

VALE OF LEVEN AREA COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Vale of Leven Area Committee held in the Main Hall, Christie Park Primary School, Middleton Street, Alexandria on Tuesday, 1 April 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors James Bolla, Ronnie McColl, Margaret McGregor and Craig McLaughlin*. Joe Callaghan, James Elder-Woodward, James Kelly, Fiona Malcolm and Martin Rooney.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Stephen West, Section Head (Accounting and Budgeting); Alasdair Gregor, Planning and Development Manager; Linda Hall, Section Head (Tenancy Services) and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Geoffrey Calvert and Connie O'Sullivan and Mr David Thompson.

Councillor Margaret McGregor in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Councillor McGregor, on behalf of the Committee, welcomed Mr Callaghan back to the Area Committee following his recent absence due to ill health. Mr Callaghan took the opportunity to thank the Committee for the card and kind wishes he had received during his absence.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Vale of Leven Area Committee held on 4 February 2003 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

LOCH LOMOND SHORES – UPDATE ON FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 4 February 2003, Damon Scott (Communications Manager, Loch Lomond Shores, in attendance for this item only), gave a brief presentation to the Committee on future development plans for Loch Lomond Shores.

Councillor McLaughlin entered the meeting during Mr Scott's presentation.

Having heard Mr Scott in answer to Members' questions and following discussion on various issues including the employment of local people, benefits to the local economy and traffic management, the Committee agreed that the Clerk should obtain and circulate the supplementary information requested by the Committee in respect of the employment at Loch Lomond Shores.

Thereafter, Councillor McGregor (Chair), on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr Scott for his presentation and he then left the meeting.

LOCAL GRANTS 2003/2004

A paper was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services making recommendations on applications received in respect of Local Grants for 2003/2004.

At this point, the Section Head (Accounting and Budgeting) informed the Committee that, at its meeting on 26 March 2003, Council had considered the issue of the Local Grants budget for 2003/2004 and had referred the matter to the Finance Working Group for consideration.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Finance Working Group that the undernoted Groups be awarded the amounts shown below, subject to the Finance Working Group identifying appropriate funding:-

<u>Name of Group</u>	<u>Award</u>
Jamestown Early Education and Childcare Centre Parents' Group	£930.64
Bowls for All, Haldane	£493.31

OPEN FORUM

(a) Written Submissions

The Committee noted that no written submissions had been submitted to this meeting.

(b) Verbal Questions/Issues

A member of the public expressed concern over the increased volume of traffic at the roundabout near the entrance to Loch Lomond Shores in Balloch (at McDonald's Restaurant) and the difficulties which members of the public had experienced when trying to cross the road at busy periods. It was suggested that the provision of footbridges would reduce the risk of accidents.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to instruct the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to investigate the matter and take any necessary appropriate action.

ACCESS TO PREMISES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee on 4 February 2003 concerning access to premises for Community Representatives, it was noted that Council, at its meeting on 26 February 2003, had agreed to note this Committee's recommendation in respect of the proposal to enter into an agreement with the Social Inclusion Partnership to share premises.

PLAY AREAS/AMENITIES

(a) Provision of Play Equipment in the Vale of Leven Area

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of this Committee on 1 October 2002 and 4 February 2003, a report was re-submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing background information on the provision of play equipment in the Vale of Leven area.

The Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

(b) Levenbank Terrace, Jamestown

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services advising the Committee of the current position regarding the development of a play area at Levenbank Terrace, Jamestown.

After hearing Mr Callaghan emphasise the urgent need for a play area in the Levenbank Terrace area, the Director of Commercial and Technical Services and the Planning and Development Manager in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to support, in principle, the establishment of a play area in the Levenbank Terrace area;
- (2) that, following consultation with local residents, young people and the Dunbritton Housing Association, the Director of Commercial and Technical Services would submit a further report to a future meeting of the Area Committee for consideration; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING ISSUES

With reference to the Minutes of Meetings of this Committee held on 3 December 2002 and 4 February 2003, the Committee was invited to discuss possible solutions to the various housing issues which had been highlighted during the meetings.

Having heard Mr Callaghan propose that some of the recommendations contained within the Audit Report produced by Diane Janes, National Sociable Neighbourhood Co-ordinator, entitled "Anti Social Behaviour Policy and Procedure Audit – West Dunbartonshire Council" in August 2002, be implemented together with another recommendation, which he had added, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that a copy of the Audit Report referred to above together with a note of Mr Callaghan's proposals be circulated to all Members of the Committee prior to the next meeting; and
- (2) to request the Director of Social Work and Housing Services to prepare a report, for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee, on the findings of the above Audit Report and Mr Callaghan's proposals.

SUPERMARKET DEVELOPMENTS IN THE VALE OF LEVEN AREA – CONSULTATION

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Area Committee held on 4 February 2003, when it had been agreed to continue the issue of public consultation on the proposed supermarket developments in the Vale of Leven area until Mr Callaghan was well enough to attend the meeting, Councillor McGregor, Chair, invited Mr Callaghan to address the Committee on this issue.

Mr Callaghan requested Officers to provide the Committee with an update on proposed supermarket developments in the Vale of Leven area and to explain the public consultation process.

Having heard the Planning and Development Manager in response to Mr Callaghan's request and Councillor McColl advise that the Town Centres Initiative Management Board was seeking funds (£7000 to £8000) to contract professional consultants to produce a strategy for the future development of the Vale of Leven area, the Committee agreed to note the position.

PUBLIC TOILETS IN ALEXANDRIA

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 4 February 2003, a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services on the provision of new public toilets in Alexandria.

Having heard the Director of Commercial and Technical Services, in answer to Members' questions and following discussion, Councillor McColl, seconded by Mr Rooney, moved:-

That the Committee recommends to Council, for approval, the proposal detailed in paragraph 4.2 (b) of the Director's report, namely the provision of an Automated Public Convenience on the existing site in Bank Street by means of a rental and maintenance agreement: the rental charge, including servicing refurbishment, paper and disinfectant products, water and electricity to cost £20,000 per annum over a 20 year agreement. All existing staff to be redeployed.

As an amendment, Councillor Bollan, seconded by Mr Elder-Woodward, moved:-

To recommend to Council that the existing toilet be demolished and that a new public toilet with facilities for both able bodied and disabled people be constructed on the existing land and the spare land to the immediate north of the site, which is owned by the Council. Capital Costs to be funded from slippage in the 2003/2004 Capital Programme and revenue costs to be met from the Council Tax.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 3 for the motion. There being an equality of votes, Councillor McGregor (Chair) used her casting vote in favour of the motion. The motion was accordingly declared carried.

TRANSPORT LINKS

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 4 February 2003, a letter was submitted from Iain Gray, Minister for Enterprise, Transport and Lifelong Learning in response to the concerns expressed by this Committee on the transportation of emergency patients to and from the Vale of Leven Hospital in the event of a blockage on the A82.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed that the Chair should write to the Scottish Executive and point out that the Minister's response did not address the issue of transporting emergency patients from Alexandria to Glasgow in the event of an blockage on the A82 but only addressed the issue of transporting patients from Clydebank to Alexandria.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2003

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee held on 17 February 2003 were submitted and noted.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS OF VALE OF LEVEN AREA COMMITTEE

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee held on 4 February 2003, an excerpt from the Minutes of Meeting of Council on 26 February 2003 was submitted, concerning the recommendation that the Vale of Leven Area Committee should meet once a month.

The Committee noted that the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee had decided to consult with other Area Committees on this issue.

RESIGNATION OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee (CDCC) held on 17 February 2003, the Committee was requested:-

- (a) to consider a recommendation from the North Clydebank Area Committee that the possibility of replacement Community Representatives being co-opted to serve on the Area Committees, rather than an election being conducted, be investigated; and
- (b) to note that any change to the current arrangements would require an amendment to Standing Orders being submitted to Council for approval.

The Committee agreed to advise the CDCC that it supported the view that, as an interim measure, all vacancies should be filled by co-opting additional Community Representatives onto Area Committees until the next cycle of formal elections are held.

DRAFT PROTOCOL FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVE/ELECTED MEMBER/OFFICER RELATIONS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking the views of the Area Committee on the proposed Draft Protocol for Community Representative/Elected Member/Officer Relations.

Having heard the Clerk in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to recommend to the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee that the draft Protocol be approved.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Having heard Councillor McColl, the Committee agreed that an item on the Consultation on the Provision of Maternity Services in the Vale of Leven area should be placed on the Agenda of the next meeting for discussion.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

In terms of Council Standing Order 9, Councillor McGregor (Chair) decided that the following item of business be considered as a matter of urgency on the grounds that the action to be taken required early consideration.

MEDICAL CENTRE - ALEXANDRIA

The Committee discussed recent events surrounding the proposed location of the new Medical Centre in Alexandria.

Following discussion, it was agreed that a letter be sent to Dr Trust, Medical Centre, Bank Street, Alexandria and Mr David Watson, Argyll and Clyde Health Board expressing, in the strongest terms, the Committee's view that the new Medical Centre be located within the centre of Alexandria. Furthermore, it was agreed that copies of the letter be sent to all of the Scottish Parliamentary Candidates for the Dumbarton Constituency.

The meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.