

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 DECEMBER 2006 AT 1000 HRS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Provost Jane Darnbrough and Councillors Maureen McKay, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Helen Coffey, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, Gordon Cree, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Isabella Macrae, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, Ray Murray, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Stuart Finlayson, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Depute Provost Tommy Farrell, Councillors William Menzies, Neil McGhee, William Crawford, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Elaine Stewart and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support; Jim Kane, Acting Executive Director of Development and Property Services; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; William Stafford, Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Head of Finance; Jackie Donnelly, Executive Head of Social Work; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Chris McAleavey, Head of Housing; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure; Martin Rose, Head of Personnel; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Officer; and Julie McGarry, Assistant Administration Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jim O'Neill, John McGhee and John Campbell.

CHAIR: Provost Jane Darnbrough, Chair.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

1. The Provost commented on the second annual East Ayrshire Council Excellence Awards Ceremony, which took place on 26 October 2006 at the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock. The Provost stated that this year almost 150 entries had been received from across all services and departments with awards being given to recognise service excellence across a number of areas.

The Provost further remarked that, once again, the evening had been a huge success with over 200 employees, invited guests and sponsors attending and offered her congratulations to the winners of the various awards and to all who had been nominated.

The Provost continued by stating that while thanks and congratulations had been given to the employees who were being recognised for their unstinting commitment to the Council and to the people of East Ayrshire, thanks also went to all Council employees for their service and dedication shown on a daily basis.

The Provost then went on to comment on the recent severe weather, which had affected areas of East Ayrshire. The Provost advised that a power failure in Rankinston had affected the village for most of Thursday 30th November. The Provost also advised that there were flooding threats in a number of areas over the following weekend and various other incidents had occurred throughout East Ayrshire, due to high winds. The Provost reported that Council officers along with representatives from Strathclyde Police and Strathclyde Fire and Rescue had done a

magnificent job in assisting householders in the affected areas and their hard work and dedication above and beyond the call of duty was to be commended.

The Provost then referred to an incident that had recently occurred in Surrey when two firefighters had lost their lives and several others had been seriously injured in a fire at a fireworks factory and that her thoughts and sympathies were with the firefighters' families at this sad time.

The Provost concluded her remarks by welcoming Farida Frej to the Council meeting. The Provost advised that Farida was a student from Tours, France and was with the Council for a work placement within Administrative and Legal Services until 15 December 2006.

Councillor McKay joined the meeting during the Provost's remarks.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. There were submitted (circulated) Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on 12 October 2006 (pages 2466-2472) which were approved as a correct record.

2.1 Matters Arising

2.1.1 Safer Streets Police Report

The Provost reported that in terms of Item 3.26, Page 2470 the District Procurator Fiscal had confirmed that he would be attending the Council meeting on 1 March 2007 to give a presentation in terms of the issues highlighted within the Minute.

2.1.2 Closure Of Accident and Emergency Unit At Ayr Hospital By NHS Ayrshire And Arran

The Provost undertook to consult with Officers in respect of Councillor W Coffey's request at the Council meeting on 12 October 2006 that she write to NHS Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and ask that the members of that Board consider their position in the light of their decision to close the A&E Unit at Ayr Hospital and resign and would respond directly to Councillor W Coffey.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

3. There were submitted (circulated) and approved, subject to the undernoted amendment, both as correct records and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the undernoted Committee meetings, viz:-

3.1 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 6 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2453-2455).

3.2 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 11 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2456-2464).

3.3 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - SITTING AS A PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 11 OCTOBER 2006 (page 2465).

3.4 CENTRAL LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 13 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2473-2474).

3.5 SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 16 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2475-2476).

3.6 KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 24 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2477-2480).

- 3.7 DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 24 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2481-2483).**
- 3.8 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 26 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2484-2485).**
- 3.9 NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 26 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2486-2489).**
- 3.10 NORTHERN AREA LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 27 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2490-2493).**
- 3.11 EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE OF 31 OCTOBER 2006 (pages 2494-2495).**
- 3.12 HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 1 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2496-2503).**
- 3.13 KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 1 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2504-2507).**
- 3.14 SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE OF 2 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2508-2511).**
- 3.15 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 3 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2512-2514).**
- 3.16 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 7 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2515-2521).**
- 3.17 KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 7 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2522-2525).**
- 3.18 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 8 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2526-2530).**
- 3.19 IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 8 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2531-2535).**
- 3.20 CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 9 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2536-2540).**
- 3.21 CENTRAL LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 10 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2541-2543).**
- 3.22 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 14 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2544-2552).**
- 3.23 CORPORATE GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE OF 23 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2553-2562).**
- 3.24 SPECIAL POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 23 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2563-2565).**

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Reeves, moved the Minute as a correct record and approval of the recommendations contained therein under paragraphs (i) (a) to (i) inclusive, paragraph (ii) and paragraph (iii)(a) to (c) inclusive.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment that it be recommended to the incoming Council following the Local Government Elections on 3 May 2007 that a full review of political and departmental structures take place and consequently to defer the proposals.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 21 votes to 8.

- 3.25 NORTHERN AREA LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 24 NOVEMBER 2006 (pages 2566-2568).**

MATTER ARISING - WITHDRAWAL FROM THE MEETING (Item 5, Page 2567, 03/07)

It was agreed that the Minute be amended to show that Councillor Stephanie Young left the meeting prior to consideration of Item 5 - Application No 06/0714/FL: Jay and Lesley Steel: Land at Cowans Law, Hemphill Road, Moscow, Galston.

EXCERPT FROM SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE -

28 NOVEMBER 2006

4. There was submitted and approved as a correct record, excerpt (circulated) from the Special Development Services Committee of 28 November 2006 in respect of the Kilmarnock Town Centre Regeneration Local Consultation item.

It was agreed to appoint the Chair of the Development Services Committee and Councillors Reid and Cree to the new Town Centre Regeneration Group.

AUDITED ACCOUNTS 2005/06

5. There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 November 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Head of Finance which presented Members with the Audited Abstract of Accounts 2005/06 following certification by the External Auditor.

REPORT ON THE PROPOSED AYRSHIRE EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE

6. There was submitted a report dated 16 November 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which advised Council on the continuing development of proposals to provide a Pan-Ayrshire Emergency Planning Service.

Provost Darnbrough thanked all officers involved for their efforts with this proposal.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the good progress made by the Senior Officer Working Group;
- (ii) to approve the principle of an Ayrshire Joint Emergency Planning Team as described within the report;
- (iii) to authorise relevant senior officers to progress implementation of the Ayrshire Joint Emergency Planning Team in line with the timescales set out within the report;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services provide Members with a further report/presentation on the matter within an appropriate timescale; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

MOTION BY COUNCILLOR McINTYRE -

7. Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Knapp, moved the following motion:-

“This Council notes the action of the Labour Group in donating one day’s pay for each member to the Farepak Fund in recognition of the fact that many East Ayrshire citizens are affected by the Farepak collapse.

Council also notes the actions of local Credit Unions in helping to ameliorate the effects of these losses and commends their work throughout East Ayrshire.

Council calls on Government to legislate to bring such schemes under the control of the Financial Services Authority and to ensure that they are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme”

Councillor McDill, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved as an amendment that East Ayrshire Council set up a relief fund to which the public, including East Ayrshire Council employees, can donate.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 21 votes to 7.

**RECONFIGURATION OF THE COUNTRY PARK AND COUNTRYSIDE
SERVICES SECTION OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES
DEPARTMENT (Item 11, Page 2555, 03/07)**

8. There was submitted a report dated 27 November 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which sought approval for a reconfiguration of the Country Park and Countryside Services Section within the Department of Neighbourhood Services.

Councillor Willie Coffey, seconded by Councillor Wilson, moved that the existing Senior Ranger post be retained.

Councillor Raymond, seconded by Councillor Knapp, moved as an amendment:

- (i) to approve the service reconfiguration proposals contained within the report;
and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

On a division by a show of hands, the amendment was carried by 21 votes to 8.

The meeting terminated at 1105 hrs.