

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 1999 AT 1400 HOURS IN NETHERTHIRD IFE WING, CRAIGENS ROAD, CUMNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, David Sneller, Jimmy Boyd, George Smith, Jim Carmichael and Eric Jackson; and Community Representatives Mr William Lees, Mrs Jean Smith, Mr Alex Currie and Mr Ronnie Hamilton.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; Jim Hazlett, Divisional Social Work Manager; Donald McVicar, Departmental Strategy Officer - Support Services; Ron Murray, Environmental Health Officer; Julian Thorp, Planning Officer - Policy and Projects; Andrew J Davidson, Technician - Development Services; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Councillors Jane Darnbrough and David Fulton, Chief Inspector James Thomson, Strathclyde Police "R" Division and Bruce Davidson, Project Manager - East Ayrshire Woodlands.

APOLOGIES: Community Representatives Mr William Crawford, Mr David Elliot, Mr Hugh Murdoch and Miss Lynne Irwin.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair commented on the recent death of Ron Brailsford, Elected Member for the Gargieston/Howard ward in Kilmarnock, following illness. Ron was to be commended for his commitment and enthusiasm to the work of East Ayrshire Council and to serving his local community. He would be sadly missed not only by those within his local community, but further afield and, indeed, by anyone who knew him. The Chair extended sincere condolences, both personal and on behalf of the Local Committee, to Ron's widow and family at this time.

MINUTES

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. There were submitted for information, and noted, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Cumnock Area Local Committee held on 12 November 1998 (circulated).

2.1 MATTERS ARISING

It was noted that the Director of Community Services would provide directly to Community Representative Alex Currie, a list of contractors who would uplift used chip pan oil.

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S DECENTRALISATION SCHEME

(Item 2, Page 3724)

3. There was submitted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised that, as part of a review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme, a panel of Councillors would visit every Local Committee before the end of February 1999 to consult on developing the Scheme.

There was introduced to the meeting Members of the Decentralisation Consultation Panel viz:- Councillors Fulton and Darnbrough. Councillor Jackson who was also a Member of the Panel was present at the meeting as a Member of the Local Committee. The Panel sought the views of the Local Committee on practical improvements to the Council's Decentralisation Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note views expressed by Community Representatives, namely:-
- that Local Committees present an effective and useful forum for discussion on local issues;
 - that production and circulation of "Grapevine" was an excellent initiative and plays an important role in informing Community Representatives and the public of the decisions of the Local Committee;
 - that Community Forums provide a valuable opportunity for public discussion on relevant issues;
 - that in cases where a report is submitted to a Local Committee for information, presentation of that report to the Committee by the Officer concerned should be confined only to the key points of the subject in question; and
 - that consideration be given to further training for Community Representatives;
- (ii) that, the 15 minute question and answer session held at the conclusion of Local Committee meetings, should, for a trial period, take place prior to the commencement of the meetings;
- (iii) that, while recognising that support mechanisms are in place to assist Community Representatives in carrying out their roles, consideration could be given to ways in which these mechanisms could be further developed to meet the particular requirements of individual Representatives;
- (iv) that local organisations should, where they so request, be given additional time, beyond the specified closing dates, to consider consultation documents issued by the Council;
- (v) that the current representation of Community Councils on this Local Committee (two representatives) was adequate and appropriate within the terms of the existing Local Committee scheme;
- (vi) to note the consultation process being undertaken as part of a review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme; and

- (vii) to note that a report on the findings of the consultation panel would be presented to a future meeting of the Local Committee later in the year.

STORM DAMAGE WITHIN THE LOCAL AREA

4. Arising from discussion, it was agreed (i) that a report be submitted to the next meeting on damage caused to Council properties within the local area as a result of the recent storms, and the Authority's response to the situation; and (ii) that, in the interim, the Director of Community Services, who has responsibility for Emergency Planning, prepare a Briefing Note on this matter for circulation to the Members of the Committee.

CUMNOCK AREA COMMUNITY FORUM: NEXT MEETING - 9 FEBRUARY 1999

5. The Administrative Officer reported and it was noted (a) that arrangements had been made for the next meeting of the Cumnock Area Community Forum to take place on the evening of Tuesday 9 February 1999, commencing at 1900 hours in Catrine Community Centre; and (b) that the only item for discussion at the Forum Meeting would be the Council's budget proposals for financial year 1999/2000.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

FINANCIAL POSITION 1998/99

6. There was submitted a statement dated 8 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services outlining the financial position in respect of Community Grants for the financial year 1998/99.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the information provided in the statement which, amongst other things, indicated that, with the exception of a sum of £1,664.00 remaining from an allocation of £5,000 set aside for general applications from Older People's Groups, the allocation available for community grant funding had now been fully committed, a total expenditure of £52,047; and
- (ii) that, in respect of the balance of £1,664.00 remaining, Older People's Groups within the area be given the opportunity of making application for funding under this heading in respect of any projects/activities etc which they might be proposing to undertake.

DISBURSEMENT OF COMMUNITY GRANTS 1999/2000

7. There was submitted a report dated 7 January 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services to enable the Committee to consider the mechanism to be adopted for the disbursement of Community Grants during the 1999/2000 year.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that local organisations be required to submit applications for community grant for the 1999/2000 year, irrespective of when the group's proposed activity/event etc is due to take place, no later than 31 March 1999, and that all applications received by the due date be considered by this Committee at a future meeting to be held as soon as possible following commencement of the next financial year, on a date to be determined;

- (ii) that, in order to facilitate the submission of applications by local groups, the Director of Support Services would arrange (a) for those organisations which had previously applied for Community Grant funding to be advised of the arrangements for applying for the coming year and to be issued with a copy of the grant application form; (b) for posters to be displayed at Council premises advising of the arrangements; and (c) for an advertisement to be placed in the local press;
- (iii) that the Director of Support Services would submit a report to an appropriate future meeting of this Committee on those applications for grant received by 31 March 1999, in order to enable the Committee to consider (a) the date on which the applications can be dealt with, taking account of operational and any other matters; and (b) whether a portion of the financial allocation to be made available to this Committee for Community Grants for 1999/2000 should be set aside to enable other applications for Community Grant, which might be received throughout the year, to be considered; and
- (iv) to remit the report to the Decentralisation Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee for information with a view to examination of the possibility of the mechanism adopted by this Committee being utilised by other Local Committees.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

“OPERATION SPOTLIGHT”

8. There was submitted a report dated 8 January 1999 (circulated) by Chief Inspector Thomson, Strathclyde Police, which advised of “Spotlight” activity and crime trends over the recent period.

The Chief Inspector provided a verbal update on certain of the statistics provided in the report and responded to questions put by Members of the Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the report submitted together with the additional information provided by the Chief Inspector;
- (ii) that future reports would include information on crime activities where the Police are pursuing a proactive approach; and
- (iii) that the Solicitor to the Council be requested to submit a report to a future meeting providing information on Compensation Orders sought against individuals relative to damage arising through criminal activity.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

A PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

(Item 8, Page 3594)

9. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which set out a number of environmental improvement projects identified through consultation with the Local Committee to select projects for implementation during 1998/99 and subsequent years.

It was agreed that the Director of Development Services would, subject to confirmation that Cumnock Initiative funds could legitimately be used for works under this heading, prepare a further report on this matter following consultation with the local Members concerned regarding the prioritisation of suggested projects within their respective Wards, the report to include further detailed information relative to the Members' preferred schemes, particularly in respect of capital and ongoing maintenance costs.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

REMOVAL OF DOG FOULING/ARRANGEMENTS FOR STREET WASHING: SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT (Item 8, Page 3917)

- 10.** There was submitted a report dated 9 December 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the arrangements made for street cleaning, particularly with regard to the use of "litter pickers" and brushes and shovels by Street Sweeping personnel.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services would take such measures as he considered appropriate in respect of the operation of Lacre Road Sweepers, as highlighted by the Chair at the meeting;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services would investigate concerns raised by Community Representative William Lees regarding the cleaning of gullies in Lanehead Terrace, New Cumnock, and would respond directly to Mr Lees on this matter; and
- (iii) to note the terms of the report.

PIGEON FOULING AT RAILWAY BRIDGE, MAIN STREET, AUCHINLECK

- 11.** There was submitted a report dated 24 November 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the nature of the problem of pigeon fouling at the Railway Bridge, Main Street, Auchinleck, and the action taken to date in this regard.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to recommend to the Decentralisation Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee that this matter be referred to the Community Services Committee with a report which advises on the extent of the entire problem of bird fouling throughout East Ayrshire with any proposals to resolve the problem including the resource implications thereof; and
- (ii) to note the terms of the report.

DISCARDING OF SUPERMARKET TROLLEYS IN RIVERS (Item 6, Page 3916)

- 12.** There was submitted a report dated 9 December 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the issues relating to the discarding of supermarket trolleys in rivers within Cumnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services would (a) make an approach directly to Cumnock Angling Club with a view to joint arrangements being establishment to deal with this problem; and (b) write directly to the supermarkets concerned requesting that they take appropriate action to address the situation; and
- (ii) to note the terms of the report.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

RELOCATION OF DISABLED PARKING BAYS: CAR PARKS AT TOWNHEAD STREET, AYR ROAD AND TANYARD, CUMNOCK

13. There was submitted a report dated 10 December 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised of the outcome of discussions with the East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability and the Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel in relation to the relocation of disabled parking bays within the Townhead Street, Ayr Road and Tanyard car parks in Cumnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in respect of this Committee's interest, the relocation and remarking of disabled parking bays within the car parks in question, as indicated in the report; and
- (ii) that the Roads Technician would investigate and respond directly to Community Representative Jean Smith on responsibility for maintenance of the footpath at the rear of Glaisnock Shopping Centre, Cumnock.

HORSECLEUGH OPENCAST COAL SITE: COMMUNITY WOODLAND SCHEME

14. There was submitted a report dated 11 December 1998 (circulated) by the Project Manger, East Ayrshire Woodlands, which advised of proposals to establish public access native woodland on part of the former Horsecleugh Opencast Coal Site and sought the Committee's support to the project.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the proposals to enhance the landscape restoration on Horsecleugh Opencast Coal Site; and
- (ii) that the Director of Support Services issue, on behalf of the Committee, a letter of support for the project to East Ayrshire Woodlands for inclusion in the application for Community Woodland Supplement to the Forestry Authority.

SOCIAL WORK

A FRAMEWORK FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN SCOTLAND: AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN HEALTH BOARD JOINT STRATEGY (Item 4, Page 3844)

15. There was submitted a report dated 8 December 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which advised of the draft Mental Health Strategy and the draft Sub-Strategy for People with Dementia and Older People with Mental Health Disabilities prepared by the Ayrshire and Arran Mental Health Framework Project Team.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work would submit to a future meeting of this Committee, for information, the finalised Strategy and Sub-Strategy; and
- (ii) to note the terms of the report.

RESPITE CARE STRATEGY 1998/2001 (Item 2, Page 3844)

16. There was submitted a report dated 9 December 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which provided information on the Respite Care Strategy 1998/2001, which was appended to the report.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Social Work provide an update to Committee on the implementation of the Plan after twelve months; and
- (ii) to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1627 hours.