

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 1996
AT 1400 HRS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS,
LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK**

PRESENT: Councillors Bob Beattie, Gordon McCredie, Gordon Cree, Alan Campbell, Kathleen Hall, David Macrae, David Sneller, George Smith, Robert Taylor, John Smith and Tommy Farrell.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; Bill Stafford, Director of Community Services; John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; John Griffiths, Head of Leisure; Campbell Johnstone, Principal Design Services; Irene Townson, Principal Solicitor; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; Bill Walkinshaw, Principal Administrative Officer and Gillian Hamilton, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Drew McIntyre, Jane Darnbrough, Kim Nicoll and Jimmy Carmichael.

CHAIR: Councillor Bob Beattie, Chair.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

The Chair welcomed John Griffiths who would be taking up the position of Head of Leisure from 18 November 1996.

SPOTLIGHT INITIATIVES - STRATHCLYDE POLICE

1. The Chair welcomed Chief Superintendent Cameron, Chief Inspector Love and Sergeant Young of Strathclyde Police who gave a presentation on the Spotlight Initiative Scheme which was currently under way and would run until the end of the year.

The Scheme aimed to reduce current crime and fear of crime by tackling 12 concerns highlighted by the public namely (i) use of offensive weapons, (ii) under-age drinking, (iii) drinking in public places, (iv) public transport, (v) hot spots i.e. problems particular to individual areas, (vi) litter and public nuisance, (vii) truancy, (viii) vandalism, (ix) parks and public places, (x) the operation of licensed premises, (xi) street robberies, and (xii) disorder prior to and during sporting events.

The Police representatives confirmed Strathclyde Police's commitment to the success of the initiatives and had maximised all available resources by deploying support staff to cover the Scheme together with developing working partnerships with the public and private sector.

Chief Superintendent Cameron confirmed that the success achieved under the Scheme would be progressed after December and that Strathclyde Police hoped to build upon its achievements.

Following questions from Members the Chair thanked Chief Superintendent Ian Cameron, Chief Inspector Love and Sergeant Young for their presentation and their endeavours.

LEISURE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

2. There was submitted and approved both as a correct record and in respect of recommendations contained therein, Minutes (circulated) of the Leisure Sub-Committee of 8 October 1996, as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT - PROGRESS REPORT

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the work of the Department in the period from 1 August to 30 September 1996.

REVENUE BUDGET 1996/97

4. As part of the review of East Ayrshire Council's Revenue Budget for 1996/97 there was submitted a report dated 3 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services, proposing a package of one-off savings in service delivery or increase in income where service costs were not being recovered (List A) and additional savings which had been identified but which, if implemented, would have a direct effect on the level and quality of services to customers (List B).

In supporting the recommendations, Councillor Beattie seconded by Councillor J Smith moved the following motions:-

- (a) that the identified savings proposed in List A in respect of Burial charges be agreed and;
- (b) that the identified savings proposed in List B in respect of the Library Service be agreed to be implemented if additional savings are required.

Councillor Campbell seconded by Councillor McCredie moved in respect of (a) as an amendment that List A reflect reduced increases in burial charges of a 10% increase and a fee of £10.00 for headstone foundations.

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

Councillor McCredie seconded by Councillor Campbell moved as an amendment in respect of (b) that the proposed savings for reduced library opening hours be deleted from List B and the Director of Community Services seek alternative savings.

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

Thereafter, in addition, it was agreed that all other recommendations contained in the report from the List A savings package and savings proposed in List B, to be implemented only if additional savings were required, be approved and referred to the Policy and Resources Committee for further consideration.

HARMONISATION OF COMMERCIAL WASTE CHARGES

5. There was submitted a report dated 12 September 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of progress made to harmonise charges levied for commercial waste collection services in East Ayrshire and to incorporate the additional costs introduced by the Landfill Tax.

It was agreed to note the action taken by the Director of Community Services in this matter and to receive a further report reviewing the position in the early part of 1997.

REVIEW OF PEST CONTROL CHARGES

6. It was agreed that this item be withdrawn as the issue had been dealt with by the Committee under item 4 above.

REQUESTS ETC FOR BANS ON LIVE PRIZES AT FUN FAIRS AND PERFORMING ANIMALS AT CIRCUSES

7. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of requests that the Council ban performing animals at circuses and the giving of live fish and other animals as prizes or gifts at fun fairs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that in respect of fairgrounds and similar events a standard condition to Public Entertainment Licences and lets of Council property stating that "the licensee/lessee is prohibited from offering as prizes or gifts, within the fairgrounds/premises, live fish or other animals" be imposed;
- (ii) that the application form for a Public Entertainment Licence be altered to request specifically information relating to animal cruelty and information relating to the number and types of animals in the circus;
- (iii) that any circus operator who had convictions for animal cruelty be immediately invited to attend a Hearing on the application;
- (iv) that a veterinary inspection be carried out once the circus was set up and before it was open to the public, this cost being met by the licensee;
- (v) to the prohibition of animal circuses on Council property only where the application had been made by a circus operator who had a conviction for the ill treatment of animals and had failed to satisfy a Hearing why such a prohibition should not be made;
- (vi) that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to make all necessary arrangements;
- (vii) that the report be remitted to the Local Committees for information and comments; and
- (viii) to otherwise note the report.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES/ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH NEWSLETTER

8. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services providing details of a newsletter issued by Ayrshire and Arran Health Board on the subject of infectious diseases and environmental health and highlighting topical issues and trends in these areas.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND WASTE MANAGEMENT LEGISLATION ISSUED SINCE 1 APRIL 1996

9. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of legislation issued in the field of environmental health and waste management and of manpower and financial implications to the Council arising from the legislation.

It was agreed to instruct the Director of Community Services to arrange for the inclusion of the legislation in the Scheme of Delegation where appropriate and otherwise to note the report.

LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

10. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of additional responsibilities which fell to the Council on 1 April 1997 requiring periodic reviews to be conducted of air quality in the area.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that CoSLA be supported in its representations for additional financial assistance to Councils for undertaking the additional work associated with monitoring air quality;
- (ii) to recommend to the Policy and Resources Committee that any additional monies allocated by Central Government be expended in extra staff resources and the cost of analytical work; and
- (iii) that the Director of Community Services submit a report to a future meeting on current local air quality results.

It was also noted that the Chair would, in his capacity as this Council's Member of CoSLA's Protective Services Forum, raise the issue that CoSLA, in terms of current levels of nitrogen oxide and dioxide, recommend where appropriate that Central Government pursue transport policies encouraging freight carried by train and a public transport system run as such as opposed to a private business.

REFURBISHMENT OF CUMNOCK REGISTRATION OFFICE AT MILLBANK, LUGAR STREET, CUMNOCK

11. There was submitted a report dated 1 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of additional works required as part of the refurbishment of the Registration Office at Millbank, Cumnock and requesting additional funding for these works.

It was reported that the proposed expenditure could be accommodated within the capital resource allocation approved by the Finance and Property Sub-Committee of 3 September 1996 (item 4, page 1248).

It was agreed to approve the additional expenditure of £77,000 for additional works required as detailed within the report, in order that the contract could be completed.

Councillor McCredie left the meeting during discussion of this item.

COSLA - PROTECTIVE SERVICES FORUM

12. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the scope of CoSLA's Protective Services Forum on which the Chair represented the Council.

It was agreed to support CoSLA in the work of the new Protective Services Forum by participating in its discussions and submitting appropriate advice as and when circumstances permit, and otherwise to note the report.

THE LOCH DOON REGULATION BYE-LAWS

13. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services updating on the current position regarding the Bye-Laws promoted by Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council to regulate the use of power boats and water craft on Loch Doon.

It was agreed to note:

- (i) that the draft Bye-Laws forwarded to the Scottish Office for confirmation by Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council on 18 March 1996 had been further amended to take into account a number of suggested amendments made by the Scottish Office and a number of adjustments proposed by the Scottish Sports Council;
- (ii) the position adopted by the Scottish Sports Council regarding the need for the making of Bye-Laws; and
- (iii) that the Bye-Laws would now be promoted by East Ayrshire Council as promoting Authority.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

14. Under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as amended, the Committee agreed to exclude the Press and public from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

REVIEW OF SKIP HIRE CHARGES

15. There was submitted a report dated 2 October 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services seeking authority for an early review of the charges levied for skip hire provided by the Council.

It was agreed:

- (i) to authorise the Director of Community Services, in consultation with the Directors of Finance and Commercial Operations to compile and administer an appropriate charging scheme for the skip hire service;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services submit regular monitoring reports on the skip hire service; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the report.

The meeting terminated at 1555 hours.