

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 28 APRIL 2003 AT 1000 HOURS IN
THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Brian McNeil, Katie Hall, Ann Hay, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, Willie Coffey, Douglas Reid, Lilian MacLean, John Weir, Drew McIntyre, Isabel Macrae, Harry Wilson, Alex Walsh, Alan Campbell, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Finlay MacLean, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Jimmy Kelly, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, William Menzies, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Elaine Stewart 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; David Mitchell, Head of Administrative and Legal Services; John Clayton, Head of Corporate Development and Communication; Stephen Moore, Head of Social Work; Jim Richmond, Police Liaison Officer; Julie Armstrong, Assistant Administration Manager; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer and Anne Marie Carr, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Daniel Coffey, Iain Linton, Jim Raymond and Robert McDill.

CHAIR: Provost Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

1. There were submitted (circulated) Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 8 March 2003.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

2. There were submitted (circulated) and approved, both as correct records and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the undernoted Committee meetings, viz:-
 - 2.1 **NORTHERN AREA LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 7 MARCH 2003 (pages 3132-3133)**
 - 2.2 **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 12 MARCH 2003 (pages 3134-3139)**
REMIT FROM COMMITTEE - PROPOSED SHOPMOBILITY SCHEME (Item 7, Page 3136, 99/03) - It was agreed that consideration of the nomination of an appropriate Member to become a founding Director of the proposed company be remitted to the Statutory Council Meeting to be held on 8 May 2003 for further consideration.
 - 2.3 **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - SITTING AS A PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 12 MARCH 2003 (pages 3140-3141)**
 - 2.4 **SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 14 MARCH 2003 (pages 3142-3145)**

- 2.5 KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 18 MARCH 2003 (pages 3146-3149)
- 2.6 NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 19 MARCH 2003 (pages 3150-3154)
- 2.7 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 20 MARCH 2003 (pages 3155-3156)
- 2.8 CENTRAL LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 21 MARCH 2003 (pages 3157-3160)
- 2.9 DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 25 MARCH 2003 (pages 3161-3165)
- 2.10 SPECIAL KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 25 MARCH 2003 (pages 3166-3169)
- 2.11 HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 26 MARCH 2003 (pages 3170-3178)
- 2.12 KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 26 MARCH 2003 (pages 3179-3182)
- 2.13 SPECIAL IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 26 MARCH 2003 (pages 3183-3186)
- 2.14 SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE OF 27 MARCH 2003 (pages 3187-3191)
- 2.15 CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 27 MARCH 2003 (pages 3192-3196)
- 2.16 EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE OF 31 MARCH 2003 (page 3197)
- 2.17 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 1 APRIL 2003 (pages 3198-3203)
- 2.18 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 2 APRIL 2003 (pages 3204-3209)
- 2.19 EMERGENCY POWERS COMMITTEE OF 3 APRIL 2003 (page 3210)
- 2.20 NORTHERN AREA LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 4 APRIL 2003 (pages 3211-3215)
- 2.21 SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 8 APRIL 2003 (pages 3216-3217)
- 2.22 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE - SITTING AS A PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 8 APRIL 2003 (pages 3218-3219)
- 2.23 POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 10 APRIL 2003 (pages 3220-3244)
- 2.24 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 11 APRIL 2003 (pages 3245-3248)

VALEDICTORY SPEECHES

- 3. Councillor Young began by thanking the Provost for his wonderful four years of hard work which had been appreciated. She stated that the last four years had had their good times and their bad. She commented on the loss of both Councillor Robert Stevenson, who believed politics should be set aside between elections, and David Macrae, who was a great friend to her and a marvellous support when she was first elected onto this Council and she was sure that everyone missed them both.

She stated that the Administration Staff from the Headmaster down, originally helped her find her feet and then went on to inform and guide her as and when required.

She stated that as the one person who was required to sit on every Committee in the Council, it was, at first, information overload. She attended all the training seminars and as things settled down she was most grateful for all the information she had received. She stated that people thought, being the sole Tory, that it must have been difficult. However, she stated that it hadn't been because of the ambience and back-up she received from all quarters.

She further stated that as the Chair of the Northern Area Local Committee, she was given the opportunity to work closely with many people of differing opinions which resulted in running an allegedly popular, rewarding and democratic Committee. She stated that even the school representatives said they had found attending the meetings interesting and worthwhile and she then thanked Councillors Hall, Hay and McNeil for their assistance.

She commented that as somebody who puts people before politics, she had found the work as a Councillor gratifying and sometimes even fun. She stated that when people thanked her for assistance she had been able to give, it had made all the rest fall into place.

She went on to state that hopefully the A77 would be started soon and that Jim Kane and his staff deserved to take a bow and perhaps the first sod would be dug soon.

She went on to comment that next year, come November, she would hope to see a great reduction in the sale of fireworks.

She also stated that she was pleased that there was now a new Community Council for Wardneuk, Southcraigs and the Dean and thanked Bill Walkinshaw and his team.

She went on to state that the Planning Department must have their fingers crossed that the Northern Area Local Planning Committee would be less troublesome in the next term.

She stated that by continuing to work together in the next four years, East Ayrshire Council would help bring more industry and tourists to Ayrshire.

She went on to state that she had, during her four year term, tried to represent all her constituents in a fair way. She commented that in the roll call votes that had been taken in this time, she had voted six times with the Opposition, once with the Administration and one time abstained, so her "tent" had obviously been moveable.

She stated that she was given an important piece of advice from her father-in-law when she was elected and he told her to work with administrative staff if she wanted to get anything done which she stated was right.

She thanked Fiona McMurtrie who had been a wonderful PA and thanked all the Directors of Departments and their staff and to everyone in East Ayrshire Council who had helped her grow in the time she had been here. She then wished everyone all the best of luck on Thursday and hoped that the best woman or man would win.

Councillor Reid then thanked the Provost for the fair way in which he had conducted his business and thanked the Chief Executive and Officers for their help and assistance over the past years. He went on to thank all the Members and wished them all the best for Thursday. He then wished his own group well which he hoped would lead to an SNP administration on Thursday. He hoped that the experiences gained would be carried on to future success and wished everyone all the best for the future.

Councillor McIntyre then took the opportunity to say a few words at this term's final meeting of the Council prior to the pending Local Government Elections.

He stated that he was sure that everyone would agree that it was important to do what people said they would do, not a trait popularly attributed to the modern politician, but in East Ayrshire he felt they could have a quiet sense of satisfaction that they pretty much did exactly "what it said on the tin".

He went on to state that it was useful to look back briefly at some of the commitments made following the establishment of the new Council in 1999 and provided just a few of the many achievements which had been delivered for the people of East Ayrshire.

He went on to state that the programme for East Ayrshire had been about tackling the big issues that matter most, including jobs, educating children, fighting poverty and improving health. He stated that over the last four years, and through the combined efforts of Elected Members and employees, the achievements had been many, namely:-

- together with our partners, the Council have substantially changed the attitude of external investors in seeing East Ayrshire as an attractive place to invest, create jobs and live in. During this period, further commercial developments at Rowallan Business Park, Queens Drive and Kilmarnock Town Centre had taken place which, taken with the new ground breaking Child Support Agency facility at Cumnock, and many other developments, had seen around £150 million of public/private sector investment in the area.
- The benefits of the planned upgrade for the A77 were beginning to take place, which the Council fought long and hard for, with over 500 new homes being planned at the north of Kilmarnock. The building blocks for the future were being put in place with development plans well advanced for Kilmarnock and Cumnock Town Centres, all of which were aimed at revitalising the communities.
- Over £10 million had been committed in new school buildings during the last three years and the new Galston Primary School and Nursery School were programmed to start on site this year.
- The total additional benefits secured for East Ayrshire citizens with the assistance of the Council's anti-poverty teams was now running at some £16 million - making a real difference where it matters most.
- Working with the Primary Care Trust and other community planning partners, integrated public services in the award winning Dalmellington Area Centre, and in Drongan, Rankinston and New Farm Loch had taken place. Building developments in Dalrymple, Shortlees and the £4.2 million Neighbourhood Services Centre in North West Kilmarnock would soon take place.
- Heavy investment in road safety measures and public transport initiatives, cutting pedestrian accidents by one third had taken place.
- Children were now doing better than ever before, achieving record examination passes.
- Access to the internet was now available in all of the 23 libraries and the Council's own internet site had been recognised as one of the top three in Scotland.

He stated that these were just some of the many achievements of this Administration and he believed that they stood in good stead for delivering further improvements to the area and to the lives of the people served.

He felt it was worth recognising that these achievements could not have taken place without the hard work of all Elected Members here today.

He further stated, that in the life of the Council, two friends and colleagues had been lost in Robert Stevenson and Davie Macrae.

He went on to state that Robert had joined the Council in 1999 and although only with the Council for over a year, he made a positive contribution and was clearly very committed to representing the people of Kilmarnock Central East. He went on to say that Robert was a credit to his party and to the people he represented.

He further stated that friend and colleague Davie Macrae was lost just over a year ago. He stated that Davie was also a committed and enthusiastic Member whose tireless work made a significant contribution to the lives of the people of East Ayrshire. He stated that the measure of Davie's contribution to the work of this Council could not be understated and that the work had been continued through Isabel of whom he was certain Davie would have been justifiably proud.

He then thanked all Elected Members serving over the period of this Council term, firstly to his own Group for their hard work, support and co-operation. He then thanked Councillor Reid and Members of the Opposition Group, whilst their politics may differ on various issues he did not doubt that they all worked in the best interests of the people they were elected to represent. He then thanked Councillor Young and extended his personal thanks for her contribution over the time of the Council.

He also thanked and offered best wishes to those Members who were retiring on a voluntary basis - Provost James Boyd, Councillors Alan Campbell, Katie Hall and Brian McNeil.

He then, on behalf of all Elected Members, thanked the Chief Executive, Senior Management Team and all staff for the continued support to Members over the period of this Council.

He then wished all Members standing for re-election good luck and hoped to see the majority of them back in the new Council.

Finally, he stated that he would be sure to be forgiven for singling out the Provost for a special mention. He was certain that everyone irrespective of party affiliations would agree that Jimmy had served in the role of Provost with real commitment and distinction as he had done in all of the many years he had selflessly given to public service.

He stated that Jimmy had been a fair minded, hard working, dedicated and effective ambassador for East Ayrshire and he extended his personal thanks and thanks and best wishes of the entire Council to him and to Anna and their family.

He then presented a photo album to Provost Boyd as a reminder of the many official engagements he had performed as the people's Provost.

The Provost then took the opportunity of the last Council meeting prior to the Elections and to his imminent retirement to say a few words.

He stated that it hardly seemed four years since he was appointed Provost of East Ayrshire and that it had been an honour and a privilege to serve the Council and people of the area. He stated he had tried to carry out his duties and commitments in a manner which at all times reflected the dignity of the position without being detached from the needs of those that he served.

He further stated that his term of office had been an adventure, an education, a challenge and he hoped ultimately a success. He stated he had been received with courtesy wherever he represented East Ayrshire, both within its boundaries and beyond and had tried to visit as many local communities as possible.

He went on to state that his experiences had served to reinforce the conviction that those who work in a voluntary capacity were the unsung heroes and heroines of the country and he once again saluted them for all the immense contribution that they had made.

He stated that he looked on his term as Provost of East Ayrshire as the highlight of his Local Government career. He also stated that it had also been a privilege to be Vice-Convener of the Joint Police Board, Chair of East Ayrshire Licensing Board, and to be involved in the many activities with which he had been associated with since reorganisation of Local Government seven years ago.

He commented that there were many people who had helped and supported him along the way, too many to mention individually however he did say a very public thank you to his family, his wife Anne and daughter Lynn for their personal contributions, particularly in his public role as Provost when their presence at events had been such a great asset to him and to his son Johnny and daughter Anne for all their help.

He stated that although each had played a supporting role it was nonetheless an important one and he could not have managed without them.

He then went on to thank all Members, for the unstinting encouragement, respect and friendship that they had shown him during his term which had played no small part in helping him to carry out the varied workload of meetings, events and other activities which were the responsibility of every Civic Leader and which he hoped he had taken in his stride.

In particular, he then went on to thank Depute Provost Darnbrough for deputising for him on many occasions during the past four years and for doing so in such a creditable manner.

His next expression of thanks had been to all the Senior Officers with whom he had worked and had supported him so ably. He stated it would be impossible to mention them all by name but he gave a particular thank you to David Montgomery and to Fiona Lees, both of whom had provided such wise counsel and understanding throughout his term.

He commented that in almost every speech he had given during the past four years, he had included a reference to the Council's four tenets of quality, equality, access and partnership and he took the opportunity to say that no group of people exemplified these principles better than the officers and workforce who served the Council.

He then asked them all to accept his thanks for their professionalism, their commitment and their outstanding abilities in so many areas of expertise, without

which none of the goals of East Ayrshire could have been accomplished and observed that the Council was richer for the immense contribution that they make to public service.

He then also extended a sincere thanks to his personal staff, Helen, Bernie, John, Bill and Bobby for their hard work and support during his terms both as Provost and Depute Provost as they had been the behind the scenes team that had helped to smooth his path and their efforts had helped to make his task that bit easier. He wished each of them to know how much their contribution had been valued.

He went on to state that although he was retiring from public office he would always retain an interest in East Ayrshire Council and its activities. He wished his successor and other Members who would be elected on 1 May every success for the future.

He stated that great strides had already been made as a Council and the Council had enjoyed some notable success. In the case of the Dalmellington Area Centre and other one-stop shops, these had been groundbreaking initiatives which had received unprecedented recognition for their originality and which had won the Council many prestigious awards.

He then finished by stating that he was confident that the Council would continue to build on the firm foundation that had been prepared and that the Council would provide a first class quality of life for everyone who lives and works in East Ayrshire.

The Provost then thanked everyone present.

The meeting terminated at 1030 hours.