

EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 3 SEPTEMBER 1997 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE MEETING ROOM, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD KILMARNOCK

PRESENT: Councillors Gordon McCredie, Drew McIntyre, Gordon Cree, Kathleen Hall, David Macrae, Kim Nicoll, George Smith, Jimmy Carmichael, Robert Taylor, John Smith and Tommy Farrell.

ATTENDING: David Montgomery, Chief Executive; William Stafford, Director of Community Services; John F Crawford, Head of Protective Services; Ian A Arnott, Chief Accountant; Irene Townson, Principal Solicitor; Jane Overton, Senior Strategy Adviser; David Morgan, Public Relations Officer; Julie Armstrong, Senior Administrative Officer and Ian Gemmell, Administrative Officer.

ALSO ATTENDING: Inspector Bob Pollock, Police Liaison Officer.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Bob Beattie, Jane Dambrough, Alan Campbell and David Sneller.

CHAIR: Councillor John Smith, Vice Chair.

SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES

1. There were 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 **SPECIAL LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE -26 JUNE 1997 - APPENDIX I**
 - 1.2 **LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 20 AUGUST 1997 - APPENDIX II**
 - 1.3 **LEISURE SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE - 26 AUGUST 1997 - APPENDIX III**

BUDGETARY CONTROL SUMMARY STATEMENT: COMMUNITY SERVICES TO 18 JULY 1997 (PERIOD 4)

2. There was submitted a report dated 18 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Finance on the current budgetary control position and the projected out-turn for the year for the Community Services Department for the period ended 18 July 1997 (Period 4).

It was noted that the first sentence of Paragraph 3.2 of the report, the words should have read ".... it was agreed to recommend to the Policy & Resources Committee that

It was agreed to note the report.

TOURISM STRATEGY (Item 13, Page 2199)

3. There was submitted a report dated 27 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on progress in the preparation of the Tourism Strategy for the whole of Ayrshire & Arran, on Action Plans for East Ayrshire, and to make provision for approval of the Strategy Documents and their subsequent implementation, subject to the availability of resources.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the draft Ayrshire & Arran Tourism Strategy and the East Ayrshire Action Plan;
- (ii) that appropriate officers take action to implement the approach to tourism development set out in the draft Ayrshire & Arran Tourism Strategy¹ subject to the availability of resources, and the East Ayrshire Action Plan; and
- (iii) that reports be brought to the relevant Committee(s) as and when required.

PROGRESS REPORT: COMMUNITY SERVICES

4. There was submitted a report dated 19 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on progress within the Community Services Department.

The Director of Community Services intimated that the planned "K in the Park" celebration would not now take place on 7 September 1997, as a mark of respect in relation to the sudden death of the Princess of Wales, and gave further information on arrangements taken within the Community Services remit regarding this tragic event.

It was agreed to note the report, together with the additional information provided by the Director of Community Services.

CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION CHALLENGE COMPETITION 1998/99

5. There was submitted a report dated 26 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on an invitation for the Council to submit further proposals to the Scottish Office Crime Prevention Unit for the installation of CCTV systems in public places as a community safety measure.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the seven local area Committees be invited to identify areas where it was

felt the introduction of CCTV would be of assistance to community safety;

- (ii) that the Director of Community Services submit a further report when finalised proposals had been established; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the report.

INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW PARENT PROGRAMME

6. There was submitted a report dated 9 July 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to consider an offer from a Marketing Company to participate in the dissemination of suitable advice to new parents and promote the Council's name.

The company would provide plastic wallets, bearing the Council's name, into which the Birth Certificate of babies would be placed along with appropriate educational information for new parents together with a voucher which could be exchanged for goods from a major High Street retailer. The service would be provided at no cost to the Council.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve, in principle, the Council's participation in the New Parent Programme; and
- (ii) to continue consideration of this matter to a future meeting, following submission of a further more detailed report by the Director of Community Services.

CONTROL OF GULLS

7. There was submitted a report dated 18 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on concerns expressed about gulls and measures which can be taken to control them.

It was agreed to continue consideration of this matter to a future meeting, the Director of Community Services to provide a further report, including details of the costs involved in the various control measures available and the statistics on incidents of attacks on people by gulls.

ESTABLISHMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

8. There was submitted a report dated 27 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to approve arrangements for the establishment of an Environmental Forum for East Ayrshire and to nominate Councillors to participate on it.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to approve the Establishment of an Environmental Forum, on the lines set out

in the Director's report;

- (ii) that the Chair and Vice-Chair of this Committee serve on the Forum;
- (iii) to remit to Council that further Council representation on the proposed Forum should consist of three members of the Administration and two members of the Opposition; and
- (iv) that a representative from each of the seven Local Authority Committees be appointed to the Forum, the Director of Community Services to progress.

NATIONAL SPRING CLEAN WEEK 1997

9. There was submitted a report dated 22 May 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee of the Council's involvement in National Spring Clean Week.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services support the promotion of National Spring Clean Week in 1998.

AYRSHIRE AND ARRAN HEALTH BOARD: INFECTIOUS DISEASE/ ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

10. There was submitted and noted a report dated 25 July 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the content of the second core report received from Ayrshire and Arran Health Board relative to infectious disease and Environmental Health for May/June 1997, with specific reference to East Ayrshire.

RISK ASSESSMENT FOR THE MEAT TRADE (Item 9, Page 2181)

11. There was submitted and noted a report dated 2 July 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the outcome of a Seminar held on 25 June 1997 sponsored by the Council to highlight the provisions of the Pennington Report.

THE SHEEP SCAB ORDER 1997

12. There was submitted and noted a report dated 24 June 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the implications of the limited reintroduction of compulsory measures to control sheep scab.

DEVELOPMENT OF WASTE DISPOSAL STRATEGY

13. There was submitted a report dated 15 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to consider the current arrangements for waste disposal and a number of approaches from third parties indicating an interest to participate with the Council in future development.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services advertise widely and invite expressions of interest from third parties wishing to participate with the Council in the development of a long term Waste Disposal Strategy.

THE DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT 1995 - THE GOVERNMENT'S PROPOSALS FOR TAXIS

14. There was submitted a report dated 14 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services advising the Committee of the commencement of the consultation process in respect of the introduction of Taxi Accessibility Regulations in terms of The Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the Director of Community Services, following consultation with the Chair of this Committee, and a meeting with representatives of Taxi Trade Organisations and Disabled Groups, submit an appropriate response to the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions; and
- (ii) that the Director in the above consultation process, should take account of the view that the high cost of purchasing specialist vehicles may force some taxi operators out of business and accordingly consideration might be given by Government to the requirements being modified so that a proportion of taxis must be wheelchair accessible instead of all taxis.

PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING: STAGE HYPNOTISM

15. There was submitted a report dated 14 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the results of the Home Office review in 1996 of the Hypnotism Act 1952, and seeking approval of the recommended model conditions to be attached to Public Entertainment licences.

It was agreed:

- (i) that the standard conditions attached to Public Entertainment Licences be amended to incorporate the model conditions as shown in Appendix I of the report and as modified as suggested in paragraph 7.2;
- (ii) that the amended conditions be attached to all Public Entertainment Licences granted or renewed in the future;
- (iii) that the Director's report be referred to the Clerk to East Ayrshire Licensing Board for information; and
- (iv) that the necessary arrangements be remitted to the Director of Community Services.

FUNFAIRS AT SCOTT ELLIS PLAYINGFIELDS, KILMARNOCK

16. There was submitted a report dated 13 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services which made reference to problems associated with funfairs at the Scott Ellis Playingfields, Kilmarnock, and which sought approval to limit the use of this facility for funfairs.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services examine and report on alternative sites in the area suitable for use by funfairs in consultation with Strathclyde Police; and
- (ii) that the existing arrangements for the holding of funfairs at the Scott Ellis Playingfields should continue meantime.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY - 9 NOVEMBER 1997

17. There was submitted a report dated 19 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the arrangements made in respect of Remembrance Day Services held in East Ayrshire in 1996, and proposing that similar arrangements be made for 1997.

It was agreed:-

- (i) that the Director of Community Services make the necessary arrangements for members' attendance at Remembrance Day Services within East Ayrshire;
- (ii) to note that the Director of Community Services would confirm the Order of Service where more than one elected member would be present;
- (iii) to change the order of wreath laying shown in the Appendix to the report to show at point 2 that D Browne MP would be laying the wreath as local Member of Parliament; and
- (iv) otherwise to note the report.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS AFFECTING TRADING STANDARDS

18. There was submitted a report dated 18 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on proposed legislative developments submitted to Government by the Local Authorities Co-Ordinating Body on Food and Trading Standards (LACOTS) which affected the work of the Trading Standards service.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services monitor the progress of the LACOTS proposals, and assess and report to this Committee on the resource implications in the event of their eventual implementation.

DELIVERY OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND TRADING STANDARDS SERVICES

19. There was submitted a report dated 15 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services inviting the Committee to consider the service delivery arrangements for Environmental Health and Trading Standards functions.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services:-

- (i) arrange the transfer of Environmental Health and Waste Management Staff to centralise offices in Kilmarnock when the opportunity arises; and
- (ii) to consult on the proposals with the appropriate Trade Union.

SURVEY OF TRAVEL AGENTS OFFERING LATE BOOKING PRICE REDUCTIONS AND THEIR AVAILABILITY

20. There was submitted a report dated 2 July 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the outcome of an inspection programme carried out by Trading Standards staff to monitor compliance with the Package Travel Regulations with particular regard to window displays offering late booking price reductions and their availability.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note the Department's intention to repeat the above mentioned exercise on a more formal basis with a formal warning being given to any offending Travel Agency;
- (ii) to confirm the Council's support for the Office of Fair Trading's attempts to ensure that consumers are given a better deal when booking 'last minute' holidays; and
- (iii) otherwise to note the report.

SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS TO YOUNG PERSONS

21. There was submitted a report dated 22 July 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the legal measures introduced by the Children and Young Persons (Protection from Tobacco) Act 1991, which are designed to control the sale of tobacco products to young children.

It was agreed that the Director of Community Services:-

- (i) implement the enforcement strategy set out in his report; and
- (ii) submit to this Committee a further report on this subject in six months time including details of any action taken by the Department.

Councillors Macrae and Cree left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

AWARDING OF TENDERS

22. There was submitted and noted a report dated 26 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Support Services providing the following details of tenders which had been awarded in respect of Community Services Contracts viz:-

CCTV Svstems Phase I - Extension of Kilmarnock Town Centre Closed Circuit

Television System

Pointer Ltd, Edinburgh £56,902.15

Supply and Delivery of One High Roof Van

Kerr & Smith Ltd, Cumnock £18,157.00

SURPLUS PROPERTY

23. There was submitted a report dated 25 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on the rationalisation of the plant nurseries at Annanhill, Kilmarnock and Glaisnock House, Cumnock, and recommending that the plant nursery at Glaisnock House be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to declare the plant nursery at Glaisnock House Cumnock as surplus to requirements with effect from 1 October 1997; and
- (ii) that the Head of Property dispose of the property in accordance with Council procedures.

**PENNINGTON INTERIM AND FINAL REPORT: ADDITIONAL FUNDING,
REVISIONS TO CODES OF PRACTICE ACCELERATED HACCP**

- 24 There was submitted a report dated 20 August 1997 (circulated) by the Director of Community Services on action taken by Government to allow Local Authorities to bring into effect a number of specific recommendations made by the Pennington Expert Group.

It was agreed:-

- (i) to note that the Council had already promoted a number of meetings and seminars to ensure that local traders were aware of the legislation changes arising from Pennington's Report;
- (ii) that the Director of Community Services quantify the implications of the additional workload resulting from these new measures and submit a further report comparing the cost implications with the additional resources being made available by the Government; and
- (iii) to designate the Director of Community Services as the Council's designated Environmental Health Officer heading food safety within the authority.

The meeting terminated at 1125 hours.