

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 28 November 1995 at 10am in the London Road Centre, Kilmamock

PRESENT: Councillors R Stirling, Chair; I Reeves, W Doyle, R Brailsford, J Dambrough, J O'Neill, K Hall, R Beattie, J Knapp, D Fulton, D Macrae, K Nicoll, G Tumbull, R McDIII, E Ross, J Kelly, D Sneller, J Boyd, G Smith, J Carmichael, R Taylor, J Smith, T Farrell, E Jackson.

ATTENDING: D Montgomery, Chief Executive; F Lees, Depute Chief Executive; G Clark, Director of Finance; B Haughan, Director of Support Services; J Hillis, Director of Housing; W Stafford, Director of Community Services; D Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; K McVey, Head of Legal Services; R Wallace, Head of Administration; G Fraser, Chief Executive's Department; and L Belshaw, KLDC.

1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES

The Sederunt was taken and apologies were intimated on behalf of Councillors G McCredie, A McIntyre, A Campbell and D Coffey.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 18 October 1995 (issued) were submitted and approved as a correct record.

3. MINUTES OF EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL - RECRUITMENT AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (INTERVIEW PANELS) - INTERIM STRUCTURE

There were submitted the Minutes of the following meetings (issued).

5 June 1995	Establishment of Interview Panels (pgs 74-77)
19 June 1995	Director of Education/Housing (pgs 106-107)
21 June 1995	Director of Social Work (p.114)
22 June 1995	Head of Property (p.118)
26 June 1995	Director of Finance/Personnel (pgs 122-123)
27 June 1995	Senior Officer Appointments (pgs 145-146)
29 June 1995	Head of Public Relations & Marketing (p.147)
27 July 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Directors/Heads (pgs 157-159)
4 August 1995	Director of Commercial Operations (p.160)
14 August 1995	Director of Development Services (p.178)

15 August 1995	Director of Community Services (p.179)
17 August 1995	Director of Support Services (p. 188)
18 August 1995	Depute Chief Executive (p.189)
19 August 1995	Head of Roads and Transportation (p.190)
23 August 1995	Head of Economic Development (p.198)
29 August 1995	Head of Planning (p.220)
30 August 1995	Head of Protective Services/Head of Leisure (pgs 221-222)
31 August 1995 (p.223)	Head of Contracting and Technical Services
1 September 1995 225)	Head of Administration/Legal Services (pgs 224-
9 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Depute Director of Social Work (pgs 236-237)
9 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Depute Director of Education (p.238)
9 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Members' Secretaries (p. 239)
14 September 1995	Depute Director of Education (p.243)
20 September 1995	Depute Director of Social Work (Professional Posts) (pgs 248-249)
21 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Depute Director of Finance (pgs 255-256)
21 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Depute Director of Commercial Operations (pgs 257-258)

21 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Depute Director of Social Work (Resources post) (pgs 259)
21 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Depute Director of Housing (p.260)
21 September 1995	Shortleeting meeting for Depute Director of Personnel (p.261)
30 September 1995	Depute Director of Finance (pgs 290-291)
1 October 1995	Depute Director of Commercial Operations (pgs 292-293)
3 October 1995	Depute Director of Housing (p.294)
9 October 1995 (p.295)	Depute Director of Social Work (Resources)
10 October 1995	Depute Director of Personnel (p.296)
13 October 1995	Head of Information Technology (p.297)

The Council, thereafter, agreed that the Minutes be adopted and numbered.

4. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

The undernoted Minutes of meetings of Committees (issued) were submitted and approved:-

- 4.1 Social Work Committee of 25 October 1995
- 4.2 Housing Committee of 31 October 1995
- 4.3 Education Committee of 2 November 1995
- 4.4 Community Services Committee of 7 November 1995
- 4.5 Development Services Committee of 9 November 1995
- 4.6 Commercial Operations Committee of 14 November 1995
- 4.7 Recruitment and Personnel Committee of 14 November 1995
- 4.8 Policy and Resources Committee of 16 November 1995

4.8.1 MATTERS ARISING FROM POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE OF 16 NOVEMBER 1995

(i) **CAPITAL PROGRAMME** - Having heard Councillor Sneller outline the Council's situation with regard to the Capital Programme the Council agreed that powers be delegated to a special meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee to be held on 18 December 1995 at 10am to approve the submission of the Council's capital bid to the Secretary of State within the identified timescale for the bidding process.

(ii) **STAFF COMMISSION CIRCULAR 9195 - MATCHING INDIVIDUAL POSTS IN THE NEW COUNCIL** - Having heard Councillor Sneller the Council agreed that powers be delegated to the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee to consider any representations received from Trades Unions in relation to the principles of the matching process and to decide upon the principles to be adopted.

(iii) **DRAFT DEPARTMENTAL STAFF STRUCTURES** - The Council agreed that powers be delegated to the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee to finalise, after determining any representations made by Trades Unions, the draft departmental structures and the arrangements for filling of posts within the structures.

The Council expressed gratitude to Iain McLachlan, Director of Personnel in recognition of his outstanding work in the process of developing the staffing structures.

(iv) **CHILDREN'S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE** - The Council agreed

(i) to appoint, as representatives on the Children's Panel Advisory Committee, Dorothy Houston a former Head Teacher with 21 years experience of Children's Panel activities and Councillor Robert Beattie who for many years has had an interest in the Children's Panel, and

(ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Support Services to make the necessary arrangements.

4.8.2 INTERIM STANDING ORDERS

It was agreed that the Interim Standing Orders be formally adopted by the Council until further review.

5. PARLIAMENTARY RETURNING OFFICERS - PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted a report (issued) by the Director of Support Services summarising the proposed arrangements for the appointment of Parliamentary Returning Officers contained in a Scottish Office consultation letter dated 6 November 1995 (also issued) and recommending possible responses by the Council.

Having heard the Director of Support Services outline the detail of the report and stress that the East Ayrshire Council should be designated as responsible for the Parliamentary General Election in respect of the constituency of Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley and that future counts should be held in Cumnock.

It was agreed that the observations contained within the report: as detailed in the Appendix to this minute: form the Council's response to the Scottish Office.

6. INTER-AUTHORITY CO-OPERATION

There was submitted report (issued) updating the Council on the current position regarding potential co-operation with other unitary authorities within the Strathclyde area. After having heard the Chief Executive in explanation and in answer to Members' questions it was agreed:

- (a) that the arrangements for a West of Scotland Purchasing Consortium, including catering purchasing as detailed in Appendix A to the report be endorsed and that the Elected member appointed to serve on the Joint Committee be Councillor McIntyre;
- (b) to approve in principle participation in inter-authority co-operation with regard to European interests and that the Elected Member appointed to serve on the working group to devise detailed proposals be Councillor Sneller;
- (c) to confirm a continuing commitment to West of Scotland Inter-Authority liaison arrangements after 1 April 1996; and
- (d) to participate in joint inter-authority campaigning which would seek to influence the terms of any legislation to be made: with regard to the collection of water charges: in order to ensure that appropriate provision for non-payment of water charges without detriment to the collecting unitary authority and proper provision for reimbursement of the costs of collection and recovery by the unitary authority, are included in the statutory order.

7. APPOINTMENT OF CONVENERS AND VICE CONVENERS TO THE STRATHCLYDE POLICE AND FIRE JOINT BOARDS

There was submitted and noted a report (issued) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the appointment of the Convener and Vice Convener to the Strathclyde Police and Fire Joint Boards.

The Council congratulated Councillor Boyd on his appointment as Vice Convener of the Strathclyde Police Joint Board.

8. NOTICE OF MOTION

There was submitted a Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor O'Neill seconded by Councillor Sneller. Councillor O'Neill condemned the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin and proposed the Motion "that the Council on behalf of the people of East Ayrshire send their deepest sympathy to the government and people of Israel on the loss of our comrade and their great leader, Yitzhak Rabin, and assure them of our continual support for the cause in which he died, that of peace and reconciliation between communities".

The Council agreed to support the motion.

9. CONVENER'S REMARKS

The Convener advised that there would not be a further meeting of the Council until February 1996 and wished all Members and Officers best wishes for the festive season.

The meeting terminated at 10.25am

APPENDIX

1. At present the returning officer for this Constituency is the Chief Executive, Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council who conducts the election in co-operation with Kyle and Carrick District Council; the proposals therefore represent a departure from current arrangements, on the rationale that the Parliamentary returning officer should be the returning officer for the Council which has the greater share of electors in a multi-Council Constituency. Based on the Electoral Register for 1995 that part of the Constituency in the South Ayrshire Council area has an electorate of 33,535 and that for the East Ayrshire Council area 32,439, the difference between the two being only 1,097 electors.
2. With such a slim majority of electors in the South Ayrshire Council area there would appear to be a sound argument that other factors should outweigh in this case the predominance of electors and the Council considers that the following points should influence the decision in favour of East Ayrshire Council:
 - a) Election Office - The Election Office should be located within the Constituency. This office has been at Lugar (Cumnock and Doon Valley District) since 1979 and the location has presented no problems for agents or candidates of the political parties' involved. If East Ayrshire were to run the election such a facility would be continued. If South Ayrshire were to organise the election it is felt likely that the election office would be joined with that of the Ayr Parliamentary Constituency in Ayr.
 - b) The Count - This has been held within the Constituency since 1979 and it is desirable that this should continue. At present the Count is held in Cumnock Academy. While similar facilities may exist within the Carrick area these are considered to be more remote. A second alternative of Dam Park Hall, Ayr is not within the Constituency and there is some question as to whether there would be enough space for two Counts (i.e. Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley and Ayr Constituencies). Agents from the Carrick area are used to attending the Count at Cumnock and this has presented no problems.
 - c) Staff - Staff transferring to East Ayrshire Council have considerable experience, gained over many years, in running Parliamentary and European Elections within the Constituency, including Carrick and there will be sufficient experience in staff transferring to East Ayrshire to run both Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Carrick, Cumnock and Doon Valley Elections.
 - d) Disruption - There should be a general presumption against disruption of Election procedures. The administration arrangements for the Election should not change unless they become quite impracticable and certainly not for purely statistical reasons, particularly on very narrow margins of the balance of the electorate.

