

**EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL****MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 5 MARCH 1998 AT  
1100 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS.  
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

**PRESENT:** Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Drew McIntyre, Irene Reeves, Gordon Cree, Douglas Reid, Wilma Doyle, Ronald Brailsford, Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, Jim O'Neill, Kathleen Hall, Ann Hay, John Knapp, Daniel Coffey, David Fulton, Kim Nicoll, George Turnbull, Robert McDill, Eric Ross, Jim Kelly, David Sneller, Jimmy Boyd, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, John Smith and Eric Jackson.

**ATTENDING:** David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Bill Stafford, Director of Community Services; Stephen Chorley, Director of Development Services; Gordon Clark, Director of Finance; John Mulgrew, Director of Education; John Hillis, Director of Housing; Douglas Bulloch, Director of Social Work; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; William McKenzie, Acting Director of Commercial Operations; Alex McPhee, Senior Depute Director of Finance; Sue Angus, Depute Director of Education; Graham Haugh, Depute Director of Personnel Services; Roddy Wallace, Head of Administration; Kate McVey, Head of Legal Services; Douglas Campbell, Head of Public Relations and Marketing; Robin Baker, Senior Accountant; and James Lally, Senior Administrative Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Gordon McCredie, David Macrae, Robert Taylor and Tommy Farrell.

**CHAIR:** Provost Robert Stirling, Chair.

**CHAIR'S REMARKS**

1. Provost Stirling congratulated Councillor Ann Hay on her success in the recent election for Ward 13 and welcomed her to her first meeting of the Council.

**RESCHEDULING OF THE KILMARNOCK NORTH LOCAL COMMITTEE**

2. Provost Stirling confirmed that the above item, which was shown as item 4 on the Agenda had been withdrawn.

**TIME LIMIT OF SPEECHES**

3. It was agreed, for the duration of this meeting in relation to the Council's prepared budget, that the mover of a motion or amendment could speak for no more than 20 minutes with succeeding speakers entitled to speak for no more than 10 minutes and that the original mover should have the right to speak for 10 minutes in reply.

**DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT 1996/97**

4. There was submitted report dated 27 February 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Finance seeking approval of the draft annual Report 1996/97 for East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed to approve the Abstract of Accounts for 1996/97 as contained within the draft Annual Report and that it be remitted to the Chief Executive to finalise the Annual Report by making appropriate textual adjustments to the narrative of the report including the inclusion of reference to William Wallace as a famous person associated with East Ayrshire in the introduction to the report.

Councillor Kelly left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

### **GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE ESTIMATES AND COUNCIL TAX 1998/99**

5. There was submitted Minute excerpt from the Special Policy and Resources Committee of 4 March 1998 together with the undernoted reports (all circulated), viz:-
- (a) Report dated 26 February 1998 by the Chief Executive on draft Estimates 1998/99 - Savings and Growth Proposals;
  - (b) Report dated March 1998 by the Chief Executive on draft Estimates 1998/99 - Report from Service Committees; and
  - (c) Report dated 25 February 1998 by the Director of Finance on General Services Revenue Estimates 1998/99 - Setting the Council Tax.

Councillor Sneller thanked Officers, Chairs and Vice-Chairs of Service Committees and in particular the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance and their teams for their hard work throughout the budgetary process. He commented on the restrictions placed on local government through capping and the difficult choices faced by the Council in setting the budget against a third successive year of cuts and called for an independent commission to look at Local Government finance, as the present situation of 80% of Local Government income being controlled by Central Government was unacceptable. He also referred to the extensive public consultation exercise which had been undertaken, comments from which had led to budget proposals being adjusted to reflect views expressed at the consultation meetings and thanked all members of the public for their input.

Councillor Sneller, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved the recommendations contained in the remit from the Policy and Resources Committee of 4 March 1998 as follows, viz:-

- (i) to agree the revised savings and growth proposals in respect of Central Services and the Support Services, Personnel and Finance Departments and across the Council action as detailed in Appendices I to VII of the Chief Executive's report dated 26 February 1998 (referred to under 'a' above) to align the Policy and Resources Committee budget to the final allocation remitted by the Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting held on 23 February 1998;
- (ii) to note that all Service Committees had met and aligned service delivery plans with final allocations for 1998/99 remitted by the Policy and Resources Committee on 23 February 1998;
- (iii) to adopt the savings and growth packages as detailed in Appendices I to VII of the Chief Executive's report dated March 1998 (referred to under 'b' above);

- (iv) to declare a level of relevant expenditure for capping purposes per Service amounting to £132.642m as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the Director of Finance's report dated 25 February 1998 (referred to under 'c' above);
- (v) to approve the level of other items of non-relevant expenditure which amounted to £18.424m as detailed in paragraph 4.1 of the Director of Finance's report dated 25 February 1998 (referred to under 'c' above);
- (vi) to approve the level of net expenditure amounting to £28.210m to be met from Council Tax on the basis as shown in paragraph 4.2 of the Director of Finance's report dated 25 February 1998 (referred to under 'c' above);
- (vii) to approve the Council Tax bad debt provision at 9%; and
- (viii) to declare a Council Tax (Band 'D') equivalent of £819 for 1998/99.

Councillor Coffey thanked Members and staff for the work which had been undertaken in preparation of the budget and, seconded by Councillor Nicoll, moved as an amendment, viz:-

- (i) that the Council note with disgust the "new" Labour Government's determination to enforce Tory spending cuts resulting in a further erosion of the Council's services and Council Tax rises in excess of inflation, for the third consecutive year;
- (ii) that, moreover, Council condemns the "new" Labour Government's intention to continue the Tory attack on the jobs, pay and conditions of Scottish Local Government employees by making no provision for pay awards;
- (iii) that the Council demand that the Secretary of State holds an immediate meeting with a representative cross-party delegation to agree a realistic financial settlement for Local Government safeguarding jobs and services; and
- (iv) that the Council agree to adjourn this meeting until 10 March 1998.

On a division by a show of hands the motion was carried by 18 votes to 8.

Councillor Kelly rejoined the meeting during discussion of the above item prior to a decision being made.

#### **LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION - EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL WARD 13: 26 FEBRUARY 1998**

6. There was submitted a report dated 27 February 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive advising, for the information of Council, of the election results in respect of the Local Government Election for Ward 13 of East Ayrshire Council held on Thursday 26 February 1998 and referring to related issues.

It was agreed

- (i) to note the election results as detailed within the Appendix to this Minute; and
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Support Services to include within the report on the regular review of the Scheme of Delegation, a review of the membership of East Ayrshire Council's Committees and Sub-Committees for

consideration at the next ordinary meeting of Council to be held on 26 March 1998.

The meeting terminated at 1155 hrs.

**APPENDIX****LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION RESULTS FOR  
EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL WARD 13: 26 FEBRUARY 1998**

The total number of votes polled for each candidate were as follows:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Address</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>	<b><u>Votes</u></b>
Ann Hay	80 Rigghead Stewarton Kilmarnock	Scottish National Party (SNP)	788
Raymond Russell	4 Manor Avenue Kilmarnock	The Scottish Labour Party Candidate	375
Ann Stevenson	43 Underwood Place Kilmarnock	Scottish Liberal Democrat	48
Stephanie Young	Hillhouse Lodge Fenwick Kilmarnock	Scottish Conservative	469

There was one ballot paper rejected for the following reason: Unmarked or null and void uncertainty.

The percentage poll was 47.3%.