

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL
COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 10 MARCH 1999 AT 1000
HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD,
KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors John Smith, Gordon McCredie, Gordon Cree, Ann Hay, Daniel Coffey, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, Eric Ross, George Smith and James Carmichael.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure Services; David Mitchell, Principal Solicitor; Jane Overton, Senior Policy Adviser, Development Services; Karen McLeod, Senior Solicitor; Elaine Gray, Senior Librarian; Alistair Gardiner, Senior Accountant; James Lally, Senior Administrative Officer; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer and Ian Gemmell, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Provost Robert Stirling and Councillors Jane Darnbrough, Alan Campbell, David Fulton, George Turnbull, Robert Taylor and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor John Smith, Chair.

**HISTORIAN'S REPORT ON WILLIAM WALLACE'S CONNECTIONS WITH EAST
AYRSHIRE**

1.1 PRESENTATION

A presentation was given by Dr Fiona Watson of Stirling University on the conclusions of her report into Sir William Wallace's connections with Ayrshire. Her report on the study was circulated.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Members were given the opportunity to ask questions.

1.2 OFFICERS REPORT

There was submitted a joint report dated 2 March 1999 (circulated) by the Directors of Community Services and Development Services on the above.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services and the Director of Development Services continue research on this subject;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services and the Director of Development Services investigate the possibility of tourism-related developments in line with the information now available and submit further reports to appropriate Committees in due course;
- (iii) that copies of the report be sent to North Ayrshire Council, South Ayrshire Council, Ayrshire and Arran Tourist Board and Enterprise Ayrshire; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the report.

ADJOURNMENT

2. It was agreed to adjourn the meeting at 1030 hours and reconvene in approximately five minutes.

RECONVENTION

3. The Committee reconvened at 1038 hours with the same Members and Officers present, with the exception of Councillor Kim Nicoll and Jane Overton, Karen McLeod and Elaine Gray who were not present.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

4. 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 the Appendices to these Minutes:-
 - 4.1 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 24 FEBRUARY 1999 - APPENDIX I**
 - 4.2 **LEISURE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 2 MARCH 1999 - APPENDIX 2**

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES TO 29 JANUARY 1999 (PERIOD 11)

5. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 24 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Community Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Community Services Department for period ending 29 January 1999 (Period 11).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT: LEISURE MANAGEMENT TO 29 JANUARY 1999 (PERIOD 11)

6. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 25 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Community Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Leisure Management to 29 January 1999 (Period 11).

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT: REFUSE COLLECTION AND STREET CLEANSING TO 29 JANUARY 1999 (PERIOD 11)

7. There was submitted and noted a joint report dated 25 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Finance and the Director of Community Services on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for Refuse Collection and Street Cleansing to 29 January 1999 (Period 11).

DEPARTMENTAL PROGRESS REPORT

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on progress within the Community Services Department.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting at this point.

NON-STATUTORY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

9. There was submitted and noted a report dated 22 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the development of Non-Statutory Performance Indicators within the Community Services Department.

RECONSIDERATION OF DECISIONS

10. Councillor Coffey, seconded by Councillor Hay, moved to reconsider, in terms of Standing Order 51, the adoption of savings measures referred to in Items 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 hereunder.

On a division by a show of hands, the motion was defeated by six votes to two.

REVENUE BUDGET 1999/2000: CHARGES FOR SERVICES (Item 1, Page 4284)

11. There was submitted a report dated 24 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the implementation of the savings proposals and other adjustments in relation to the Community Services Revenue Budget for 1999/2000, as adopted by the Council on 4 March 1999, insofar as they related to charges for services provided by the Department.

There was also submitted a paper comprising Section 2 of Appendix 10 to the Director's report which contained additional information.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the application as from 1 April 1999, of the revised fees as set out in the Director's report; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the report.

REVENUE BUDGET 1999/2000: REVIEW OF LIBRARY OPENING HOURS (Item 1, Page 4284)

12. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the implementation of the savings proposals and adjustments in relation to the Community Services Revenue Budget 1999/2000, as adopted by the Council on 4 March 1999, insofar as they related to the adjustment of library opening hours.

Councillor John Smith, seconded by Councillor Gordon Cree moved:-

- (i) to approve the opening of the Dick Institute at 10am on Wednesdays;
- (ii) to approve the proposal to implement summer and winter breaks for all libraries as outlined in the Director's report;
- (iii) that the Director of Community Services consult further with Trade Unions in this connection; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the report.

Councillor Coffey seconded by Councillor Hay moved as an amendment that the proposals contained within the report be noted as draft proposals for consultation with Trade Unions.

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

Councillor McCredie rejoined the meeting at this point.

**REVENUE BUDGET 1999/2000: KAY PARK BOATING POND, KILMARNOCK
(Item 1, Page 4284)**

13. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the implementation of savings proposals and adjustments in relation to the Community Services Revenue Budget for 1999/2000 as adopted by the Council on 4 March 1999, insofar as they related to the cessation of the boat hiring facility at Kay Park, Kilmarnock.

Councillor J Smith, seconded by Councillor Cree moved:-

- (i) to cease the boat hiring facility at Kay Park Boating Pond, Kilmarnock with effect from 1 April 1999;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services arrange for the variation of the Sport and Leisure Management Contract accordingly; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the report.

Councillor Coffey seconded by Councillor McCredie moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to note that the Council had agreed to cease the boat hiring facility at Kay Park Boating Pond;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services arrange for the variation of the Sport and Leisure Management Contract accordingly; and
- (iii) to delay implementation of the above decision pending discussions with the local Community Council, Community Groups and Private Sector regarding the continued operation of the boats on a voluntary or commercial basis.

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

Following further discussion it was also agreed that any expression of interest regarding the use of the boating pond would be investigated and reported to this Committee.

**REVENUE BUDGET 1999/2000: NEWLANDS DRIVE PITCH AND PUTT COURSE,
KILMARNOCK (Item 1, Page 4284)**

14. There was submitted a report dated 19 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the implementation of the savings proposals and adjustments in relation to Community Services Revenue Budget 1999/2000, as adopted by the Council on 4 March 1999 insofar as they related to the closure of Newlands Drive Pitch and Putt Course, Kilmarnock.

Councillor J Smith seconded by Councillor Cree moved:-

- (i) to close the above facility with effect from 1 April 1999;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services arrange for the variation of the Sport and Leisure Management Contract accordingly; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the report.

Councillor Coffey seconded by Councillor McCredie moved as an amendment:-

- (i) to note that the Council had agreed to close the above facility;

- (ii) that the Director of Community Services arrange for the variation of the Sport and Leisure Management Contract accordingly; and
- (iii) to delay implementation of the decision pending discussion with the local Community Council, Community Groups and the Private Sector regarding the continued operation of the facility on a voluntary or commercial basis.

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

REVENUE BUDGET 1999/2000: CARAVAN PARK, PUTTING GREEN AND TENNIS COURT AT WOODROAD PARK, CUMNOCK (Item 1, Page 4284)

15. There was submitted a report dated 2 March 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the implementation of the savings proposals and adjustments in relation to the Community Services Revenue Budget for 1999/2000 as adopted by the Council on 4 March 1999, insofar as they related to the proposed franchising of the caravan park, tennis courts and putting green at Woodroad Caravan Park.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services seek expressions of interest in franchise for the operation of the putting green, tennis courts and caravan park at Woodroad Park, Cumnock;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services agree suitable terms with franchisees; and
- (iii) that the Director of Community Services arrange for the variation of the Sport and Leisure Management Contract at the appropriate time; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the report.

REVENUE BUDGET 1999/2000: GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (Item 1, Page 4284)

16. There was submitted and noted a report dated 9 March 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services intimating that in accordance with the savings proposals and adjustments in relation to the Community Services Revenue Budget for 1999/2000 as adopted by the Council on 4 March 1999, the budget available for grants to voluntary organisations had been reduced by 5% to £47,500.

EXTENSION OF CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION - PROGRESS REPORT

17. There was submitted a report dated 18 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the success of bids submitted by the Council for the Closed Circuit Television Challenge competition 1999/2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services submit a further report on the extension of CCTV systems within Kilmarnock, following discussions with British Telecom; and
- (ii) otherwise, to note the report.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting at this point.

COMPULSORY SLAUGHTER OF OFFSPRING OF BSE CASES

18. There was submitted and noted a report dated 8 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on new legislation requiring a programme for the slaughter of the offspring of BSE cases.

REVIEW OF THE UK NATIONAL AIR QUALITY STRATEGY: PROPOSALS FOR AN AMENDED STRATEGY

19. There was submitted a report dated 16 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the Government's intention to revise the UK National Air Quality Strategy.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Chair submit an appropriate response to the Government's consultation paper;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services submit a further report to this Committee once the Scottish Office had considered the initial assessment of the air quality in East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) otherwise, to note the report.

CONTAMINATED LAND: THE INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW REGIME AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR SCOTLAND

20. There was submitted a report dated 11 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the Council's duties and obligations as a result of new legislation on contaminated land.

It was agreed:-

- (i) in principle to approve the appointment of an additional technician within the Environmental Health Service to undertake specific duties associated with a new contaminated land regime;
- (ii) to refer this matter to the Property and Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee in respect of their interests;
- (iii) to note the draft strategy contained in the Director's report, for the Council to address its contaminated land obligation; and
- (iv) otherwise, to note the report.

ABSENCE MANAGEMENT REPORT TO 31 DECEMBER 1998

21. There was submitted and noted a report dated 19 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the absence rates for Community Services Department employees for the quarter ended 31 December 1998.

It was further noted that future reports on absence management would include details of absence on a section by section basis.

HEALTH AND SAFETY PERFORMANCE - PROGRESS REPORT

- 22.** There was submitted a report dated 23 February 1999 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on health and safety performance within the Department of Community Services; on progress on health and safety performance since the adoption of the Department's health and safety policy in April 1996; and on the development of a forward plan for health and safety for the Department for 1999/2000.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services submit further reports on the continuing development of safe systems of work leading to a safer working environment for the employees of the Department; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the report.

The meeting terminated at 1145 hours.