

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2004 AT 1400 HOURS
IN CATRINE COMMUNITY CENTRE, INSTITUTE AVENUE, CATRINE**

PRESENT: Councillors William Menzies, George Smith, Neil McGhee, William Crawford, Eric Ross and Jimmy Carmichael; and Community Representatives: Mr James Brown, Mr James Hastie, Mr William Lees, Mrs Jean Smith and Mrs Margaret Campbell; and Substitute Community Representative: Mr Ian Scade.

ATTENDING: Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager; Fiona Samson, Finance Officer (Homes and Technical Services); Joe Cassidy, Policy Manager (Homes and Technical Services); David Wotherspoon, Team Leader (Community Learning and Development); and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Chief Inspector Robert Brown, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Eric Jackson and Jimmy Kelly.

CHAIR: Councillor William Menzies, Chair (Items 1 to 8) and Councillor William Crawford, Vice-Chair (Item 10).

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING: TO ALLOW PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER
SESSION**

1. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1402 hours to allow for a fifteen minute maximum public question and answer session.

RECONVENTION OF MEETING

2. The meeting reconvened at 1416 hours with the same Councillors, Community Representatives, Named Substitutes and Officers present and in attendance.

HOMES AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

RENT SETTING POLICY

3. The Committee received a presentation by Joe Cassidy, Policy Manager, Department of Homes and Technical Services on the Council's proposed Rent Setting Policy.
Joe Cassidy then responded to questions put by Members of the Committee
The Chair thanked Joe for the presentation.

MINUTES

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4. There were submitted for information, and noted, the Minutes of the meeting of the Cumnock Area Local Committee held on 29 January 2004 (circulated).

LOCAL ISSUES

5.1 LOCAL ISSUES

There was submitted and noted a report dated 9 March 2004 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which provided information on local issues raised and, where applicable, the timescales for reporting back to the Local Committee.

5.2 NEW LOCAL ISSUES

It was agreed to request the appropriate Officers of the Council to submit reports to future meetings on the following issues, namely:-

- (i) the provision of raised boarding kerbs and tactile paving at bus stops along the bus routes running from Kilmarnock through to Cumnock, New Cumnock and Muirkirk;
- (ii) the criteria for determining the cost of lets for East Ayrshire Council premises across the relevant Council Departments;
- (iii) the current position with regard to the proposed closure of St Joseph's Academy, Cumnock Campus, with particular reference to arrangements for the transfer of pupils to other schools; and
- (iv) progress with works to East Ayrshire Council premises to meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES 2004/2005 (Item 7, Page 516, 03/07)

6. There was submitted a report dated 9 March 2004 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised of the position in respect of the nomination of Community Representatives and Substitutes from local organisations to serve on the Cumnock Area Local Committee for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005.

6.1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Crawford and Community Representative Jean Smith each declared a direct non-pecuniary interest in respect of the request from the Coalfield Communities Federation to be allocated a Community Representative's place on this Committee, and took no part in the Committee's consideration or determination of this particular matter.

6.2 Consideration of Item

In addition to the information provided in the report by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, the Administrative Officer provided a verbal update on nominations which had been received following circulation of the report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that community organisation representation on this Committee for the coming year be drawn from the following organisational sectors, namely:-

- Community Councils (two places);
 - East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability;
 - Older People's Interest Groups;
 - Youth Forum (or equivalent organisation);
 - Business Community;
 - Local Churches;
 - Tenants Groups;
 - Sports Groups; and
 - School Pupils;
- (ii) to note the position with regard to (a) the submission of nomination(s) by the Ethnic Minorities Forum; (b) the request from the Coalfield Communities Federation to be allocated a Community Representative (and Substitute) place on this Local Committee; and (c) the proposed review of Community Representatives membership on Local Committees, all as detailed in the report;
- (iii) to approve the undernoted nominations for Community Representatives and Named Substitutes made by local organisations:-

<u>COMMUNITY ORGANISATION</u>	<u>COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE</u>	<u>SUBSTITUTE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE</u>
Older Peoples' Interest Groups	Mr William Lees	Mr Alex McCall
East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability	Mrs Jean Smith	Mrs Annie Bell
Youth Forum	Ms Jessie Marsh	Vacant
Local Churches	Mr Ian Scade	Mr Alec Cochrane
School Pupil	Mr Ian Black	Ms Jennifer Taylor

- (iv) to continue consideration to the next meeting of the nominations for Community Representative and Substitute submitted by Tenants/Residents Groups, pending the submission of further information regarding the status of one of the organisations which had submitted a nomination;
- (v) to note, as reported by the Administrative Officer at the meeting, that eight nominations had been submitted for the two Community Representatives and two Substitutes places on the Local Committee for Community Councils and that in order to facilitate finalisation of the nominations, the Administrative Officer would be arranging for a meeting of all nominees to place in order to consider this matter;

- (vi) to note the position in respect of those organisations which had not submitted nominations for Community Representatives and/or Substitutes; and
- (vii) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to make such arrangements as might be necessary to facilitate the submission of outstanding nominations for Community Representatives and Substitutes.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

7.1 DISBURSEMENT OF BALANCE OF FINANCIAL ALLOCATION 2003/2004

7.1.1 Available Balance

The Committee were reminded, and it was noted, that a balance of £1,412.91 remained from the financial allocation available to the Committee for Community Grants for the 2003/2004 financial year.

7.1.2 S.K.A.R.E.S.

There was submitted an assessment report (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on an application for Community Grant submitted by Skares Kinsfolk and Residents Environmental Society (SKARES), a newly formed organisation.

It was agreed that a grant of £100.00 be made in respect of this application.

7.1.3 Auchinleck Community Development Initiative

There was submitted an assessment report (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on an application for Community Grant by Auchinleck Community Development Initiative, a newly formed organisation.

7.1.3.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor McGhee declared a direct non-pecuniary interest in this item of business and left the meeting at this point.

7.1.3.2 Consideration of Item

It was agreed that a grant of £300.00 be made; and to give consideration at the Special Meeting of this Committee which will be held for the purpose of dealing with all applications for grant for the next financial year, to a further grant award being made in respect of this application from the financial allocation for 2004/2005, for activities which the Group may be proposing to undertake during the coming year, subject to (a) an unexpended balance remaining from that allocation when all applications received for grant funding for that year have been determined; and (b) the Group submitting, for consideration, a detailed action/work programme, to include costings.

Councillor McGhee rejoined the meeting at this point.

7.1.4 Older People's Groups: Grant Applications for Social and Recreational Purposes

It was agreed that the remaining balance of the financial allocation available for Community Grants for the current financial year, being a sum of £1,012.91 be distributed to those Older People's organisations who had applied for grant assistance during the current financial year for social and recreational purposes, on a

per capita basis according to the membership numbers indicated in the original applications.

7.2 ALLOCATION FOR 2004/2005 (Item 11, Page 576, 03/07)

There was submitted a report dated 24 February 2004 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources which advised of (i) the financial allocation which was available to the Committee for Community Grants for 2004/2005; and (ii) grant spend for the previous two financial years.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Community Grant allocation for this Committee for 2004/2005 was £50,111; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

Arising from discussion, it was noted that as part of the assessment process for Community Grants, applicants would continue, where appropriate, to be directed to alternative possible sources of funding other than Community Grants.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

POLICE REPORT

8. There was submitted a report dated 8 March 2004 (circulated) by Chief Inspector Brown, Strathclyde Police, which advised of crime trends and Police activity within the local area over the recent period.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report and further information provided verbally by the Chief Inspector at the meeting;
- (ii) to note that the Chief Inspector would arrange to include in future reports of this kind, a greater level of detail relative to Police activity and policing initiatives within the local area, to supplement the statistical information already presented to the Committee;
- (iii) that an invitation be extended to the Procurator Fiscal to meet with the Committee to discuss the legal process which follows, and the level of successful prosecutions which result from, arrests made by Police within the local area; and
- (iv) that the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources, on behalf of the Local Committee, write to Chief Inspector Smith, Strathclyde Police, to inform of the Committee's concern about the need for sensitivity in the timing and routing of vehicles with abnormal/large loads in order to minimise risk of danger and disruption to local communities.

APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

9. During consideration, but prior to determination, of the preceding item, Councillor Menzies vacated the Chair in favour of Councillor Crawford and left the meeting.

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE 2003 (Item 14, Page 2031, 99/03)

10. There was submitted a report dated 3 March 2004 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the outcome of East Ayrshire Council's seventh Annual Youth Conference held in Kilmarnock College in April 2003 and of the resultant developments which had influenced the co-ordination of the 2004 Conference.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the success of the Youth Conference;
- (ii) to note the developments for this year's Conference;
- (iii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report; and
- (iv) that the Director of Educational and Social Services report to a future meeting on the Annual Youth Conference 2004, to include information on the place of residence of young people attending the Conference in 2003 and 2004.

The meeting terminated at 1603 hours.