

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 APRIL 1997 AT 1000 HOURS
IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Bob Beattie, Gordon McCredie, Gordon Cree, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael and Robert Taylor.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure; John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Irene Townson, Principal Solicitor; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; and Ian Gemmell, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jane Darnbrough, Allan Campbell, Kathleen Hall, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, David Sneller, John Smith and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Bob Beattie, Chair

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There was submitted and approved both as correct records and in respect of the recommendations contained therein, the undernoted Sub-Committee Minutes (circulated) as contained in Appendices I to III of these Minutes;
 - 1.1 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 3 MARCH 1997 - APPENDIX I.**
 - 1.2 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 2 APRIL 1997 - APPENDIX II.**
 - 1.3 **LEISURE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 8 APRIL 1997 - APPENDIX III.**

MARRIAGES OUTWITH REGISTRATION OFFICES

2. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of correspondence from the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities requesting the Council's view as to whether current legislation should be amended to permit civil marriages in Scotland to be solemnised outwith registration offices.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services respond favourably to the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities providing the comments detailed in Paragraph 3 of the report.

PURCHASE OF ANIMAL CARCASS INCINERATOR AND RELATED EQUIPMENT

3. There was submitted a report dated 24 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on proposals for a joint arrangement with adjacent authorities to finance the purchase of a replacement animal carcass incinerator and related equipment.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the joint arrangements with adjacent authorities for the purchase of the equipment referred to, East Ayrshire's contribution being £1,007.13; and
- (ii) that, in the event of a suitable storage location being identified, the Director of Community Services offer to arrange to garage the equipment of behalf of the joint authorities.

STRATHCLYDE EMERGENCIES CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE (SECC) STRATEGIC LEVEL SEMINAR: 26 FEBRUARY 1997

4. There was submitted a report dated 1 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services, on the above Seminar.

It was agreed to note:-

- (i) the success of the above event held in Glasgow on 26 February 1997; and
- (ii) the possibility of the SECC including an exercise to implement the flood response plan in East Ayrshire during the current financial year.

CHALLENGE FUND BID FOR RECYCLING

5. There was submitted a report dated 26 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on a successful bid for Challenge Funding for the construction of a Materials Recovery Facility in East Ayrshire.

The Committee noted the report and agreed that the Director of Community Services submit a progress report in due course.

PROVISION OF HOME SAFETY SERVICES

6. There was submitted a report dated 21 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee of a recommendation from East Ayrshire Accident Prevention Committee that the Council support the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's to call for Home Safety Services to be provided by Scottish Council's on a statutory basis.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to support the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's view that Home Safety Services should be provided by Council's on a statutory basis;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services inform the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities accordingly and make representations to CoSLA and the Scottish Office that grant support and Council spending power be appropriately increased for this purpose.

RESPONSIBILITIES FOR DEALING WITH CONTAMINATED LAND

7. There was submitted a joint report dated 21 March 1997 (circulated) by the Directors of Community Services and Development Services on new responsibilities which would be placed on the Council as a result of new legislation in relation to contaminated land.

It was agreed to instruct the Director of Community Services to raise with CoSLA's Protective Services Forum as a matter of urgency, the need for adequate resources to be made available for the enforcement of the proposed legislation and the role of the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency in this field.

DRAFT NATIONAL WASTE STRATEGY: SCOTLAND

8. There was submitted a report dated 13 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which advised that the Scottish Environment Protection Agency had published the above consultation document and had requested responses by 29 April 1997.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Director of Community Services would be responding in detail to a number of issues raised in the document; and
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services submit a further report on this matter when the Draft National Waste Strategy document had been finalised.

AYRSHIRE & ARRAN HEALTH BOARD - INFECTIOUS DISEASE/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 11 March 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the main aspects of the Health Board's Newsletter for the period November, December 1996/January 1997.

PET ANIMALS ACT 1951: ALTERATION TO LICENSING CONDITIONS

10. There was submitted a report (circulated) by the Director of Community Services to consider a request from the Scottish Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals that the licensing conditions for all pet shops selling exotic species be altered.

It was agreed to authorise the Director of Community Services to attach an additional condition to all future licences for pet shops in terms of the Pet Animals Act 1951, to the effect that if exotic species were to be sold from the premises, then a suitably trained member of staff must be employed.

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT

11. There was submitted a report dated 2 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to note progress within the Community Services Department.

In noting the completion of improvements at the Dower House at Dean Castle Country Park, it was agreed to consider at a future meeting a visit to the premises to afford members the opportunity to view the improved facilities.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997/98

12. There was submitted a report dated 8 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which suggested a number of projects which could be undertaken as a capital programme for the financial year 1997/98, and seeking approval for these projects.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the undernoted Capital Projects for the ensuing financial year, and to remit to the Director of Community Services to arrange for the various schemes to be progressed:-
 - (a) Extension of Riccarton, Stair, and Kilmaurs Cemeteries - £145,000;
 - (b) Replacement of noise monitoring equipment - £15,000;
 - (c) Replacement of mobile library - £45,000;
 - (d) Provision of disabled access - £20,000;
 - (e) Provision of new library, museum and local office at Kilmaurs - £172,000;
 - (f) Alteration and extension of CCTV systems - £75,000;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services prepare for consideration, a report to enable the Committee to determine a three year capital programme for Community Services; and
- (iii) that when the next report on extension to cemeteries was being submitted, consideration should be given for the provision of "green burials".

BURIAL GROUND CHARGES

13. There was submitted a report dated 7 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to review the charging policy in respect of the interment of non-residents of East Ayrshire.

It was agreed not to alter the current policy for the interment of non-residents of East Ayrshire (whereby the interment fee for non-residents of the area was increased by 100% where the deceased was buried within East Ayrshire, with an exemption for people who had moved out of the area within two years of their death) but to now afford discretion to the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Chair of the Committee to vary the exemption period in extenuating circumstances which could include cases of continued hospitalisation or elderly care.

APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE: 28th WEST LOWLAND HIKE

14. There was submitted a report dated 7 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services, inviting the Committee to consider an application from Mrs Marjorie Currie, 116/118 Main Street, Muirkirk, for financial assistance for the 28th West Lowland Hike.

It was agreed to award a grant of £1,500 towards the cost of the above event.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK 1997

15. There was submitted a report dated 7 April 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee of the proposed arrangements for the above event to take place between 10 to 18 May 1997.

It was agreed to note the report and that the Director of Community Services would submit a further report on Environment Week after completion of the event.

The meeting terminated at 1100 hours.