

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16 DECEMBER 1999 AT 1000 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Provost Jimmy Boyd and Councillors Brian McNeil, Ann Hay, Stephanie Young, Brian Reeves, William Coffey, Douglas Reid, Robert Stevenson, John Weir, Andrew McIntyre, Harry Wilson, Iain Linton, Alexander Walsh, Jane Darnbrough, John Knapp, Jim Raymond, Finlay MacLean, Robert McDill, Eric Jackson, George Smith, Tommy Farrell, Julie Faulds, William Menzies, Eric Ross, Elaine Dinwoodie, Robert Taylor and James Carmichael.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Barbara Haughan, Director of Corporate Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; Alex McPhee, Director of Finance; James Lavery, Director of Homes and Technical Services; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Kate McVey, Solicitor to Council; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; John Walker, Head of Building and Works; Alan Neish, Head of Planning and Building Control; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer; Robin Baker, Treasury Services Manager; and Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Katie Hall, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, Alan Campbell and Jimmy Kelly.

CHAIR: Provost Jimmy Boyd, Chair.

PRESENTATION OF PHOTOGRAPHIC PORTRAIT AND BADGE FOR PAST PROVOST ROBERT STIRLING

1. Provost Boyd welcomed Past Provost Robert Stirling and Mrs Stirling to the Council meeting.

Provost Boyd stated that Bobby Stirling had been the first Provost of East Ayrshire and that he was the first person to receive the Council's Past Provost recognition.

Bobby was first elected to Local Government in 1981 when he won a By-Election to Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council for Ward 11. Bobby had served on most Committees of the District Council and had represented the area on a number of outside organisations including the Licensing Board, the Kilmarnock and District Sports Council and the North Ayrshire and Arran Local Health Council. Bobby had been re-elected in 1994 and had added the Scottish National Housing and Town Planning Council to the list of outside bodies that he sat on. The Provost further commented that Bobby had continued to work on Council Committees and had been the Chair of the Policy and Resources Committee after his re-election in the last term of Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council.

The Provost referred to Bobby's election to East Ayrshire Council in 1995 and his subsequent election as Provost in 1996, a position that he held until the most recent election. As well as fulfilling his responsibilities on Council Committees, Bobby continued to represent local people on outside bodies and was one of the Council's representatives on the Strathclyde Joint Police Board and East Ayrshire Town Twinning Association and had also been made Honorary President of the Burns

Federation. Bobby was also well known as one of Kilmarnock Football Club's greatest fans.

In conclusion, the Provost intimated that Bobby now joined the much more exclusive club of former Provosts and stated that he was pleased that the Council could recognise Bobby's contribution with this presentation today.

The Provost then, on behalf of East Ayrshire Council, presented Bobby with a framed formal photograph and the first ever East Ayrshire Past Provost badge.

Past Provost Stirling replied in suitable terms.

PROVOST'S REMARKS

2. The Provost, on behalf of all Members present, extended his best wishes for a speedy recovery to Councillor Macrae who was in hospital at present.

He then referred to the recent floodings within the area over the past week which had caused great distress and inconvenience to East Ayrshire people and the business community.

Members of the Council also commented on the problems which had been experienced by the flooding in various areas and congratulated all those involved in the Emergency Planning process, the emergency services and the Council's DLO/DSO workforce for their commitment in tackling the situation.

It was also noted that Councillor McIntyre had written to Jack McConnell, Minister for Finance and Sarah Boyack, Minister for Transport and the Environment to request that funding be released to complete further flood prevention schemes to avoid a recurrence of the recent floodings.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

3. There were submitted Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 4 November 1999 (circulated) which were approved as a correct record.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

4. 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:-
 - 4.1 **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 26 OCTOBER 1999 (pages 449-453, 99/02).**
 - 4.2 **NORTHERN AREA LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 29 OCTOBER 1999 (pages 454-456, 99/02)**
 - 4.3 **KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 9 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 467-470, 99/02)**
 - 4.4 **CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 11 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 471-474, 99/02)**
 - 4.5 **CENTRAL LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 12 NOVEMBER 1999 (page 475, 99/02)**
 - 4.6 **HOUSING COMMITTEE OF 17 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 476-481, 99/02)**

- 4.7 IRVINE VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 17 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 482-486, 99/02)
- 4.8 SOUTHERN LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 19 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 487-493, 99/02)
- 4.9 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 23 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 494-500, 99/02)
- 4.10 KILMARNOCK CENTRAL LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 23 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 501-503, 99/02)
- 4.11 COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE OF 24 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 504-512, 99/02)
- 4.12 KILMARNOCK SOUTH LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 24 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 513-515, 99/02)
- 4.13 EDUCATION COMMITTEE OF 25 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 516-523, 99/02)
- 4.14 NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 25 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 524-528, 99/02)
- 4.15 NORTHERN AREA LOCAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 26 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 529-533, 99/02)
- 4.16 SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE OF 30 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 534-535, 99/02)
- 4.17 DOON VALLEY LOCAL COMMITTEE OF 30 NOVEMBER 1999 (pages 536-539)
- 4.18 POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 2 DECEMBER 1999 (pages 540-558)
- 4.18.1 REMIT FROM COMMITTEE - URBAN PROGRAMME TERMINATING PROJECTS: FINANCIAL YEAR 2000/2001 (Item 10, Page 542, 99/02)

It was agreed:-

- (i) to appoint Councillors Jackson (as Chair), Smith, Knapp and Carmichael to the Evaluation Panel for Terminating Urban Programme Projects; and
- (ii) to note that the two nominations from the Opposition Group would be submitted to the Head of Administration as soon as possible.

- 4.19 SPECIAL AD HOC HOUSING PARTNERSHIP OF 3 DECEMBER 1999 (pages 559-560).

**CHANGE IN MEMBERSHIP - EAST AYRSHIRE TOWN
TWINNING ASSOCIATION (Item 6.1, Page 5, 99/02)**

- 5. Following a request from the SNP Group, it was agreed to replace Councillor Harry Wilson with Councillor Robert Stevenson on the East Ayrshire Town Twinning Association.

**MINOR AMENDMENTS TO COMMITTEE STRUCTURE/
SCHEME OF DELEGATION (Item 16, Page 150, 99/02)**

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 30 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Corporate Services which suggested for consideration minor amendments to the Committee structure and the Scheme of Delegation to meet present operational requirements.

It was agreed:

- (i) to delete the Social Work Community Care and Children, Families and Criminal Justice Sub-Committees from the Committee structure;
- (ii) that membership of the Social Work Complaints Review Sub-Committee be drawn on a rota basis from the members of the Social Work Committee subject to availability, as detailed within the Scheme of Delegation;
- (iii) to approve the amendments to Officer delegation as detailed within paragraph 4 of the report; and
- (iv) that it be remitted to the Director of Corporate Services to update the Scheme of Delegation to incorporate the recommendations mentioned above and to incorporate any changes to the Scheme of Delegation following Committee decisions made to date.

**ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS 1998/99 - COMPETITIVE SERVICES ANNUAL
REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1998/99**

7. There was submitted a report dated 7 December 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which presented to Council the Annual Abstract of Accounts for 1998/99 together with Audited Annual Report and Accounts for Competitive Services for 1998/99.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Chief Executive incorporate the revised figures ie audited accounts, within the previously approved Annual Report for 1998/99;
- (ii) to note that minor amendments would be made to the narrative of the Annual Report; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

AUDITOR'S REPORT ON 1998/99 ACCOUNTS

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 29 November 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance which presented to Council the Auditor's report on his Audit for 1998/99.

**STATUTORY REPORT 99/10 - EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL -
REVIEW OF PERFORMANCE OF BUILDING AND WORKS DLO - 1998/99**

9. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised Council of the receipt by the Council of a report by the Controller of Audit to the Accounts Commission in terms of Section 102(1) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended in relation to the review of the performance of the Building and Works DLO in 1998/99 and the Commission's findings.

The Council then welcomed to the meeting John Walker, who had taken up his new post as Head of Building and Works with the Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the receipt of the Controller of Audit's Statutory Report into the Review of the Performance of the Building and Works DLO 1998/99;
- (ii) to note the generally positive conclusions reached by the Controller of Audit on the progress made by the Council in addressing the issues arising from the DLO deficit 1997/98;

- (iii) to note the findings of the Accounts Commission and that in future these issues would be kept under review as part of the normal audit process;
- (iv) that Officers responsible for implementing the action set out in the Action Plan prepared by the External Auditors continued to monitor progress and work towards the specified timescales;
- (v) to provide a copy of the report to both the Controller of Audit and to the Accounts Commission in order to demonstrate the continuing importance given to these issues by the Council;
- (vi) that the Director of Homes and Technical Services prepare and present to a future Committee meeting the required updated Business Plan which addressed long term objectives on how the DLO would achieve continuous improvement prior to its submission to the Scottish Executive before the end of January 2000; and
- (vii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

THE COUNCIL PLAN 1999-2002

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 10 December 1999 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised the Council of the outcome of the recent Elected Members Seminar on Corporate Planning and which submitted for endorsement a draft statement of the Council's top level plan.

Having noted that minor adjustments would be made to the Plan to encompass overall objectives already agreed by Council and to complement clearly the Council's existing Commitment Statement, it was agreed:-

- (i) to endorse the draft framework for the Council Plan and the seven top priorities identified which would underpin and implement the Council's core values of Quality, Equality, Access and Partnership and the Council's strategies;
- (ii) to note that Service Committees would consider Departmental Plans, detailing actions and targets in response to the top priorities;
- (iii) to note that proposed arrangements for the community planning process in East Ayrshire would be the subject of a separate report to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

PROVOST'S CONCLUDING REMARKS

- 11.** This being the final Council meeting of the year, the Provost thanked Members for their support over the year and wished all Members, Officers and the electorate best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

The meeting terminated at 1105 hrs.