

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 1996 AT 1400 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Bob Beattie, Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Gordon Cree, Alan Campbell, Kathleen Hall, Kim Nicoll, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor and John Smith.

ATTENDING: William Stafford, Director of Community Services; John Crawford, Head of Protective Services; James Lally, Senior Administrative Officer; Graham Kerr, Public Relations Officer; Anna Gallagher, Solicitor; and Ian Gemmell, Administrative Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jane Darnbrough, David Macrae, David Sneller and Tommy Farrell.

CHAIR: Councillor Bob Beattie, Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1.1 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 27 JUNE 1996

There were submitted and approved, both as a correct record and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 27 June 1996 (circulated) as detailed in Appendix I of these Minutes.

1.2 CHAIR'S SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 22 AUGUST 1996

There were submitted and approved, both as a correct record and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Chair's Sub-Committee held on 22 August 1996 (circulated) as detailed in Appendix II of these Minutes.

1.3 LEISURE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 27 AUGUST 1996

There were submitted and approved, both as a correct record and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Leisure Sub-Committee held on 27 August 1996 (circulated) as detailed in Appendix III of these Minutes.

1.4 LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 29 AUGUST 1996

There were submitted and approved, both as a correct record and in respect of recommendations contained therein, the Minutes of the Licensing Sub-Committee held on 29 August 1996 (circulated) as detailed in Appendix IV of these Minutes.

**ROYAL ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH INSTITUTE OF SCOTLAND -
CONGRESS: 27 - 31 MAY 1996**

2. There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the fourth World Congress on Environmental Health which was held in Aberdeen from 27 - 31 May 1996.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT - PROGRESS REPORT

3. There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the work of the Department in the period from 15 May to 1 August 1996.

**PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY OBLIGATIONS (PACKAGING WASTE)
REGULATIONS - CONSULTATION PAPER**

4. There was submitted and noted a report dated 13 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services outlining the methods to be employed in achieving recovery and recycling targets as set down in the current Consultation Paper on The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations, which are to be made as a result of an EC Directive on Packaging and Packaging Waste.

LANDFILL TAX - PROGRESS REPORT

5. There was submitted a report dated 13 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of progress towards the introduction of a Landfill Tax.

It was agreed that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to write to the Scottish Office requesting that all monies collected as a result of the proposed landfill tax should be returned to Councils to assist with the implementation of recycling initiatives and that a further report on this matter be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

INSTITUTE OF WASTE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE: 10-14 JUNE 1996

6. There was submitted and noted a report dated 21 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the annual conference of the Institute of Waste Management which was held in Torbay from Monday 10 June to Friday 14 June 1996.

PUBLIC WEIGHBRIDGE - WESTERN ROAD DEPOT

7. There was submitted a report dated 19 July 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising that, in the interests of economy, and because of a lack of usage by the public, it had been decided to close the weighbridge facility at Western Road Depot, Kilmarnock, on Saturday mornings.

It was agreed to note the action taken by the Director of Community Services in the above connection and to reconsider the decision if it appeared at a future date that a significant demand existed for the use of this facility at weekends.

SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO YOUNG PERSONS

8. There was submitted a report dated 23 July 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the legal measures introduced by the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, which were designed to control the sale of tobacco products to young persons.

It was agreed to adopt the enforcement strategy as detailed in Section 3.5 of the report.

STORAGE AND SALE OF FIREWORKS

9. There was submitted a report dated 23 July 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the legal background and issues relating to the storage and sale of fireworks.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Chief Constable should continue to be authorised to discharge the functions of the Council under Section 19 (Appointment of Inspectors) of the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974 for the purpose of the enforcement of the Explosives Acts of 1875 and 1923 (as amended) in so far as they relate to the licensing, registration and regulation of stores or registered premises;
- (ii) to authorise the Director of Community Services as above in relation to premises storing mixed explosives, including fireworks, for sale;
- (iii) to authorise the Director of Community Services to appoint such Officers of the Trading Standards Service as he determines necessary to carry out enforcement duties under the Health and Safety at Work Etc Act 1974 with respect of the Explosives Acts 1875 and 1923 (as amended) in relation to the storage of mixed explosives, including fireworks, for sale; and
- (iv) that all fees received in respect of the licensing or registration of premises for the storage of explosives or mixed explosives, including fireworks, for sale, be assigned to the Department of Community Services.

DEREGULATION OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LEGISLATION

10. There was submitted a report dated 22 July 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of deregulation proposals contained in the Deregulation (Weights and Measures) Order 1996, and the implications for the Council both in terms of consumer protection and financial considerations.

Having noted that the Local Authority Co-ordinating Body on Food and Trading Standards (LACTOS) and the Institute of Trading Standards Administration (ITSA) had indicated their support for the principle of self verification of weighing and measuring equipment by manufacturers, provided that necessary protection was maintained by essential safeguards and that the loss of income with associated Local Authority unit costs were accommodated, a view which had been endorsed by the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities, it was agreed to support CoSLA's endorsement of LACTOS' and ITSA's representations on the above issue.

STRATHCLYDE FIRE BOARD - JOB SEEKER'S ALLOWANCE - UNEMPLOYED RETAINED FIREFIGHTERS

11. There was submitted a report dated 8 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of a request by Strathclyde Fire Board to consider the effects of the introduction of the proposed Job Seeker's Allowance on the retained establishment of Strathclyde Fire Brigade, and recommending that the Committee make representations on the matter to the Scottish Office.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to make the strongest possible representations to the Scottish Office and the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities on the effects of the level of exemption attached to the Job Seeker's Allowance; and
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services in consultation with the Chair of this Committee to draw the attention of the two local MPs to this matter.

DRAFT WASTE RECYCLING PLAN

12. There was submitted a report dated 20 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting consideration of the initial draft of the Council's Waste Recycling Plan.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept in principle, the contents of the initial draft Waste Recycling Plan;
- (ii) that the concepts contained in the draft document should be further developed, subject to the necessary finance becoming available; and
- (iii) to instruct the Director of Community Services to arrange for a Seminar on Recycling to be held in due course.

Councillor Nicoll left the meeting at this point.

ANIMAL HEALTH SERVICES

13. There was submitted a report dated 26 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of the arrangements for providing animal health inspection services and the effects of anticipated changes to these arrangements.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the principle of East Ayrshire Council providing its own animal health inspection service; and
- (ii) that the post of Animal Health Inspector be added to the establishment of the Community Services Department subject to the agreement of the Personnel Sub-Committee of the Policy and Resources Committee.

DISPOSAL OF SURPLUS PROPERTIES

14. There was submitted a report dated 9 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of properties which were surplus to the requirements of the Department of Community Services, and recommending disposal of the properties in accordance with the agreed procedure.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the Dean Library, Kilmarnock, surplus to the requirements of the Community Services Department;
- (ii) to declare the Branch Library at High Street, Mauchline, and the Registers Office, Earl Grey Street, Mauchline, surplus to the requirements of the Community Services Department, following the opening of the new Library and Local Office at The Cross, Mauchline in autumn; and
- (iii) to instruct the Head of Property to take the necessary action in respect of the above properties, in accordance with the agreed procedure.

QUALITY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

15. There was submitted a report date 4 July 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services informing of quality initiatives being developed within the Department of Community Services.

It was agreed to note the report and to confirm continued support for the development of total quality management practices within the Department of Community Services.

PROGRAMME TO ERADICATE BSE IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

16. There was submitted a report dated 18 July 1996 by the Director of Community Services (circulated) advising of the contents of a report by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food which outlined Governmental measures taken to eradicate BSE from the United Kingdom cattle herd.

It was agreed to note the report and that it be remitted to the Director of Community Services to ensure that the appropriate steps were taken to ensure that Animal Health and Welfare Legislation and Public Health Legislation was properly enforced.

NATIONAL PEACE COUNCIL

17. There was submitted a report dated 21 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of an invitation to East Ayrshire Council to join the National Peace Council.

It was agreed that the Council should affiliate to the National Peace Council.

A STRATEGY FOR LITTER CONTROL

18. There was submitted a report dated 20 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting consideration of a strategy for litter control for East Ayrshire Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to accept in principle, the strategy for litter control as detailed in the report;

- (ii) to agree to the implementation of the strategy for litter control to enhance the current level of service, subject to additional finance required becoming available; and
- (iii) to note that the Director of Community Services was in the process of preparing a report, for consideration at a future meeting of the Committee, on the problem of dog fouling and the proposed introduction of exercise areas with a view to this initiative also being included within the strategy for litter control.

ENVIRONMENT WEEK

- 19.** There was submitted a report dated 19 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of East Ayrshire's contribution to Environment Week 1996, and setting out a way forward for raising the Council's profile for Environment Week 1997.

It was agreed to note the report, and that the Director of Community Services report to appropriate Meetings of Local Committees on Environment Week 1996, together with further information on developing interests from local Community Groups.

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICES IN EAST AYRSHIRE

- 20.** There was submitted a report dated 21 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising of arrangements made prior to 1 April 1996 by the former Kilmarnock and Loudoun District Council and the former Cumnock and Doon Valley District Council for Remembrance Day Services, with a view to harmonising such arrangements for 1996.

It was agreed to instruct the Director of Community Services to:-

- (i) make the necessary arrangements in relation to Member and Officer attendance at Remembrance Day Services; and
- (ii) liaise with the Royal British Legion and other appropriate organisations with regard to their involvement with the Council in making arrangements for Remembrance Day Services.

GRANTS TO VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

- 21.** There was submitted a report dated 28 August 1996 by the Director of Community Services (circulated) suggesting interim criteria for grants to voluntary organisations, and requesting consideration of requests for financial assistance received prior to 31 July 1996.

21.1 INTERIM CRITERIA

It was agreed to apply interim criteria, as undernoted, in dealing with applications for grants by voluntary organisations received prior to 31 July 1996, viz:-

- (a) Grants would be awarded to voluntary organisations that can contribute to a vision espousing the Council's four core values of quality, equality, access and partnership.
- (b) Projects should demonstrate how they can contribute to the Council's Strategic Policy Statements on Economic Development, Social Support and Regeneration, the Environment and Equal Opportunities.

- (c) Projects should provide or maintain cultural, community safety and welfare, educational, recreational or sporting opportunities for the people of East Ayrshire.
- (d) Projects must exhibit or develop best practice in equal opportunities and full comply with the spirit of all appropriate legislation.

21.2 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Councillor McCredie declared a non pecuniary interest in terms of the National Code of Local Government Conduct.

21.3 CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS

Councillor Beattie, seconded by Councillor John Smith, moved approval of the grant awards in respect of the organisations as detailed in Appendix V of these Minutes.

Councillor McCredie, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved as an amendment, approval of the grant awards in respect of the organisations as detailed in Appendix V of these Minutes, subject to the grant to the National Trust for Scotland being increased from £150 to £750.

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

SCOTTISH ACCIDENT PREVENTION COUNCIL: NOMINATIONS

22. There was submitted a report dated 29 August 1996 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising that the Committee that the Scottish Accident Prevention Council had sought nominations from East Ayrshire Council for its three principal Committees, and for the Offices of Senior and Junior Vice-President.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to recommend that Councillor George Smith be nominated as this Council's representative on the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's Home Safety Committee, and that Councillor John Smith be nominated as the Council's representative on the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's Water and Leisure Safety Committee;
- (ii) that it be remitted to the Development Services Committee to consider making a recommendation for the nomination of the Council's representative on the Scottish Accident Prevention Council's Road Safety Committee; and
- (iii) that no nominations be submitted in respect of the Offices of Senior and Junior Vice-President.

The meeting terminated at 1530 hours.