

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 18 December 2019 at 10.05 a.m.

Present: Provost William Hendrie, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bolla, Jim Brown, Karen Conaghan, Ian Dickson, Diane Docherty, Jim Finn, Daniel Lennie, Caroline McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar*, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Sally Page and Martin Rooney.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Peter Hessett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Gail Casey, Douglas McAllister and Brian Walker.

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

Provost Hendrie advised that the meeting was being audio streamed and broadcast live to the internet and would be available for playback.

MINUTE'S SILENCE

Councillor McColl, Leader of the Council, advised the Council of the recent death of former Provost and Freeman of West Dunbartonshire, Alistair Macdonald.

The Provost asked that a minute's silence be observed as a mark of respect for former Provost Macdonald and also for the loss of the 3 crew members of the Flying Phantom tug boat which sank in the River Clyde on 19 December 2007, and for the loss of 3 family members from Dumbarton in the Glasgow bin lorry accident on 22 December 2014.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted that there were no declarations of interest in any of the items of business on the agenda.

Note: Councillor Millar arrived at this point in the meeting.

MOTION ON WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COMMUNITY FOODSHARE

Councillor Mooney, seconded by Councillor McBride moved:-

Council is disappointed and very concerned that the application to the Investing in Communities Fund by West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare has been unsuccessful.

Accordingly, as an emergency measure, Council agrees to set up a contingency fund of £50,000 from free reserves for the use, as required, of West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare at this challenging financial time.

Council also agrees to waive all rental charges payable by West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare until further notice.

As an amendment Councillor McColl, seconded by Bailie Agnew moved:-

Council is disappointed and very concerned that the application to the Investing in Communities Fund by West Dunbartonshire Community Foodshare (WDCF) has been unsuccessful, and notes that Gil Paterson MSP has written to the Scottish Government in an attempt to secure the funding WDCF need and to establish why the application was refused.

It is also clear from their correspondence that WDCF are providing more services than they were when Council agreed in March 2019 to provide ongoing financial support, and Council is concerned that they may have over-extended themselves, putting new services in place before funding has been secured to run them; they may need some practical help to secure their position for the future.

As a stop-gap measure, Council agrees to make up to £50,000 available from free reserves to keep WDCF services running in the current financial year, and they should request funds from this set aside budget, as they need them. Council delegates authority to the Strategic Lead for Housing & Employability, or his nominated staff, to authorise payments subject to appropriate due diligence checks.

Council asks officers to liaise with WDCF and ascertain exactly how the group have found themselves in such financial difficulty and what support they need

from the Council or other bodies to continue providing important services to local people in a sustainable way.

Officers will bring a report to February Council with appropriate financial and operational information (including the group's latest audited accounts and the current year's accounts/projections), to allow members to consider and make an informed decision about what the Council can do to assist WDCF going forward. Council agrees to ask the Leader of the Council to write and invite representatives from WDCF to bring a deputation to February Council to allow them to speak directly to Councillors about the services they provide.

At the request of Councillor Mooney, the Provost agreed to adjourn the meeting for a period of 5 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 10.35 a.m. with all those noted in the sederunt present.

At the request of Councillor O'Neill, the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken 11 members voted for the amendment, namely Provost Hendrie, Baillie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren and McNair and 8 members voted for the motion, namely Councillors Bolla, Lennie, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill, Rooney and Page. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

Provost Hendrie wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

The meeting closed at 11.22 a.m.

