

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton G82 3PU

4 December 2009

MEETING: WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

**WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2009
COUNCIL CHAMBERS
COUNCIL OFFICES
GARSHAKE ROAD
DUMBARTON**

Dear Member,

Please attend a Meeting of **West Dunbartonshire Council** to be held in the **Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, on Wednesday, 16 December 2009 at 6.00 p.m.**

The business is as shown on the attached agenda.

Yours faithfully

DAVID MCMILLAN

Chief Executive

Distribution:-

All Members of West Dunbartonshire Council.

Chief Executive

Executive Director of Corporate Services

Executive Director of Educational Services

Interim Executive Directors of Social Work and Health

Executive Director of Housing, Environmental & Economic Development

For information on the following agenda please contact George Hawthorn, Legal, Administrative and Regulatory Services, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton, G82 3PU on Tel: (01389) 737204 or e-mail: george.hawthorn@west-dunbartonshire.gov.uk

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

WEDNESDAY, 16 DECEMBER 2009

AGENDA

1. APOLOGIES

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to declare if they have an interest in any of the items of business on this agenda and state the reasons for such declarations.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Submit for approval as a correct record, Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 November 2009.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Council is asked to note that no open forum questions have been submitted by members of the public.

5. BEST VALUE IMPROVEMENT PLAN (Copy to follow)

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 November 2009, submit report by the Chief Executive on the new Best Value Improvement Plan.

6. SUPPORT FOR VALE OF LEVEN COMMUNITY FORUM AND RELATED ISSUES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 30 September 2009, submit report by the Chief Executive providing the Council with an update on the position with support to the Vale of Leven Community Forum and related matters.

7./

7. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION ON SPECIFIC EQUALITY DUTIES

Submit report by the Chief Executive presenting a Council response to the Scottish Government's consultation on the specific duties to be imposed on Scottish public authorities to support their general equality duties under the forthcoming Equality Act.

8. RESULTS OF FORMAL CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE OF ST. MARTIN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Submit report by the Executive Director of Educational Services:-

- (a) reporting on the outcomes of the formal consultation for the proposed closure of St. Martin's Primary School in June 2010 to Council; and
- (b) reporting the outcomes of the formal consultation for the proposed amalgamation of Renton, Ferryfield and Vale of Leven Early Education & Childcare Centres into St. Martin's school building to Council.

9. CONSULTATION ON MODIFICATIONS TO THE LOCH LOMOND AND THE TROSSACHS NATIONAL PARK NATIONAL PARK DESIGNATION ORDER

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking the Council's views on a proposal to modify the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park Designation, Transitional and Consequential Provisions (Scotland) Order 2002.

10. SCOTTISH LOCAL AUTHORITIES REMUNERATION COMMITTEE – ANNUAL REVIEW OF REMUNERATION FOR LOCAL AUTHORITY COUNCILLORS

Submit report by the Chief Executive seeking the Council's views on the 2009 report from the Scottish Local Authorities Remuneration Committee (SLARC) on Councillors Remuneration and on the subject matter of the 2010 Review to be carried out by SLARC.

11. GENERAL SERVICES REVENUE BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT – PERIOD 7 (2009/10)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services advising the Council of the performance of the General Services Revenue Budget for the period to 15 November 2009.

12. GENERAL SERVICES CAPITAL BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT – PERIOD 7 (2009/10)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Corporate Services providing the Council with an update on the General Services Capital Plan 2009/2010 for the period to 15 November 2009.

13. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNTS 2009/2010 BUDGETARY CONTROL STATEMENTS TO 15 NOVEMBER 2009 (PERIOD 7)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development providing the Council with an update on the financial performance of the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) up to the period ending 15 November 2009.

14. HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2009/2010 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT TO 15 NOVEMBER 2009 (PERIOD 7)

Submit report by the Executive Director of Housing, Environmental and Economic Development advising the Council of progress of the HRA Capital Programme 2009/2010.

15. QUESTION BY COUNCILLOR RONNIE MCCOLL TO THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

Given that both David Cameron and Gordon Brown have publicly apologised for having photos taken during Remembrance Day services at cenotaphs, will Councillor Rooney apologise to the people of West Dunbartonshire for personally photographing Labour politicians in the same manner?

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

(A) Motion by Councillor David McBride - Council Tax Discount on Second Homes and Long Term Empty Properties

This Council notes the recent decision by the Corporate & Efficient Governance Committee in relation to Council Tax Discount on Second Homes and Long Term Empty Properties.

However Council is concerned that the decision making process in relation to this was flawed due to the failure of the Chair of the Committee Councillor McLaughlin to declare his interest in this item.

Council agrees that the decision be rescinded and calls on the Chief Executive to bring forward the report to the full Council to re-consider this issue as a matter of priority.

NOTE: Members are asked to note that the Council is required to suspend Standing Order No 19 (a) prior to consideration of the above motion as a period of six months has not passed since the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee made a decision on this issue.

A copy of the report which was considered by the Corporate and Efficient Governance Committee at its meeting on 25 November 2009 has been enclosed with the agenda, as a supporting paper.

(B) Motion by Councillor Ronnie McColl – Community Planning Partnership: Publication of Papers

Council agrees that in the interests of good governance and democratic accountability to the communities of West Dunbartonshire, the Chief Executive is instructed to write to the Community Planning Partnership (CPP) urging them to incorporate an adapted version of Council's own Standing Order No. 4 into their own rules for the calling of Strategic Board and Thematic Group meetings.

Further to this, the Chief Executive should ask the CPP to include all elected members of West Dunbartonshire Council in the distribution of Strategic Board papers by e-mail.

(C) Motion by Councillor Ronnie McColl – Minimum Pricing of Alcohol

This Council is disappointed that some national politicians have chosen to play party politics with the very serious issue of alcohol abuse.

Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to all our constituency and regional list MSPs and all Scottish party leaders to urge them to consider all options including minimum pricing.

West Dunbartonshire has one of the highest levels of alcohol abuse in Scotland and this Council believes that none of the proposals in the Bill should be ruled out before medical and other evidence is given proper consideration.

(D) Motion by Councillor Craig McLaughlin – A82

The A82 is without doubt an absolute lifeline for the communities of West Dunbartonshire. There are a number of parts of the A82 which require upgrading and while this Council will continue to strive for improvements to the relevant problems that affect West Dunbartonshire commuters, we should forge a partnership of likeminded organisations with the same common goal.

By joining forces with other partners and agencies, such as other local authorities, public bodies and community groups we can join in a coordinated campaign to demand that the A82 be improved and upgraded.

Recent work on the A82 has highlighted more than ever the need for major improvements to this essential road network as the disruptions caused to commuters has been considerable.

Therefore this Council agrees to instruct the Chief Executive to write to his counterparts in all relevant local authorities and the CEO of the National Park authority seeking their views on a joint campaign. The Council asks that officers from the relevant authorities work on drawing together a plan of each respective authority's areas of concern on the A82. Once the plan has been completed all relevant partners should unite and make a joint representation to the Scottish Government.

(E) Motion by Jonathan McColl – Community Planning Partnership Membership

Council agrees the following changes in the SNP nominations to the Community Planning Partnership Strategic Board:

Cllr Jim McElhill will become the Vice-Chair substitute and Cllr Ronnie McColl will become a full member as shown in the table below:-

Body	Nomination	Substitute
Strategic Board	Iain Robertson (Vice Chair)	Jim McElhill (Vice Chair Sub)
	Ronnie McColl	George Black
	Gail Casey	Martin Rooney
Safe & Strong	May Smillie	Douglas McAllister
Health & Wellbeing	Jonathan McColl	Geoff Calvert
Environment & Sustainable Development	Marie McNair	Jim McElhill
Education & Life Long Learning	Patrick McGlinchey	Jim Brown
Employment & Business Growth	Margaret Bootland	Jim Finn
Housing	Bill Hendrie	Willie McLaughlin

(F) Motion by Councillor Patrick McGlinchey – Removal of Incompetent Cabinet Secretary

This Council congratulates the First Minister, Alex Salmond, for acting decisively to remove the ex-Cabinet Secretary for Education, Fiona Hyslop, from office due to her incompetence.

(G) Motion by Councillor Geoff Calvert - Consultation

This Council is aware that it must do better with regard to Community Engagement and consultation as noted in the Accounts Commission report of Best Value. Council notes that it has agreed this criticism and has promised to improve.

Against this background, this Council agrees that the SNP decision to arbitrarily impose swingeing increases to charges of Council services and the introduction of new charges, all to take effect from 1 January 2010 and all without any attempt to consult with the community it serves, makes a mockery of its commitment to improvement and undermines the integrity of this Council.

This Council agrees that both an explanation and an apology is due from the Leader of the Council to the community of West Dunbartonshire, to the Accounts Commission and the Improvement Service as to why he has set aside the Council's commitment to engage with the community and consult effectively prior to imposing these increases which will impact on the most vulnerable members of our society.