

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Municipal Buildings, Clydebank on Wednesday, 28 April 1999.

Present: Provost George Cairney (LAB) and Councillors James McElhill (SNP), Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Alistair Macdonald (LAB), James Doherty (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), John McCutcheon (SNP), David Logan (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Duncan Mills (LAB), Craig McLaughlin (SNP), Ronald McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and James Chirrey (SNP).

Attending: Michael Watters, Chief Executive; Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council; Eric Walker, Director of Finance; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Leisure Services; Irving Hodgson, Economic Development Manager; Alasdair Gregor, Planning Services Manager; Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Allan Findlay, Director of Contract Services; Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations; Angela Clements, Head of Information Services and Robert Anderson, Principal Personnel Officer.

Provost George Cairney in the Chair

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Provost Cairney, in terms of Standing Order 6, determined that a presentation by Mrs Evelyn Nicoll, Fundraising Manager for the Macmillan Cancer Relief, should precede normal business and introduced Mrs Nicoll to the meeting.

PRESENTATION BY MRS EVELYN NICOLL, FUND-RAISING MANAGER FOR THE MACMILLAN CANCER RELIEF

Mrs Nicoll thanked Provost Cairney and the Council for allowing her the opportunity to speak to the meeting about the work done by the Macmillan Cancer Relief. Mrs Nicoll outlined the grants available for various reasons, stressing that applications were considered promptly, and advised of the level of support available from Macmillan Cancer Relief nurses right from the point of diagnosis of the illness and at any time throughout. Reference was also made to fund-raising appeals for the organisation and Mrs Nicoll thanked the Council for its contribution of £1,000 to the Vale of Leven appeal.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Provost Cairney thanked Mrs Nicoll and thereafter she left the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 31 March 1999 were submitted and approved on the motion of Provost Cairney, seconded by Councillor White.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

Contract Services Policy Board - 24 March 1999

The minutes of meeting of the Contract Services Policy Board held on 24 March 1999 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Rice, seconded by Councillor White.

Personnel Sub-Committee - 7 April 1999

The minutes of meeting of the Personnel Sub-Committee held on 7 April 1999 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White.

Finance Committee - 21 April 1999

The minutes of meeting of the Finance Committee held on 21 April 1999 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White.

Policy and Resources Committee - 21 April 1999

The minutes of meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 21 April 1999 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum.

Performance Review Committee - 21 April 1999

The minutes of meeting of the Performance Review Committee held on 21 April 1999 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum.

Community Initiatives Committee - 23 April 1999

The minutes of meeting of the Community Initiatives Committee held on 23 April 1999 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Syme, seconded by Councillor McCafferty.

The following Committee minutes were submitted for information:-

Social Work Committee held on 31 March 1999

Housing Committee held on 31 March 1999

Planning and Economic Development Committee held on 31 March 1999

Roads and Technical Services Committee held on 7 April 1999

Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee held on 7 April 1999

Education Committee held on 14 April 1999

Planning and Economic Development Committee held on 14 April 1999

Tendering Committee held on 21 April 1999

Information Services Committee held on 21 April 1999

Special Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee held on 21 April 1999

MATTERS ARISING OUTWITH DELEGATED POWERS FOR RATIFICATION BY COUNCIL

(a) Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee - 7 April 1999

Protective and Environmental Services Fees and Charges 1999/2000

(i) LACOTS Guidelines for Fees and Charges for Weights and Measures

The decision of the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee (**Volume page 4583 refers**) to recommend that the LACOTS guidelines for fees and charges for Weights and Measures activities be applied for the financial year 1999/2000, subject to the amendments approved by the Committee in March, 1998 regarding reductions for multiple submissions of measuring instruments or where prior arrangements for testing of measuring instruments had been made, was submitted for approval.

On the motion of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor White, the Council approved of the aforesaid decision.

(ii) Other Proposed Fees and Charges

The decision of the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee (**Volume page 4597 refers**) to recommend that the other proposed Protective and Environmental Services fees and charges, as detailed in the Appendix to the report, be applied for the financial year 1999/2000, was submitted for approval.

On the motion of Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor Mills, the Council approved of the aforesaid recommendation.

(b) Roads and Technical Services Committee - 7 April 1999

Proposed Inspection Charges for Roads in New Developments

The decision of the Roads and Technical Services Committee (**Volume page 4572 refers**) recommending the introduction of charges for the inspection and monitoring of new roads being constructed in accordance with a Construction Consent was submitted for approval as follows:-

Estimated Road Construction Cost	Inspection Charge per £1,000 of Roads Construction Cost
Up to £1,000	£21
£1,001 up to £5,000	£33
£5,001 to £20,000	£30 (minimum charge - £165)
£20,001 to £100,000	£27 (minimum charge - £600)
Over £100,000	£20 (minimum charge - £2,700)

The Council approved of the introduction of charges on the proposed scale from 1 May 1999.

NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (SCOTLAND)

In terms of remit from the meeting of the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee of 7 April 1999 (**Volume page 4585 refers**) there was submitted letter dated 3 March 1999, together with enclosure, from the Secretary of Nuclear Free Local Authorities (NFLA) (Scotland) highlighting various items which required to be considered.

On the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Campbell, the Council agreed to re-affiliate to NFLA at a cost of £1,000 (which included £330 for the Scottish element of NFLA) for 1999/2000 and otherwise to note the letter and enclosure from NFLA (Scotland).

SPORTS PITCHES: SCALE OF CHARGES 1999/2000

In terms of remit from the meeting of the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee held on 7 April 1999 (**Volume page 4587 refers**) when it was agreed to continue consideration of the proposed scale of charges for sports pitches for 1999/2000 to this meeting, there was submitted report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services seeking approval of the aforesaid charges.

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council approve the proposed charges for sports pitches for 1999/2000 (as shown in Appendix I to these minutes).

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McCutcheon, moved that there be no increase in charges.

On a vote being taken, 9 members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

CLYDEBANK MUNICIPAL GOLF COURSE DEVELOPMENT OF FACILITIES

With reference to the minutes of meeting of Council held on 31 March 1999 (**Volume pages 4488 and 4501 refer**) and in terms of remit from the meeting of the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee of 7 April 1999 (**Volume page 4588 refers**), consideration was given to the provision of £100,000 in the 1999/2000 Capital Estimates to facilitate a funding package for development of clubhouse etc., facilities at Dalmuir Golf Course.

On the motion of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor McColl, the Council agreed that the project now proceed, subject to funding being obtained from other Agencies.

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

(a) PE99/017 - Demolition of existing house and erection of replacement dwellinghouse at 12 Romanhill Road, Hardgate, Clydebank

In terms of remit from the meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee of 14 April 1999 (**Volume page 4613 refers**) consideration was given to a report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services in respect of an application for planning permission for the demolition of existing house and erection of replacement dwellinghouse at the above location. A visit to the site was carried out on 26 April 1999.

On the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Chirrey, the Council agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the Director's report and that planning permission be granted subject to various conditions all as shown in Appendix II to these minutes.

(b) PE99/023 - Erection of 'Drive-thru' fast food restaurant, service road and parking at Kilbowie Park, Argyll Road, Clydebank.

In terms of remit from the meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee of 14 April 1999 (**Volume page 4614 refers**) consideration was given to a report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services in respect of an application for planning permission for the erection of 'Drive-thru' fast food restaurant, service road and parking at the above site. A visit to the site was carried out on 26 April 1999.

On the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor White, the Council agreed:-

- (i) that planning permission be granted subject to various conditions as shown in Appendix II to these minutes; and
- (ii) that as the question of signage for the development was contentious, this be referred to the Planning and Economic Development Committee for consideration and the residents who had objected and the Community Council be notified when this application is received.

(c) PE99/025 - Residential development of eight detached units, access road and landscaping at Roman Road, Hardgate, Clydebank

In terms of remit from the meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee of 14 April 1999 (**Volume page 4614 refers**) consideration was given to a report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services in respect of an application for planning permission for a residential development of eight detached units, access road and landscaping at the above site. A visit to the site was carried out on 26 April 1999.

On the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Chirrey, the Council agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the report and that permission be granted, subject to no adverse comments being received from the Director of Roads and Technical Services, the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency (SEPA) and subject also to the conditions as shown in Appendix II to these minutes.

**LEASE OF CROSSLET HOUSE, ARGYLL AVENUE, DUMBARTON TO
SCOT NURSING LIMITED**

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services seeking approval for the principle of leasing Crosslet House, Argyll Avenue, Dumbarton to Scot Nursing Limited and making recommendations thereon.

On the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Calvert, the Council agreed:-

- (a) to instruct officers to seek to conclude negotiations with Scot Nursing in respect of a lease of Crosslet House for a period of initially two years, renewable annually thereafter; and
- (b) that in line with normal procedures, authority be delegated to the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services in consultation with the Convener of the Planning and Economic Development Committee and the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council to approve the negotiated terms of the lease.

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROFILE - MAY 1999

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations presenting the final draft of the text for the West Dunbartonshire Council Social and Economic Profile for May 1999 and seeking approval for publication.

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, the Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve the Social and Economic Profile and that it be printed and distributed widely to community groups, voluntary agencies, statutory agencies and other relevant organisations; and
- (b) that the work done by officers in preparing the document be commended.

SPONSORSHIP PROPOSALS BY DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations advising of proposals by DTZ Debenham Thorpe, the managing agents for Clydebank Shopping Centre, to sponsor a range of educational and community events within West Dunbartonshire.

On the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White, the Council agreed:-

- (a) to approve, in principle, the sponsorship options which DTZ Debenham Thorpe sought to investigate further;
- (b) that the final proposals be made available to Council members and be submitted to a future meeting of Council/Committee; and
- (c) that the background papers relating to this report be made available for inspection in the Labour and SNP Group rooms.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Wailes declared a pecuniary interest in the following item of business and accordingly left the chamber during discussion thereof.

MIRROR GROUP - PROPOSED ACQUISITION

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations containing information on a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) regarding the proposed acquisition of Mirror Group Plc and intimating that the MMC had written to the Council offering the opportunity for comment upon the proposed acquisition.

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, the Council agreed to note the report and that the MMC would report on the matter to the Secretary of State by 11 June 1999.

Councillor Wailes re-entered the meeting at this stage.

KOSOVO REFUGEE CRISIS

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations outlining ways in which the Council could help refugees from Kosovo and seeking the Council's views thereon.

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, the Council agreed that it could contribute to the collection of humanitarian aid for refugees from Kosovo in the following ways:-

- (a) by taking up a collection from Council staff;
- (b) by inviting the aid agency 'Disasters Emergency Committee' to request a street collection in the area;
- (c) by making a donation of £1,000 to the Scottish Refugee Council for their work in the U.K. on the basis that by reducing the burden on U.K. work with such a donation, the charity concerned may be able to focus more resources towards the refugees; and
- (d) by arranging a meeting between the Chief Executive, the Leaders of the Labour Group and the SNP Group and the organisers of the group 'Dumbarton Aid to Kosovo' in order to ascertain whether the Council could offer assistance.

1999 NEGOTIATIONS ON PAY FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES (APT&C AND MANUAL WORKERS)

With reference to the minutes of meeting of the Council held on 24 February 1999 (**Volume page 4308 refers**) there was submitted report by the Head of Personnel and Training

providing an update on the 1999 Pay Negotiations and advising of a further stage of consultations from COSLA.

The Principal Personnel Officer advised that consultations had been carried out with the Leaders of the Labour Group and the SNP Group and that accordingly it was proposed that COSLA be advised that the offer remain at 3%.

On the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Calvert, the Council so agreed.

ABSTRACT OF ACCOUNTS 1996/97

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance together with the audited Abstract of Accounts for the year to 31st March, 1997.

On the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor McCallum, the Council agreed to note the Abstract of Accounts for the year to 31 March 1997.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS FINAL REPORT TO MEMBERS 1996/97

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance intimating that PricewaterhouseCoopers, on behalf of the Accounts Commission, had completed its audit of the Council's 1996/97 Annual Accounts and that arising therefrom the Auditors had prepared their Final Report 1996/97.

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White, moved:-

“Although there are a few issues requiring attention within this Report, I would express the Administration's satisfaction with the positive progress achieved during this very difficult period.

As outlined at Section 3.3 of the Director's Report, some of the issues are simply for information of Members, whilst certain other points are superseded or have already been dealt with.

Any outstanding issues will be carried forward to the Auditors 1997/98 Report and I understand that this report is likely to be produced in the near future. I therefore move that we meantime note this report in the knowledge that the 1997/98 Report will soon be available for consideration, and that progress on these issues will be monitored on an ongoing basis as further reports are received from the External Auditor.”

The Council, following consideration, resolved accordingly.

COSLA SUBSCRIPTION 1999/2000

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance advising of the interim 1999/2000 Annual Subscription being sought by COSLA.

On the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Mills, the Council agreed that the Director of Finance be authorised to pay the interim COSLA subscription for 1999/2000 in the sum of £21,949.39 (plus VAT).

SCOTTISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT INFORMATION UNIT SUBSCRIPTION 1999/2000

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance advising of the 1999/2000 subscription being sought by the Scottish Local Government Information Unit (SLGIU) on the basis of £19.95 per 1,000 population.

On the motion of Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White, the Council agreed that the Director of Finance be authorised to pay the 1999/2000 SLGIU subscription in the sum of £1,915.

BRAIDFIELD HIGH SCHOOL: THE NEW COMMUNITY SCHOOL

There was submitted joint report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services and the Director of Social Work and Housing advising that Braidfield High School had been awarded full pilot New Community School status by the Scottish Office Education and Industry Department for the period from 1999 - 2002.

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCafferty, the Council noted with approval the status accorded to the New Community School and also noted the contents of the report.

CARMAN LEISURE CENTRE, RENTON

With reference to the minutes of meeting of Council held on 31 March 1999 (**Volume page 4489 refers**) there was submitted letter from the Management Committee of the Carman Leisure Centre, Renton expressing thanks to the Council for the extension given to the Centre thereby allowing the continuation of the service to the elderly community.

On the motion of Councillor Mills, the Council agreed to note the contents of the letter.

SCOTTISH ADLO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

There was submitted letter from ADLO Scottish Region advising that the Annual General Meeting would be held in the Town Hall, Hamilton on Friday 21 May 1999 at 10.00am and seeking nominations for this year's election prior to 20 May 1999.

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Devine, the Council agreed to nominate a member of the new Administration and that the Chief Executive be requested to take appropriate action following the election.

SEMINAR - ADLO -DELIVERING PUBLIC SERVICE EXCELLENCE

There was submitted invitation for the Council to send a delegate to the ADLO Annual Seminar and Exhibition to be held from 15/18 June 1999 in London.

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Devine, the Council noted the invitation.

PREVENTING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: A SCOTTISH ACTION PLAN

With reference to the meeting of Council held on 24 February 1999 (**Volume page 4310 refers**), there was submitted letter from Mr Henry McLeish, MP in response to representations made by the Council concerning the recent case of Austin-v-Radin in which the perpetrator had been allowed to interrogate a victim of indecent assault.

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Mills, the Council welcomed the comments made in the response to its representations.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

Provost Cairney expressed his thanks to all the elected members and officers for their support throughout his Convenership of the Council, adding that despite disagreements occurring at times during meetings these had been overcome and democracy had prevailed and this was much appreciated by him.

Councillor Mills, the Depute Provost, echoed the sentiments expressed by Provost Cairney and paid tribute to all staff, particularly to Social Work staff for their support during his Convenership of the Social Work Committee.

Provost Cairney vacated the Chair at this point in the meeting.

RETIRAL PRESENTATIONS

PROVOST GEORGE CAIRNEY AND DEPUTE PROVOST DUNCAN MILLS

Mr Watters, the Chief Executive, advised that it was his privilege to deal with this part of the meeting and deliver the tribute from the officer corps to Provost Cairney and Depute Provost Mills. Having paid tribute to Provost Cairney and Depute Provost Mills, Mr Watters then invited the Leader of the Council, Councillor White, and thereafter Councillor Mackechnie, Leader of the SNP Group, to be heard.

Councillor White proceeded to refer to the highlights in the 15 years service given by Provost Cairney to local government in Clydebank and Duntocher and also latterly to West Dunbartonshire. Particular reference was made to Provost Cairney's contribution to improvements in housing and energy efficiency in Clydebank and to his achievements whilst serving on West Dunbartonshire Council, not least in relation to the Glenhead C.E. Centre, St Mary's Primary School and the Antonine Centre. Councillor White, on behalf of the Council, wished Provost Cairney a happy and active retirement.

Councillor White then referred to the 32 years service given by Depute Provost Mills to local government ranging from his time in the County Council, then as Vice Convener of Strathclyde Regional Council and thereafter as Depute Provost of West Dunbartonshire Council. Councillor White paid tribute to the work carried out by Depute Provost Mills and special mention was made of his commitment to Social Work and his good work relating to the Renton Institute, the Carman Centre and Void Houses in Renton. Councillor White said that Depute Provost Mills had been an asset to the Council and he would be missed not only by elected members but also by officers.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Mackechnie paid tribute to Provost Cairney, thanking him for giving a fair hearing to the SNP Group at meetings and engaging in enjoyable verbal jousts.

Councillor Mackechnie referred to the admiration which he and his colleagues had for the remarkable spirit and courage shown by Depute Provost Mills, particularly in the last 6 months during which he was fighting a serious illness, and wished him well in his future involvement in the Drumkinnon Bay Trust, and particularly over the next few months.

In conclusion, Councillor Mackechnie extended best wishes for the future to Councillors John Wailes and Jim Doherty who were not standing for re-election to the Council and expressed thanks to officers at all levels within the Council for assisting the SNP Group with Ward related work throughout the Council's term of office. Councillor Mackechnie also advised that he felt it was appropriate at this time to remember the late Provost Patrick O'Neill and this was unanimously echoed by all present.

Councillor Chirrey then paid tribute to Provost Cairney for all the assistance given to him following his appointment to the Licensing Board.

Councillor Campbell wished Provost Cairney all the best on his retirement and reiterated the comments previously made to Depute Provost Mills, saying that his efforts and those of the late Provost Patrick O'Neill in making her feel at home in the new West Dunbartonshire Council had been much appreciated.

Councillor White, at this point, presented Provost Cairney and Depute Provost Mills with a quach to mark their time in office and Mrs Cairney and Mrs Mills were each presented with a floral arrangement.

Thereafter, the Chief Executive invited Mrs Cairney and Mrs Mills to join elected members and other invited guests at the function.