

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 MAY 2001 AT 1400 HOURS
IN DUNLOP PUBLIC HALL, 46 MAIN STREET, DUNLOP**

PRESENT: Councillors Stephanie Young, Brian McNeil and Ann Hay; and Community Representatives Ashley Bell and George Paterson and named Substitutes Russel Hutcheson and Lorna Beattie.

ATTENDING: Gerald Docherty, Area Housing Manager; Eddie Fraser, Team Leader; Anne Fairbairn, Administrative Officer; Eddie O'Connor, Community Learning Officer; Hugh Mitchell, Police Liaison Officer; and Alex Hewetson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Ivor James, Rail Franchising Team, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive; and Sergeant John Ramage, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Kathleen Hall; and Community Representatives Carolyn Blyth, John Douglas, Ian Finlayson and John McFadden; and named Substitutes Jimmy Miller, Mary White and William Gibson.

CHAIR: Councillor Stephanie Young, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Mr Ashley Bell to the Committee as the newly appointed Community Representative on behalf of Fenwick Community Council.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

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 was reconvened at 1410 hours with the same Councillors, Community Representatives, named Substitutes and Officers present and in attendance.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

4. There was submitted for information and noted, the Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Area Local Committee held on Wednesday 21 March 2001 (circulated).

It was agreed to note that:-

- (i) in connection with the item: Recruitment of Community Representatives - 2001/2002 (Item 13, Page 1667, 99/02), Mr Watson Muirhead, Community Representative, had resigned from the Committee and Mr Ashley Bell, had been nominated by Fenwick Community Council as Community Representative to this Committee; and
- (ii) in the connection with the item: New Local Issues (Item 19, Page 1670, 99/02), the current position on licensing arrangements as provided under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1992, as they relate to Community

Associations which operate community-based facilities, would be reported in the first instance to the appropriate Service Committee and thereafter to this Committee, in due course.

MISCELLANEOUS

PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES (NORTHERN AREA)

5. Mr Ivor Jones, Rail Franchising Team, Strathclyde Passenger Transport Executive reported on local public transport issues raised by Elected Members and Community Representatives on the Northern Area Local Committee.

Mr Jones responded to questions from the Committee.

It was agreed to note that Mr Jones would arrange to:-

- (i) raise the concerns expressed on overcrowding of trains at peak times between Kilmarnock and Glasgow and potential safety issues, with Scotrail;
- (ii) investigate platform assistance procedures for disabled passengers on trains;
- (iii) submit when relevant, information on the potential increased frequency to a ½ hourly rail service between Kilmarnock and Glasgow;
- (iv) advise on information on usage statistics between Kilmarnock and Glasgow; and
- (v) respond in writing to this Committee with regard to (i), (ii), (iii) and (iv), above.

LOCAL COMMITTEE GRANTS SCHEME

LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME 2000/2001

6. There was submitted a report dated 4 May 2001 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on applications received from local organisations for grant assistance, in terms of the Community Grant Scheme.

The Administrative Officer reported upon the outstanding assessments on Community Grants.

The Committee took the following decisions:-

- (i) **Applications Approved** (for the purposes identified in the applications), viz:-
 - (a) Arts and Cultural
Kilmarnock Aeolian Male Voice Choir: CG 1302 - £67.50;
 - (b) Sport
Stewarton Annick Football Club: CG 1443 - £1,200.00;
Stewarton Annick Football Club: CG 1444 - £695.00;
Dean Thistle Under 8's Football Club: CG 1461 - £72.00; and
 - (c) Young People
Waterside Playscheme: CG 1464 - £1,400.00. - It was also agreed, that given the relatively low ratio of the group's contribution to the total cost of

the project, to encourage the group to undertake fundraising activities to offset the costs of future events; and

- (ii) to approve in principal grant awards of £1,500 to Stewarton Annick Youth and Community Association and up to £350 to Waterside Community Association (*Community Associations*) and to remit these applications to the Director of Corporate Resources in consultation with the Chair to make arrangement for payment of the grants subject to receipt of satisfactory assessment reports and thereafter advise the Committee of the decisions.

OPERATION SPOTLIGHT

- 7. There was submitted a report dated 6 March 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the nature and results of "Spotlight" operations, localised crime figures and ongoing initiatives in the preceding eight week period and on forthcoming initiatives.

Hugh Mitchell reported on the programme for the "Safer Scotland Campaign" - "Know the Score" which would run to 31 August 2001. Sitting beside the Police on this issue were representatives from the Scottish Executive, Scotland Against Drugs, the Scottish Drugs Forum, Scottish Prison Service, Crown Office, Crimestoppers, Scottish Local Authority Community Safety Forum, Drug Action Teams and Her Majesty's Customs and Excise. As well as enforcement, public awareness of all areas of the drugs debate would be raised. Education and harm reduction along with treatment to be included in the campaign.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that Community Representatives should consult with their relevant organisations to forward ideas which could be highlighted as Strathclyde Police "Spotlight" Initiatives to Hugh Mitchell, Police Liaison Officer at Council Headquarters, London Road, Kilmarnock, KA3 7BU or Sergeant John Ramage at Kilmarnock Police Headquarters; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

MISCELLANEOUS

POLICE REPORT

- 8. Sergeant John Ramage, Strathclyde Police, reported on local policing.

It was agreed to note:-

- (i) that communities throughout the Northern area in the months of February, March and April had been affected by housebreakings and car crime although the Police had achieved a high detection rate;
- (ii) crimes of violence in Stewarton and Dunlop;
- (iii) the month of May had been much quieter with little complaints on the conduct of youths and/or drinking in public places; and
- (iv) that members of the public should telephone the Police if they are suspicious of any activities in their area.

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICES

STEWARTON YOUTH, ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 3 May 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Educational and Social Services on the development of the Youth, Environment and Health Group in Stewarton which highlighted the commitment to support Community Groups within their own communities.

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ANNUAL SEMINAR WORKING GROUP

10. The Administrative Officer reported that nominations were sought for a Community Representative and named Substitute to serve on the Community Representatives Annual Seminar Working Group during the period from present to 31 March 2002.

It was agreed that Iain Finlayson, Community Representative and Carolyn Blyth, named Substitute would serve on the Community Representatives Annual Seminar Working Group during the period to 31 March 2002.

LOCAL ISSUES

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

It was agreed to incorporate into the Forward Planner of Local Committee business an item on the level of service delivery and quality in the use of Council-owned football pitches, by the public in the Northern area.

The meeting terminated at 1545 hours.

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