EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2012 AT 1000 HOURS IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, LONDON ROAD, KILMARNOCK


ATTENDING: Fiona Lees, Chief Executive; Elizabeth Morton, Depute Chief Executive/Executive Director of Neighbourhood Services; Graham Short, Executive Director of Educational and Social Services; Alex McPhee, Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support; Bill Walkinshaw, Head of Democratic Services; David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services; Eddie Fraser, Head of Service: Community Care; Craig Young, Litigation Team Leader; and Julie McGarry, Administration Manager.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Jim Buchanan, John Knapp and Barney Menzies.

CHAIR: Provost Jim Todd, Chair.

PROVOST’S REMARKS

1. The Provost began the Council meeting by advising that two and a half months had passed since the last Council meeting and that in that time he had attended 33 civic engagements and went on to highlight some of these.

The Provost referred to the Armed Forces Day which had taken place in Muirkirk on 30 June. The Provost explained that Joss Ray Foreman and his cohorts had made everyone feel very welcome and all veterans’ reserves and cadet forces had passed muster impeccably. The Provost stated that the laying of the wreaths had been a poignant moment and thanked Adam Ingram MSP, Cathy Jamieson MP, Councillors Neil McGhee, Stephanie Primrose, David Shaw and the Chief Executive for their attendance, with Councillor Jim Roberts having been excused duty as he was on holiday. The Provost intimated that it had been a very special day passing on respects to our Armed Forces and thanked the staff in the Coach House for the provision of light refreshments. The Provost also expressed his thanks to Muirkirk and District Pipe Band.

The Provost then referred to the Armed Forces Day Parade held in Irvine on 1 July where another warm welcome had been received from Provost Joan Sturgeon and Depute Lord Lieutenant James McCosh of North Ayrshire, MSP Margaret Burgess, MP Brian Donohoe and Councillors from North Ayrshire Council. The Provost advised that this had been another very special occasion and the cadets reserves and veterans performed admirably in their duties. The Provost went on to advise that after a lovely service at Irvine Old Kirk they had retired to the British Legion Club where they had received a fantastic welcome by all of the members and staff and expressed his thanks to Irvine Pipe Band also.
The Provost expressed his pleasure when meeting the guests for the Royal Garden Party at Holyrood on 3 July. The Provost stated that it had been good to see some old faces and some of the officers and that it had been nice that Past Provost Young had picked such a wide section of East Ayrshire employees and he hoped they had had a really special day.

The Provost referred to a wonderful and colourful day held at Glasgow Cathedral on 4 July where he had been accompanied by Angus Robertson MP into the great hall to witness the Diamond Jubilee celebrations and Thanksgiving; all religious denominations from the City had been represented and some thought provoking sermons had been delivered.

The Provost stated what a privilege it had been to unveil a plaque on 6 July generously gifted by the Institution of Civil Engineers to commemorate the bicentenary of Laigh Milton Viaduct ... the world’s oldest surviving viaduct on a public railway. The Provost further stated that great appreciation went to Professor Roland Paxton of the Institution of Civil Engineers Panel for Historical Engineering Works, who had been the driving force behind the restoration of the historic Laigh Milton Viaduct and his fellow conservation project directors, for their hard work and commitment to preserving this incredible structure for future generations.

The Provost advised that he had attended the annual Classic Bike Show at Dean Castle Country Park on the 8 July which had been alive with the sound of revving engines. As a lifelong fan of Triumph bikes, the Provost had joined the crowds to appreciate a huge range of beautifully maintained machines from all over the country.

The Provost advised that it had been a great day and there had been bikes to suit every taste on show, from BSAs to Nortons, Choppers, Bobbers and Trikes. The Provost further advised that mods on scooters had also joined and had been made very welcome as always. The Provost reflected how lucky we were in Ayrshire to have a huge number of bike clubs and enthusiasts and that there was a club to suit everyone and that this was a great chance for everyone to get together and meet the public too. The Provost went on to state that the Dean Castle was a wonderful setting and many families had come to see bikes and learn more about them and he encouraged anyone who was interested in motorcycles to join a club.

The Provost then referred to three Sri Lankan teachers who had made a trip to East Ayrshire recently, which followed on a successful exchange visit by East Ayrshire staff to Sri Lanka, earlier this year.

The Provost advised that the visitors had thoroughly enjoyed their time in East Ayrshire and had formed particularly strong links with Loudoun Academy. The Provost went on to advise that for the last year, 10 local schools had been partnered with 10 schools in Sri Lanka, over 5,000 miles away in the Indian Ocean. The Provost further advised that the aim of the Global School partnerships was to promote understanding of other cultures through the curriculum and the British Council had provided funding for teacher exchange visits.

The Provost reported that Galloway and Southern Ayrshire had always been places of natural beauty filled with landscapes that had inspired generations but that this uniqueness had now been recognised as UNESCO had awarded Galloway and Southern Ayrshire, Biosphere status. The Provost explained that the Biosphere reflected the areas of outstanding natural landscapes and the designation was the first of its kind in Scotland and that in East Ayrshire the new Biosphere status
extended to Loch Doon and the Ness Glen river gorge pathway which included the new Dark Sky Observatory. The Provost stated that this was great news not only for East Ayrshire but for our neighbours in South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway, as the Biosphere status would raise the profile of our region, opening doors to many new opportunities for local businesses and communities. The Provost further stated that he was looking forward to working closely with the Biosphere Partnership in the future and congratulated everyone who had worked so hard to secure this marvellous achievement.

The Provost then referred to a talented trio from Grange Academy’s Hearing Impairment Unit who had recently topped a year of adventure from beginning to end, which included an expedition to Cumbrae.

The Provost advised that Dean Mathieson from Galston, Vinny Murray from Kilmarnock and Sam Wallace from Irvine, who all attended the Kilmarnock school, had been absolutely delighted with their success and that they had achieved the coveted Bronze level Duke of Edinburgh Award by completing personal programmes of activities in four sections - volunteering, physical, skills and expedition.

The Provost then advised that Wednesday 25 July 2012 had been a memorable day for local weightlifter Peter Kirkbride, who had left the familiar surroundings of Hurlford and travelled to London to compete in the biggest competition of his life, the 2012 Olympic Games. The Provost advised that in a real twist of fate, the day that the Olympic Torch had arrived in Kilmarnock as part of the epic relay through the United Kingdom, Peter had received the news that he had been waiting for - he had been selected for the Great Britain Weightlifting Squad and would be competing in the 2012 Olympic Games.

The Provost explained that Peter had competed in Group B of the 94kg competition on Saturday 4th August and had finished in 16th Place – just one spot below his target of top 15 at the games. The Provost further explained that he had injured his bicep during his second lift of the day in the ‘snatch’ element of the competition, and couldn’t go beyond his first weight lifted in that category; he, however, got some first aid treatment and bravely continued in the ‘Clean and Jerk’ element where he had actually lifted a personal best of 190kg - despite the injury. The Provost advised that his combined total was 328kg and he had finished 16th in a very strong pool of lifters from across the world. The Provost reported on the background of Peter’s selection which he had received on 8 June during the AAA opening celebrations. The Provost advised that Peter was a major positive role model in our communities and his involvement in London would be a major building block towards Gold in Glasgow 2014 and top 10 or better in Rio 2016 - he was only 24 at the moment.

The Provost then referred to a talented young local musician who had the opportunity of a lifetime recently, when he had been invited to play in a series of concerts with the European Youth Brass Band - in Holland in July.

The Provost explained that Loudoun Academy pupil David Kerr, 17, who also studied percussion at the Junior Conservatoire of Scotland, had joined the top-notch band in Rotterdam for a week-long residential course which culminated in concert performances during the European Brass Band Championships 2012. The Provost further explained that every year the Scottish Brass Band Society sent up to four young people to represent Scotland in the band and that this year two of the young musicians, David Kerr from Darvel and Duncan McLuskie of Dalmellington, had been from East Ayrshire.
The Provost then advised that along with the Leader, he had participated in an event “Choose Life” which had been held at the Cross in Kilmarnock by the Samaritans to raise awareness to help prevent suicide and that Mary Connolly had explained the work Samaritans were doing to help those souls who found themselves in sometimes impossible situations in their lives.

The Provost advised that Mary had then invited himself and the Leader to “David’s Way Round” on 9 August. The Provost explained that David Exley, a Samaritans volunteer had visited the Kilmarnock office as part of a UK visit to every office to raise funds and awareness of the charity and the 24hr service they provided to those most in need. The Provost stated that he had been privileged, along with the Leader, to meet David on his visit and advised that David was also completing the ride in memory of his brother Tim and son James, who had both sadly died through suicide. The Provost wished David well on the rest of his journey and hoped that he had managed to raise a good amount of money which would really help the service to grow and help even more people.

The Provost then reported that he had been invited to visit the Sky Project in Shortlees on the 25 July where he had received some unexpected body art. The Provost expressed his pleasure to join in the fun with the children who had been enjoying a day of arts, crafts and outdoor activities at their holiday club. The Provost had been impressed with what the Sky project had laid on for the summer holidays; from face painting and playdough to tattoos, painting and all sorts ofarty activities and that these youngsters had been provided with a great opportunity to develop skills and confidence. The Provost explained that the Sky project was run in Shortlees Community Centre and organised clubs and activities for primary age and older children throughout the year, from summer playschemes to afterschool clubs.

The Provost then expressed his pleasure to witness 14 talented young footballers who had received the chance of a lifetime as they competed in the Streetsport Icons Final at the Ayrshire Athletics Arena on Friday 27 July were nearly 100 youngsters from all over East Ayrshire had taken to the park and competed in skills trials to qualify for a place in a week long training camp with Kilmarnock Football Club.

The Provost had been very impressed with the playing standard of the boys and girls. The Provost explained that Streetsport Icon scheme had been an ideal way for talented footballers to come to the notice of professional clubs; it was also great to be using the new Ayrshire Athletics Arena and that our young people deserved the best opportunities in sport now there was such a versatile facility on our doorstep.

The Provost then advised that it had been nice to join Musical Minds on 8 August - a singing group for people with dementia and their carers which was led by the talented musician and motivational coach Eddie Binnie. The Provost explained that Alzheimer Scotland’s group had been part of former Provost Stephanie Young’s charity of the year 2010-2011 and he had been keen to demonstrate his own support for the group.

He reflected that music had always been a big part of his life and that it really did have the power to bring people together, trigger memories and help them feel relaxed and content and that in taking part, he had been very impressed by the special atmosphere, the happiness and energy in the room. The Provost explained that Eddie’s enthusiasm for music was infectious and that everyone who had arrived had come away feeling uplifted by the experience and that he could see how this group could do so much for all those whose lives are touched by dementia.
The Provost advised that over 100 people had attended the special birthday event with the icing on the cake being the wonderful performance by the Irvine Valley Children’s Choir who had joined with all generations to sing “Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious”.

The Provost then stated that he, along with the Depute Leader, had attended the first ever East Ayrshire X-Games at the Grange Academy on 10 August; this event had been organised by the Council’s Leisure Development Section and had attracted over 100 Extreme sports enthusiasts. The Provost explained that the EA X-Games, which had brought in excellent sponsorship from some of the highest profile extreme sports retailers and included Sprockets Cycles, Librance and Snow Factor, showed the growing enthusiasm for Extreme sports locally.

The Provost referred to this as an excellent example of the diverse and high quality services East Ayrshire Council continued to provide with the Mobile Skate Park being one of the most innovative service delivery vehicles in Britain with East Ayrshire as one of the first Local Authorities to have a mobile skate park. The Provost stated that the EA X-Games had gone above and beyond service delivery with an exciting and professional atmosphere to the event and some world class tricks and stunts on display. The Provost had a feeling that this event would continue to grow into one of the premier Extreme Sports events in the country. The Provost advised that he had challenged the Depute Leader to a race round the track but this hadn’t been accepted!

The Provost also advised that he had had a wonderful day at the Scottish Young Carers Festival funded by the Scottish Government on 19th August. The Provost advised that the Festival entertained young carers from across the country allowing them to come together and discuss issues which had been important and relevant to them whilst achieving national recognition, respect and awareness of what they did. The Provost explained that it was also an opportunity for young carers to take part in fun activities and have a break from their caring responsibilities with one of the main objectives of the Festival to enable young carers to engage directly with MSPs and other key decision makers to make them aware of the variety of experiences and issues of being a young carer.

The Provost further explained that young carers from East Ayrshire had attended the event each year, and that this year 12 young carers had participated. The Provost advised that, in addition, the Carers Centre Pamper Bus had been flying the flag for East Ayrshire with the longest ever queues for manicures which had been a well deserved treat for young people who had such heavy responsibilities at such an early stage in their lives.

The Provost then stated that it had been a fantastic day for East Ayrshire Bowlers who had arrived at Dalserf Bowling Club, Ashgillon 19th August as they picked up the Inter Authority Bowing Tournament trophy once again. The Provost advised that they had been warmly received by members of the club and that our teams had conducted themselves with professionalism both on and off the turf; not to say they didn’t have good natured banter that contributed to a great day. The Provost said that the highlight for him was our own Derek McCabe with a well executed shot, in off two bowls to steal the point and then thanked Councillors’ Neil McGhee and Barney Menzies for the impromptu travel arrangements.

The Provost then advised that East Ayrshire would feature on a plaque on a public building in London as part of the legacy of inspiration after the Olympic Games. The
Provost explained that the plaque would tell the world what we’re proud of, which was “Inspiring future generations of children and young people to engage in a lifelong journey of sport and physical activity”. The Provost stated that it was excellent that East Ayrshire was to achieve such public recognition with this plaque, which would be seen by thousands as they visited this public arena and that it had been all thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of the Active Schools team.

The Provost then referred to East Ayrshire’s Summer of Song choir who had been selected to sing at the film premiere of Keep Her Lit at the Glasgow Film Theatre.

The Provost explained Creative Scotland had chosen East Ayrshire because The Flame Burns Brightly had been “such an uplifting and melodic song” which our P6’s “sang beautifully and with huge energy”.

The Provost advised that pupils from Silverwood, New Farm, Hurlford and St Andrew’s Primary School’s had sung with all their hearts and had produced a wonderful performance, which the audience of over 400 people had loved and that he cheering and applause had been deafening!

The Provost further advised that film maker Roddy Buchanan had given an artist’s introduction to the film and said of the pupils’ live performance, “that wonderful presentation is a brilliant advert for moving to East Ayrshire”.

The Provost also advised that an East Ayrshire secondary school had been set to become the first-ever Scottish School of Co-operation, in a prestigious education link-up with the Co-operative Society. The honour had gone to Loudoun Academy, which takes pupils from villages including Fenwick, which claims to have founded the first co-operative enterprise in the world in 1761 - the Fenwick Weavers. 12 Loudoun pupils would be the first in Scotland to gain a new SQA award in Co-operative Studies at Intermediate 2 level, on completion of a course launched in the Academy this session.

The Provost had had a warm welcome from the new President, Mr Ho of the Chinese Community in Scotland which had been extended to himself, the Depute Leader and their partners on Tuesday 28th August at the 6th annual celebration of the Tap Mun Association. A traditional Chinese banquet, traditional Chinese music and entertainment had been on display and of particular interest to him had been the number of ex naval personnel from HMS Tamar in Hong Kong harbour, who had engaged him in fond memories of the China Fleet Club and some of the nights he had had there. The Provost intimated that he couldn’t possibly recount them. Highlights of the meal were the ducks feet and the locust soup!

The Provost stated that two East Ayrshire pupils had landed places on a trip to NASA’s Johnson Space Centre in Houston, Texas, with the Scottish Space School. Zoe Parker, 16, of Grange Academy and Ben McSeveney, 16, of Cumnock Academy had been over the moon after winning through against stiff competition from all over Scotland. The two star science students, both now in sixth year, would enjoy a seven-day ‘learning journey’ to the Space Centre in Houston from 26 October - 4 November. The Provost further stated that a total of 10 Scottish pupils were to be given a rare opportunity to meet with many of the astronauts, engineers and scientists working on the space programme at NASA. They had been selected from a shortlist of over 100 from all over Scotland who had attended the Scottish Space School at Strathclyde University in June, following a rigorous selection process.
The Provost went on to state that he had been invited to a ‘Food for Thought’ event organised by South Kilmarnock Elderly Forum at the Gateway in Kilmarnock on 3 September. This was after they had been awarded money from the Community Food and Health Project (Scotland) to look at health and wellbeing for older people. Older People’s Forums from across East Ayrshire had gathered together that week to improve their understanding on nutrition. The Provost advised that the day had included a cookery demonstration, information on food and drink, and Irene King from Asda had spoken about how the supermarket serves single people and older members of the community who were on fixed incomes. The Provost congratulated Kilmarnock South Elderly Forum for organising such a worthwhile event.

The Provost then referred to KZ Hair from Queen Street, Kilmarnock who had been winners, having reached the Prince’s Trust Youth Business Scotland National Finals which had taken place at the Glasgow City Chambers on Tuesday 13 November. The Provost was delighted that Courtenay and Stacey from KZ had been short listed in the top six of PTYBS businesses.

The Provost advised that Kilmarnock Harrier and Athletics Club had celebrated their 125th anniversary at the Ayrshire Athletics Arena with a celebratory 125 Run which he had been pleased to start along with the main sponsor of the event, Willie Hamilton of Hamilton Tarmac. The Provost further advised that senior members of the club had run 1.25 miles while the junior members had run 1.25km; with almost 300 runners taking part and hundreds of spectators cheering them on, it had been quite a spectacle! The Provost advised that each runner had also received a commemorative medal to mark their involvement.

The Provost stated that it had been a fantastic event and a great way to celebrate the club’s 125th anniversary year; the buzz around the Arena had been electric with everyone getting into the party spirit, especially those who had worn fancy dress. The Provost had been especially impressed by the number of young Harriers who had been involved in the run.

The Provost extended his congratulations to a talented young artist at Gargieston Primary School who had celebrated success in a national competition which had been part of World Kids Colouring Day. The Provost advised that Primary 3 pupil Jack Paterson, 6, had been the overall winner in the Key Stage 1 category of the Staedtler challenge.

Councillor Eric Ross joined the meeting at this point.

PREVIOUS MINUTES

2. There were submitted and approved as a correct record the Minutes of the Council meeting of 28 June 2012 (pages 79-88) and Minutes of Special Council of 30 August 2012 (page 136).

CABINET/COMMITTEE MINUTES

3. There were submitted (circulated) and approved as correct records with the exception noted below, the Minutes of the undernoted meetings, viz:-

3.1 LOCAL REVIEW BODY OF 20 JUNE 2012 (pages 59-61).

3.2 GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 22 JUNE 2012 (pages 62-66) (FOR NOTING ONLY).
3.3 CABINET OF 27 JUNE 2012 (pages 67-74).

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during discussion of the above matter.

3.4 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 27 JUNE 2012 (pages 75-78).

3.5 SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 29 JUNE 2012 (pages 89-93).

Matter Arising - Correction to the Minute (Item 2.3, Page 90, 12/17)

Following a verbal report by David Mitchell, Head of Legal, Procurement and Regulatory Services and Solicitor to the Council, in response to submissions received prior to Council meeting on the delegated planning decision, the Council noted a correction to the Minute with the addition of a new second sentence to paragraph 1 under Item 2.3 to read “Fiona Findlay, Team Leader - Northern, provided further clarification in respect of the content of the Committee report and clarified that five turbines were within the Local Plan Area of search”.

Councillor McIntyre left the meeting during discussion of the above matter.

3.6 SPECIAL CABINET OF 4 JULY 2012 (pages 94-98).

3.7 PLANNING OF 10 AUGUST 2012 (pages 99-105).

3.8 LOCAL REVIEW BODY OF 14 AUGUST 2012 (pages 106-110).

3.9 CABINET OF 15 AUGUST 2012 (pages 111-113).

3.10 LOCAL GOVERNMENT LICENSING PANEL OF 23 AUGUST 2012 (pages 114-122).

3.11 GOVERNANCE AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE OF 24 AUGUST 2012 (pages 123-128) (FOR NOTING ONLY).


3.13 CABINET OF 29 AUGUST 2012 (pages 133-135).

3.14 CENTRAL NORTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 4 SEPTEMBER 2012 (pages 137-139).

3.15 CENTRAL SOUTH LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 4 SEPTEMBER 2012 (pages 140-142).

3.16 NORTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 5 SEPTEMBER 2012 (page 143).

Councillor McIntyre rejoined the meeting at this point.

3.17 SOUTHERN LOCAL GRANTS COMMITTEE OF 6 SEPTEMBER 2012 (pages 144-146).

3.18 PLANNING COMMITTEE OF 7 SEPTEMBER 2012 (pages 147-151).

COUNCIL APPOINTMENT - YOUNG PEOPLE’S FORUM

4. Following a request from the Labour Group it was agreed that Councillor Dinwoodie replace Councillor Pirie on the Young People’s Forum.
MEMBERSHIP OF EAST AYRSHIRE LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

5. There was submitted a report dated 5 September 2012 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which appraised Members of proposed appointments to East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum and which recommended appointment of the applicants.

It was agreed:

(i) to appoint the applicants as detailed in paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3, namely:- Aileen Keyes (Trade Association representing licence holders) and Child Protection Co-ordinator (representing persons having functions relating to Health, Education and Social Work) to serve on East Ayrshire Local Licensing Forum; and

(ii) otherwise, to note the contents of the report.

MOTION BY COUNCILLOR JOHN McGHEE

6. Councillor John McGhee, seconded by Councillor Cree, moved the following motion, viz:-

“That East Ayrshire Council as a Local Authority support the 68 is Too Late Campaign”.

Councillor Cook, seconded by Councillor Brown, moved an amended motion as follows:-

“Retirement age and pensions are reserved matters for the Westminster Government. In accordance with our strategic objective this administration will work to ensure that older people across East Ayrshire are able to continue to live fit, active and healthy lives”.

On a division by a show of hands, the amendment was carried by 16 votes to 13.

Councillors John McGhee and Eric Ross left the meeting at this point.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

7. Council resolved “That under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the Press and public be excluded 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 6 of Schedule 7A of the Act”.

CHILDREN’S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

8. There was submitted a report dated 5 September 2012 (circulated) by the Executive Director of Finance and Corporate Support which advised Council of nominations for two Council appointee vacancies on East Ayrshire Children’s Panel Advisory Committee (CPAC) and which sought Council’s decision in respect of the appointments to the Committee.

It was agreed:

(i) that the two persons detailed within the report be appointed as Council appointee CPAC members until 23 June 2013 subject to satisfactory checks with Disclosure Scotland; and
(ii) that it be remitted to the Clerk to the CPAC to advise the Scottish Government of the Council’s appointments to the CPAC.

The meeting terminated at 1117 hrs.