

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Civic Space, Council Offices, 16 Church Street, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 29 May 2019 at 2.04 p.m.

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

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: Joyce White, Chief Executive; Angela Wilson, Strategic Director – Transformation & Public Service Reform; Beth Culshaw, Chief Officer, West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership; Peter Hessett, Strategic Lead – Regulatory (Legal Officer); Stephen West, Strategic Lead – Resources; Laura Mason, Chief Education Officer; Victoria Rogers, Strategic Lead – People & Technology; Jim McAloon, Strategic Lead – Regeneration; Peter Barry, Strategic Lead – Housing & Employability and Christine McCaffary, Senior Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Jim Finn and Marie McNair.

Provost William Hendrie in the Chair

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.

Note:- Councillor Millar arrived at this point in the meeting.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As members of Strathclyde Pension Fund all Members present declared an interest in the item Notice of Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Climate Emergency.

In addition, Councillors Millar, Rooney and Walker declared interests in the item Notice of Motion by Councillor Ian Dickson – Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, in view of them being employees of the Ministry of Defence.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

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

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 27 March 2019 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

OPEN FORUM

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

REPRESENTATION BY SCOTTISH FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (SFRS) DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN CONSULTATION

The Provost welcomed Paul Devlin, Local Senior Officer, SFRS, to the meeting. Mr Devlin proceeded to give a presentation on the service's Draft Strategic Plan 2019-2022, advising that a 10 week public consultation had opened on 9 May that was seeking comments from the public and other partners.

Mr Devlin outlined the four outcomes contained in the draft Plan and how the service was seeking views to ensure the correct objectives were being sought and welcomed suggestions on how the service could help support the community and its other partners.

Following questions from Members, the Provost thanked Mr Devlin for his presentation, noting that views could be shared at <https://firescotland.citizenspace.com>

NOTICE OF MOTION

(a) Motion by Bailie Agnew – Assisted Dying

Bailie Agnew, seconded by Councillor Conaghan moved:-

This Council agrees to oppose the proposal being presented to the Scottish Parliament regarding 'assisted dying'.

The move to legalise assisted suicide or euthanasia is unacceptable in our society and we call upon the Leader of the Council to write to the Scottish Government to register the Council's opposition in the strongest terms to this iniquitous concept.

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

Council notes that the issue of assisted dying is an extremely complex medical, social and moral issue.

Council further notes that we have not been asked by the Scottish Parliament for a view and there are no current discussions at any level within the Scottish Parliament on assisted dying.

Council agrees that it would not be appropriate for this meeting to set a Council position on assisted dying and recognises and respects that there will be a wide range of views among our 22 elected members.

Agreeing this amendment does not prevent any Councillor from lobbying the Scottish Government on this issue, provided that they are clear they are expressing their personal views as an individual elected member.

Bailie Agnew requested that a roll call vote be taken.

Following a question from Councillor McColl and having heard the Legal Officer in reply, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Lennie moved that no roll call vote be taken.

On a vote being taken, 10 members voted for a roll call and 9 against.

Accordingly, on a roll call vote being taken 14 members voted for Councillor McColl's amendment, namely Councillors Bolland, Brown, Casey, Dickson, Docherty, Lennie, Caroline McAllister, McBride, McColl, McLaren, Millar, Mooney, Rooney and Walker and 6 members for Bailie Agnew's motion, namely Provost Hendrie, Bailie Agnew and Councillors Conaghan, Douglas McAllister, O'Neill and Page. Councillor McColl's amendment was therefore agreed.

ADJOURNMENT

Having heard the Provost, the Council agreed to a short adjournment. The meeting reconvened at 3.30 p.m. with all those Members listed in the sederunt present.

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.

After discussion and having heard the Strategic Lead – Regeneration 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 progress with the Council's project for the Exxon site.

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE CHILD POVERTY ACTION REPORT 2019

A report was submitted by the Strategic Lead – Housing and Employability providing an update on the development of the West Dunbartonshire Child Poverty action report.

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

- (1) to note the final draft report attached as Appendix 1 to the report and that the action report will be finalised as soon as 2018/19 year end data is available.
- (2) to note the Local Child Poverty Action Report (LCPAR) and support the implementation of emerging actions and progress indicators; and
- (3) that the Council lobby the Scottish Government to increase Child Benefit to the children of Scotland in its next budget.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(b) Motion by Councillor Jim Bollan – Climate Emergency

Councillor Bollan moved:-

Council agrees with the view held by the movement Extinction Rebellion that we have a "Climate Emergency" which needs urgent political action on a global scale to save the planet. Council agrees to write to the UK and Scottish Government's in these terms urging them to take immediate action to tackle this grave issue and do all within their power to reverse the situation. As a first step in a local context Council also agrees to request the trustees of the SPF (Strathclyde Pension Fund) divest from any investments in fossil fuels which are warming the planet already to 1°C. Council pension funds in Scotland invest £1.8b per year in companies like BP & Shell who are planning on using fossil fuels which will warm the planet up to 3.5°C. Scientists are clear that burning fossil Fuels, Coal, Oil & Gas is the main driver for the problem. Fossil Fuel divestment is a practical, legal and responsible way for pension funds to respond to climate change and avoid financial risk. Over 30 Scottish MP's have supported divestment of their own pension fund and I would ask that WDC put the same request to the trustees of the SPF.

Following a request from Councillor O'Neill, Councillor Bollan accepted the following addendum to his motion:-

That a request to Strathclyde Pension Fund include that it divest from companies involved in the production, maintenance and development of nuclear weapons in the UK or other nuclear weapon states.

The Council agreed the motion with addendum.

(c) Motion by Councillor Iain McLaren – Mass Balloon Releases

Council notes that all released balloons return to Earth as ugly litter that is dangerous to wildlife, in particular marine wildlife.

Council recognises the concerns of farmers, environmentalists, biologists and animal lovers, and their work to raise awareness of and tackle this problem.

Council further notes that more than half of the local authorities in Scotland, including our neighbours in Argyll & Bute, have already banned mass balloon releases on their land.

Council therefore instructs officers to take steps to ban mass balloon releases on Council controlled land.

The Council agreed the motion.

(d) Motion by Councillor David McBride – Temporary Public Entertainment Licences

Councillor McBride moved the following motion, subject to the words 'Council meeting' in the first sentence of paragraph 3 being change to 'Licensing Committee' and 'Council' at the start of paragraph 4 also being changed to 'Licensing Committee':-

Council notes a temporary Public Entertainment Licence, for example siting the recent carnival at Dumbarton Common, can be granted without consultation or notification to nearby residents and ward councillors.

Council notes on some occasions, particularly when the event may significantly affect nearby residents, consultation may be appropriate.

Therefore, Council requests the Chief Executive provides a report to a future Council Meeting that details the current procedure and an explanation of how this maybe improved for the future. The options detailed should include the status quo, limited notification and consultation with local residents & ward councillors, up to and including requiring full consideration by the Councils Licensing Committee.

Council can agree an appropriate procedure once the report is published.

The Council agreed the motion as amended.

Note:- Councillors Millar, Rooney and Walker left the meeting at this point, having declared an interest in the following item of business earlier in the meeting.

(e) Motion by Councillor Ian Dickson – Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

Councillor Dickson moved:-

West Dunbartonshire Council is deeply concerned about the grave threat that nuclear weapons pose to communities throughout the world. We firmly believe that our residents have the right to live in a world free from this threat. Any use of nuclear weapons, whether deliberate or accidental, would have catastrophic, far-reaching and long-lasting consequences for people and the environment.

Council fully supports the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) as one of the most effective ways to bring about long-term and verifiable multilateral nuclear disarmament and reaffirms our commitment to West Dunbartonshires designation as a Nuclear Free Zone. To this end council asserts its opposition to the illegal transportation of nuclear weapons on our roads and rail networks on moral and safety grounds.

Council instructs the Leader of the Council to write to the UK Government to inform them of this resolution and urge them to take account of it.

Having been asked by Councillor Bollan if he would accept an amendment to his motion, Councillor Dickson agreed to change the word 'multilateral' to 'unilateral'.

The Council agreed Councillor Dickson's motion as amended.

The meeting closed at 4.35 p.m.