

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held within the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 18th December 1996.

Present: Provost Patrick O'Neill (LAB), Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Alistair Macdonald (LAB), James Doherty (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), George Cairney (LAB), John McCutcheon (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Duncan Mills (LAB), Ronald McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and James Chirrey (SNP).

Attending: Michael Watters, Chief Executive, Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council, Eric Walker, Director of Finance, Ian McMurdo, Director of Education, Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work, Ian Fernie, Director of Planning and Economic Development, David Campbell, Director of Housing, Allan Findlay, Director of Contract Services, Norman Rae, Director of Environmental Protection and Leisure Services, John Bak, Head of Personnel and Training, Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations and Angela Clements, Head of Information Services.

**Apologies for
Absence:** Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors McElhill (SNP), Syme (LAB) and McLaughlin (SNP)

Provost Patrick O'Neill in the Chair

WELCOME

The Provost, in welcoming Councillor McCutcheon to his first meeting of the Council, expressed the wish that Councillor McCutcheon would find the work of a Councillor interesting.

RESULT OF BY-ELECTION: WARD 11 OLD KILPATRICK

There was submitted and noted report by the Returning Officer giving the results of the by-election held in Old Kilpatrick on 28th November 1996 as follows:-

James Boyle	The Scottish Labour Party	470
John McCutcheon	Scottish National Party	<u>760</u>
		1230

It was noted that John McCutcheon had been duly elected to serve as the Councillor for Ward 11 - Old Kilpatrick.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27th November 1996 were submitted and approved as follows:-

Pages 1515 to 1527 (part) - moved by Provost O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Campbell.

Pages 1527 (part) to 1528 - moved by Councillor Cairney, seconded by Councillor Campbell.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

Social Work Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work Committee held on 27th November 1996 were submitted and noted for information.

Housing Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Housing Committee held on 27th November 1996 were submitted and noted for information, with the exception of one item outwith delegated powers which was submitted separately for approval.

Appeals Committee

Minutes of Meetings of the Appeals Committee held on 2nd and 9th December 1996 respectively were submitted and noted for information.

MATTERS OUTWITH DELEGATED POWERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

(a) Housing Committee - 27th November 1996

HRA Capital Programme 1996/97 and Forward Programmes (page 1556)

Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved that the Director's report to the Housing Committee (which appeared as the Appendix to the Minute) be approved. The motion was agreed unanimously.

(b) Planning and Economic Development Committee - 11th December 1996

Alexandria and District Community Dog Training Service, 43/49 Alexander Street, Alexandria

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council in relation to the lease of the Alexandria and District Community Dog Training Service, 43/49 Alexander Street, Alexandria which had been remitted to the Council by the Planning and Economic Development Committee. After discussion, Councillor Doherty, seconded by Councillor Campbell moved the recommendations of the report as follows:-

- a) that a short Lease of the subjects be granted to Alexandria and District Community Dog Training Service at a nominal rent; and
- b) that authority be delegated to the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council to grant that Lease on such terms and conditions as he shall consider appropriate having due regard to the use provisions to be contained in the Lease.

By way of amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Chirrey, moved that the Council implement the earlier decision by Dumbarton District Council to dispose of the premises at 45/49 Alexander Street to the Alexandria and District Community Dog Training Service for the sum of £1 only, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State being obtained for the disposal at less than market value.

On a vote being taken, six members voted for the Amendment and thirteen for the Motion. The Motion accordingly carried.

FINANCIAL PROSPECTS 1997/98

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance in relation to financial prospects for the Council in 1997/98. In this context, the Chief Executive advised that the capping figures for the authority for 1997/98 had been received that afternoon and that briefings thereon would be held with the leaders of the respective political groups as soon as possible.

The Chief Executive further advised that, in view of the gravity of the financial situation now facing the Council, a statutory 90 day redundancy notice would require to be served on the Trades Unions and the Secretary of State.

It was further noted that the Chief Executive would obtain a report from Directors and Heads on options for the savings required.

Accordingly, the Council noted the position and continued further consideration of the Director of Finance's report.

VACANCIES ARISING FROM RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR KEMP

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council listing vacancies arising from the resignation of Councillor Kemp. After discussion, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor McCutcheon to the following vacancies:-

"A" Group - (Housing and Social Work Committees)

"D" Group - (Finance, Policy and Resources and Information Services Committees)

Licensing Board

Housing Benefit/Council Tax Review Board

Clydebank Action Against Vandalism Committee

Clydebank Partnership

It was noted that it was not now necessary to make an appointment to the Clydebank Partnership Steering Committee.

In respect of the vacancy on "C" Group - the Education Committee, Councillor McCafferty, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved that Councillor Devine, as Convener of the Community Initiatives Committee, be appointed. By way of amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that Councillor McCutcheon be appointed. On a vote being taken, six members voted for the Amendment and thirteen for the Motion. The Motion accordingly carried.

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor White, moved the appointment of Councillor McCallum to the Programme for Partnership and Councillor Cairney to the West Dunbartonshire Partnership. By way of amendment, Councillor Wailes, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved the appointment of Councillor McCutcheon to both vacancies. On a vote being taken, six members voted for the Amendment and thirteen for the Motion. The Motion accordingly carried.

ELECTED MEMBERS SERVICES

With reference to the last Meeting of the Council (page 1519), it was noted that negotiations were ongoing in relation to services to Members provided by the Council Officer, his assistant and the curators and it was agreed to continue consideration of this item until the meeting of the Council on 29th January 1997.

VOLUNTARY TRAWL - RE-ORGANISATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND LEISURE SERVICES & HOUSING SERVICES

With reference to the last Meeting (page 1524), there was submitted for further consideration, report by the Chief Executive in relation to the re-organisation of departments resulting from the voluntary severance/early retiral of the Directors of Environmental Protection and Leisure Services and of Housing Services.

Councillor White moved that while it was the view of the Labour administration that the original structures as approved by the Council were appropriate, the reorganisation was inevitable in view of the harsh underfunding of local Councils by central government and that the recommendation for departmental re-organisation be approved in principle, that extensive consultation be carried out with the Trades Unions and that a report thereon be brought back to Council. Councillor Campbell seconded the Motion.

By way of amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor Wailes, moved that the two Directors' posts are not deleted from the establishment, that the existing structures were appropriate and that financial constraints should not force departmental restructuring.

On a vote being taken, six members voted for the Amendment and thirteen for the Motion. The Motion accordingly carried.

CAPITAL PROGRAMME - DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTRE

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Social Work Committee of 27th November 1996 (page 1549 refers), there was submitted report by the Director of Social Work giving an update on the item in the Social Work Capital Programme relative to the creation of a Disability Resource Centre which had been continued for a site visit by the Social Work Committee.

After discussion, the Council unanimously approved the creation of a Disability Resource Centre in Bruce Street Adult Training Centre on the motion of Councillor Mills, seconded by Councillor Campbell.

GREATER GLASGOW HEALTH BOARD: LOCAL HEALTH STRATEGY 1996-2001

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work together with a summary of the Greater Glasgow Health Board's Local Health Strategy for 1996 to 2001 and recommending a number of comments to be included in the Council's response to the document. After discussion, the Committee approved the report and agreed that a response in the terms outlined by the Director be sent to the Health Board.

AUDITED DISTRICT COUNCIL ACCOUNTS COMMISSION PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

There was submitted and noted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations detailing the externally audited 1995/96 Performance Indicators for the services of the former District Councils and advising of the arrangements for their publication.

COMPULSORY COMPETITIVE TENDERING - SPORT AND LEISURE MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

There was submitted report by the Director of Environmental Protection and Leisure Services making recommendations in respect of companies to be invited to tender for the Sports and Leisure Management Contract.

The Council approved the terms of the report and agreed that the Director of Environmental Protection and Leisure Services be authorised to invite tenders from the following companies in addition to the in-house tender from the Council's Leisure D.S.O. Contractor:-

D.C. Leisure Management Ltd
Relaxation Group PLC
Sports and Leisure Management Ltd

COAT OF ARMS FOR WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations seeking Council approval for a Coat of Arms for West Dunbartonshire. Copies of a specimen coat of arms were tabled. The Council agreed to continue this matter for consideration at a future Committee meeting.

CANCELLATION OF TENDERING COMMITTEE

There was submitted report by the Director of Roads and Technical Services on action taken following the cancellation of the 11th December 1996 meeting of the Tendering Committee.

The Council homologated the action taken as follows:

1.) Issue of letters of acceptance to the lowest tenderers for the following projects:

Installation of Central Heating: Mountblow, Contract 3C
Installation of Central Heating: Mountblow, Contract 33
Installation of Central Heating: Castlehill and Haldane
Bonhill Primary School: Internal Alterations and Extension
St Andrew's High School, Technical Block Heating Upgrade

2.) Acceptance of the lowest tender for the new St. Michael's Primary School

3.) Acceptance of the lowest tenders for each of the following twelve projects:-

Blackburn Re-Roof Milton/Dalmonach
Blackburn Re-Roof and Re-Render, Drumry
Gas Central Heating - Whitecrook
Gas Central Heating - Dalmuir/Parkhall
Gas Central Heating - Silverton 1
Gas Central Heating - Silverton 2
Window Replacements - Multi-Storey Flats
Cavity Wall Insulation - Clydebank
St. Columba's High School, Technological Rooms Adaptations
Glencairn Greit House - Alterations
Bruce Street A.T.C. - Formation of Offices
Bruce Street A.T.C. - Disabled Resource Centre

The Council noted that all Tender acceptances issued under delegated authority would be reported to the next meeting of the Tendering Committee.

GUIDANCE NOTES FOR PUBLIC MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

There was submitted and noted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations together with a copy of the guidance notes for public meetings and conferences. The Council

noted that the notes had been the subject of community consultation before publication and that they would be issued to each Department of the Council.

BANNING OF COMBAT KNIVES

There was submitted letter from West Lothian Council requesting support for the following Motion:

“This Council supports a ban on the sale and advertising of all "Combat Knives". We believe that such potentially lethal weapons have no place in a civilised society and that marketing them in a way that appears to promote or condone violence contributes to the growing and dangerous "knife culture".”

Accordingly, the Council resolves to:

- (a) demand that the Government legislates accordingly;
- (b) establish the policy whereby "use restriction clauses" prohibiting the sale and advertising of combat knives in Council-owned properties are written into future lease agreements;
- (c) invite local retail companies, such as Land Securities, Free Port, etc. to follow suit, and
- (d) disseminate this view to all Scottish local authorities and Opposition parties.

The Council unanimously agreed to support the Motion by West Lothian Council.

C.C.T.- PUBLIC WORKS CONTRACTS

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council advising of the response to the C.C.T. Tender Packaging Consultation Exercise and seeking approval of the publication of a Prior Information Notice concerning Public Works Contracts.

The Council noted the terms of the report and approved the drafting of a Prior Information Notice concerning public works contracts and its publication in the Official Journal of the European Community.

NOMINATIONS

The following requests for nominations were considered:-

(a) Greater Glasgow Health Council

It was agreed to nominate Councillor Patricia Rice.

(b) The Balloch (Loch Lomond) Highland Games Committee

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Mills, moved the nomination of herself as Leader of the Council and Convener of the Policy and Resources Committee.

By way of amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved the nomination of Councillor McGregor.

On a vote being taken, six members voted for the Amendment and thirteen for the Motion. The Motion accordingly carried.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

There were submitted and dealt with as undernoted, details of two conferences/seminars:-

(a) STUC Conference on the Private Finance Initiative - Glasgow: 27th January 1997

It was agreed to nominate Councillors Cairney and Rice.

(b) Nuclear Free Local Authorities - Seminar on Safety of Highly Radioactive Wastes - Sellafield 31st January 1997

Noted.

SEASONAL WISHES

At the conclusion of the Meeting, the Provost wished all present a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.