

## **EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 11 May 1995 at 3pm in the Council Offices, Lugar**

- PRESENT:** Councillors Robert Beattie, James Boyd, Ronald Brailsford, James Carmichael, William Cree, Jane Darnbrough, Williamina Doyle, Thomas Farrell, David Fulton, Kathleen Hall, Eric Jackson, James Kelly, John Knapp, Gordon McCredie, Andrew McIntyre, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, James O'Neill, Irene Reeves, Douglas Reid, Eric Ross, George Smith, John Smith, David Sneller, Robert Stirling, Robert Taylor and George Turnbull.
- ATTENDING:** M C Reed (Interim Clerk), C Johnston (Interim Finance Officer), J Ross (Interim Personnel Adviser), J Armstrong and A Fairbairn, Administrative Officers, Interim Clerk's Office.
- CHAIR:** Councillor Robert Stirling, Convener, in the Chair.

#### **1. SEDERUNT AND APOLOGIES**

Dr M C Reed took the sederunt, apologies being submitted on behalf of Councillors Alan Campbell, Daniel Coffey and Robert McDill.

#### **2. REMARKS BY CONVENER**

Councillor Stirling welcomed members to the second meeting of East Ayrshire Council and thanked Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council for making their Chamber available for the meeting.

He remarked that his intention was to be brief because of important business later in the agenda when the Council would welcome the new Chief Executive. However, he intimated that in the three weeks since the first meeting there had been a lot of activity, most of which was covered in the Committee Minutes, but there were some important additional items he wished to report on especially in relation to personnel.

Both he and Councillor Sneller had met with the staff and manual workforces of both Kilmarnock and Loudoun and Cumnock and Doon Valley District Councils and had also met with the Staff Commission to discuss transfer arrangements. In addition, Councillor Sneller had attended a meeting with Strathclyde Cleaning Direct staff in Kilmarnock.

The Convener further commented that obviously there was much uncertainty among the workforce of all three existing authorities at the moment but hoped that the paper dealt with at item 7 on the agenda would go some way to reassure staff about the principles the Council intended to follow.

Finally, he also briefly reported on his attendance at a meeting with Sportability yesterday at Strathclyde Park.

### 3. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of previous meeting held on 18 April 1995 (circulated) was submitted and approved.

### 4. MINUTES OF THE INTERIM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

(a) Having heard Councillor Sneller in answer to the questions raised, submitted and approved minutes of meeting (circulated) held on 24 April 1995.

(b) Submitted minutes of meeting (circulated) held on 3 May 1995 which were approved subject to the following amendments:

Councillor Sneller intimated that the administration of the Council would very shortly be consulting members of the public on their views for East Ayrshire Council, and this would be arranged through a series of public forums in June. These forums would be the first of many to consult and inform the public on the way ahead for East Ayrshire Council and the decentralisation of local government services which would give members of the public a chance to express their views and it was hoped that a high attendance could be achieved.

He further moved membership to the Committees as follows:

- (i) Policy and Resources Committee - 12 members (9 Labour, 3 SNP) - David Sneller (Chair), James Boyd, Williamina Doyle, Thomas Farrell, Andrew McIntyre, James O'Neill, Irene Reeves, Robert Stirling, Robert Taylor plus three SNP members to be appointed in due course.
- (ii) Recruitment and Personnel Committee - 9 members (7 Labour, 2 SNP) - James Boyd (Chair), Williamina Doyle, Thomas Farrell, Andrew McIntyre, David Sneller, George Turnbull, James Kelly plus two SNP members to be appointed in due course.
- (iii) Reorganisation Committee - Councillor Stirling as Chair.
- (iv) External Agencies Committee - 9 members (7 Labour, 2 SNP) - Eric Ross (Chair), Thomas Farrell, James Kelly, Andrew McIntyre, John Smith, David Sneller, Robert Stirling plus two SNP members to be appointed in due course.

Agreed.

### FURTHER OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

Agreed to amend the minutes to include the Directors of Housing, Social Work and Education as further Officer appointments required to be made timeously and that the Recruitment Committee would meet after the Council meeting to discuss the procedure for the appointments further.

### CONFERENCES

Agreed to amend the minutes in respect of the Conference delegates as follows:

<u>Name of Conference</u>	<u>Delegates</u>
Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA)	Eric Jackson and James O'Neill SNP representative - Kathleen Hall
Scottish Wildlife and Countryside Link	Bob Beattie and David Fulton

SNP representative - To be notified

## **AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN HEALTH BOARD - FUTURE PROVISION OF HEALTH AND CARE SERVICES FOR CUMNOCK, MAUCHLINE AND SURROUNDING AREAS**

Having heard Councillor Sneller comment on a previous meeting held between Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council and Ayrshire and Arran Health Board, when the Health Board had decided to allow the NHS Trust to tender for the provision of health and care services for the aforementioned areas, it was agreed that the matter be referred to the External Agencies Committee.

### **5. MINUTE OF THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE**

Submitted and approved minutes of meeting (circulated) held on 21 April 1995.

### **6. APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Councillor Sneller, Chair of Recruitment Committee, spoke on the procedures adopted for the appointment of Chief Executive and reported that the Recruitment Committee at its meeting on 10 May 1995 had recommended the appointment of Mr David Montgomery as the Council's Chief Executive on a salary of £73,000 per annum.

The Council having approved the said recommendation, Councillor Stirling then welcomed Mr David Montgomery to the meeting. He gave a brief outline of Mr Montgomery's past employment in the education service which extended from Ayr County Council to his current employment as Senior Depute Director of Education with Strathclyde Regional Council. Thereafter, Councillor Mrs Nicoll thanked Dr Malcolm Reed for carrying out his duties as Interim Clerk and welcomed Mr Montgomery as new Chief Executive.

Mr David Montgomery then addressed the members present detailing his aims and hopes for the future of East Ayrshire Council.

### **7. JOINT COSLA/TRADE UNION FORUM - LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

Submitted joint CoSLA/Trade Union Forum document on the transitional arrangements for staff to the new authorities highlighting the following points:

1. Transfer of employees.
2. Training and development.
3. Compensation arrangements.
4. Monitoring.

Agreed to the acceptance of the recommendations contained in the paper.

## 8. SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY ALLOWANCES ETC

Submitted CoSLA document (circulated) on advice to new Councils, item 3 - Special Responsibility Allowances with recommendations as follows:

- (i) Leader of the Council should be paid a special responsibility allowance of £14,000;
- (ii) Holders of other posts should be paid 75% or 50% of the Leader's allowance depending on the degree of responsibility;
- (iii) The opposition Leader should be paid 40% of the Leader's allowance;
- (iv) The level of special responsibility allowance should be restricted in the transitional year for Councillors receiving special responsibility allowances from existing Councils;
- (v) Special responsibility allowances should be uprated annually in line with average white collar earnings; and
- (vi) Consideration of the Convener's and Depute Convener's allowances should have regard to this advice and the decisions taken on special responsibility allowances.

Agreed to accept the recommendations on special responsibility allowances as shown in the report and that consideration of special responsibility allowance for the Convener and Depute Convener be considered at a future meeting.

## 9. CORRESPONDENCE

Submitted the following (circulated):-

### (a) SCOTTISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Letter dated 21 April 1995 from Mr K Inch, Chief Executive, Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council giving details of a letter received from the Director of Administration and Legal Services, Monklands District Council, seeking the support of the Council in pressing CoSLA to take all reasonable steps to oppose the establishment of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA), on which Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council had agreed to pledge their support.

Agreed that East Ayrshire Council also support Monklands District Council and that a letter to this effect be sent advising them of the decision.

### (b) AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN TOURIST BOARD SCHEME ORDER 1995

Submitted letter dated 3 May 1995 from The Scottish Office Industry Department on a proposed Order to establish a new Area Tourist Board to include the East Ayrshire area and seeking nominations for appointment to the Executive Committee of the Board.

Agreed to refer consideration of this matter to the first meeting of the External Agencies Committee.

**(c) CHILDREN ACT 1989: REVIEW OF SERVICES - STATUTORY PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Submitted letter dated 3 May 1995 from Edward T Darcy, Education Officer, Strathclyde Regional Council, on the arrangements for the public meetings to be held in connection with the statutory public consultation on the review of services as part of the Education Department's duties under the Children Act 1989 and requesting attendance by a member of Council at the meetings.

Agreed that Councillor Farrell attend on behalf of East Ayrshire Council and that the Education Department be advised accordingly.

**10. CONFERENCES ETC**

The Interim Clerk gave details of invitations to conferences as follows:

- (i) Northern Stage - 15 June 1995 at Newcastle Playhouse.
- (ii) Decentralisation - What it means for DSOs and DLOs - Friday 26 May 1995 in the Salutation Hotel, Perth.
- (iii) Scottish Association of Sign Language Interpreters - 2 June 1995, Stirling.
- (iv) Helping Councillors to be Effective - 23 June 1995, Aberdeen and 26 June 1995, Glasgow.

Agreed that nominations be submitted for the conference on "Helping Councillors to be Effective" to be held in Glasgow on 26 June 1995.

**11. USE OF FORMER JAMES HAMILTON ACADEMY BUILDING, KILMARNOCK AS INTERIM HEADQUARTERS**

The Interim Clerk gave details on the scheme which had been prepared to establish temporary part occupation of the James Hamilton Academy building, London Road, Kilmarnock for members and support staff.

Planning application and Building Warrant consent had been applied for and the necessary works, after approval of the necessary consents, could be carried out in approximately three weeks giving progressive accommodation within that time. The finance for the work had been informally agreed with The Scottish Office to the approximate cost of £80,000 and The Scottish Office had also advised that additional finance for capital works would be available in June and September and invitations from Councils to bid for further capital finance would be sought.

Agreed to commence with the necessary work and that a request for additional finance be submitted to The Scottish Office.

**12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Agreed that the date of next meeting be Thursday 29 June 1995 in the Council Chambers, Kilmarnock at 1500 hrs.

**13. DURATION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 1535 hrs.