

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL**NORTHERN AREA LOCAL COMMITTEE****MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 1998 AT 1400 HOURS IN JOHN KNOX CHURCH HALL, STEWARTON**

PRESENT: Councillors James O'Neill, Kathleen Hall and Ann Hay; and Community Representatives, Mr I Finlayson, Dr Fiona MacDonald, (Substitute), Mr A Porter, Mr W Ferguson and Mrs M Clarke.

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors David Fulton and Eric Jackson.

ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive; Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services; Karl Doroszenko, Policy and Projects Manager (Planning and Building Control Division); Helen McGhee, Assistant Divisional Manager (Department of Social Work); John Laurenson, Senior Librarian; Tom Merry, Senior Policy Officer (Department of Development Services); Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer; Eddie O'Connor, Senior Community Education Worker; Robert Beaton, Administrative Officer; Alex Hewetson, Administrative Officer; and Christine Baillie, Administrative Assistant.

ALSO ATTENDING: Councillors David Fulton and Eric Jackson; and Torrance Dempsey, Sub-Divisional Commander; and Sergeant John Ramage, Strathclyde Police.

APOLOGIES: Community Representatives Mr W Muirhead, Mrs K Currie and Ms Margaret Lees.

CHAIR: Councillor James O'Neill, Chair.

CHAIR'S REMARKS

1. The Chair welcomed Councillors David Fulton and Eric Jackson, Members of the Decentralisation Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee Consultation Forum, in attendance at this Committee as part of the consultation process being undertaken as part of a review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme. The Chair introduced to the meeting Fiona Lees, Depute Chief Executive and Barbara Haughan, Director of Support Services.

The Chair also welcomed four 6th form pupils from Stewarton Academy, in attendance to familiarise themselves with the procedures at the Local Committee as a pupil from the Northern Area would be representing the interests of young people on the Northern Area Local Committee.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

2. There were submitted, for information and noting, the Minutes of the Meeting of the Northern Area Local Committee held on 28 May and 12 June 1998 (circulated).

It was reported:-

- (i) that West Park Rascals which were awarded an in principle grant of £500 at the Northern Area Local Committee on 28 May 1998 had withdrawn their

application, and that as a consequence £500 would be credited to the Northern Area Local Committee grant allocation for financial year 1998/99;

- (ii) that Kilmaurs Photographic Club were awaiting the outcome of an application for grant funding from the Small Lotteries Fund which would be reported to this Committee in due course; and
- (iii) that a report on the operating costs of Galas supported by the Northern Area Local Committee in financial year 1998/99 would be reported to this Committee in due course and thereafter the amount of fixed annual grant towards the cost of Galas would be reconsidered.

DECENTRALISATION ISSUES

DEVELOPING THE COUNCIL'S DECENTRALISATION SCHEME

3. There was submitted a report dated 9 September 1998 (circulated) by the Chief Executive which advised that as part of a review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme a panel of Councillors would visit every Local Committee between now and the end of the year to consult on the development of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme.

The Chair advised of a fifteen minute question and answer period to enable Community Representatives to put forward views/concerns to the Consultation Panel Members.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the undernoted comments by Community Representatives present:-
 - (a) the possibility of the Community Representative pre-meeting being held in the early evening;
 - (b) a proposal that the 15 minute period reserved for members of the public to address the Local Committee, at the conclusion of meetings, be held 15 minutes prior to the start of the meeting;
- (ii) to note the consultation process being undertaken as part of a review of the Council's Decentralisation Scheme;
- (iii) that Community Representatives would consult with their respective organisations to consider any matter that should be drawn to the attention of the Consultation Panel in relation to the operation of the Decentralisation Scheme; and
- (iv) to note that a report on the findings of the Consultation Panel would be presented to a meeting of this Committee during 1999.

RECRUITMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

4. There was submitted a report dated 9 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services on progress on the nomination of a Youth Representative and Substitute to serve on the Northern Area Local Committee.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Department of Education, Community Education Service, had undertaken a process to facilitate the nomination of a Community

Representative and Substitute to serve as Youth Representatives on the Northern Area Local Committee; and

- (ii) that the outcome of the nomination and selection process would be reported to this Committee on 15 October 1998.

MISCELLANEOUS

POLICE REPORT

- 5. Sergeant John Ramage, Strathclyde Police reported on local policing matters.

It was agreed to note:-

- (i) that the CCTV equipment in the new Stewarton Police Station was operational;
- (ii) the recent incidence of two serious assaults, in Kilmaurs and Stewarton;
- (iii) that there had been no increase in the level of domestic housebreakings in Northern Area,
- (iv) an increased Police presence in Stewarton has resulted in less incidences of disturbances caused by youths congregating in the late evening;
- (v) that car-related crime was static; and
- (vi) that Lainshaw Primary School had suffered vandalism which resulted in 44 broken windows.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

OPERATION SPOTLIGHT

- 6. There was submitted a report dated 5 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which proposed that "Operation Spotlight" be made a standing item on the agenda of the Local Committee.

Sub-Divisional Officer Torrance Dempsey, Strathclyde Police, reported on the type of information which could be made available to the Committee, as detailed in Appendix I to the report and referred to the "Operation Spotlight" calendar for August/September 1998 as detailed in Appendix II to the report.

It was agreed that "Operation Spotlight" be a standing item on the agenda of this Committee.

KILMAURS COMMUNITY LIBRARY MUSEUM AND LOCAL OFFICE (Item 3, Page 3400)

- 7. There was submitted a report dated 31 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which sought the views of the Committee on a suggestion that a reference be made to the late Councillor Robert Beattie, Ward 13, in the name of the new Kilmaurs Community Library, Museum and Local Office.

Councillor Hay reported that the matter had been discussed by Kilmaurs Community Council and their view was that a plaque within the Museum area of the building in commemoration of the late Councillor Robert Beattie would be an appropriate remembrance.

It was agreed to advise the Director of Community Services that the Committee's recommendation was that a commemorative plaque be erected in remembrance of the late Councillor Robert Beattie, former Councillor for Kilmaurs, Ward 13, within the Museum at Kilmaurs Community Library, Museum and Local Office and that the facility be named Kilmaurs Community Library, Museum and Local Office.

COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

GRANTS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS: COMMUNITY GRANTS (Item 3.3, Page 3428)

8. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which summarised the pertinent information relevant to applications for Community Grants by local organisations in respect of financial year 1998/99.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the action of the Director of Support Services in consultation with the Chair in granting an award of £171.00 to St Marnock Youth Club (ENABLE); and
- (ii) to consider the undernoted applications and take the following decisions:-

8.1 Applications Approved (for the purpose specified on the application), viz:-

- (a) Sport
Stewarton Annick Football Club - £400;
- (b) Voluntary Organisation Support (Community Association)
Waterside Community Association - £500;
Dunlop Parents Association - £480.

COMMUNITY FORUMS

UPDATE ON NORTHERN AREA COMMUNITY FORUM - 27 MAY 1998

9. There was submitted a report dated 2 July 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which updated on the outcome of the first meeting of the Northern Area Community Forum for the 1998/99 year, held as part of the Council's Adopted Decentralisation Scheme.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the responses by Council Departments to assessment forms returned and to questions raised at the Community Forum as detailed in an Appendix to the report;
- (ii) to note that the Council in its response to the Secretary of State indicated that as a way of rebuilding confidence, a series of Community Forums would be dedicated to the issues of the Department of Commercial Operations deficit; and
- (iii) that there would be no Local Item at the next Northern Area Community Forum.

NAMING OF STREETS BY LOCAL COMMITTEES

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT LADESIDE ROAD, KILMAURS

10. There was submitted a report dated 8 September 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which requested a name for a proposed development at Ladeside Road, Kilmaurs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the name for the proposed development at Ladeside Road, Kilmaurs would be Ladeside Gardens; and
- (ii) that the Head of Contracting and Technical Services be advised accordingly.

ANNUAL SEMINAR FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

NOMINATION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE (Item 5, Page 3429)

11. There was submitted a report dated 17 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services which informed the Committee of the resignation of Miss Kit McLaren as Community Representative to serve on a Working Group established to progress the development of an Annual Seminar for Community Representatives and which invited the Committee to appoint a new Community Representative to the Working Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the resignation of Miss Kit McLaren, Community Representative to serve on a Working Group established to progress the development of an Annual Seminar for Community Representatives; and
- (ii) to nominate Iain Finlayson, Community Representative for Stewarton and District Community Council, to serve on the Working Group.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

REPLACEMENT OF TOWN AND VILLAGE SIGNS

12. There was submitted a report dated 6 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services on suggestions put forward by Community Representatives, on behalf of their relevant organisations, for a message to be incorporated on the bottom line of proposed town and village signs in the Northern Area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the suggestions submitted to the Head of Roads and Transportation in relation to the undernoted settlements:-

TOWN

Fenwick

Stewarton

SUGGESTED MESSAGE

Please Drive Carefully

The Bonnet Toun

- (ii) that where no suggestions had been received the message "Please Drive Carefully" would be included on new town and village signs.

A PROGRAMME FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

13. There was submitted a report dated 23 July 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which set out the proposed programme of environmental improvement projects for financial year 1998/99; which put forward for consultation potential projects for the following three financial years (to financial year 2001/02); and suggested a method to secure proper and regular consultation on Capital Plan Projects.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the environmental improvement projects programme for financial year 1998/99 as undernoted:-
 - Community Woodland Management - £9,750
Lainshaw, Stewarton
 - Floodlighting at Avenue Square, £250
Stewarton
- (ii) to approve the selection criteria for prioritising schemes as detailed in Paragraph 3 of the report;
- (iii) to approve the Capital Plan (Environmental Improvements) Consultation arrangements as detailed in Paragraph 4 of the report; and
- (iv) that Community Representatives would consult with their Local Organisations to bring forward suggestions for further projects which would fit the selection criteria and would be discussed at the next meeting of this Committee on 15 October 1998.

PROVISION OF DISABLED PERSONS PARKING BAYS

14. There was submitted a report dated 11 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which sought the Committee's views on the current criteria for disabled persons parking bays on residential roads.

It was agreed that Community Representatives would liaise with their Local Organisations and refer any observations on the current criteria for the provision of disabled persons parking bays to the Acting Head of Roads and Transportation by 30 September 1998.

1999/2000 PROGRAMMES FOR THE STRUCTURAL MAINTENANCE OF ROADS AND FOOTWAYS

15. There was submitted a report dated 3 June 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which advised that the 1999/2000 Programmes for the structural maintenance of roads and footways would be drawn up in the Autumn of this year.

It was agreed to approve the proposals, as detailed in Paragraph 3 of the report, for Committee members to submit suggested resurfacing schemes within the Northern Area to the Acting Head of Roads and Transportation by 9 October 1998.

LAINSHAW WOODS

16. There was submitted a report dated 19 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Development Services which provided a background to the "Lainshaw Woods" Project, Stewarton and an update on work carried out to date.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the progress on the work carried out to date at Lainshaw Woods, Stewarton ; and
- (ii) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

THE CHILDREN ACT 1989 - TRIENNIAL REVIEW OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN UNDER 8

17. There was submitted a report dated 3 July 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Education on progress on the third Triennial Review of Childminding, Day Care and Education Services for Children under Eight.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the progress of the third Triennial Review of Childminding, Day Care and Education Services for Children under Eight as detailed in an Appendix to the report;
- (ii) to note the progress made in the expansion of nursery provision for children aged 3 to 5 years in East Ayrshire; and
- (iii) to note that a short video providing an overview of Early Years Service in East Ayrshire was available for Local Organisations and Community Groups from the Director of Education upon request.

SOCIAL WORK ANTI-POVERTY ACTIVITY

18. There was submitted a report dated 13 August 1998 (circulated) by the Director of Social Work which provided an update on Anti-Poverty activity which had been undertaken by Social Work staff during the period 1 April 1997 to 31 March 1998.

It was agreed:

- (i) to note the work undertaken and outcome achieved in Anti-Poverty work within the Social Work Department during 1997/98;
- (ii) to endorse the approaches being taken by the Department of Social Work;
- (iii) to remit to the Director of Social Work to submit a report on the provision of outreach services in the Northern Area on poverty issues and to invite the Citizen's Advice Bureau to the next meeting to outline their service provision proposals; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

The meeting terminated at 1554 Hours