

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

CUMNOCK AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 5 FEBRUARY 1997 AT 1415 HOURS IN SORN VILLAGE HALL, MAIN STREET, SORN

PRESENT: Councillors Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, David Sneller, George Smith, Jim Carmichael and Eric Jackson; and Community Representatives Reverend W Buchan, Mr W Crawford, Mr P Neely and Mr A Currie.

ATTENDING: Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; Sandy Gillatt, Chief Engineer (Roads and Transportation); John Bryson, Area Engineer (Roads and Transportation); Jim Hazlett, Divisional Social Work Manager (South Division); Ken Robinson, Principal Administrative Officer; Paul Todd, Principal Officer (Environmental Health and Waste Management); David Hewet, Senior Policy Advisor (Development Services); Adrian Browne, Planning Officer; Diane McPherson, Planning Officer; and Stuart Nelson, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Jimmy Boyd and Community Representative Mr R Mathers.

CHAIR: Councillor Eric Ross, Chair.

LOCAL COMMITTEE COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

1.1 RESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE: MR IAN SMITH

There was submitted a letter from Mr Ian Smith, Muirkirk, who had been appointed to the Local Committee as a Community Representative by the local Community Councils, intimating his resignation as a Community Representative.

In this connection, it was reported that the Director of Support Services, with the approval of the Chair and Vice-Chair, had written to the local Community Councils in the light of Mr Smith's resignation inviting them to nominate a replacement Community Representative to serve on the Local Committee.

The Committee noted Mr Smith's resignation and the action taken by the Director of Support Services in the light thereof.

1.2 NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVE BY ELDERLY INTEREST GROUPS (Item 1, Page 993)

The Administrative Officer reported that the Director of Support Services had made arrangements for a meeting, involving appropriate representatives of elderly interest groups within the Local Committee's area, to take place on 25 February 1997, in order to enable the groups concerned, prior to the next meeting of the Local Committee, to nominate a Community Representative to serve on this Committee.

Noted.

DRAFT DECENTRALISATION SCHEME (Item 2, Page 1611)

2. There was submitted a report dated 16 January 1997 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising of the content of the Draft Scheme for Decentralisation, the steps taken to consult on the Draft Scheme and seeking comments on the Scheme.

It was agreed to support the proposals contained with the Draft Decentralisation Scheme, as detailed in the report.

PUBLICITY FOR LOCAL COMMITTEE AND COMMUNITY FORUM MEETINGS

3. There was submitted a report dated 29 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of the Draft Publicity Plan for Local Committee and Community Forum Meetings, and seeking comments on arrangements for the Cumnock Area in particular.

The Local Committee agreed:-

- (i) in respect of its interest, to approve the general publicity plan detailed in Sections 4 and 5 of the report; and
- (ii) that, in addition to the measures contained within the Plan, the Head of Public Relations and Marketing ensure that any posters or similar publicity material providing details of meetings be issued for display to all Post Offices within the Local Committee's area well in advance of the meeting concerned.

PRESENTATION: OPENCAST OPERATIONS: 16 JANUARY 1997 (Item 6, Page 1446)

4.1 Declaration of Interest

Councillor David Sneller declared a non direct pecuniary interest in terms of the National Code of Local Government Conduct and took no part in consideration or determination of the following sub item.

4.2 Consideration of Item

There was submitted a report dated 21 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services advising of the outcome of the presentation made on 16 January 1997 by representatives of the Scottish Coal Company Limited to Elected Members and Community Representatives of the Cumnock Area and Doon Valley Local Committees and Members of the Council's Development Services Committee on the company's opencast operations within East Ayrshire.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the outcome of the presentation;
- (ii) that the Director of Support Services, after consultation with the Chair, make arrangements (a) for further presentations to be made to Members of the Local Committee on opencast mining by other contractors operating within the Local Committee's area and; (b) for a site visit to be made to House of Water Opencast Coal Site, near New Cumnock, together with the Knockshinnoch Disposal Plant, by Members of the Local Committee;
- (iii) that the other Elected Members of East Ayrshire Council and also the Community Representatives of the Doon Valley Local Committee, together

with appropriate Officials be invited to attend any further presentations on this subject and also the proposed site visit; and

- (iv) that the Director of Development Services make representations to opencast mining operators within the area in respect of the establishment of local Liaison Committees in relation to opencast operations, where such Committees were not established.

STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS

5.1 AMENDMENTS TO THE 1996/97 PROGRAMME (Item 4.1, Page 1700)

There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services advising of amendments to the 1996/97 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programme approved by the Development Services Committee.

5.2 1997/98 PROGRAMME (Item 4.2, Page 1700)

There was submitted a report dated 17 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (a) advising of the 1997/98 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programme for “inescapable” schemes approved by the Development Services Committee; and (b) seeking approval to the “highly desirable” schemes or “desirable” options.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the 1997/98 Roads and Footways Structural Maintenance Programme for “inescapable” schemes approved by the Development Services Committee; and
- (ii) to approve the “highly desirable” schemes for the Structural Maintenance of Footways as detailed in the Appendix to the report.

MAUCHLINE CROSS SCULPTURE (Item 11, Page 996)

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 23 January 1997 (circulated) by the Head of Planning and Building Control on the most appropriate method of progressing the production of a public art sculpture for Mauchline Cross, Mauchline, to complement and enhance the recently completed Public Library development.

It was agreed that the Director of Development Services recommences the design process for the production of a public art sculpture for Mauchline Cross on the following basis, namely:-

- (a) the object of the process would be to identify a sculpture with a theme which is relevant to Burns’ time in Mauchline;
- (b) that the views of Mauchline Community Council and Mauchline Burns Club be obtained and taken into account in setting the terms of reference for the proposed sculpture;
- (c) that designs for the proposed sculpture be invited from suitable sources in illustration format only, on a competitive no fee basis;
- (d) that the illustrations to be produced would be displayed at the new Mauchline Library development for public consultation and that as part of the consultation

process, appropriate information would be made available in respect of each illustration and its local relevance; and

- (e) that a report on the outcome of the public consultation process would be submitted to a future meeting of this Local Committee for consideration.

IDENTIFICATION OF LOCAL RESIDENTIAL AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT SITES

7. There was submitted a report dated 24 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services (a) detailing, for information, the criteria used by the Department of Development Services in the selection of sites for future housing and industrial developments; and (b) requesting the Committee to identify any sites located within the Local Committee's area which were considered to have potential for future residential or industrial use.

It was agreed to continue consideration of this matter to the next meeting pending an informal briefing session taking place in the interim for Members of the Local Committee with Officers of the Planning and Building Control Division in order to discuss land availability for housing and industry within the Local Committee's area.

BUSINESS GRANTS AND LOAN SCHEME STATUS REPORT (Item 8, Page 1447)

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 20 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services providing a detailed breakdown of the companies given grant and loan support in the period 1 April to 31 December 1996.

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS: COMMUNITY GRANTS

9. There was submitted a report dated 20 January 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services summarising the pertinent information relative to applications for community grants to local organisations and outlining the approximate financial position in respect of applications for grant received so far this financial year.

The undernoted decisions were agreed in relation to the grant applications considered, namely:-

(a) Elderly Interest Groups

- (i) New Cumnock Working Men's Club - that this application be refused since (i) the Local Committee had already awarded grant funding to New Cumnock Age Concern in respect of a party for senior citizens within that community; (ii) the Club was a commercial, rather than a voluntary, organisation; and (iii) in view of the funds held, and income generated, by the Club from other sources; and
- (ii) Auchinleck Parish Church (Senior Section) - that this application be refused since the Local Committee had already awarded grant funding to Auchinleck Old Folk's Welfare Association in respect of a party for senior citizens within that community.

(b) Young People's Organisations

- (i) Barshare Junior Youth Club, Cumnock - that a grant of £630 be made.

(c) Miscellaneous Organisations

- (i) Safer New Cumnock - to approve, in principle, a grant of £3,000 to this organisation in respect of their proposed security lighting pilot project in New Cumnock, subject to the satisfactory outcome of further discussions to be arranged by the Director of Support Services with the group in respect of the specification of the light units to be installed and the identification of houses to be included in the scheme, the matter to be dealt with in detail by the Director of Support Services, after consultation with the Chair;
- (ii) Cumnock and Doon Valley Women's Aid - that a grant of £500 be made to this organisation and that the Officials concerned endeavour to identify appropriate surplus required equipment from within the Council's existing resources, which could be made available to the Group for their use; and
- (iii) Barony Life Saving Club - that a grant of £200 be made.

In respect of the above application, the Committee agreed that East Ayrshire Sports Council be made aware of the Committee's disappointment that the application for grant assistance submitted by the Club to the Sports Council for this purpose, had been refused; and to recommend to the Leisure Sub-Committee of the Community Services Committee that the Sports Council should review their criteria for awarding grant assistance.

The meeting terminated at 1540 hours.