placement within Legal Services before starting a Law Degree at Strathclyde University.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

2. The Provost began his remarks by expressing his delight to have welcomed the 37th Ayrshire (Henderson) Scout Group, Kilmarnock, who had been hosting a visit from Austrian Scouts from Oberndorf bei Salzburg to East Ayrshire Council Headquarters on 14 July. The Provost advised that in 2015, two Scout leaders from the 37th Ayrshire had gone on an expedition to Austria and that Glen Higgins and Connor Docherty had had to go into remote areas of Salzburgerl to find out about the people, the area and the local customs and that this had been for one of the most coveted awards in Scouting - The Explorer Belt. The Provost further advised that both men had been able to do all of that, but had come back with a bonus as whilst in Austria they had teamed up with local Scout groups there. The Provost stated that Glen and Connor had invited the Oberndorf Scouts to Kilmarnock to reciprocate with a bit of Scottish hospitality which had been much enjoyed by the Austrian Scouts, and this had included visiting the Dean Castle, McCallum Bagpipes and experiencing a ceilidh.

The Provost then advised that it had been a fantastic day on Saturday 23 July at the Ayrshire Athletics Arena in aid of SAFFA, the Armed Forces charity which works closely with veterans to identify what support they need. The Provost further advised that they had been joined by many of the other organisations they work with, including Combat Stress, Help for Heroes, Police Scotland, Scottish Fire & Rescue Service, Scottish Ambulance Service, the RNLI, West Coast Disability Wellbeing Centre and
the Coastguard. The Provost stated that the highlight of the day had been a motorbike rideout round the town and two spectacular arena displays featuring the Army White Helmets and the Royal British Legion Scotland Riders Branch and that it had been a great day for a great cause.

The Provost then advised that KULOC Chinese Community Association Kilmarnock 20th Anniversary celebrations had taken place on 31 July in Kilmarnock Town Centre. The Provost further advised that the celebrations had included lion dancing, martial arts displays and information on all aspects of Chinese culture, including how to get involved with the activities on show.

The Provost then went on to say that he had been invited to give a talk on our National Bard and his connections with Kilmarnock on the occasion of the 230th Anniversary of the printing of the Kilmarnock Edition, at a Burns Supper on 22 July by Lodge St Clement No 202 in London Road, Kilmarnock. The Provost had also gone along to The Howff Burns Club 2016 annual wreath laying service which had taken place this year on Sunday 31 July in commemoration of the First Edition of Burns Poems printed in Kilmarnock.

The Provost then expressed his delight to have officially opened the 100th anniversary celebrations of Urquhart Opticians on 6 August at their premises on 14 Portland Road, Kilmarnock which had recently been renovated as part of the 100 year celebrations. The Provost stated that Urquhart Opticians had been established in 1916 and was a team of Optometrists who looked after patients across four practices in Kilmarnock, Prestwick, Troon and Glasgow and that the business had a long established history in Kilmarnock, having originally started in Dreghorn in 1916 by Robert Urquhart. The Provost further advised that the open day had included a talk by local historian Frank Beattie, looking back at the past 100 years, a behind the scenes tour of the refitted practice, competitions and several children's activities.

The Provost then expressed his pleasure in having officially opened Ochiltree Community Hub office and coffee shop on 9 August at 108 Main Street, Ochiltree. The Provost stated that the facility was a very welcome addition for the whole community and that the Ochiltree Community Hub would be the "anchor" organisation within the community in supporting Active Healthy Lifestyles. The Provost advised that this support would create opportunities in play, recreation and sport and that it was an excellent example of community partnership working.

The Provost further advised that he had been invited to unveil 'Shanks Pony' sculpture project, an artwork by Gordon Rogers, commissioned by Sustrans Scotland for the National Cycle Network route in Kilmarnock on 17 August. The Provost stated that the artist, Gordon Rogers, had engaged with various local groups in Kilmarnock to help develop and tie together his idea of using the old phrase "to take Shanks' Pony" with the local shoe making industry, Saxone Shoes. The Provost further stated that East Ayrshire also had tremendous artwork to be enjoyed along the Kilmarnock Town Trail, at the Dick Institute and Dean Castle to mention but a few and that this was a positive way to encourage active travel.

The Provost then stated that it had been an honour to have opened the internationally renowned Ten Strings Duo Concert on 17 August and to have welcomed Sicilian performer Davide Sciacca, who was a classical guitarist, and Marianatalia Ruscica, classical violinist, to the Dean Castle in the Banqueting hall and that the performances, surroundings and ambience had been outstanding.
Finally, the Provost advised that Liam Donnelly, who attends Mau Thai Wossabana, and is accomplished in Thai Boxing, having earned both the Scottish and British belts, had been invited to Carrara in Italy along with Mark Alderson and Logan McInnes to take part in the Unified World Championships from 25 - 30 October 2016. The Provost remarked that this was an incredible opportunity which they were currently working to raise funds towards and the Provost congratulated them.

Councillor McKay joined the meeting at this point.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3. Councillors Douglas Reid, Iain Linton, Eòghann MacColl, Hugh Ross and Neil McGhee each declared a non-financial interest in Agenda item 5 in accordance with the Councillor's Code of Conduct and as the nature of interest was not deemed significant having considered the terms of the objective test as outlined in paragraph 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, each Member accordingly did not withdraw from the meeting.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

4. There were submitted, and approved as correct records, Minutes of Council meeting of 30 June 2016 (pages 1765-1772) (circulated).

4.1 Matter Arising - Northwest Area Centre

The Chief Executive undertook to arrange to meet with Councillors Maureen McKay, Elaine Cowan and Helen Coffey to further discuss the community use of the Northwest Kilmarnock Area Centre.

SIX MONTHLY UPDATE ON CABINET ACTIVITY

5. There was submitted a report dated 26 July 2016 (circulated) by Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader of the Council.

Councillor Douglas Reid, Leader, spoke to the report and there was an opportunity for Members to raise issues and ask questions.

It was agreed to note the report.

Councillor Cree joined the meeting and Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during discussion of this item.

CABINET/COMMITTEE MINUTES

6. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as correct records and approval of any recommendations contained therein the Minutes of the undernoted Meetings, viz:-

6.1 CABINET OF 22 JUNE 2016 (pages 1750-1758)
6.2 PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 24 JUNE 2016 (pages 1759-1762)
6.3 APPEALS PANEL OF 28 JUNE 2016 (pages 1763-1764)
6.4 SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 1 JULY 2016 (pages 1773-1776)

Councillor McIntyre rejoined the meeting at this point.
6.5 LOCAL REVIEW BODY OF 6 JULY 2016 (pages 1777-1780)

6.6 LOCAL REVIEW BODY OF 26 JULY 2016 (pages 1781-1783)

EAST AYRSHIRE LEISURE TRUST ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015/16

7. There was submitted a report dated 9 August 2016 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities which advised Council of the performance of East Ayrshire Leisure across a range of indicators for the period April 2015 to March 2016.

During discussion, Members were provided clarification and explanation on:-

- Library provision, including mobile library provision in the area and promotion of the new Homework Mobile Library Service for the housebound;
- The high level of usage at Crosshouse football pitch which could be used as a good example of a successful Community Asset Transfer;
- Marketing/promotion of Crosshouse Community Centre;
- The environmental impact assessment of the Fireworks display at the Kay Park, Kilmarnock;
- The works at Annanhill Golf Club which would now go ahead in Winter 2017;
- New charging arrangements and the box office booking system, which would further reduce bad debt write-off value.

It was thereafter noted:

(i) that the Chief Executive of the Trust would provide information to Councillor Pirie on the costings for the alteration to Drongan Community Centre and library building;
(ii) that the Chief Executive of the Trust would provide Councillor Buchanan with information on the changes to the working relationship the Trust now had with promoters;
(iii) that the Chief Executive of the Trust would look at the possibility of providing trend information, top three absences, and separating out the reporting on work and personal stress in future absence reporting;
(iv) that the Chief Executive of the Trust would provide Councillor McKay with examples of reasons for poor recovery prospects in respect of bad debt; and
(v) that the Chief Executive of the Council would discuss with the Chief Executive of South Ayrshire Council the condition of the River Ayr Way route in the South Ayrshire area and report back to Members on this.

It was thereafter agreed to note and endorse the contents of the report.

NEW CUMNOCK FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME 2016

8. There was submitted a report dated 5 August 2016 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities which requested that the Council makes preliminary and final decisions to confirm the proposed New Cumnock Flood Protection Scheme 2016 in terms of the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

It was agreed:

(i) to make preliminary and final decisions to confirm the proposed New Cumnock Flood Protection Scheme 2016 subject to there being no further objections to
the modified scheme within a period of 28 days after formal intimation of same had taken place as required by the relevant statutory provisions;

(ii) to confirm that it had taken into account the environmental information as detailed in the report; and

(iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

AYRSHIRE ROAD ALLIANCE - ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2015/16

9. There was submitted a report dated 28 July 2016 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities which presented the Ayrshire Roads Alliance Annual Performance Review for 2015/16.

During discussion, Members were provided clarification and explanation on:-

- The improvement of the roads asset, with financial investment;
- Plans to upgrade certain cycle routes in the area;
- Reasons for the classification of "strategy" or "local" delivery in the budget;
- Arrangements for the next meeting of the A76 Liaison Group, and noted that a pre-meeting would be held.

It was thereafter noted:

(i) that a report would be submitted to a future Cabinet meeting on proposals for upgrading certain cycle routes;

(ii) that the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance would promote the facility which existed on the ARA website to upload photos when reporting potholes;

(iii) that the Head of Roads, Ayrshire Roads Alliance would consider safety issues associated with delineating potholes due for repair on rural roads.

It was thereafter agreed:

(i) to note that progress updates were provided to every Ayrshire Shared Services Joint Committee meeting; and

(ii) to note and endorse the contents of the report.

BURNS LINE COMMUNITY RAIL STAKEHOLDER GROUP

10. There was submitted a report dated 3 August 2016 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities which advised Council on proposals by the "Burns Line Community Rail Stakeholder Group" to form a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) for East Ayrshire and which sought Council endorsement for the proposal.

It was agreed:

(i) to note the proposal by the "Burns Line Community Rail Stakeholder Group" to form a Community Rail Partnership (CRP) for East Ayrshire;

(ii) that Council provide formal endorsement to the Group’s application for formal CRP designation; and

(iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Neil McGhee left the meeting during consideration of the above item.
COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO EAST AYRSHIRE YOUTH WORK NETWORK

11. There was submitted a report dated 3 August 2016 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities which invited Council to consider the appointment of three Elected Members to the newly formed East Ayrshire Youth Work Network.

It was agreed:
(i) to approve the appointment of three Elected Members to the East Ayrshire Youth Work Network, namely Councillors Linton, Primrose and Pirie; and
(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO THE KILMARNOCK TOWN CENTRE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

12. There was submitted a report dated 10 August 2016 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive: Safer Communities which invited Council to consider the appointment of Elected members to the Kilmarnock Town Centre Partnership Board.

It was agreed:
(i) to approve the appointment of four Elected Members to the Kilmarnock Town Centre Partnership Board, namely Councillors Reid, Cook, Buchanan and McKay; and
(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Pirie left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT TO SHADOW BOARD OF COMMUNITY JUSTICE AYRSHIRE

13. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 2016 (circulated) by the Chief Governance Officer which invited Council to approve the appointment of one Elected Member together with one substitute to the Shadow Board for the new Community Justice Ayrshire body.

It was agreed:
(i) to the appointment of Councillor MacColl with Councillor Cook as substitute, to represent the Council on the Shadow Board for Community Justice Ayrshire; and
(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Pirie rejoined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

ARMED FORCES GROUP

14. There was submitted a report dated 9 August 2016 (circulated) by the Director of Health and Social Care Partnership which sought approval for the establishment of an Armed Forces Group.

It was agreed:
(i) to approve the creation of the Armed Forces Group to be chaired by the Provost in his capacity as Armed Forces Champion;
(ii) to approve the proposed core membership and Terms of Reference for the Group; and

(iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1206 hrs.