

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 MAY 1998 AT 1400 HOURS IN
THE COOPER TRUST SUITE, MAUCHLINE COMMUNITY CENTRE,
KILMARNOCK ROAD, MAUCHLINE**

PRESENT: Councillors George Smith, Jim Kelly, David Sneller, James Boyd, Jim Carmichael and Eric Jackson; and Community Representatives: Reverend Matthew Sullivan, William Lees, Jean Smith, Alex Currie, Lynne Irwin and Ronnie Hamilton.

ATTENDING: Paul L Todd, Principal Officer (Environmental Health and Waste Management); Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Neil Bell, Senior Engineer (Roads and Transportation); Arthur West, Service Manager - Development (Social Work); Valerie Walker, Pre-School Community Organiser (Education); and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Chief Inspector James Thomson, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Eric Ross; and Community Representatives William Crawford and Hugh Murdoch.

CHAIR: Councillor George Smith, Vice-Chair.

MINUTES

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

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

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

**COMMUNITY REPRESENTATION: EAST AYRSHIRE (SOUTH) FORUM ON
DISABILITY**

2. It was reported (a) that Mr Peter Neely, who had been appointed to the Local Committee as a Community Representative by the East Ayrshire (South) Forum on Disability had intimated his resignation from the Committee with effect from 4 April 1998; and (b) that the Forum had appointed Mrs Jean Smith, as their new Community Representative, Mrs Smith having previously been the substitute Community Representative, with Mr Robert Gurney as the new substitute.

The Committee noted the matter and remitted to the Director of Support Services to write to Mr Neely on behalf of the Committee acknowledging his contribution as a Community Representative.

COMMUNITY GRANTS

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

3.1 AGE CONCERN ORGANISATIONS AND OLD FOLKS' WELFARE ASSOCIATIONS (Item 3.2, Page 3190)

There was submitted a report dated 30 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services to enable the Committee to consider the rate at which per capita grants were to be awarded to local Age Concern organisations and Old Folks' Welfare Associations during the financial year 1998/99.

3.1.1 Declaration of Interest

Community Representative William Lees declared an interest in the application for grant submitted by New Cumnock Age Concern and took no part in consideration of this application.

3.1.2 Consideration of Item

It was agreed:-

- (i) that for the current financial year, Community Grant payments be made to the local Age Concern organisations and Old Folks' Welfare Associations on a per capita basis at the rate of £4.00 per person, according to the registered membership of each organisation;
- (ii) that, in terms of (i) above, grants be made to the following Age Concern organisations and Old Folks' Welfare Associations which had made application for financial assistance as undernoted, namely:-

Mauchline Old Folks' Welfare Association	-	£2,964.00
New Cumnock Age Concern	-	£2,792.00
Age Concern, Cumnock	-	£4,444.00
Cumnock Landward Age Concern	-	£1,868.00
Catrine Old Folks' Welfare Association	-	£1,624.00
Auchinleck Old Folks' Welfare Association	-	£2,660.00
Sorn Old Folks' Welfare Association	-	£512.00
Lugar and Logan Age Concern	-	£840.00;
- (iii) that, in terms of (i) above, an appropriate grant be made to Muirkirk Age Concern subject to the submission by this Group of a satisfactory application for Community Grant, this application to be dealt with in detail by the Director of Support Services in consultation with the Chair.

3.2 OLDER PEOPLES' INTEREST GROUPS: GENERAL APPLICATIONS

Arising from discussion pertaining to the preceding sub-item, it was agreed that a total sum of £5,000 be set aside from the current year's Community Grants budget to enable grant applications from Older Peoples' Interest Groups within the area, other than Age Concern organisations and Old Folks' Welfare Associations, to be dealt with, each application under this heading to be considered on its individual merits.

3.3 GENERAL APPLICATIONS

There was submitted a statement dated 7 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which summarised the pertinent information relative to outstanding applications for Community Grants received from local organisations and outlining the financial position in respect of Community Grants for the financial year 1998/99.

3.3.1 Declaration of Interest

Community Representative Jean Smith declared an interest in the application for grant submitted by the Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel and took no part in consideration of this item.

3.3.2 Applications Approved (for the purpose specified in the application), viz:-

(a) Playschemes

- (i) Afton Lone Parents Group, New Cumnock - £520; and
- (ii) Cumnock and Doon Valley Women's Aid - £350.

(b) Older People's Interest Groups

- (i) Auchinleck Senior Citizen's Ladies Club (Item 3.1.3, Page 3190):-

Councillor Boyd, seconded by Councillor Carmichael, moved that a grant of £300 be made to this Club in respect of this application which related to the provision of Christmas dinner for members and transport costs for day trips.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved as an amendment that this application be refused since the Local Committee had already awarded grant assistance to Auchinleck Old Folks' Welfare Association to assist in meeting the cost of Christmas dinners and day trips for older people within Auchinleck.

On a division by a show of hands, there were three votes for the amendment and three votes for the motion. There being an equality of votes the Chair exercised his casting vote in favour of the motion.

- (ii) Afton Court Friendship Club, New Cumnock (Item 3.1.3, Page 3190) - £1,000; and
- (iii) Keir Hardie Hill Tenants and Residents Association, Cumnock:-

Councillor Boyd, seconded by Councillor Carmichael, moved that a grant of £250 be made to the Association in respect of this application which related to the costs associated with an outing for old folks.

Councillor Sneller seconded by Councillor Jackson moved as an amendment that this application be refused since the Local Committee have already awarded grant assistance to Age Concern Cumnock to assist in meeting the cost of Christmas dinners and day trips for older people within Cumnock.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was carried by three votes to two.

(c) Young Persons Interest Groups

- (i) Logan Mothers and Toddlers - £700;

(d) People with Disabilities Interest Groups

- (i) Cumnock and Doon Valley Deaf Club (Item 9, Page 3294) - £1,265;
and
- (ii) Cumnock and Doon Valley Access Panel (Item 9, Page 3294) - £300;

(e) Leisure/Recreation Groups

- (i) Cumnock Music Club - £200;
- (ii) Mauchline Horticultural and Agricultural Society - £150;
- (iii) Cumnock and District Pool Project - £400;
- (iv) Auchinleck Talbot Junior Football Club:-

Councillor Carmichael, seconded by Councillor Kelly, moved that this application, which related to works to improve spectator safety at the Club's football park, be refused since the Club was a self financing private organisation.

Councillor Boyd, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved as an amendment that a grant of £350 be made since the Club make their facilities available to the wider community free of charge.

On a division by a show of hands, the amendment was carried by three votes to two.

(f) Miscellaneous Organisations

- (i) Mauchline Community Association (Gala Day) - £300;
- (ii) Muirkirk Community Association (Gala Day/
Children's Day) - £600;
- (iii) Auchinleck Self Help Group - £335;
- (iv) Mauchline Community Council (Hanging Baskets) - £306.

3.3.3 Applications Continued(a) Miscellaneous Organisations

- (i) Muirkirk Enterprise Group - to enable the submission of further information pertaining to the nature of the proposed project.

Councillor Sneller left the meeting during consideration, and Councillor Carmichael left the meeting following determination, of the above item.

COMMUNITY SERVICES**EAST AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SAFETY FORUM: NOMINATION OF
COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE (Item 3, Page 3229)**

4. There was submitted a report dated 30 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the Council's intention to establish an East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum to replace the East Ayrshire Accident Prevention Committee and which invited the Committee to nominate a Community Representative to serve on the Forum.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to nominate Mrs Jean Smith to serve on the East Ayrshire Community Safety Forum; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN 1998: PROGRESS REPORT (Item 13, Page 2494)

5. There was submitted a report dated 30 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised of the work carried out within East Ayrshire during National Spring Clean 1998.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the Council's target of increasing the number of events/projects within East Ayrshire during National Spring Clean 1999; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL ROAD SAFETY PLAN (Item 13, Page 2217)

6. There was submitted a report dated 30 April 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on the East Ayrshire Council Draft Road Safety Plan and which invited the Committee to comment on the Draft Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to suggest that the Plan should highlight information on the incidents of road traffic accidents involving cars and heavy goods vehicles;
- (ii) that Members of the Committee would, if they so wished, and on an individual basis, advise the Director of Development Services of any further comments which they might wish to make on the Plan as soon as possible and in any event by the due date of 31 July 1998; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

TRAFFIC CALMING: MAUCLINE AND NEW CUMNOCK

7. There was submitted a report dated 6 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which provided an update on the background to, and operation of, the traffic calming measures which had been put in place on the A76 trunk road in Mauchline and New Cumnock.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the terms of the report; and
- (ii) that the Senior Engineer (Roads and Transportation) would report directly to Community Representative William Lees on the schedule for planting out of those areas within New Cumnock provided for traffic calming measures.

Community Representative Reverend Matthew Sullivan left the meeting following consideration of this item.

GENERAL**PROPOSED CLOSURE OF CLYDESDALE BANK SUB-BRANCH IN MUIRKIRK**

8. There was submitted a report dated 7 May 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which advised of, and sought the views of the Committee on, a proposal by the Clydesdale Bank to close the Muirkirk Sub-Branch with effect from close of business on 22 May 1998.

In this connection, Councillor Kelly, the local Member for Muirkirk, advised of his extreme concern at this proposal, a sentiment which was very much shared by the local community. He explained that the Clydesdale Bank Sub-Branch, which opened three mornings per week, was the last remaining banking facility within the village and was used by local businesses and individuals. He further explained that Muirkirk was a relatively remote rural community with the nearest banking facilities outwith the village being located in Cumnock, Strathaven or Douglas, all of which were at least ten miles away. Closure of the Sub-Branch would have repercussions not only for existing individuals, particularly the elderly, infirm and those on low incomes, and businesses within the village, but would also be damaging to efforts to regenerate the local community.

The Councillor contended that the Clydesdale Bank had a responsibility to the local community to maintain banking facilities within the village and asserted that the Bank should withdraw the proposal.

Councillor Kelly indicated that a large number of villagers would be staging a demonstration at the Clydesdale Bank offices in Glasgow on Monday 18 May 1998 in protest at the proposed closure and that a meeting involving the Leader of the Council, representatives of the local community and himself, with representatives of the Bank would take place on 21 May 1998 in order to discuss the matter.

After discussion, it was agreed:-

- (i) to support strongly the concerns expressed by the local Member and his call for the Bank to withdraw the proposal;
- (ii) to remit to the Director of Support Services to write to the Clydesdale Bank advising of the views of the Local Committee;
- (iii) to recommend that the Council should make appropriate assistance available in support of the lobby against the proposed closure;
- (iv) that local organisations represented on the Local Committee would be encouraged to make separate representations to the Clydesdale Bank in respect of their interests, on the adverse implications of the proposal;
- (v) that a further report on progress on this matter be submitted to a future meeting; and
- (vi) otherwise, to note the terms of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1605 hours.