

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

**NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2002 AT 1400 HOURS IN KILMAURS COMMUNITY CENTRE, EAST PARK DRIVE, KILMAURS**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Stephanie Young, Brian McNeil and Ann Hay; Community Representatives Carolyn Blyth, Ashley Bell, John Douglas, Iain Finlayson and John McFadden JP; and Named Substitutes Mary White, Jimmy Miller, Russel Hutcheson and Ismey McKenzie.

**ATTENDING:** John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services; Brian Weadon, Area Engineer North, Roads and Transportation; Christine Renwick, Assistant Area Manager, Homes and Technical Services; Felix Wright, Area Manager, Community Services; Alan Brown, Health Development Officer; Julie Armstrong, Principal Administrative Officer; Jim Richmond, Police Liaison Officer; Kerr Chalmers, Senior Engineer, Roads and Transportation; Gwen Barker, Manager Social Inclusion; Nigel Pimm, Team Leader, Support to Communities; and Christine Baillie, Administration Officer.

**ALSO ATTENDING:** John Ramage, Strathclyde Police.

**APOLOGY:** Councillor Kathleen Hall.

**CHAIR:** Councillor Stephanie Young, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. The Chair introduced and welcomed newly appointed Church Forum Substitute Representative Mrs Ismey McKenzie to her first meeting of the Local Committee.

The Chair also advised that Mr George Paterson, the Elderly Forum Representative had intimated his resignation from the Local Committee.

It was agreed to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to contact the Elderly Forum to invite nominees for the vacant position.

**ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING TO ALLOW FOR 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 1405 hours with the same Councillors, Community Representatives, Named Substitutes and Officers present and in attendance.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

4. There were submitted for information and noted, Minutes of meeting of the Northern Area Local Committee held on 31 October 2001 (circulated).

## LOCAL COMMITTEE GRANTS SCHEME

### LOCAL COMMITTEE GRANTS SCHEME 2001/2002

5. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on applications received from local organisations for grant assistance in terms of the Community Grants Scheme.

The Committee took the following decisions:-

(i) **Applications continued:-**

(a) Disability

St Marnock Youth Club (ENABLE) - It was agreed to continue consideration of this application to the March meeting to enable further information relating to application to be reported.

(b) Young People

East Ayrshire Youth Association (North) - It was agreed to continue consideration of this application to the March meeting to enable details of the Group's activities within the Northern Area to be reported.

(ii) **Applications approved (for the purpose identified in the applications):-**

(a) Early Education & Childcare

The Runabouts Mother & Toddler Group - £113.00

(b) Leisure Activities

Stewarton T-Dance and Fitness Group - £260.00

(c) Older People

St Joseph's Retirement Club - £33.00

The Fulton Club, Fenwick - £600.00

It was also agreed to continue consideration of the 2002 Christmas party element of the application for £200 to the March meeting of this Committee when cognisance will be taken of the funds available.

(d) Social Inclusion

Kilmarnock Family Support Group - £472.00

It was also agreed that the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources submit a report to a future meeting of this Committee on the decision making process regarding the Community Grants Scheme.

(iii) **Applications Refused**

Kilmarnock Portland Boys Club - It was agreed to refuse the application on the grounds that the Committee felt that the Group did not provide any services within the Northern Area.

## **SOCIAL INCLUSION**

### **SOCIAL INCLUSION INITIATIVE**

6. The Committee received a presentation from Gwen Barker, Social Inclusion Manager, on the Social Inclusion Initiative with particular reference to the Northern Area. Background information was circulated at the meeting and Gwen responded to questions from the Committee.

The Chair thanked Gwen for her presentation which was very informative and interesting.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **FOOTBALL PITCHES IN THE NORTHERN AREA**

7. There was submitted a report dated 4 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on a range of football facilities within the Northern area provided by the Council's Community Services Department with specific reference to the associated running and maintenance costs and charging policy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to request that the Director of Community Services provide a report to a future meeting of this Committee providing information and advice on how external funding could be accessed for football pitch improvements; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

## **PLAYPARK PROVISION**

8. There was submitted a report dated 27 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the Council's proposals for the upgrading of playpark provision across East Ayrshire and which sought comments on the proposals specifically relating to the Local Committee area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to recommend that the Council's Working Group on Playparks considers the following proposals, viz:- (a) the retention of the play park in Livingston Terrace, Dunlop with provision of toddler, juniors and teenagers; and (b) the retention of playpark at Merrygreen Place, Stewarton with provision for toddlers; and
- (ii) that in connection with Morton Park, Kilmaurs being the priority area for the Northern Area, if this was found not to be the majority view of the residents of Kilmaurs, then the Director of Community Services be advised accordingly by the Kilmaurs Community Council representative.

## **COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

9. The Committee received a presentation from Alan Brown, Health Development Officer, on the Community Health Improvement Project.

Background information was circulated to the Local Committee and the Chair thanked Alan for his presentation which was both interesting and informative.

### **SAFER STREETS POLICING REPORT "U" DIVISION**

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the nature and results of policing issues, operations, localised crime figures and ongoing initiatives over the preceding period and which advised of forthcoming initiatives.

### **MISCELLANEOUS**

#### **POLICE REPORT**

11. John Ramage, Strathclyde Police, reported on local policing.

It was agreed to note:-

- (i) that the crime rate was particularly high at this time for the Northern Area with the problems occurring predominantly in Stewarton;
- (ii) that vandalism makes up nearly one third of all reported crimes;
- (iii) vehicle crime in the Robertland Estate is a particular problem
- (iv) a person had been charged with bag snatching in Stewarton;
- (v) a person had been charged with a rape in Kilmaurs;
- (vi) that there had been 2 house breakings in Kilmaurs and 1 in Stewarton and 2 commercial break-ins in Fenwick, one being the Fulton Hall where the computer had been stolen; and
- (vii) that there was still an ongoing problem of fighting amongst school children from Dunlop and Stewarton, but that the situation was being addressed.

### **PUBLIC TRANSPORT ISSUES**

12. The Committee discussed a response from Strathclyde Passenger Transport on issues raised on the rail public transport in the Northern area (a copy of the response together with a copy of the original letter written on behalf of the Local Committee had been circulated).

It was agreed to monitor the situation for a period of 3 months, but in the meantime the Chair would write to Councillor's Eric Ross and John Knapp, who are the Council's representatives on the Passenger Transport Authority, to advise them of the situation.

### **DECENTRALISATION ISSUES**

#### **RECRUITMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES 2002/2003**

13. There was submitted a report dated 8 January 2002 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on arrangements for the recruitment of Community Representatives to serve on the Local Committee for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the present Community Representation as detailed in the Appendix to the report and as intimated by the Chair at the beginning of the meeting, namely the resignation of Elderly Forum Representative George Paterson and

the appointment of Ismey McKenzie as Church Forum Substitute Representative;

- (ii) that the present Community Organisation Representation on this Committee be continued for the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003, as follows:-
- Dunlop and Lugton Community Council
  - Fenwick Community Council
  - Kilmaurs Community Council
  - Moscow and Waterside Community Council
  - Stewarton and District Community Council
  - Community/Residents Association
  - Disability Forum
  - Elderly Forum
  - Church Forum
  - Youth Forum; and
- (iii) to remit to the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources to initiate the process of the submission of new nominations for Community Representatives and Named Substitutes by the relevant organisations, to serve during the period 1 April 2002 to 31 March 2003 and to make such arrangements as might be necessary to facilitate that process.

## **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

### **ADVISORY 20 MPH SPEED LIMITS (TWENTY'S PLENTY)**

14. There was submitted a report dated 19 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (i) which advised of the results of a national trial programme advisory 20 mph speed limit in residential areas; (ii) which advised that authorisation had been sought from the Scottish Executive to maintain the advisory 20 mph speed limit at the three trial sites in East Ayrshire; and (iii) which sought suggestions from the Local Committee for possible 20 mph zones to be investigated and considered for future works programmes.

It was agreed to note the findings of the national advisory 20 mph speed limit trials and that the three sites in East Ayrshire were considered a success.

### **2002/2003 PROGRAMME OF STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS**

15. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2002 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the 2002/2003 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programme for "Inescapable" schemes approved by the Development Services Committee which sought approval of the "highly desirable" schemes for structural maintenance of footways, or "desirable" options.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the 2002/2003 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programmes for “inescapable” schemes approved by the Development Services Committee;
- (ii) to approve the “highly desirable” schemes for the Structural Maintenance of Footways; and
- (iii) to note any reduction in the anticipated budget would be accommodated by the Head of Roads and Transportation by reducing the programme in an equitable manner.

#### **LAINSHAW RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION - REQUEST FOR GRANT**

- 16.** There was submitted a report dated 18 December 2001 (circulated) by the Director of Homes and Technical Services which sought approval of an application for an annual operating grant by Lainshaw Residents’ Association.

It was agreed to approve the Lainshaw Residents’ Association request for a grant of £100 from the Housing Revenue Account.

#### **LOCAL ISSUES**

##### **17.1 Local Issues**

There was submitted a report dated 7 January 2002 (circulated) by the Depute Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Resources on local issues raised and, where applicable, the timescale for reporting back to the Local Committee.

##### **17.2 New Local Issues**

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

It was noted that there were no items of local interest for inclusion on a future Agenda.

The meeting terminated at 1620 hours.

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