

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2002
AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Brian McNeil, Katie Hall, Ann Hay, Brian Reeves, Daniel Coffey, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, Lilian MacLean, Drew McIntyre, David Macrae, Harry Wilson, Alex Walsh, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, William Menzies, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie and Jimmy Carmichael.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Educational and Social Services; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; Tom McHugh, Head of Accounting; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work; Robin Wales, Accounting Assistant; Bill Walkinshaw, Administration Manager; Ian Arnott, Corporate Accounting Manager; David McClelland, Financial Services Manager; Caroline Gordon, Public Relations Assistant; and Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Stephanie Young, John Weir, Iain Linton and Alan Campbell.

CHAIR: Provost Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

1. The Provost referred to the death of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Margaret on Saturday 9 February. The Provost stated that a letter of condolence, signed by the Chief Executive and himself, had been sent to the Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen, the contents of which were as follows:-

“Dear Sir

We write on behalf of the people of East Ayrshire to express our sincere sympathy at the sad loss of Her Majesty's sister, Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, last Saturday.

Her Royal Highness served this country and the Commonwealth dutifully throughout her life and brought both dignity and grace to her role. Although Her royal Highness had not been well for some time, her death has come as a great shock.

Please extend our heartfelt condolences to Her Majesty The Queen, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, the family of Her Royal Highness The Princess Margaret, and all other members of the Royal Family. Please assure them that our thoughts and prayers are with them during this very sad and difficult time.”

The Provost then, as a mark of respect, asked the Council to be upstanding for one minute's silence.

The Council then observed a minute's silence.

ORDER OF DEBATE AND TIME LIMIT FOR SPEECHES

2. The Provost stated that, in respect of the budget, each item would be debated separately. It was noted that in accordance with Standing Orders the mover of a motion or amendment should speak for no more than 10 minutes with succeeding speakers entitled to speak for no more than 5 minutes and that the original mover shall have the right to speak for no more than 5 minutes in reply.

GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ESTIMATES AND COUNCIL TAX 2002/03 (Item 2, Page 2391, 99/02)

3. There was submitted excerpt from Minutes of Special Policy and Resources Committee of 13 February 2002 (excerpt circulated) together with report for background information (circulated under separate cover of Agenda Item No 2 for the Special Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 February 2002).

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved approval of the recommendations of the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 13 February 2002 as follows:-

- (i) to approve the service resource allocations for 2002/03 as shown as follows:-

Department	Departmental Resource Allocations
	£M
Education	75.917
Social Work	29.563
Community Services	41.088
Development Services	10.942
Policy and Resources - Corporate Resources	5.571
Policy and Resources - Other	38.736
Homes and Technical Services	1.471
Insurance Fund	1.554
Trading Services	(0.742)
Debt Charges	11.867
Contingencies	0.386
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	216.353

- (ii) that the Band 'D' Council Tax level for 2002/03 should be set at £966.60; and
(iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

Councillor Reid, seconded by Councillor D Coffey, moved as an amendment:

- (i) a proposed efficiency saving on the Corporate Development and Communications Department of 20% and the end of the publication of Headlines which would save £121,000;
- (ii) that as Best Value, in terms of service delivery and good housekeeping, should be an integral part of each Department there was no need for the Best Value Unit, thus saving £100,000;
- (iii) that the above efficiency savings be distributed as follows:
- (a) additional grass cuts and improvements to litter collection - £80,000;

- (b) community halls and sports pavilion repair and refurbishment - £80,000;
- (c) additional money for aids and adaptations - £60,000.
- (iv) to divert the £70,000 contribution to CoSLA to the Local Committees split across the seven Committees according to population which would see an average increase of £10,000 for each Local Committee; and
- (v) to propose a Council Tax increase of 4.9%, the alterations in priorities outlined above and a Council Tax Band 'D' equivalent set at £966.60.

On a request by Councillor Reid that a roll call vote be taken and there being at least one-third of the Members in agreement (11) in accordance with Standing Order 36.2, the vote was taken by calling the roll as follows, viz:-

For the motion - Provost Boyd and Councillors Reeves, McIntyre, Macrae, Walsh, Darnbrough, Knapp, Raymond, Jackson, Smith, Kelly, Farrell, Menzies, Ross, Dinwoodie and Carmichael.

For the amendment - Councillor McNeil, Hall, Hay, D Coffey, W Coffey, Reid, L MacLean, Wilson, F MacLean, McDill and Faulds.

The motion was therefore carried by 16 votes to 11.

HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT ESTIMATES AND ASSOCIATED RENT LEVELS FOR 2002/03 (Item 3, Page 2391, 99/02)

4. There was submitted an excerpt from the Minutes of the Special Policy and Resources Committee held on 13 February 2002 (excerpt circulated) together with a report for background information (circulated under separate cover of Agenda Item No 3 for the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 13 February 2002).

Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved acceptance of the recommendations contained in the excerpt as follows:

- (i) approval of the Draft Estimates for the Housing Revenue Account 2002/03 as submitted to the Special Housing Committee of 16 January 2002; and
- (ii) approval for 2002/03 of a flat-rate increase on all house rents of £1.47 per week over a 48 week period, in order to balance the Housing Revenue Account.

Councillor W Coffey, seconded by Councillor Reid, moved as an amendment:

- (i) to reduce the provisions set aside in the estimates for the management of void properties by 20% from £1,888,590 to £1,510,872 and instead, allocate a further £200,000 towards housing repairs:
 - (a) to improve the stock and the level of repairs carried out; and
 - (b) at the same time begin to reduce the void problem.
- (ii) that the rate of increase to be levied on the rent shall not exceed 1% on top of inflation (indicated by Retail Price Index figures for October 2001 as 2.3%);
- (iii) that in terms of (ii) above, rent levels be increased by 3.25% or £1.25 per week over 48 weeks; and
- (iv) that the Director of Homes and Technical Services examines the setting up of a new call centre service for repairs reporting and management called Repairs

Direct, to provide fast and efficient responses to tenants and co-ordinated action on repairs.

On a request by Councillor W Coffey that a roll call vote be taken and there being at least one-third of the Members in agreement (11) in accordance with Standing Order 36.2, the vote was taken by calling the roll as follows, viz:-

For the motion - Provost Boyd and Councillors Reeves, McIntyre, Macrae, Walsh, Darnbrough, Knapp, Raymond, Jackson, Smith, Kelly, Farrell, Menzies, Ross, Dinwoodie and Carmichael.

For the amendment - Councillor McNeil, Hall, Hay, D Coffey, W Coffey, Reid, L MacLean, Wilson, F MacLean, McDill and Faulds.

The motion was therefore carried by 16 votes to 11.

TREASURY MANAGEMENT - BANKING ARRANGEMENTS
(Item 6, Page 1809, 95/98)

5. There was submitted a report dated 28 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Finance to request the Council to update certain resolutions made in favour of the Clydesdale Bank at its meeting on 19 December 1996 and 13 February 1997.

It was agreed to make the resolution as detailed in the Appendix to this Minute.

The meeting terminated at 1045 hrs.

APPENDIX**TREASURY MANAGEMENT - BANKING ARRANGEMENTS**

That a banking account or accounts be continued and further accounts opened a may be considered advisable from time to time in the name of the Council with the Clydesdale Bank ("the Bank"), and that the following resolutions shall apply to all accounts of the Council with the Bank now, or in the future.

That the Bank be, and it is hereby instructed and authorised to honour, comply with and debit to the Council's account or accounts, whether in credit or overdrawn in consequence of such debit, all cheques, warrants, orders, bills, promissory notes, negotiable instruments or instructions made, drawn or given on behalf of the Council at any time provided that such cheques, warrants, orders, bills, promissory notes, negotiable instruments or instructions are signed by any one of the Director of Finance, Head of Accounting Services or Head of Exchequer Services.

That as regards the following matters:

- (a) instructions to withdraw, deliver, dispose of or deal with any property, documents or securities held on account of the Council and the withdrawal of securities, documents or articles lodged for safe custody on account of the Council;
- (b) endorsement of all cheques, orders, bills, promissory notes and negotiable instruments payable to the Council;
- (c) any indemnities or counter indemnities given to the Bank;
- (d) instructions for the opening of credits or the issue of guarantees, bonds or indemnities by the Bank;
- (e) the discounting of inland or foreign bills;
- (f) instructions for the opening of any banking account or accounts from time to time in the name of the Council with the Bank.

The Bank or its nominee be hereby authorised to accept on behalf of the Council instructions signed by any one of:

- (i) Director of Finance
- (ii) Head of Accounting Services
- (iii) Head of Exchequer Services

That the Bank be supplied with a list of the names of the Officials of the Council and advised of any alterations to the list.

That it is the Council's desire and intention to issue Cheques drawn on the Current accounts kept in the Books of the Bank in our name with the signature of Alexander McPhee, Director of Finance lithographed or stamped thereon in facsimile: Therefore we do agree that in honouring such Cheques when presented to the Bank they shall as between the Council and the Bank have the same rights, powers and privileges and be in the same position in all respects as if the facsimile signature on such Cheques was the manuscript signature of the said Alexander McPhee and it shall not be competent to the Council to plead or maintain as against the Bank that any such Cheques so presented have been issued without the Council's authority or that the facsimile signature thereon has been adhibited without the Council's authority: And

we further agree to hold the bank indemnified from and against all loss, costs, damages and expense which they may sustain or incur or be liable for, in any manner of way in consequence of the Bank honouring cheques issued by the Council as aforesaid.

That these Regulations be communicated to the Bank and remain in force until amending Resolutions shall be passed by a Meeting of the Council, and a copy thereof, certified by the Chair shall have been received by the Bank.

**TO RETURN TO PREVIOUS PAGE
PLEASE PRESS THE BACK BUTTON
AT THE TOP LEFT OF THE PAGE**