

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held by Zoom video conference on Wednesday, 24 September 2020 at 10.01 a.m.

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

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, Health & Social Care Partnership, Alan Douglas, Manager of Legal Services; Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Gail MacFarlane, Strategic Lead – Shared Services Roads & Transportation; Martin Keeley, Manager – Environmental Health; George Hawthorn, Manager – Democratic & Registration Services; and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Martin Rooney.

STATEMENT BY CHAIR

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

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

Having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to accept an emergency motion from Councillor O'Neill concerning Duntiglennan Fields, Duntocher, Clydebank. Councillor O'Neill read out the terms of the motion and the Council noted that the motion would be considered after the business on the agenda.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

RECORDING OF VOTES

The Council agreed that all votes taken during the meeting would be done by roll call vote to ensure an accurate record.

MINUTE'S SILENCE

At the request of Councillor McNair, the Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect following the death of John Hepburn, a former Manager of the Welfare Rights section, who had worked for the Council for 25 years; been instrumental in setting up the partnership with McMillan Cancer Support back in 2004 and who had also been involved in the work of the Clydebank Asbestos Group.

COVID-19 CASES ACROSS THE WEST OF SCOTLAND COVID-19 UPDATE

The Provost advised that he intended taking Items 5 and 6 together and invited the Chief Executive to address Members.

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update in relation to COVID-19 in West Dunbartonshire since the previous update report to Council in August 2020.

The Chief Executive provided further information on the actions that had been carried out since the report had been issued to Members.

Provost Hendrie then advised that, in terms of Standing Order No.3(b), Councillors Martin Rooney, John Millar, David McBride, Douglas McAllister, Lawrence O'Neill, John Mooney, Gail Casey and Daniel Lennie had submitted the following:-

We the undersigned Councillors request a Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council to discuss the following:-

This Council notes the significant increase in coronavirus (COVID-19) cases across the West of Scotland.

As a result additional restrictions have been introduced for people living in:

Glasgow City,
East Renfrewshire,
Renfrewshire,
East Dunbartonshire and

West Dunbartonshire.

Our community is alarmed that the West Dunbartonshire Council area currently has the highest infection rate in Scotland and the fourth highest infection rates in the UK.

We call on the Chief Executive to bring forward a report to a requisitioned Council meeting, setting out the Council responses, and those of the HSCP & NHSGGC, and to outline what additional steps are being taken to assist communities to reduce the infection.

In addition to advise what steps are being taken to increase the testing capacity from the current part time to a full time level to assist residents to get tested when required, particularly those without their own transport to get tested locally.

Councillors

Martin Rooney
John Millar
David McBride
Douglas McAllister
Lawrence O'Neill
John Mooney
Gail Casey
Daniel Lennie

Following discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members questions the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the information provided on COVID-19 in West Dunbartonshire since the update provided to the August 2020 meeting of Council;
- (2) to note the information provided in relation to the additional support and advice that the Council is providing to communities and businesses across West Dunbartonshire to help alleviate the impact of COVID-19; and
- (3) that a COVID-19 Update report will become a standing item on agendas for future Council meetings, starting after next week's meeting.

Note: Councillor Douglas McAllister left the meeting during discussion of the above item.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a request from Councillor Casey, the Provost agreed to adjourn the meeting until 12.15 p.m.

The meeting was reconvened at 12.17 p.m. with all Members in attendance with the exception of Councillor Douglas McAllister.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

Councillor O'Neill moved:-

This Council notes with absolute dismay the decision made by Mike Shiel, Independent Reporter appointed by Scottish Ministers, regarding his decision to uphold the Planning Appeal (PPA – 160 – 2030) in favour of Barratt Homes West Scotland at the site known as Duntiglennan Fields, Duntocher and notified to all on the 17th September 2020;

We welcome the strong words of the Leader of the Council, Councillor Jonathan McColl, reported in the local media regarding this attack on local democracy and the ignoring of the many objections from the Duntocher community.

Council also notes that the Planning Committee and Full Council agreed unanimously that the Duntiglennan Fields site should not be included in the Local Development Plan, which was agreed by the Scottish Ministers following their examination of the recently published and agreed LDP2.

Any proposal to include Duntiglennan Fields in Duntocher as a Housing Development site, time and time again, has been rejected by West Dunbartonshire Council's Planning Committee and Full Council repeatedly over the last 6 years.

Council agrees to take all necessary independent Legal recourse, up to and including Judicial Review, to challenge this perverse decision – we owe it to our constituents; our communities and to the heart of local decision making.

A verbal update on progress should be provided to Full Council next week, particularly given the very tight timescales involved.

The Council agreed the motion unanimously.

The meeting closed at 12.42 p.m.