

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 AUGUST 2005 AT 1400 HOURS IN DUNLOP PUBLIC HALL, MAIN STREET, DUNLOP**

**PRESENT:** Councillors John McGhee, Jim O'Neill and Stephanie Young; Community Representatives; Iain Finlayson; Ashley Bell; Jim Corson; Jean Brown; Jim Miller; Charles Lindsay; Cathy Spicer; Debbie Olson; Linzi Haggerty and Named Substitutes May McMillan; Barbara Wiseman; Alistair Thomson and Kara Nisbet.

**ATTENDING:** Euan Couperwhite, Head of Resource Support; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; Andy MacDonald, Performance and Development Manager, Educational and Social Services; Sandy Gillatt, Chief Engineer, Development and Property Services; Billy McDowall, Team Leader, Educational and Social Services; Tommy Lynch, Exchequer Services Officer and Sharon McHarg, Administrative Officer.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** Inspector Ramsay McArthur, Sergeant Iain Haynes and David Waterston, Community Police (Probationer), Strathclyde Police.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor Maureen McKay; and Named Substitutes Mrs Mary White and John McFadden.

**CHAIR:** Councillor John McGhee, Chair.

**ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. The Chair at his discretion and in terms of Standing Order 19, agreed to alter the order of business and to consider agenda item number 13, Kilmaurs Cabin - DDA Audit Findings following the public question and answer session.

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

2. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1401 Hours to allow a 15 minute maximum public question and answer session.

**RECONVENTION OF MEETING**

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

**KILMAURS CABIN – DDA AUDIT FINDINGS**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which advised of the findings of the DDA Audit, conducted by Technical Services, for the Kilmaurs Cabin, Main Street, Kilmaurs.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

5. There were submitted and noted for information, the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Area Local Committee held on 4 May 2005 (circulated).

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **5.1 Matters Arising**

#### **5.1.1 Local Committee Grants Scheme – Stewarton and District Community Council (CG 3002) (Item 8.1 (a)(i), Page 1468, 03/07)**

The Administration Manager advised that (i) the grant award for Stewarton and District Community Council had been released, and (ii) Community Learning and Development had advised the Group that the best potential source of funding would be Local Committee Community Grant Funding as timescales for national grant applications were lengthy (usually over 6 months) and this would not be of immediate use to the group.

#### **5.1.2 Local Committee Grants Scheme – Loudoun Musical Society (CG3006) (Item 8.1 (e)(i), Page 1469, 03/07)**

The Administration Manager advised that the grant award for Loudoun Musical Society had been released further to receiving two suitable quotes.

## **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES**

### **EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM**

6. There was submitted for information and noted, Minutes of the Community Safety Forum Meeting held on 1 June 2005 (circulated).

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

### **SAFER STREETS**

7. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 August 2005 (circulated) by Superintendent Weir, Operations Commander, East Ayrshire on Crime Figures and Police Activity within the Northern Area.

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

## **POLICE REPORT**

8. Sergeant Iain Haynes and Inspector Ramsay McArthur, Strathclyde Police, reported on local Policing.

It was agreed to note:-

- (i) that while the figures to June 2005 showed good reductions in crimes of violence and house breaking, there had been a recent increase in the incidence of sneak-in-thefts and housebreaking to dwellings in the Kilmaurs area and extra supervision would be concentrated there;
- (ii) overnight on 19 and 20 August, four premises were broken into in Dunlop Street, Stewarton and Graham Terrace, Stewarton and following extensive enquiries by Local Officers, two local people had been arrested and a large amount of goods had been recovered;
- (iii) following fire raising incidents at new bridge at Cunningham Watt Park, patrols had been increased in the area and local residents recently reported that the park was much quieter now;

- (iv) Mark Lees would now be arranging Citizenship Workshops in conjunction with Stewarton Academy to once again support the good work done by the majority of all our young people and would explore more new approaches to developing good citizenship;
- (v) that a wellbeing fund of £500 would be available to cover every Community Police Officer's area and local groups would be eligible to apply for funding; and
- (vi) Constable Alan Mack, Community Police Officer for Stewarton and Dunlop had now moved on and would begin his new post as Acting Sergeant at Irvine Police Office.

The Committee agreed:-

- (i) that a letter be issued to Alan Mack on behalf of the Committee thanking him for all his hard work and sending best wishes for the future; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

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

#### **LOCAL COMMITTEE GRANTS SCHEME 2004/2005**

##### **RETURN OF GRANT MONIES FROM CONTACT PHAB CLUB**

9. It was noted that Contact PHAB Club had returned a total amount of £700.00 to the Council, of which £112.00 had been credited to this Committee, which had remained unspent for the 2004/2005 awarded to provide a social, educational and activity based residential holiday in Blackpool for members of the Contact PHAB Club.

##### **LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME – PEACE**

10. There was submitted a report dated 5 August 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the current position in respect of the voluntary organisation PEACE and which sought Committee approval to accept the utilisation by the group of Local Committee Grant Funding for the financial years 2003/2004 and 2004/2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept that the Community Grant Funding awarded to PEACE of £2835.46 for 2003/2004 and £7646.06 for 2004/2005 was used to assist with staffing costs to fund a programme of activities for Easter, Summer and October Playschemes;
- (ii) that the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support write to the organisation and advise of the Committee's decision;
- (iii) with regard to specific issues of operational nature in Dunlop area, to note the group had its own complaints procedure and that the Administration Manager would provide Community Representative Jim Miller with current information;
- (iv) that the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services be invited to a future meeting of the Local Committee to report on the provision for out of school care services within East Ayrshire; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

## COMMUNITY GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS 2005/2006

11. There was submitted a report dated 23 June 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support on the financial position in respect of Community Grants to Local Organisations in 2005/2006, together with individual assessment reports circulated in respect of applications received.

It was agreed as follows:-

### 11.1 **Applications Approved** (for the purpose as specified on the application), viz:-

(a) Arts and Cultural

- (i) Kilmarnock Gateway Writers (CG3138) - £95.00;

(b) Community Associations

(i) **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor McGhee declared a non financial interest in the following item and took no part in the discussion or decision. Councillor O'Neill, Vice-Chair took the Chair for Item(ii) only.

(ii) **Consideration of item**

Kilmaurs Gala Committee (CG3110) - £250.00 and noted that an award of £500 had been made under delegated authority for the financial year 2005/2006.

Fenwick Community Association (CG3098) - £1000.00;

(c) Disability

- (i) Kilmarnock Forum on Disability (CG3015) - £98.25;  
(ii) St Marnock Youth Club (CG3140) - £210.47; and

(d) Sport

- (i) Bellfield Royals Football Club (CG3106) - £181.44.

## COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ANNUAL SEMINAR WORKING GROUP

12. The Committee were invited to nominate a Community Representative and Substitute Representatives to serve on the Community Representatives Annual Seminar Working Group.

It was agreed to appoint Cathy Spicer as Community Representative and Mary White as Substitute Representative.

## COMMUNITY COUNCIL INSURANCES

13. There was submitted a report dated 2 June 2005 (circulated) by Executive Head of Finance which identified the legal status of Community Councils in relation to Community Council activities and the need to strongly consider effecting adequate levels of Public Liability Insurance, in an era where accountability is all and litigation is ever increasing.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the Community Councils Insurance report;

- (ii) to approve the proposals set out within the report;
- (iii) to note that, arising from discussion, the Administration Manager would provide further advice on insurance matters to supplement information previously issued to Community Councils;
- (iv) that the Administration Manager investigate the feasibility of providing public benches through public subscription and report back to a future meeting of this Committee; and
- (v) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

## **DECENTRALISATION ISSUES**

### **RECRUITMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES 2005/2006 – UPDATE**

14. There was submitted a report dated 23 June 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which updated on the outcome of the recruitment of Community Representatives and Substitutes to serve on the Northern Area Local Committee for the period commencing 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the new nomination by the Youth Forum of Kara Nisbet, as Named Substitute to represent the Youth Forum on the Northern Area Local Committee as detailed in the Appendix to this report for the period 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **ANNUAL YOUTH CONFERENCE**

15. There was submitted a report dated 4 August 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the outcome of the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Youth Conference held in Kilmarnock College on Wednesday 30 March 2005.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to welcome the success of this year's Youth Conference; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

### **DISABLED PERSONS PARKING SCHEME (BLUE BADGE SCHEME)**

16. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 7 July 2005 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services and Executive Director of Development and Property Services which advised of the Disabled Persons Parking Scheme (Blue Badge Scheme) administered on behalf of the Council by the Department of Educational and Social Services and Department of Development and Property Services.

## **LOCAL ISSUES**

### **17.1 LOCAL ISSUES**

There was submitted and noted a report dated 23 June 2005 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support Local Issues raised, and where applicable, the timescale for reporting back to this Local Committee.

### **17.2 NEW LOCAL ISSUES**

Community Representatives were invited to raise any items of Local Interest for inclusion in a future agenda.

No new items were identified as potential items which could become the subject of a future report to the Committee.

The meeting terminated at 1620 hours.