

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Statutory Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday 16 May 2007 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, George Black, James Bolland, Margaret Bootland, Jim Brown, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, Jim Finn, William Hendrie, Douglas McAllister, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Ronnie McColl, Jim McElhill, Patrick McGlinchey, Craig McLaughlin, Willie McLaughlin, Marie McNair, John Millar, Iain Robertson, Martin Rooney and May Smillie.

Attending: David McMillan, Chief Executive; Ronnie Dinnie, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Land and Environmental Services); Irving Hodgson, Acting Director of Housing, Regeneration and Environmental Services (Housing and Regeneration); Liz McGinlay, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Bill Clark, Director of Social Work Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Vincent Gardiner, Manager of Exchequer, Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services, Anne Laird, Manager of Administrative Services, and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also Attending: Mr Arthur Murdoch and Mr Jim Tannoch, Strathleven Artizans.

WELCOME

The Chief Executive welcomed everyone present to the Statutory Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – 3 MAY 2007

A report was submitted by the Returning Officer informing the Council of the results of the elections for West Dunbartonshire Council on 3 May 2007.

The Council agreed to note the results of the local government elections for West Dunbartonshire Council as detailed in the Appendix to these minutes.

Councillor Robertson and Councillor Rooney took the opportunity to congratulate the Returning Officer and his staff for the way in which the election was conducted and in particular the very efficient manner in which the local government count was handled on Friday 4 May 2007.

ELECTION OF PROVOST

The Chief Executive invited the Council to consider the election of the Provost of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved that Councillor Denis Agnew be elected as Provost.

As an amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that Councillor Geoff Calvert be elected as Provost.

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment and 11 for the motion and accordingly Councillor Agnew was elected as Provost.

At this point Provost Agnew left the meeting and returned bearing the Provost's Chain of Office. Provost Agnew thanked the Council for giving him the privilege of holding the office of Provost and he then paid tribute to his predecessor, emeritus Provost Alistair Macdonald, who had carried out his duties so well and had promoted West Dunbartonshire in a very positive way.

Provost Denis Agnew in the Chair

PRESENTATION TO PROVOST

At this point in the meeting Mr Arthur Murdoch and Jim Tannoch from Strathleven Artizans presented Provost Agnew with a new gavel which the Strathleven Artizans had carved from holly and pinewood.

Provost Agnew thanked them both for the wonderful gavel.

ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS AND SCHEME OF ADMINISTRATION

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the Council's Scheme of Administration and seeking approval of the adoption of Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

After hearing Councillor Robertson, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to the adoption of the existing Standing Orders and Financial Regulations, subject to:-
 - (a) the terms of paragraph 3.7 of the report, until such times as any change is made to the decision making structures; and

- (b) Standing Order 2 (a) being amended to read as follows:-

The Ordinary Meetings of the Council will be held on the last Wednesday of every month unless otherwise determined. Council meetings will normally commence at 7 p.m. or as decided by the Council from time to time.

- (2) that, following any change to the decision making structures, a report be submitted to Council with a revised set of Standing Orders for approval.

ELECTION OF DEPUTE PROVOST

Provost Agnew invited the Council to consider the election of the Depute Provost.

Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that Councillor John Millar, be elected as Depute Provost.

As an amendment, Councillor Iain Robertson, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved that Councillor Ronnie McColl, be elected as Depute Provost.

On a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Ronnie McColl was elected as Depute Provost.

Depute Provost McColl thanked the Council for electing him as Depute Provost.

ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND DEPUTE LEADER OF COUNCIL

The Provost invited the Council to consider the election of the Leader of Council and Depute Leader of Council.

(a) Leader of the Council

Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that Councillor Rooney be elected as Leader of the Council.

As an amendment, Councillor McElhill, seconded by Councillor R. McColl, moved that Councillor Iain Robertson be elected as Leader of the Council.

On a vote being taken, 11 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion. Accordingly, Councillor Iain Robertson was elected as Leader of the Council.

Councillor Robertson thanked the Council for electing him as Leader of the Council.

(b) Depute Leader of Council

On the motion of Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Ronnie McColl, the Council agreed to elect Councillor Jim McElhill as Depute Leader of Council.

Councillor McElhill thanked the Council for electing him as Depute Leader of Council.

INTERIM COMMITTEE TIMETABLE TO JUNE 2007

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive recommending approval of an interim timetable of meetings to June 2007 and requesting the Council to make nominations to Council Committees.

Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor McElhill, moved:-

Council approves the proposed timetable subject to the time of Council meetings being 7 p.m. Given the current review in progress, Council further accepts the following interim political make-up of committees and the following interim nominations for the Convener positions. This is only to allow these meetings to take place and Council agrees that these decisions are temporary until the review has concluded and the Council has agreed a new committee structure:-

Appeals Committee - 5 SNP, 4 LAB, 1 OTHER

Councillor George Black for Convener

Children's Services Committee - 6 SNP, 5 LAB, 1 OTHER

Councillor Iain Robertson for Convener.

Community Safety &
Environmental Services
Committee - 5 SNP, 4 LAB, 1 OTHER

Councillor William Hendrie for Convener.

Corporate Services Committee - 5 SNP, 5 LAB

Councillor Craig McLaughlin for Convener.

Health Improvement &
Social Justice Partnership - 2 SNP, 1 LAB, 1 OTHER

Councillor May Smillie for Convener.

Joint Consultative Forum - 3 SNP, 3 LAB

Councillor Iain Robertson for Convener

Licensing Committee - 4 SNP, 3 LAB, 1 OTHER

Councillor Ronnie McColl for Convener.

Licensing Board - 4 SNP, 3 LAB, 1 OTHER

Convener to be set by the Board.

Local Negotiating Committee
for Teachers Given that there is no meeting
scheduled this month, continue
nominations for this Committee to the
next meeting of Council.

Planning Committee - 5 SNP, 5 LAB

Councillor Ronnie McColl for Convener.

Social Justice Committee - 5 SNP, 4 LAB, 1 OTHER

Councillor Jonathan McColl for Convener.

Audit & Performance Review - 3 SNP, 3 LAB, 1 OTHER

Convener to be nominated by the Opposition.

Following discussion, Councillor Robertson agreed that his motion be amended to reflect the following changes:-

Corporate Services Committee - 5 SNP, 4 LAB, 1 OTHER

Planning Committee - 5 SNP, 4 LAB, 1 OTHER

Joint Consultative Forum - Discussion to take place with Trades
Unions on possible change to
Constitution to allow increase in
Membership of one elected member
and one trades union representative,
with the one elected member being
either an independent councillor or
SSP councillor.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard Provost Agnew, the Council agreed to adjourn for a short period of time to allow copies of Councillor Rooney's amendment to be copied and circulated.

The meeting reconvened at 2.25 p.m. with all those Members on the Sederunt in attendance.

As an amendment, Councillor Rooney, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved:-

That the interim Committee composition should be as follows:-

Committee	Membership	Admin	Opp	Other
Appeals	10	5	4	1
Children's Services	12	6	5	1
Community Safety and Environmental Services	10	5	4	1
Corporate Services	10	5	5	0
Health Improvement & Social Justice Partnership	4	2	1	1
Joint Consultative Forum	6	3	3	0
Licensing Committee	8	4	3	1
Licensing Board	8	4	3	1
Local Negotiating Committee for Teachers	3	2	1	0
Planning	10	5	5	0
Social Justice	10	5	4	1
Audit & Performance Review	7	3	3 (chair)	1

On a vote being taken, 10 Members voted for the amendment and 12 for the motion (as amended) which was accordingly declared carried.

It was noted that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of Council proposing a new timetable, following consideration of the consultants' recommendations on a new decision making structure.

INTERIM APPOINTMENTS TO WORKING GROUPS, OUTSIDE BODIES AND JOINT BOARDS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising the Council of the requirement for appointments to be made to working groups, outside bodies and joint bodies/strategic partnerships

Having heard Councillor Robertson and Councillor Calvert, the Council agreed to continue consideration of this item until the full Council meeting on 30 May 2007 but noted that those Members elected to serve in the Dumbarton Ward could attend meetings of the Dumbarton Senior Citizens' Committee.

LICENSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2005 LOCAL LICENSING FORUM

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing the Council with information on the requirements under the Licensing (Scotland) Act 2005 to establish a Local Licensing Forum.

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to establish a Local Licensing Forum with the membership proposed within paragraphs 3.2 to 3.5 of the report; and
- (2) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CHILDREN'S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE – MEMBERSHIP

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking the nomination of two persons to serve on the West Dunbartonshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee (CPAC).

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to thank Mrs Patricia Shannon for her commitment to the Hearings System over the last 22 years; and
- (2) to nominate Mr Hugh McLafferty, MBE, and Dr Norma Barlow to serve as the Council's representatives on the West Dunbartonshire CPAC.

ELECTED MEMBERS' SUPPORT SERVICES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing information on the support services provided for elected members and seeking consideration of these arrangements in light of the recent election.

Having heard Councillor Rooney, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to instruct a review of Members' accommodation and the provision of Members' Services, which review would be carried out in consultation with elected members;

- (2) to approve the allocation of accommodation to Members as detailed in 3.11 and 3.16 above pending the results of the review;
- (3) to delegate authority to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Provost, Leader of the Council and Leader of the Opposition to agree appropriate accommodation for these positions.

ELECTED MEMBER TRAINING

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the opportunities that will be made available to elected members to provide them with the range of skills, knowledge and competence required to assist them to carry out their duties.

Having heard Councillor Robertson and the Chief Executive, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the contents of the report; and
- (2) to note that the Training Needs Assessment form would be finalised within the next few days and thereafter would be circulated to all Members for completion and return by the end of May.

SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive recommending approval of a Scheme of Members' Allowances and Expenses.

Having heard Councillor Robertson, the Council agreed:-

- (1) that, given the current review of the Council's decision making structures, the Council will not appoint any senior councillor positions with the exception of the Provost, the Leader of Council and Leader of the Opposition, until the outcome of the review is known and the Council has decided on the new structure;
- (2) that the Provost be recognised as Civic Head of the Council and should receive an allowance of £23,173 per annum; and
- (3) that the senior councillor allowance payable to the Leader of the Opposition be fixed at £19,360 per annum;
- (4) to approve the current list of approved duties, including the addition of attendance at court, tribunal or public enquiry at which the Council is represented as an approved duty;
- (5) to note the access to a pension scheme for Councillors; and

- (6) to delegate authority to the Section 95 officer to uprate allowances in accordance with Scottish Executive guidance.

Councillor Robertson informed the Council that given the difficult financial position of the Council and the high levels of deprivation in the West Dunbartonshire area, he would accept a 10% reduction in the allowance paid to the Leader of the Council.

The meeting closed at 1.45 p.m.