

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton. G82 3PU

21 August, 2003

**MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL
WEDNESDAY 27 AUGUST, 2003
LESSER TOWN HALL
MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS
DUMBARTON ROAD
CLYDEBANK**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the Lesser Town Hall, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 27 August, 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

TIM HUNTINGFORD

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Director of Corporate Services

Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services

Director of Education and Cultural Services

Director of Commercial and Technical Services

Director of Social Work and Housing Services

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 27 AUGUST 2003

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Pages 1 - 69)

Submit for approval as a correct record, Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 June 2003.

Note: Members are asked to note that in order to reduce costs and paper, Appendix I to the Minutes has not been reproduced in these papers but will be included in the Council Volume of Minutes. Please note that an electronic copy of the Council's Standing Orders is available on the Council's Public Folders under Legal and Admin Info.

3. MINUTES OF COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE (Pages 71 – 72)

Submit for information and where necessary ratification, Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 20 August 2003.

4. UROLOGY SERVICE - VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL

Members are invited to discuss the transfer of the Urology Service from the Vale of Leven Hospital to the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Paisley. John Mullin, Chairman of the NHS Board and Neil Campbell, Chief Executive of NHS Argyll and Clyde were invited to attend the meeting to discuss the above issue but have advised that they are unable to attend this meeting of Council.

5./

5. OPEN FORUM

The following questions have been submitted to Council for consideration:-

(a) **Mr Daniel McCafferty, 48 Duntocher Road, Clydebank**
Subject: St. Patrick's Well and Garden

West Dunbartonshire Council has unanimously agreed to proceed with proposals to develop St. Patrick's Well and Garden at Gavinburn. £50,000 was endorsed by a well-attended meeting in Old Kilpatrick subject to maintenance commitments being met by Council. West Dunbartonshire Council unanimously agreed to the Public request for a maintenance undertaking and approved work proceeding without further delay. Local children have subsequently taken part in design workshops.

What is the start date for work on the project to commence and its completion date for finishing?

(b) **Mr William Neeson, 2/1, 179 Glasgow Road, Clydebank and Mr**
David J Thomson, 24 Nobleston Estate, Bonhill, Alexandria
Subject: Council decision on Wheelchair Accessible Taxis

- (1) Why were no representatives of the Taxi Trade or Disabled Forum invited to attend the meeting at which such an important decision was taken?
- (2) As Legislation is awaited from the Scottish Executive why put forward proposals which may be changed at a later date?
- (3) Why were the owners in the other main office not contacted and informed of the consequences if they did not conform to the agreement of 2 Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles per office.
- (4) In the Civic Government Act, Consultation is part of the process of local change. Has this been changed? If so, when?
- (5) Why was exemption not considered for this Zone?
- (6) Is it legal for the Council to implement these proposals when legislation is forthcoming?
- (7) Will the Council agree to a meeting with the Taxi Trade and the Disabled Forum to discuss this issue?
- (8) Which vehicles are the Council proposing to make mandatory, Hackney carriages or any wheelchair accessible vehicle?

- (9) What rights do able-bodied people have – are they, the majority of the Taxi Trade customers, to be forced to accept WAV rather than Saloon or Estate vehicles? Many senior travellers cannot comfortably enter a WAV without aid, and surely detrimental to their peace of mind and sense of independence.

(c) **Karen A. Watters, 'Tara', 137 Weldon Street, Greenock**
Council decision on Wheelchair Accessible Taxis

- (1) On 23 July 2003 I licensed a brand new Skoda Octavia motor vehicle, I understood that this vehicle would be able to be used as a taxi for the maximum 8 years, that being the final closure date for this type of vehicle. I have now read the changes to the licence will start to take effect in the year 2006.

Could you please clarify to me if my vehicle will have to be changed at this time or will the full 8 years be permitted?

- (2) I have read the consultation document which encompasses the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. This document is a consolatory paper. I have contacted the Scottish Parliament by telephone and have established that this Act did not pass through the Scottish Parliament, it is a Westminster Act. I am at a loss as to whether the local licensing board are aware of this and if they are, are they aware that they may wish to reconsider the enactment as I feel that I have a legal right to challenge this in the courts.

Is the Council prepared to compensate the holders of current licences who have made a considerable investment in their vehicles as requested by the licensing authority?

- (3) Why was Section 35 of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 not enacted on by the Council? This exemption was specifically placed into the Act to accommodate areas like ours, to help the local taxi operators cope with the changes, something the local elected officers have chosen to completely ignore.

(d) **Sue Hemmings, 22/1 Shandon Crescent, Balloch**
Maintenance of Allotments

Recently I applied for an allotment and was told that I would be put on the list but that there was a four year wait. I have been to look at the local allotments and notice that a considerable number have not been maintained. Could you tell me why the Council have not chased up these tenants about the state of their allotments? Also could you tell me why these people are allowed to keep allotments when they obviously have no intention of using them and others are waiting.

**6. ARGYLL, BUTE AND THE DUNBARTONSHIRES SOCIAL WORK
CRIMINAL JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE**

Members will recall that Council, at its meeting on 4 June 2003, agreed that Councillors Martin Rooney and James Flynn be nominated to serve on the above Committee. In accordance with the Minute of Agreement, Council is invited to nominate two substitutes for each member serving on the Committee.

7. ANDREW CROSS CAMERON FUND WORKING GROUP (Pages 73 - 74)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services seeking the appointment of four elected members to serve on the Andrew Cross Cameron Fund Working Group, as an interim arrangement pending the conclusion of the overall review of Working Groups, as agreed by Council on 25 June 2003.

8. SURGERY ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTED MEMBERS (Pages 75 - 76)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Council to determine the response to surgery requests for an individual Elected Member.

9. LOCAL GRANTS (Pages 77 – 86)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services requesting Council to consider options for dealing with the overspend on the Local Grants Budget.

10. DRAFT ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2002/03 (Pages 87 - 123)

Submit report by the Director of Corporate Services providing a copy of the draft annual accounts for 2002/03 and highlighting matters of interest.

11. CHIEF OFFICERS' SALARIES (Pages 125 - 127)

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking support for the establishment of a revised pay structure for Chief Officials.

12. COUNCIL NEWSPAPER (Pages 129 – 132)

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking approval of the re-launch of the West Dunbartonshire Council Newspaper – The News.

13. INSPECTION OF THE EDUCATION FUNCTIONS OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL (Pages 133 - 138)

Submit report by the Chief Executive informing Council of the findings of the inspection by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Accounts Commission on the education functions of West Dunbartonshire Council.

14. ACTION PLAN FOR INSPECTION REPORT (Pages 139 - 173)

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking approval of a plan to take forward the key points for action as recommended in the report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Education (HMIE) and the Accounts Commission on the education functions of West Dunbartonshire Council.

15. CHILDREN'S SERVICES COMMITTEE: EDUCATION MATTERS (Pages 175 - 177)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 25 June 2003, submit report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing the Council with proposals on the composition and operation of the Children's Services Committee when dealing with education matters.

16. BREAKFAST CLUB SERVICE (Pages 179 - 182)

Submit report by the Director of Education and Cultural Services providing an update on the progress of the Pilot Breakfast Club Service and seeking approval to continue the Service.

17. NEIGHBOURHOOD LIAISON PILOT PROJECT (Pages 183 - 184)

Submit report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services on the Neighbourhood Liaison Pilot Project (NLO) and seeking guidance on the continuation of the project beyond its current period of operation.

18. BUILDING STRONG, SAFE AND ATTRACTIVE COMMUNITIES
(Pages 185 - 191)

Submit report by the Director of Social Work and Housing Services:-

- (a) advising of provisional funding awarded by the Scottish Executive to this Council for the provision of community warden schemes and other initiatives to tackle anti-social behaviour;
- (b) providing details of the guidance issued by the Scottish Executive in connection with the funding allocation; and
- (c) seeking approval to submit to the Scottish Executive an outline bid for the funding by deadline of 31 August 2003.

19. LITTER CONTROL STRATEGY 2003
(Pages 193 - 210)

Submit report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services seeking approval of a litter control strategy for West Dunbartonshire.

20. INVESTMENT IN STREET CLEANSING
(Pages 211 - 213)

Submit report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing Members with information on how the additional £250,000 allocated to improve street cleansing will be utilised.

21. ST. ANDREW'S AMBULANCE ASSOCIATION – REQUEST FOR CIVIC RECEPTION
(Page 215)

Submit for consideration, correspondence received from St. Andrew's Ambulance Association requesting the Council to host a civic reception to celebrate its Centenary in 2004. Provost Macdonald has requested that Council should consider this item due to the likely size and cost of hosting such an event.

22. JUBILEE SCOTLAND – MEMBERSHIP
(Pages 217 - 218)

Submit for consideration, a copy of correspondence received from Jubilee Scotland inviting this Council to become a member of Jubilee Scotland at a cost of £150.

23. CONFERENCES

(a) 4TH ANNUAL LOTTERY MONITOR CONFERENCE FOR SCOTLAND

Council is invited to nominate a member to attend the Lottery Monitor 4th Annual Conference "Influencing Change for Scotland's Benefit" to be held on 30 September 2003 in Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh. The Conference will focus on the launch of the Lottery Decision White Paper which includes proposals to host local referendums, to set up youth funds, to merge the two main distribution boards and also to allow the public to become involved in the funding process through "citizen's juries". The cost per delegate is £225 plus VAT.

(b) THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT, POLITICS AND THE PEOPLE

Council is invited to nominate a member to attend the above Conference to be held on 30 August 2003 in the European in Scotland Conference Centre, 39 Palmerston Place, Edinburgh. The Conference, which has been organised by the Centre for Scottish Public Policy in association with the Sunday Herald, will look at some of the biggest issues facing Scottish government, politics and society. The cost per delegate is £80 plus VAT.

For information on the above agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer, Legal and Administrative Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbarton.gov.uk.