

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Clydebank Town Hall, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Monday, 9 April 2018 at 9.00 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, David McBride, Jonathan McColl, Iain McLaren, Marie McNair, John Millar, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill and Martin Rooney.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth; Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People and Technology; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Alan Douglas Manager – Legal Services and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

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

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

Provost Hendrie advised that to accommodate the members of the public present he was adjourning the meeting for a period of 15 minutes to allow relocation to the Grand Hall.

The meeting reconvened at 9.13 a.m. in the Grand Hall with all those members noted in the sederunt present.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillors Bollan, Casey, Mooney and Docherty declared interests in Item 4 – Trade Union Convenor Facility Time, all being members of Unite.

Councillors McColl, Lennie, McNair and O'Neill declared interests in Item 4 – Trade Union Convenor Facility Time, all being members of Unison.

Councillors McBride and Millar declared interests in Item 4 – Trade Union Convenor Facility Time, both being members of PCS.

Councillor McLaren declared an interest in Item 4 – Trade Union Convenor Facility Time being a member of the NUJ.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

Councillor McColl moved that the Council agree not to exclude the press and public from the meeting during consideration of the Item 4 - Trade Union Convenor Facility Time.

The Council agreed accordingly and copies of the report by the Strategic Lead – People and Technology relating to Item 4 were circulated to the press and public present.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS FIRE SAFETY

The Provost advised that he had received a request from Councillor O'Neill for Council to consider a motion relating to fire safety and that the matter would be considered at the end of the business noted on the agenda.

Copies of the motion were circulated to those present.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Council agreed to the suspension of Standing Order 20(a) to allow consideration of the following item of business.

TRADE UNION CONVENOR FACILITY TIME

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – People and Technology providing information in response to the savings option agreed at the Council meeting of 5 March 2018.

Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Rooney moved:-

In terms of Standing Order No.3(b) Councillors David McBride, Martin Rooney, John Mooney, Lawrence O'Neill, Gail Casey, Daniel Lennie, Jim Bolland and John Millar have submitted the following:-

Council notes the Council Budget decision to cut the Trade Union Convenor Facility Time.

Section 11 of the current Agreement states review or amendment must be subject to joint negotiations.

Council instructs Officers that no action will take place to implement the budget decision until formal negotiations take place?

This includes one to one career discussions with current post holders until negotiations conclude.

Extract from Facilities Agreement

AMENDMENT OR REVIEW OF AGREEMENT

11.1 Either side may submit proposals in order to amend this agreement. Such proposals will be in writing to the sides concerned, and will be the subject of joint negotiations.

11.2 The policy will be updated to incorporate any relevant change to legislation or best practice as required.

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

Council notes that the decision on Trade Union Conveners was not implemented on April 1st 2018 and will be implemented on completion of negotiations with Trade Unions. This is in line with the Council's budget document which clearly states that the budget is subject to "consultation with the Trade Unions as appropriate."

As outlined in the report, one to one discussions with Conveners have already taken place and should continue to take place. It is the right of each individual employee to get advice and information from their manager and Council agrees we have no right to deny them the opportunity to discuss their employment and all available options with their employer.

Council notes that negotiations are ongoing with the next meeting scheduled to take place on April 18th 2018 and will be concluded either when the Joint Trade Unions agree how the 2 FTE is to be split or the Corporate Services Committee makes a final decision at its May meeting.

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

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

The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

The Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 8 to allow the following item of business to be considered.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

Councillor O'Neill moved:-

This Council is concerned that over 800 fire safety failures were identified across 33 Council properties in late 2017.

Council calls on the Chief Executive to provide a report or a briefing note to all Elected Members as a matter of urgency.

The Briefing Note should include the actions taken to date to mitigate the risks to health and safety of staff, pupils and visitors to public buildings such as schools and community centres.

The report should ensure that an effective process for addressing future Fire Safety concerns is put in place as a matter of urgency.

We also seek assurances that all outstanding significant safety matters particularly in our schools are addressed before the schools return next week.

The Council agreed the above motion.

The meeting closed at 10.19 a.m.