

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 9 NOVEMBER 2006 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE COOPER TRUST SUITE, MAUCHLINE COMMUNITY CENTRE, KILMARNOCK ROAD, MAUCHLINE

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Carmichael, Eric Jackson, George Smith, William Menzies, William Crawford and Eric Ross; Community Representatives: Mr James McMillan, Mr William Lees, Mrs Jean Smith and Mr Alec Cochrane; and Substitute Community Representatives: Mr James Hastie and Mr Matthew Burns.

ATTENDING: Julie McGarry, Assistant Administration Manager; Joan Waygood, Family Placement Supervisor; Suzanne Brodie, Senior Practitioner - Community Learning and Development; Michael Brown, Technical Officer - Roads Division; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Alex Lindsay, Watch Manager, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue; and Inspector James Drennan, Inspector Willie Blair, Sergeant Paul Quinn and Simon Jones (Strathclyde Police Contact Centre), all Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jimmy Kelly and Substitute Community Representative Mr Wilson Hignett.

CHAIR: Councillor Jimmy Carmichael, Chair.

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

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

RECONVENTION OF MEETING

2. The meeting reconvened at 1430 hours with the same Councillors, Community Representatives, Named Substitutes and Officers present and in attendance.

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES REPRESENTING COMMUNITY COUNCILS
(Item 3, Page 2384, 03/07)**

3. The Administrative Officer reported, and it was noted, that three separate nominations for the vacant Community Representative's place on the Local Committee had been received from Community Councils; and that the Secretaries to the Community Councils concerned had been requested to arrange for the three nominees to consult amongst themselves and determine which of them was to be finally nominated as the replacement Community Representative.

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 7 September 2006 (circulated).

4.1 Matter Arising: Item 6 - Safer Streets - Strathclyde Police Report

On a matter having been raised, it was agreed to request Superintendent Weir to provide within future Safer Streets reports, on a quarterly basis, statistical information on the value of assets confiscated from offenders in the Cumnock Area under the Proceeds of Crime Act and the number of offenders dealt with.

LOCAL ISSUES

5.1 LOCAL ISSUES

There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided information on local issues raised, and where applicable, the timescales for reporting back to the Local Committee.

5.2 NEW LOCAL ISSUES

Community Representatives were invited to raise any items of interest for inclusion on a future Agenda.

No new items were identified as potential items which could become the subject of a future report to the Committee, however, Community Representatives identified a number of issues which were recorded under the public question and answer session.

POLICE REPORT

SAFER STREETS: STRATHCLYDE POLICE REPORT

6. There was submitted a report dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by Superintendent Elizabeth Weir, Strathclyde Police, which advised of crime figures and Police activity within the local area; and afforded an opportunity for Members of the Committee to provide feedback to Strathclyde Police on areas of concern and to have these concerns addressed.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note further updated statistical information provided by Inspector Drennan at the meeting;
- (ii) to note that, on the matter having been raised by Substitute Community Representative Mr James Hastie, Sergeant Paul Quinn would contact the utilities concerned regarding the possibility of improved signage in respect of the roadworks at Afton Bridgend, New Cumnock, particularly in the vicinity of the junction with Castlemains Avenue; and to request the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Local Committee, to write to Cathy Jamieson, MSP, drawing attention to this road safety issue;
- (iii) to request the Chief Executive, on behalf of the Local Committee, to write to Cathy Jamieson, MSP, in her capacity as Justice Minister, advising of the Committee's concerns regarding the potentially detrimental impact of the temporary redeployment of Police Officers from the Local Committee's area to the Faslane Naval Base, and that, this notwithstanding, the necessary policing levels in the local area should be maintained;

- (iv) to request Superintendent Weir to provide, in future Safer Streets reports, separate statistical information on the numbers of drugs possession and drugs supply offences, and also on the numbers of anti-social behaviour incidents which have occurred, and parental alert letters issued, for each beat area; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

Community Representative James McMillan left the meeting at this point.

STRATHCLYDE POLICE CONTACT CENTRE: PRESENTATION

7. The Local Committee received a presentation by Inspector Willie Blair and Simon Jones (Strathclyde Police Contact Centre) on the operation of the Strathclyde Police Contact Centre.

There then followed a full discussion during which the Strathclyde Police Representatives responded to a range of issues raised, and questions put, by Elected Members and Community Representatives.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that Simon Jones would arrange for consideration to be given to a suggestion by Councillor Ross that an information film/DVD be produced which could be made available to assist in educating the public on the operation of the Contact Centre; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the information provided during the presentation.

The Chair thanked Inspector Willie Blair and Simon Jones for the presentation which had provided much in the way of useful information for Elected Members and Community Representatives.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

FINANCIAL POSITION 2006/2007

8. There was submitted, and noted, a statement dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on the financial position in respect of Community Grants to local organisations for the 2006/2007 financial year, which indicated, amongst other things, that the currently uncommitted balance amounted to £1,196.25.

APPLICATIONS 2006/2007

- 9.1 **KEIR HARDIE HILL TENANTS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (Item 9.1, Page 2386, 03/07)**

There was submitted a report dated 23 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which provided an update on progress with regard to the applications for Community Grant submitted by the Keir Hardie Hill Tenants and Residents Association, Cumnock; and suggested how this matter might now be dealt with.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the original application for Community Grant (CG 3226) submitted by the Association be terminated;
- (ii) having regard to the terms of the report, to remit to the Administration Manager to deal with the Association's new application (CG 3467) on the basis set out in Paragraph 4.2 of the report; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

9.2 MAUCLINE COMMUNITY COUNCIL: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS (CG 3443)

There was submitted an assessment report (circulated at the meeting) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

It was agreed to accept this application as an urgent application in view of the short timescale associated with the proposed project; and to make a grant award of £400.00.

9.3 MAUCLINE COMMUNITY COUNCIL: SPRING, SUMMER AND WINTER PLANTING (CG 3444)

There was submitted an assessment report (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

It was agreed that this application be refused, since it had not been submitted by a newly formed organisation and the Committee being of the view that it was not urgent in nature; but that the Community Council be invited to make application for grant funding for the purpose of this project for 2007/2008.

9.4 GLENAFTON ATHLETIC 95's BOYS CLUB (CG 3442)

There was submitted an assessment report (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services.

It was agreed that this application be refused, since it had not been submitted by a newly formed organisation and the Committee being of the view that it was not urgent in nature; but that the Club be invited to make application for grant funding for the purpose of this project for 2007/2008.

Councillor Menzies left the meeting at this point.

CORPORATE SUPPORT

MEETINGS OF CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE: PERIOD UNTIL 24 MAY 2007

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 5 October 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the dates on which meetings of the Local Committee were scheduled to take place during the period until 24 May 2007; and invited the Committee to determine the venues at which each of these meetings should be held.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the dates fixed for meetings of the Local Committee for the period until 24 May 2007, as detailed in Paragraph 5.1 of the report; and

- (ii) that meetings of the Committee during the period in question be held at venues as undernoted, namely:-

Thursday 1 February 2007 - Ochiltree Community Centre; and
Thursday 29 March 2007 - Barrhill Centre, Cumnock.

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

PRESENTATION ON PROMOTION OF FOSTER CARING LOCALLY

11. The Committee received a presentation on promotion of fostering services locally from Joan Waygood, Family Placement Supervisor.

During discussion, Joan Waygood responded to issues raised, and questions put, by Elected Members and Community Representatives.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that, as suggested by Councillor Crawford, Joan Waygood would arrange for appropriate consideration to be given to the possibility of a local information event being held in order to promote foster caring in the local area; and
(ii) otherwise, to note the information provided during the presentation.

The Chair thanked Joan Waygood for what had been a most interesting and informative presentation.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

12. There were submitted, for information, and noted, the Minutes of the meeting of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum held on 20 September 2006 (circulated).

The meeting terminated at 1628 hours.