

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 27 April 2005 at 2.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors Denis Agnew, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoff Calvert, Gail Casey, James Flynn, Jackie Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan, Joe Pilkington, Martin Rooney and Andy White.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Gerry McNerney, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Development and Environmental Services; Bob Cook, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Bill Clark, Acting Director of Social Work Services; David McMillan, Director of Housing and Technical Services; David Connell, Head of Finance; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant and Shona Barton, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf Councillors George Black, Jim Bolland, Tony Devine and Margaret McGregor.

Provost Macdonald in the Chair

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

5775 The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION COMMITTEE

5776 The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Participation Committee held on 21 March 2005 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE

5777 The Minutes of Meeting of the Audit and Performance Review Committee held on 23 March 2005 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

MINUTES OF THE RECRUITMENT COMMITTEE

- 5778 The Minutes of Meeting of the Recruitment Committee held on 30 March 2005 were submitted and noted.

MINUTES OF THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE FORUM

- 5779 The Minutes of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Forum held on 31 March 2005 were submitted and all decisions contained therein were approved.

OPTIONS FOR THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF SKYPOINT, FAIFLEY

- 5780 Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 (Page 1552, paragraph 5591 refers), when it had been agreed to continue consideration of options for the future management of Skypoint, Faifley.
- 5781 After hearing Councillor O'Sullivan, the Council noted:-
- (1) that the confirmation sought on the continued funding from the other partners had still to be clarified; and
 - (2) that a report would be submitted to the Council once such confirmation had been received.

LINKS WITH WOLOMIN, POLAND

- 5782 Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 (Page 1553, paragraph 5601(4) refers), when it had been agreed that a report would be submitted to this meeting detailing the costs of sending some school children from West Dunbartonshire to accompany the Provost on his trip to Wolomin, Poland.
- 5783 The Council:-
- (1) noted that as the Polish officials wished the aforementioned meeting to go ahead in April 2005, which was during the school holidays, it had not been possible to pursue the issue of school children accompanying the Provost on the trip; and
 - (2) agreed that this issue would be considered in any future contacts with Wolomin.

AMENDMENTS TO STANDING ORDERS AND TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS

- 5784 With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 March 2005 (Pages 1555/6, paragraph 5614(6) refer), a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services seeking approval to amend the Council Standing Orders and Timetable of Meetings to take account of decisions made at the last meeting of Council.
- 5785 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-
- 5786 That the Council:-
- (1) approve the amendments to Standing Orders 2(a), 6(a)(viii) and 8(b) as shown in paragraphs 3.1 and 3.2 of the report; and
 - (2) approve the revised timetable of meetings as detailed in the Appendix to the report, a copy of which is appended hereto.
- 5787 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-
- 5788 That the words 'from time to time' in paragraph 3.1(a) within the report be removed.
- 5789 After hearing Councillor White and the Chief Executive in further explanation, Councillor McLaughlin, with approval of the Council, agreed to withdraw his amendment. Accordingly, the motion was approved.

INVITATION TO NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL ELECTION COUNT

- 5790 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking authorisation for a senior elected member and a relevant officer of the Council to attend the Count for the Northern Ireland local elections.
- 5791 After hearing Councillor Flynn and Councillor McLaughlin, the Council agreed:-
- (1) that Councillor Andy White, as Leader of the Council and Chair of the Working Group on the Local Government Boundary Review and the Council's Election Co-ordinator should attend the Count for the Northern Ireland elections; and
 - (2) that a report on the visit be submitted to a future meeting of the Council.

**PROPOSAL FOR A MEMBER'S BILL IN THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS (SCOTLAND) BILL**

- 5792 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive seeking Council's response to a consultation by David Mundell MSP for the South of Scotland on the possible decoupling of the local government and Scottish Parliament elections.
- 5793 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-
- 5794 That West Dunbartonshire Council's response to the consultation document should be in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Chief Executive's report and, in particular, the Council agrees that the local government elections should be held on different dates from the Scottish Parliament elections, with the next local government election being delayed until 2008.
- 5795 As an amendment Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor Brogan, moved:-
- 5796 That West Dunbartonshire Council's response to the consultation document should be in accordance with the suggestions contained in the Chief Executive's report and, in particular, the Council agrees that the local government elections should be held on different dates from the Scottish Parliament elections, with the next local government election being delayed, but that the date should not be specified.
- 5797 On a vote being taken, 2 Members voted for the amendment and 16 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

REVIEW OF ELECTORAL ARRANGEMENTS

- 5798 A report was submitted by the Chief Executive advising on the initial proposals prepared by the Local Government Boundary Commission for Scotland on the Review of Boundaries for multi-member wards and setting out alternative proposals for consideration.
- 5799 Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor Pilkington, moved:-
- 5800 That this Council notes the initial proposals submitted by the Local Government Boundary Commission with disappointment and concern. As well as proposing a gross deviation from parity of 15% in their Ward 1, the proposals, if implemented, would split three communities, Balloch, Alexandria and Dumbarton. Both the Scottish Executive and the Boundary Commission have stressed that 'Community Focus' will be a crucial consideration in agreeing boundaries.

- 5801 In consideration of West Dunbartonshire Council's alternative Options, A & B, both options should be considered in the light of Parity i.e. 3172 electors per member as far as is possible, and Community Focus i.e. the geographical area that residents consider themselves to be a part of.
- 5802 Option B reduces the disparity from 15% to a maximum of only +/- 5.8% in Wards 2 (Clydebank Central) and 7 (Balloch, Haldane, Gartocharn). Community Focus is distinct although Dumbarton is split into two Wards because of its size.
- 5803 For reasons of minimising disparity and strength of community focus, Option B is the option that West Dunbartonshire Council will recommend to the Local Government Boundary Commission as its response to its initial proposals for the electoral area of West Dunbartonshire.
- 5804 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, second by Councillor Brogan, moved:-
- 5805 Option A is the preferred Option of West Dunbartonshire Council.
- 5806 On a vote being taken, 2 voted for the amendment and 16 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

MESOTHELIOMA

- 5807 A report was submitted by the Acting Director of Social Work Services providing information on a major campaign in 2006 on the asbestos-related disease mesothelioma and seeking agreement of the Council to become a partner organisation and to participate fully in the campaign.
- 5808 After hearing Councillor White, the Council agreed:-
- (1) to endorse the campaign initiated by the British Lung Foundation by becoming a partner organisation and participating in the campaign;
 - (2) to support, in principle, the value of the mesothelioma charter proposed by the British Lung Foundation;
 - (3) to support and publicise events and activities of the campaign including the 'mesothelioma day' proposed for 26 February 2006;
 - (4) to promote the activities of the campaign and the mesothelioma charter with other local government organisations, asbestos support groups and trades unions; and
 - (5) to support the efforts made by officers of West Dunbartonshire Council in tackling the fight against mesothelioma.

NOTICE OF MOTION

5809 The Council considered the undernoted motion, which had been submitted by Councillor McLaughlin in accordance with Standing Order No 8:-

5810 The A82 is the lifeline of this local community and is the main arterial roadway for a large number of travellers through this area. When work is carried out on the A82 the disruption caused is considerable, not just for the A82 but also the surrounding road infrastructure. For economic growth and for the health and wellbeing of our local community we must ensure that all disruption to the road is kept to a minimum. In addition serious consideration must be given about the upgrade of the road or alteration from the Renton to the Dumbarton roundabout.

5811 Therefore this Council agrees to write to AMEY Highways and the Scottish Executive asking for:

- (a) Upgrading to be considered for the A82; and
- (b) That all routine maintenance and upgrading to the A82 should be carried out in the evening wherever possible.

5812 Councillor McLaughlin was heard in support of his motion, which was seconded by Councillor Brogan.

5813 As an amendment, Councillor McDonald, seconded by Councillor Agnew, moved:-

5814 That the Council notes the concerns raised by Councillor McLaughlin with regard to the A82, however, we would ask Councillor McLaughlin to provide further information to the Director of Housing and Technical Services.

5815 This would allow the matter to be raised at the next liaison meeting with West Dunbartonshire Council, Amey and Scottish Executive which is due to be held on 20 May 2005.

5816 After discussion, Councillor McLaughlin, with the consent of Council, agreed to withdraw his motion and accept the above amendment, subject to his concerns being put to the Forum and a response from the Forum on the issues raised being submitted to Council for consideration.

The meeting closed at 2.23 p.m.