

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 26 June 2019 at 6.07 p.m.

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

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Peter Hessel, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Malcolm Bennie, Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture & Communities; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability; Jo Gibson, Head of Health & Community Care; Jonathan Hinds, Head of Children's Health Care & Criminal Justice Service; Pamela Clifford, Planning, Building Services & Environmental Health Manager; Gillian McNeilly, Finance Manager and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Finn and Daniel Lennie.

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

ADJOURNMENT

In terms of Standing Order 17(c) Councillor McBride, seconded by Councillor Douglas McAllister moved that the meeting be adjourned for 15 minutes.

On a vote being taken 18 members voted in favour of the recess and the meeting was accordingly adjourned.

The meeting reconvened at 6.32p.m. with all those noted in the sederunt present.

STATEMENT BY CHAIR – AUDIO STREAMING

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

MINUTE OF SILENCE

Having heard Provost Hendrie, the Council observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Councillor and Depute Provost, Linda McColl, who had sadly passed away recently.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

After hearing the Provost, the Council agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Docherty declared an interest in Item 10 – Consultation on Tourism Led Recreational, Residential, Food and Drink Development on Land at West Riverside and Woodbank House, Balloch, being a member of Loch Lomond Park Authority.

Councillor McLaren also declared an interest in the above item being a co-owner of a business in the area.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The redacted Minutes of Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 14 May 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the following corrections:-

- (i) that page 7 of the minutes be corrected to show that it was Councillor Bollan who had voted for the first amendment, not Councillor Brown as shown; and
- (ii) that the result of the second roll call vote shown in the last paragraph of the minutes be amended to include those Members who had abstained from voting.

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29 May 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record, subject to the reference to Councillor Page's amendment being deleted.

Councillor Bollan, having failed to find a seconder for an amendment requested that his dissent be recorded.

OPEN FORUM

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

Note:- Councillors Docherty and McLaren left the meeting at this point having declared an interest in the following item of business.

CONSULTATION: 2018/0133/PPP TOURISM LED RECREATIONAL, RESIDENTIAL, FOOD AND DRINK DEVELOPMENT ON LAND AT WEST RIVERSIDE AND WOODBANK HOUSE, BALLOCH

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Regulatory seeking agreement of the Council's response to a consultation received from the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Authority regarding a planning application for a tourism led development at West Riverside and Woodbank House Balloch.

The Planning, Building & Environmental Health Services Manager was heard in further explanation of the report and in answer to Members' questions.

Requests for Deputations – (i) Mr Alexander Perrie and (ii) Save Loch Lomond

Having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to hear both deputations on this item, and the Provost then invited Mr Alexander Perrie to join the meeting.

Mr Perrie was heard in connection with the application and in response to questions from Members. The Provost thanked Mr Perrie for his contribution and he returned to his seat.

The Provost then invited Mr MacLeod and Ms Paton, Save Loch Lomond to join the meeting.

Mr MacLeod and Ms Paton were then heard in connection with the application and in answer to Members questions.

The Provost thanked both for their contributions and they returned to their seats.

Councillor McColl moved:-

The development of West Riverside and Woodbank House are key projects identified within the Balloch Charrette Action Plan and have potential to make a significant contribution to the tourist and visitor economy of Balloch, but any development must be suitable for the sites in question and the wider local area. Overdevelopment is a significant risk and we must not fall into the trap of grabbing something shiny without properly considering the true impact.

With that in mind, Council agrees to oppose and formally object to the planning application on the following grounds:

- The adopted Loch Lomond & the Trossachs National Park Local Development Plan 2017-2021 identifies part of the development site as a Strategic Tourism Opportunity recognising its potential for enhancing its role as a premium visitor destination and gateway to the National Park. The proposed application however represents clear overdevelopment of the site as the applicant seeks to develop areas zoned for tourism opportunities with residential housing and areas deliberately left out of the LDP are to have trees removed and lodges, among other things, built on them. This overdevelopment and departure from the Local Development Plan is not acceptable and would see loss of amenity for local residents and visitors to the area as well as causing unavoidable disruption and loss of privacy for properties in Drumkinnon Gate Estate, whose gardens are mere feet from the proposed development site.
- This scale of development will bring significant economic risk for the local area and local businesses. While it might be considered that the permanent and seasonal jobs being created would be a real boost to the West Dunbartonshire economy, given the type of development being proposed, it is more likely that the site will be in direct competition with local accommodation, hospitality and leisure facilities, including the Council's own Vale of Leven facility. The risk to local jobs and businesses is unacceptable.
- The proposed development site is embedded within an established road and access network and will be principally accessed by the A82 and A811 and locally by Balloch Road, Old Luss Road, Pier Road and Ben Lomond Way. While it is recognised that users of the facilities will be encouraged to use public transport and that discussions are ongoing with ScotRail/Abellio to agree in principle promoting access to the development by rail, it is accepted that the majority of people will come by car thus having a significant impact on the local road network. The applicant has accepted at a formal consultation meeting with Councillors and the site owners, that they will be adding to an existing problem of congestion.
- Given the scale of the existing roads capacity problem during peak visitor times, standard mitigation measures such as an Access and Parking Management Strategy and enhanced Signage and Variable Message Signage (VMS) installed at key approaches to the site will do little to assist in reducing the impact of the development on the road network.
- Roads guidance in relation to network capacity identified an am and pm peak daily time, but no assessment was carried out during sunny periods, busy weekends or holidays. The professional officers' report to Council states that, "It is widely known that the summer season, good weather weekends and local events can increase traffic significantly on the A82, A811 and the local roads, all to the detriment of the local area. It is considered that this development could exacerbate existing conditions. Concerns are expressed that the impact of this development has not been fully assessed at peak times such as good weather weekends and during the summer months to determine the associated amenity and environmental effects on the wider area."; Council

believes that the scale of the problem is such that the type and scale of development being proposed would cause unacceptable disruption, not only to local people, but also to commuters and visitors travelling north on the A82, who already suffer serious delays at these peak times.

- The application proposes to remove the existing parking provision opposite Balloch Train Station and provide some parking within the site. The applicant describes the existing car park as ‘informal’, but having been in use for more than two decades, the Council considers it well established and in a perfect location to encourage park and ride use and short-medium stay use for visitors to Balloch village. Car parking in Balloch is extremely limited and the loss of this facility without suitable, easily accessible provision is an unacceptable loss of amenity.
- From a scientific point of view, the proposed plan to “retain and enhance” wildlife on site is counterintuitive. Taking out the floor-level flora will devastate the entire ecosystem and have far-reaching effects along the whole shore. Organisms do not exist independently; conditions for each are interdependent on multiple other complex links within an ecological “community”. Taking out even one component, unless it is a recently invasive non-native species, is devastating. A loch shoreline is like a major heart artery; you cannot block it with a blood clot and expect the heart to keep beating.
- The ecology of Loch Lomond’s woodland is internationally unique due to the combined effects of glacial geology of this part of West Scotland and windy, wet conditions. This attracts renowned scientists and amateur naturalists from all over the world. 78% of Loch Lomond visitors come for its natural assets (Visit Scotland survey 2016). To damage its ecology is an act of grievous economic and scientific self-harm.
- Some of the specific ecological impacts include the following:
 - Negative impacts of partial loss of habitat and damage to woodland and intact hedgerow, resulting in significant negative effects on local flora and fauna.
 - Negative impacts of pollution to standing water and running water. Detailed mitigation plans required.
 - Negative impacts of habitat loss, disturbance, displacement, injury and fatality to red squirrels; this being one of the few sites where they are still clinging on.
 - Negative impacts of significantly increased use and pollution of woodland and inundation vegetation, resulting in significant effects at a local level.
 - Negative impacts of injury and fatality, disturbance and displacement to otters.
 - Negative impacts of injury and fatality, disturbance and displacement to pine marten.
 - Positive impacts of increased roosting and foraging resources to bats, resulting in significant population increase that would impact significantly on the local fauna food chain.

Further to submitting this objection, Council agrees that it is not in the public interest for Scottish Enterprise, or any public body, to sell their shares of this important local site to a private developer. Council believes that a long term lease agreement with appropriate protections for all parties involved is a far better model for any future development on the site.

Council asks the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government expressing this view and asking them to intervene, not in the planning process (which would be inappropriate at this stage), but in Scottish Enterprise's plans to sell the land.

Should the National Park Planning Authority reject the application, West Dunbartonshire Council and the Leader of the Council will write in support of their decision to Scottish Ministers in the event that the applicant submits an appeal.

Councillor Bollan asked Councillor McColl if he would accept the following addendum to his motion:-

Council agrees to advise the Loch Lomond & Trossachs Park Authority that WDC is opposed to the proposed joint development by Flamingo Land & Scottish Enterprise to the West Side of the River Leven in Balloch which we consider is not only an overdevelopment but is also not in keeping with the Park Authority's first and overriding policy objective of 'Conserving and Enhancing the natural and cultural heritage of the area.'

Council also asks the LL&TPA to refuse this joint application and to open up a dialogue with local groups and other interested bodies about delivering more suitable and sustainable alternative uses for this area of unsurpassed beauty at the southernmost tip of Loch Lomond at Balloch, whilst retaining the land in Public Ownership.

Council further calls on the Scottish Government to call in this application immediately given the 57,000 objections and the real possibility of there being a conflict of interest by parties involved in setting the process for this development to be considered.

Councillor McColl agreed to Councillor Bollan's request, stating that he would delete 'not in the planning process (which would be inappropriate at this stage) but' from his motion and add Councillor Bollan's addendum.

Councillor Page was then heard in connection with this matter.

ADJOURNMENT

Following a request from Councillor McBride and having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to a short adjournment to allow Members to consider the motion and addendum.

The meeting reconvened at 8.15 p.m. with all those noted in the sederunt present, with the exception of Councillors Docherty and McLaren.

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Caroline McAllister intimated that she had become aware that she had a conflict of interest in the matter and therefore left the meeting.

Councillor McColl stated that he had been advised that Scottish Enterprise had expressed concerns regarding 3 points that had been made earlier in the meeting.

Following discussion, the Council agreed to hear their concerns on any inaccuracies within the motion and addendum that had been moved. The Provost then invited one of their representatives to join the meeting.

Mr Gary McGregor introduced himself, stating that he was a Project Manager with Flamingo Land Ltd. He then referred briefly to matters relating to the Environmental Impact Assessment and traffic issues, and then returned to his seat.

Following a question from Councillor Rooney, Councillor McColl confirmed he was willing to accept the following as a second addendum to his motion:-

One of the biggest criticisms has been around the capacity of our current infrastructure and irrespective of the outcome of this item on the Council today or the actual decision at the National Park Board, the Council believes that there needs to be significant investment into our roads infrastructure.

The Scottish Government is looking at its investment priorities for the next five years and the Council therefore agrees that the Chief Executive should ensure that a submission is made to the Scottish Transport Projects Review 2 (STPR2) for investment into the A82 to increase its capacity and increase dual carriageways where required.

It is also noted that the train service has been unreliable in the recent past with short formed trains making travel difficult for commuters as well as visitors and assurances will be required from Abellio that 6 carriage trains will be available to service the development.

Housing

The Council notes with regret that there is no provision for 25% affordable housing.

River Leven Boat Clubs

Whilst not a planning consideration, the Council expresses its support for the boat clubs on the River Leven and believes that a 100 year lease would be

appropriate security for the clubs and therefore encourages (Lomond Banks and) Scottish Enterprise to enter into such a lease agreement.

Purchase of land

The Council notes that the land was purchased by Scottish Enterprise for a sum in excess of £2million and that the value of sale now is £200,000. It would appear that public funding has been provided to commission a number of reports in support of the planning application. It is also likely that grants or loans will be made available if the development proceeds. It represents a significant contribution from the public purse so it is important to consider whether this is the right development in the right place. Should the exclusivity agreement between Scottish Enterprise and Lomond Banks cease, then the Council supports the interest taken by the community in a community buy-out of the land.

At this point Councillor McColl advised that he was including in his motion the following comments that had been made earlier in the meeting by Councillor Page:-

Given the low level of investment in this proposal in comparison to similarly scaled leisure developments, Council is concerned that the quality of this development will not be of the high minimum standard that our National Park should be expecting, and certainly would be unlikely to meet the requirements of our Place and Design Panel; a standard that I know National Park Planners are keen to emulate.

Following discussion, the Council agreed the motion as adjusted.

Note:- Councillors Docherty, Caroline McAllister and McLaren returned to the meeting at this point and Councillor Millar left.

BUDGET CONSULTATION 2020

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Communications, Culture and Communities proposing an approach to the budget consultation for the 2019/20 budget onwards.

Councillor Dickson, seconded by Councillor McColl moved:-

Council agrees the proposal to carry out an early citizen consultation on broad priorities for future savings areas. This will inform officer activity when savings proposals are being generated.

As an amendment Councillor O'Neill, seconded by Councillor Rooney moved:-

Council notes that despite its public commitment to consult on the 2019/2020 budget, the SNP administration failed to do so.

This meant local residents had no say on the SNPs commercialisation initiative of inflation busting increases to charges.

It also meant that community organisation Clydebank golfing fraternity that utilise the Municipal Golf Course had no say over the increases to membership fees and charges and were caught unaware when significant charges were imposed by the SNP.

In addition local residents had no say on the deletion of posts by the SNP council.

The above reflects the Scottish Government and the SNP Councils commitment to policies of austerity.

The proposed new approach of a priority based budget consultation will not mask the SNP austerity agenda.

Therefore, this Council again calls on the Scottish Government to properly fund local authorities like West Dunbartonshire so that services and jobs can be protected instead of the austerity cuts which affect, jobs, services and place the burden on budget cuts on the most vulnerable.

On a vote being taken, 9 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

DRAFT STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 2018/19

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Resources providing a copy of the draft Statement of Accounts for 2018/2019 together with information as to the outturn for 2018/19 per the draft accounts.

After discussion and having heard officers in answer to Members' questions, the Council agreed:-

- (1) to note the contents of the 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 2018/19;
- (3) to note that a report on the audited accounts will be submitted to either Council or the Audit Committee in September 2019 for approval as identified at paragraph 4.20 of the report;
- (4) to note that the audited Trust Fund Accounts will be presented to the Trust Committees at a meeting for approval, prior to being reported to Council; and

- (5) that the value of General Services free reserves in excess of the prudential target (from the Draft Financial Statements, this is £0.192m) is earmarked towards the Change Fund.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE'S GAELIC LANGUAGE PLAN

A report was submitted by the Chief Education Officer seeking approval for the draft plan to be submitted to Bòrd na Gàidhlig.

Councillor Page, seconded by Councillor Walker moved:-

Council fully endorses the availability of Gaelic language teaching to all through our education department.

Council does not support the recommendation in the paper before us, as there is little reason for the Council to use Gaelic in *any* business function, such as corporate identity, signage, communication with the public and the usage of Gaelic on our websites.

Council calls upon officers to consider a more proportionate approach and bring a report back to the next Council meeting.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl seconded by Councillor Conaghan moved:-

That Council agrees:-

- (1) to note the contents of the report and the aims of West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan 2019-2024; and
- (2) to approve West Dunbartonshire Gaelic Language Plan for submission to Bòrd na Gàidhlig for approval nationally.

On a vote being taken 12 Members voted for the amendment and 2 for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Having heard Councillor Dickson, the Council agreed to suspend Standing Order 7(c) to allow the remaining business on the agenda to be considered beyond 9.30 p.m.

QUEENS QUAY HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability seeking approval to realign an element of the Council's General Services capital

Regeneration Fund to fund the construction of the four commercial units within the affordable housing development at Queens Quay, Clydebank.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability in answer to Members' questions, Council agreed:-

- (1) to approve the acceleration of funding of £0.475m from the Council's General Fund capital regeneration fund, from 2020/21 into 2019/20, to finance the construction of the four commercial units in the affordable housing development within Queens Quay;
- (2) to approve the transfer of Site A, Queens Quay to Cube Housing Association (part of Wheatley Group) and Clydebank Housing Association at nil cost to meet the intended housing development priorities, and note that Sites B and C will be retained within Council ownership;
- (3) to authorise the Strategic Lead - Housing & Employability and Strategic Lead - Regulatory to agree a development agreement with Wheatley Group as detailed in paragraph 4.12 of the report; and
- (4) to authorise the Strategic Lead - Regulatory to conclude the above transactions subject to such legal conditions that are considered appropriate.

NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Councillor Caroline McAllister – Community Alliance

Having heard the Legal Officer, a vote was taken to suspend Standing Orders to allow consideration of Item 11(a) – Motion by Councillor Caroline McAllister: Community Alliance.

11 Members voted to suspend Standing Order 20, however due to a two-thirds majority of those present not being obtained, the Standing Order was not suspended and the item was not considered.

(b) Motion by Councillor John Mooney – Community Alarm Charges

Councillor Mooney, seconded by Councillor Casey moved:-

This Council notes that in March 2019 the SNP administration moved a budget which included above inflation increases in community alarm charges.

As a result of the increase to the charges the number of users has reduced by 151.

This Council is concerned about the long term sustainability of the service if the number of service users continues to fall.

Council is also concerned that the reduction could lead to more falls and injury by vulnerable pensioners.

The cost of this is always difficult to quantify, but the costs of an emergency admission to hospital would be significantly more.

Given the above, this Council calls for a report to come to a future Council meeting highlighting the benefits of increasing the charges, and comparing it to the potential consequential costs, such as the loss of service to vulnerable pensioners and the cost to the HSCP.

As an amendment Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Caroline McAllister moved:-

Council notes that in March 2019 the Council agreed a budget which included Community Alarm charges that come close to covering the cost of delivering the service.

This increase was recommended by the HSCP and is considered sustainable. In making their recommendations, Officers of the HSCP considered how the charging regime would affect their clients, and Council is confident in the assessment of those healthcare professionals, that the charges being levied are affordable, reasonable and necessary to continue to be able to provide these valuable services to those who need them most.

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

On a vote being taken 10 members voted for the amendment, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Brown, Conaghan, Dickson, Docherty, Caroline McAllister, McColl, McLaren and McNair and 9 members voted for the motion, namely Councillors Bollan, Casey, Douglas McAllister, McBride, Mooney, O'Neill, Page, Rooney and Walker. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

(c) Motion by Councillor Iain McLaren – Re-use Policy

Councillor McLaren moved:-

Council notes that many items taken to our recycling centres for disposal are still perfectly usable, and in many cases brand new. The dumping of these goods not only costs West Dunbartonshire Council money to dispose of, they help generate and sustain a 'throw-away society' that is causing significant environmental issues both in terms of disposal and manufacture of replacement items.

Council further notes the work done by our recycling centre operators to set aside many of these items for donation to the Home from Home charity, and thanks them for their efforts to give usable items a new lease of life.

Council instructs officers to bring a report to a future IRED committee that will detail how more reusable items that are taken to our recycling centres can be saved from the scrapheap. This should include any issues regarding insurance and liability, and take into account working with charities and organisations such as Home from Home, Rag and Bone Tool Library and Made Zero, as well as using social media and other internet resources to find new homes for serviceable items.

The report should also consider the practicalities of providing free compost to residents from the food and garden waste that is currently recycled. This will reduce the amount of peat-based products on sale, and the single-use plastic that it comes wrapped in.

The Council agreed the motion.

**(d) Motion by Councillor Jonathan McColl – Council and Committee
Timetable (Sept 2019 – 2020)**

Councillor McColl, seconded by Bailie Agnew moved:-

Council agrees the following timetable for Council and Committee meetings from September 2019 to September 2020, and agrees that going forward it will set its timetable annually in June:

September 2019

4th – 10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Educational Services Committee (Dumbarton)

18th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board

23rd - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

25th - 10am Audit Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

26th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

October 2019

23rd – 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)

2pm Licensing Committee (Clydebank)

24th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

30th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)

November 2019

6th - 10am Housing & Communities Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Planning Committee (Clydebank)

13th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Corporate Services Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP

20th - 10am Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development
Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Audit Committee (Clydebank)

21st - 2pm CPP

25th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

27th – 6pm Council (Dumbarton)

28th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

December 2019

4th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Educational Services Committee (Dumbarton)

10th - 10am Licensing Board

11th - 10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

12th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

18th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)

January 2020

22nd - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)

27th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

30th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

February 2020

5th – 10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Housing & Communities (Dumbarton)

12th - 10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (Dumbarton)

19th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Corporate Services Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

20th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

26th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)

March 2020

4th - 2pm Council [Budget & Statutory Reports Only] (Dumbarton)

11th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Educational services Committee (Clydebank)

18th - 10am Audit Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board

26th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

30th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)

April 2020

1st - 10am Licensing Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP

23rd - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

29th – 9:30am Tendering (Clydebank)
10am Planning (Clydebank)

May 2020

6th - 10am Licensing Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Housing & Communities Committee (Clydebank)

- 13th - 10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (Clydebank)
- 18th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)
- 20th - 10am Corporate Services Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP
- 27th - 2pm Council (Clydebank)
- 28th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

June 2020

- 3rd - 10am Educational Services Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board
- 10th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)
10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
- 17th - 10am Audit Committee (Clydebank)
2pm HSCP
- 18th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)
- 24th - 6pm Council (Dumbarton)

August 2020

- 5th - 2pm HSCP
- 19th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Clydebank)
10am Planning Committee (Clydebank)
2pm Licensing Committee (Clydebank)
- 20th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)
- 24th - 10am Cultural Committee (Clydebank)
- 26th - 2pm Council (Dumbarton)

September 2020

- 2nd - 10am Housing and Communities Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Licensing Board
- 9th - 9:30am Tendering Committee (Dumbarton)

10am Licensing Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Corporate Services Committee (Dumbarton)

16th - 10am Audit Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm Infrastructure, Regeneration & Economic Development Committee (Dumbarton)

23rd - 10am Planning Committee (Dumbarton)
2pm HSCP

24th - 9:30am Appeals Committee (Dumbarton)

30th - 10am Educational Services Committee (Clydebank)

Exceptions:

- The Licensing Board, as a separate legal entity, sets its own timetable. Any changes proposed here to Licensing Board meetings are subject to the Board's decision. Council asks the Chair of the Board to consider raising these proposals with the Clerk to the Board, with a view to presenting the proposals for discussion and decision as soon as practicable.
- The Health and Social Care Partnership and Community Planning West Dunbartonshire also set their own meeting timetable. Their meetings are shown here for information only.

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

That all Council meetings start at 7 p.m. in the evening to allow the public to attend.

On a vote being taken 7 Members voted for the amendment and 11 voted for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

(e) Motion by Councillor Sally Page – Booked! Festival of Words

Councillor Page moved:-

Council wishes to acknowledge the hard work put in by Allan Gordon and his team at West Dunbartonshire Libraries in producing an inspiring line-up of authors for the Booked! Festival of Words.

The event ran from the 14th-19th May and attracted 11 authors.

384 people attended 9 events.

Every Secondary school enjoyed readings and discussions with 2 of the authors at the Booked! Schools Festival. 150 children participated in total, with 30 attending each session.

This is a service we as a Council can be very proud of and must continue to support wholeheartedly.

The Council agreed the motion.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Page advised Council that she was withdrawing motions **11(f) – Maintenance of West Riverside, Balloch** and **11(g) – Lease of West Riverside, Balloch**, and accordingly neither was considered. .

(h) Motion by Councillor Caroline McAllister – Precise Use of Language in Council Documents

Councillor Caroline McAllister moved:-

Council recognises that precision in language is crucial, especially where safeguarding and child protection are concerned.

Recent policy across Scotland has the potential to fail in this area, as it confuses the term gender and sex. However these terms have very different meanings.

As a Council, it is incumbent upon us to communicate clearly, accurately and legally with our constituents and partners.

- Sex refers to the biological sexes, male and female.
- Gender refers to the social roles and stereotypes associated with males and females.

This is important because:

- Sex (not gender) is a protected characteristic under the Equality Act 2010. The Equality Act allows for the provision of same sex services e.g. separate toilets for girls and boys in primary schools, women's and men's prisons, etc. Using gender instead of sex means we risk losing these provisions.
- Many departments rely on the collection of accurate data about biological sex, in areas such as healthcare provision, education, crime and lone parent households. Using gender instead of sex can result in confusion and poor policy making.

Council calls upon all departments to commit to using sex, a protected characteristic, where relevant in public documents across all levels of the Council, rather than the vague term gender.

Councillor Rooney moved the following as an amendment:-

Council notes that the Scottish Government recently postponed its planned update of gender recognition laws, in part because it had failed to address concerns about the impact of its proposals.

In view of this, the Scottish Government had further committed to an Equality Impact Assessment which is to be published in the summer of 2019 along with a new draft Gender Recognition Bill which will also be subject to consultation.

The Council recognises the three key commitments from the Scottish Government as outline below:

- 1. Provide updated official guidance on the rights of women and trans women;*
- 2. Launch a review of whether official data collection recognises the impact of biological and physical differences between people born as men or women;*
- 3. Set up a working group on how to extend legal gender recognition to non-binary people.*

Given the above, the Council requests that the Chief Executive brings forward a report to a future council meeting following the Scottish Governments' Equality Impact Assessment and Gender Recognition Bill.

In doing so, the Council will use the appropriate and inclusive language as determined by any changes in Law as applied to all 32 council authorities.

The Equality Act covers the same groups that were protected by existing equality legislation these are now called 'protected characteristics'.

- Age
- disability,
- gender reassignment,
- race,
- religion or belief,
- sex,
- sexual orientation,
- marriage and civil partnership and
- pregnancy and maternity.

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/equality-act/protected-characteristics>

This Council reiterates its full support, commitment, and solidarity to all persons with protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 and will continue to support these rights both in principle and through positive action.

Councillor Caroline McAllister advised that she was willing to accept Councillor Rooney's proposed amendment as an addendum to her motion. The motion with addendum were agreed by Council.

(i) Motion by Councillor Douglas McAllister – Golf Club Fees

Councillor Douglas McAllister moved:-

This Council is concerned by the effect of the SNP Administration's budget decision to increase Council charges, in particular a decision to significantly increase the charges and membership costs at our Municipal Golf Course at Dalmuir Park, Clydebank.

Council is concerned that many members have indicated that they can no longer afford the costs associated with playing golf at the Municipal course. Council is concerned at the decision to significantly increase charges, which may in fact result in a loss of revenue to this Council.

Council therefore requests that a report is prepared by the relevant official to come to the next meeting of this Council, advising Council as to the effect of the increase to charges in relation to user numbers. Council asks that alternative options are explored in relation to the scale of charges, including reducing the costs associated across all categories, with a view to encouraging greater use of our Municipal course and the potential to encourage new members.

Council asks that our golf professional Stewart Savage and the current membership are consulted in the preparation of the report.

As an amendment Councillor McColl moved:-

Council notes that Councillor McColl and Provost Hendrie have already held an initial positive discussion with our Golf Pro, Mr Stewart Savage, and are considering a number of really good suggestions he has made around pricing, facilities and promotion of the course.

Council notes that the membership fees are still significantly less than private clubs and day visitor rates are extremely good.

Council requests that a report is prepared by the relevant officers, in partnership with Mr Savage, with a strategy to secure the future of our municipal golf club. No ideas should be off the table and officers should consult elected members and golfers in preparing the report.

The report will be brought back to Council for discussion before the end of the calendar year.

Following discussion, Councillor McAllister advised that he would delete the first paragraph of his motion and accept Councillor McColl's amendment as an addendum on condition that the report requested would be brought back to Council.

The Council agreed the motion and addendum, as adjusted.

The meeting closed at 10.42 p.m.