

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 27 June 2018 at 6.00 p.m.

Present: Depute Provost Karen Conaghan, Bailie Denis Agnew and Councillors Jim Bolland, Jim Brown, Gail Casey, 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 Martin Rooney.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director - Transformation & Public Service Reform; Richard Cairns, Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Peter Hissett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Alan Douglas, Legal Manager; Victor Francisco-Suarez, Capital Projects Manager and Craig Stewart, Committee Officer.

Also Attending: Zahrah Mahmood, Senior Auditor, Audit Scotland.

Apologies: Provost William Hendrie and Councillor Brian Walker.

Depute Provost Karen Conaghan in the Chair

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Depute Provost Conaghan, Chair, welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Council to be held in the Civic Space in the new Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton.

URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS
(1) NEW CHARGES INTRODUCED FOR CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL AND
16 CHURCH STREET
(2) BELLSMYRE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Depute Provost Conaghan advised that she had agreed to a request for two urgent motions to be heard. The first motion would be heard immediately after the Open Forum item, and the second would be heard after the printed motion on town twinning 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.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 31 May 2018 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following correction:-

In relation to the Open Forum question by Councillor McNair asked that the minute record the full supplementary material submitted under **Andrew Muir – Social Work Complaints Review Sub-Committee**. The Legal Officer explained that the material submitted did not meet the requirements for an open forum question in that it referred to an individual. Councillor McNair asked and Council agreed that the minute be altered to include all the material other than those parts identifying an individual.

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit Committee held on 13 June 2018 were submitted for information, and where necessary, ratification.

OPEN FORUM

The Committee noted that no open forum questions had been submitted by members of the public.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS
NEW CHARGES INTRODUCED FOR CLYDEBANK TOWN HALL AND 16
CHURCH STREET

Councillor Douglas McAllister, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved:-

This Council notes with concern the new charging structure introduced for Clydebank Town Hall and 16 Church Street.

Council notes and appreciates that the Cultural Committee approved the 25% increase to charges to ensure a sustainable future for Clydebank Town Hall and help reduce the annual losses estimated to be £300,000.

However, this Council is sure that the Cultural Committee was unaware of the unintended consequences of the decision to remove the 25% discount offered to community groups and charities after 6pm.

This has resulted in a 200% increase in the charge to the Clydebank Musical Society (CMS) for the hire of the Clydebank Town Hall for their Junior Section's show planned for October of this year.

The knock-on effect of the increased charges and removal of the 25% discount after 6pm has resulted in the CMS costs increasing from £3,100 to £9,607.20 to perform at the Town Hall.

Council therefore agrees tonight to reintroduce the Grant Fund of £20,000 provided by the previous Administration to allow all our local AmDram groups to obtain at least 50% Grant support, if not more, to help pay for the increased charges failing which the show can't go on.

This Council also calls on the Chief Executive to bring forward a report to the next Full Council meeting highlighting the extent of the increased charges and potential impact this may have on all our community groups seeking to use both public facilities.

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

That Council takes no action on this matter, until further work was undertaken on a strategy to resolve the situation.

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 Depute Provost Conaghan, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, McNair and Page voted for the amendment and 9 Members, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill and Rooney voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard Depute Provost Conaghan, Chair, the Council agreed to adjourn the meeting for a period of 15 minutes. The meeting reconvened at 7.50 p.m. with all Members listed in the sederunt present.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

After hearing Depute Provost Conaghan, it was agreed to vary the Order of Business as hereinafter minuted.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Having heard the Legal Officer, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 20(d) to allow the following item of business to be considered.

USE OF MICROPHONES – PROPOSED CHANGE TO STANDING ORDERS

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regulatory seeking approval of a proposed change to Standing Orders.

The Council agreed to instruct the Strategic Lead – Regulatory to remove all references to the requirement for Councillors to stand while speaking during full Council meetings from the Council's Standing Orders.

GLASGOW CITY REGION CITY DEAL – UPDATE

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regeneration on the progress with the implementation of the Glasgow City Region, City Deal and the Council's City Deal project.

After discussion and having heard Councillor McColl provide an update on the current position, and the Strategic Director – Regeneration, Environment & Growth in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the progress of the Glasgow City Region (GCR) City Deal, and
- (2) to note the progress with the Council's project for the Exxon site.

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2017/18

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources on the above.

After discussion and having heard the Chief Executive and the Strategic Lead – Resources in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of this report and the attached draft Statements of Accounts, subject to the understanding that the draft accounts may change depending upon the audit of the accounts undertaken by the Council's external auditors;

- (2) to note the information provided in relation to the financial performance of the Council's services and capital plan for 2017/18;
- (3) to note that a report on the audited accounts would be submitted to Council in September 2018 for approval;
- (4) to note that the audited Trust Fund Accounts would be presented to the Trust Committees at a meeting for approval, prior to being reported to Council;
- (5) to note the draft 2019/20 budget timetable attached to the report; and
- (6) that the Council would guarantee the loan due to Clydebank Community Sports Hub, to the value of £0.100m.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Motion by Councillor David McBride – Town Twinning

Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Millar, moved:-

Council notes the decision of the Cultural Committee to explore options for the reestablishment of Town Twinning initiatives.

Council further notes that during the last SNP/Independent Administration between 2007 and 2012 £8791 of public money was committed and spent on Town Twinning.

Council notes the austerity budget cuts being inflicted on our communities by the SNP/ Independent Administration and calls on every penny of Council spending to be prioritised for the services relevant to and prioritized by West Dunbartonshire residents.

Therefore this Council calls on the chief executive to bring forward a report to the next Council Meeting detailing how our Town Twinning aspirations can be achieved at Zero cost to the public purse and the council.

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

Council notes that following the decision of the Cultural Committee, officers are working to explore the potential opportunities for economic and social benefit from Town Twinning requests from France and Poland. Any decisions to spend money will be made on their merits taking into account the benefit to all citizens of West Dunbartonshire.

Maintaining cultural ties with our European cousins is even more important now with Brexit looming over us, and future reports will come to the Cultural Committee as appropriate.

At the request of Councillor McBride the Council proceeded by way of a roll call vote.

On a vote being taken 11 Members, namely Depute Provost Conaghan, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Dickson, Docherty, Finn, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren, McNair and Page voted for the amendment and 9 Members, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Lennie, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Millar, Mooney, O'Neill and Rooney voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS BELLSMYRE DEVELOPMENT TRUST

Councillor Caroline McAllister moved:-

Council notes that Bellsmyre Development Trust wish to run a programme of free summer sporting activities for children and young people using the new pitches at Our Lady & St Patrick's High School.

The plan is to run a specific pilot to encourage participation from children and young people who normally do not engage in sporting activities and have fewer opportunities to socialise with their peers. It is hoped that this will increase social inclusion, health and wellbeing for children and young people in and around the Bellsmyre area.

Council agrees to waive the charges for hiring the OLSP pitches to Bellsmyre Development Trust for the purpose of running this pilot programme, and a report should be brought back to a future Educational Services committee outlining the uptake of the pilot scheme.

Any costs associated with this pilot are expected to be minimal; however any costs that cannot be met within existing budgets should be taken from the prudential reserve.

The Council approved the motion.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

A resolution under Section 50 A(1) and also under Section 50J together with Schedule 7A Part 1 Paragraphs 8 and 9 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1973 to exclude press and public from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business was submitted for consideration.

Councillor Bollan moved that press and public not be excluded from the meeting during consideration.

Following a vote, the Council passed the resolution to exclude press and public from the meeting.

DISTRICT HEATING NETWORK FOR QUEENS QUAY AND CLYDEBANK

A report was submitted by the Strategic Legal – Regeneration on the above.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead – Regeneration, the Chief Executive and relevant officers in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the report.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to find a seconder for a proposed amendment, requested that his dissent be recorded in respect of this item.

The meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.