

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2006 AT 1403 HOURS IN THE BARRHILL CENTRE, BANK AVENUE, CUMNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Jimmy Carmichael, George Smith, William Menzies, Neil McGhee and William Crawford; Community Representatives: Mr William Lees, Mrs Margaret Campbell, Mr Alex Cochrane and Mr James McMillan; and Substitute Community Representatives: Mr James Hastie and Mr Matthew Burns.

ATTENDING: Hugh Melvin, Principal Planning Officer; Anneke Freel, Project Manager - East Ayrshire Outdoor Access Unit; Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer; Alan Murray, Team Leader - Community Learning and Development; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Sergeant Paul Quinn, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Eric Jackson and Jimmy Kelly; and Community Representative: Mrs Jean Smith.

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 1404 hours to allow for a public question and answer session.

RECONVENTION OF MEETING

2. The meeting reconvened at 1408 hours with the same Councillors, Community Representatives, Named Substitutes and Officers present and in attendance.

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES' REPRESENTING COMMUNITY COUNCILS

3. It was reported and noted (a) that following her resignation as a member of New Cumnock Community Council, Mrs Joyce Muir would no longer be serving as a Community Representative on the Local Committee to represent Community Councils; and (b) that the Administrative Officer would be in touch with Community Councils to seek the nomination of a 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 25 May 2006 (circulated).

LOCAL ISSUES

5.1 LOCAL ISSUES

There was submitted and noted a report dated 17 August 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 17 August 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.

Sergeant Quinn provided further information arising from the report and in response to questions asked by Members of the Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) as requested by Councillor Menzies, that Sergeant Quinn would investigate the possibility, in future, of the statistical information provided within the "Overview on Anti-Social Behaviour" section of the report being broken down according to each Police Beat; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report and the further information provided by Sergeant Quinn at the meeting.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

REVIEW OF GRANT FUNDING TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF THE LOCAL AUDIT REPORT ON FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND

7. There was submitted a report dated 12 July 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support which advised of the outcome of a review of the grants forms, guidance notes and assessment forms in the light of a study by the Council's External Auditors, PricewaterhouseCoopers, of the Council's performance in relation to the funding of external bodies.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the changes made to the forms and guidance notes in light of the study by the Council's External Auditors, and for operational reasons, effective from 1 September 2006; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

Councillor McGhee left the meeting during consideration, but prior to determination, of this item.

COMMUNITY GRANTS: FINANCIAL POSITION 2006/2007

8. There was submitted and noted a statement (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.

COMMUNITY GRANTS: APPLICATIONS 2006/2007

**9.1 KEIR HARDIE HILL TENANTS' AND RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION (CG 3226)
(Item 6, Page 2248, 03/07)**

The Committee continued consideration from the last meeting of an application for Community Grant funding by Keir Hardie Hill Tenants' and Residents Association, Cumnock.

In this connection, there was submitted a report dated 16 August 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to assist the Committee in determining how to deal with this application.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Association be afforded a further period of time, until 6 October 2006, in which to submit the required information and documentation in order to enable this application to be assessed and a recommendation submitted to the next meeting of the Local Committee, failing which the application be terminated; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

9.2 LUGAR AND LOGAN AGE CONCERN (CG 3387)

There was submitted an assessment report (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services on an application for grant funding for the 2006/2007 year, from Lugar and Logan Age Concern, which was received on 9 May 2006.

It was agreed to accept this late application and that a grant award of £300.00 be made.

9.3 CUMNOCK LANDWARD AGE CONCERN - SECOND APPLICATION (CG 3413)

There was submitted a report dated 17 July 2006 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Corporate Support to enable the Committee to deal with a second application for Community Grant funding received from Cumnock Landward Age Concern for the 2006/2007 year.

In this connection, the Administrative Officer reported that this organisation had been awarded a grant of £3,000.00 by Cumnock and Doon Valley Minerals Trust in respect of the purpose of the Community Grant application; and, in light of this, the Officers' recommendation was that the application be refused.

Councillor Crawford, seconded by Councillor Menzies, moved that a grant of £250.00 be made in respect of this application.

Councillor Carmichael, seconded by Councillor Smith, moved as an amendment that this application be refused on the basis that the purpose of the application had already been fully funded.

On a division by a show of hands, there were 2 votes for the amendment and 2 votes for the motion. There being an equality of votes, the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the amendment which became the decision of the meeting.

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES' ANNUAL SEMINAR WORKING GROUP (Item 9, Page 2249, 03/07)

10. The Local Committee continued consideration from the last meeting of the nomination of a Community Representative to serve as this Committee's Substitute on the Community Representatives' Annual Seminar Working Group, for the period to 31 March 2007.

It was agreed to note that there were no nominations from Community Representatives to serve as this Committee's Substitute on the Working Group.

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

11. There was submitted a report dated 25 July 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Educational and Social Services which informed of the outcome of recent events relating to engagement and consultation with young people in East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note, as advised by the Team Leader - Community Learning and Development, that, with regard to Section 3.2 of the report, young people from the Auchinleck Learning Partnership had also been in attendance at the Seminar;
- (ii) to note the success of this year's Annual Youth Conference and "What's Important to You" Seminar; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES

LAND REFORM (SCOTLAND) ACT 2003: CORE PATH PLANNING

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 7 August 2006 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services which updated on outdoor access as it related to the Land Reform (Scotland) Act 2003, the statutory obligation to produce a Core Path Plan and on the availability of the Ayrshire Access Toolkit.

EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM

13.1 MINUTES OF MEETING

There were submitted for information, and noted, the Minutes of the meeting of the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum held on 7 June 2006 (circulated).

13.2 MATTER ARISING: RESTORATION OF OPENCAST COAL SITES - WETLAND AREAS

Councillor Carmichael advised of concerns expressed locally in New Cumnock regarding provision of "wetland" areas as part of opencast restoration works, which, due to their increasing proliferation, were considered to represent a danger to local children and in addition, attracted and provided nesting opportunities for seagulls which in turn were causing a nuisance within the town.

It was agreed to note the comments of the Principal Planning Officer who advised of the terms of the East Ayrshire Opencast Coal Subject Plan with regard to the provision of wetland areas as part of opencast restoration works; and that concerns regarding this issue should be pursued with the local Liaison Committees or, in respect of new proposals, at the planning application stage.

The meeting terminated at 1548 hours.