

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday 27 June 2001 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Provost Alistair Macdonald and Councillors James McElhill, Mary Campbell, Daniel McCafferty, John Syme, Andrew White, Anthony Devine, Mary Collins, Ian McDonald, Duncan McDonald, John McCutcheon, Linda McColl, Iain Robertson, Geoffrey Calvert, James McCallum, John Trainer, James Bolland, Craig McLaughlin, Margaret McGregor, James Flynn and Connie O'Sullivan.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Stephen B. Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services; Gerry McInerney, Head of Personnel Services and Julie Herrity, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apologies: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Ronnie McColl.

Provost Alistair Macdonald in the Chair

HIS EMINENCE THOMAS JOSEPH CARDINAL WINNING ARCHBISHOP AND METROPOLITAN OF GLASGOW

Prior to the commencement of business, Provost Macdonald, on behalf of the Council, expressed regret at the death of His Eminence Thomas Joseph Cardinal Winning Archbishop And Metropolitan Of Glasgow and paid tribute to him. The Council then, as a mark of respect, stood in silence for one minute in remembrance.

URGENT ITEM OF BUSINESS

Provost Macdonald, in terms of Section 50A(4) of Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 as inserted by the Local Government (Access to Information Act) 1985 ruled that a motion by Councillor McLaughlin in relation to the retention of maternity services at the Vale of Leven Hospital, Alexandria be considered as a matter of urgency and that it be taken at the end of the meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 April 2001

The Minutes of Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 April 2001 were submitted and approved.

(b) Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 23 May 2001

The Minutes of the Requisitioned Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 23 May 2001 were submitted and approved.

**CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT
(TIMING OF ELECTIONS) (SCOTLAND) BILL**

A report by the Chief Executive was submitted on the Scottish Executive's draft Local Government (Timing of Elections) (Scotland) Bill, outlining the Scottish Executive's plans to change the timing of local government elections and proposing comments to be included in the Council's response to the consultation on the draft Bill.

Councillor Trainer, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council:-

- (a) supports the proposal for a 4 year term for Scottish Councils;
- (b) supports the proposal that in normal circumstances, the elections should be coincident with the elections for the Scottish Parliament. However, Council would also wish all necessary steps to be taken to ensure that the electorate is fully informed that 2 elections are taking place. Council also notes that discussions are taking place regarding the administrative difficulties and acknowledges that there are a number of issues which require resolution;
- (c) does not support the proposal to synchronise local government and extraordinary Scottish Parliamentary elections; and
- (d) recommends that discussions on administrative arrangements take account of opportunities to increase the use of postal voting and the use of new technology.

As an amendment, Councillor McElhill, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved that the Council:-

- (a) supports the proposals for 4 year local government elections, but these should not coincide with Scottish Parliamentary elections;
- (b) does not support the proposal to synchronise local government and extraordinary Scottish Parliamentary elections; and
- (c) recommends that discussions on administrative arrangements take account of opportunities to increase the use of postal voting and the use of new technology.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

REVIEW OF EXECUTIVE/SCRUTINY DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

With reference to the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 April 2001, a report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the response to the review of the first six months of the Executive/Scrutiny decision making structure and suggesting possible amendments to the system.

Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved that the Council agree:-

- (a) to develop an information campaign, targeting key stakeholders in the decision making process in accordance with paragraph 4.1 of the report;
- (b) to readopt the remit, conduct and membership of committees, the Scheme of Delegation, and the new Standing Orders, subject to minor amendments to address anomalies identified in the review process;
- (c) to approve the draft timetable of meetings appended to the report;
- (d) to develop mechanisms to deal with information to members on officer use of delegated powers; and
- (e) to review the system in approximately six months time.

As an amendment, Councillor McElhill, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that this Council regrets that the experimental Executive/Scrutiny decision making system has led to a reduction in democracy and accountability within the Council.

Subsequently, now that the structure is up for review the SNP feel that the structure requires to be altered and as such move the following:-

- (1) the Council agrees to implement the decision making structure shown as Appendix I To these minutes, subject to further refinement of the proposals and subject also to a Housing Forum being established;
- (2) to instruct the Chief Executive to bring a report to full Council in August detailing an administration implementation plan for the new revised structure;
- (3) that the existing Standing Orders be continued until the August Council meeting at which time the Chief Executive will bring a report detailing a new set of Standing Orders;
- (4) the new structure should begin immediately after the August Council meeting;
- (5) the existing Executive/Scrutiny decision making structure will cease as of the August Council meeting at which time the decision making process will transfer to the new structure; and
- (6) the posts of Conveners will be decided at the August Council meeting.

The Chief Executive advised as to the possible problems which might be encountered in meeting the timescales proposed, owing to the Council recess in July being the main holiday period for staff.

On a vote being taken by calling the roll, 11 Members (namely Councillors McElhill, Campbell, McCafferty, Syme, Collins, Ian McDonald, McCutcheon, Robertson, Bollan, McLaughlin and McGregor) voted for the amendment and 10 Members (namely Provost Macdonald and Councillors White, Devine, Duncan McDonald, Linda McColl, Calvert, McCallum, Trainer, Flynn and O'Sullivan) voted for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

A copy of the timetable for the existing system until the end of August 2001 is shown as Appendix II to these minutes.

BETTER NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES FUND

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing an update on proposals for the use of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund as recommended by the Community Planning Core Group.

Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved that the Council agree:-

- (a) to note the progress made on the development of proposals for the use of the Better Neighbourhood Services Fund;
- (b) to endorse the approach adopted by the Community Planning Core Group as detailed in the report; and
- (c) that a further report containing detailed proposals be submitted to a future meeting.

As an amendment, Councillor McCafferty, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that, in addition to this, the leisure needs of young people in West Dunbartonshire should be encapsulated in the proposals.

Councillor White, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to accept the amendment as an addendum to the motion and the Council resolved accordingly.

REVIEW OF THE SCHEME OF ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY COUNCILS

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services (i) setting out the necessary arrangements and timetable for progressing a review of the Scheme of Establishment of Community Councils in West Dunbartonshire in accordance with the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973; (ii) proposing that the October 2001 Community Council elections be postponed until the new scheme is adopted; and (iii) suggesting that the Working Group

previously established with representatives from West Dunbartonshire Council and the West Dunbartonshire Community Council Forum to oversee the review process, be reconvened.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to reconvene the previous Working Group to oversee the review process;
- (b) to appoint 5 Councillors who are members of the Community Initiatives Committee, as the Council's representatives on the Working Group;
- (c) to note the proposed timetable for the review as detailed in the report; and
- (d) to consult with Community Councils with a view to postponing the elections due to be held in October 2001 until after the conclusion of the review on a date to be arranged in 2002.

EMPLOYMENT TRIBUNAL AND OTHER INFORMATION REQUESTED BY COUNCIL

With reference to the requisitioned meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 23 May 2001, a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services on the Employment Tribunal in relation to the former Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council together with other information requested by the Council.

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved that:-

This Council notes the report requested by the requisitioned meeting held on Wednesday 23 May 2001.

Council recognises that this issue was raised as an electioneering gimmick by the supporters of one of the candidates for that Westminster election.

Council notes that the voters of West Dunbartonshire have passed eloquent comment on this politically motivated stunt.

As an amendment, Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that the Council:-

- (a) note the report; and
- (b) note also that the Labour Administration are attempting to deflect attention away from the disgraceful ways in which they treat their employees.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the amendment and 10 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

ADJOURNMENT

The Council unanimously agreed to adjourn at this point and resumed after a period of 10 minutes, those present being as shown in the sederunt.

REFURBISHMENT OF CLYDEBANK SHOPPING CENTRE, CLYDEBANK

With reference to the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 June 2000, a report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services advising that negotiations with the Council's contractors, CIS, had been completed successfully and that the refurbishment of Clydebank Shopping Centre would begin in the near future.

Following discussion, and having heard the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services, the Council agreed:-

- (a) to welcome the proposed commencement of the refurbishment of Clydebank Shopping Centre;
- (b) to note that the first phase of the refurbishment work would include the covering in and upgrading of the mall as well as improving the escalators at the North end of the Shopping Centre; and
- (c) to instruct the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to consult with the Council's partners at the appropriate time to establish whether proposals can be brought forward for the remainder of the Shopping Centre.

PROPOSAL FOR COMMUNITY FOOTBALL STADIUM FOR CLYDEBANK

A report was submitted by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services recommending that the Council participate in a group of interested parties set up to investigate the formation of a Community Football Stadium for Clydebank.

The Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services was heard in response to questions by Members.

Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council agree:-

- (a) to support, in principle, the return of Clydebank Football Club to Clydebank;
- (b) to work with other parties to investigate the option of a community football stadium for the Clydebank area;
- (c) to consult with Yoker Athletic and other interested parties; and
- (d) to instruct the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to submit a further report on progress made to a future meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council.

As an amendment, Councillor McElhill, seconded by Councillor McCutcheon, moved in similar terms to the motion subject to (b) above being adjusted to read as follows:-

‘to work with other parties to investigate the option of a community football stadium in Clydebank’.

Following discussion, Councillor McElhill, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to withdraw his amendment and the Council unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

DUMBARTON BRIDGE - PROGRESS REPORT

With reference to the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 February 2001, a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services on progress made with issues relating to the temporary closure of Dumbarton Bridge.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to instruct the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to carry out a formal Traffic Impact Assessment prior to consulting the local community, local businesses, bus companies and other users to consider:-
 - (i) one-way operation either from West Bridgend to High Street or High Street to West Bridgend;
 - (ii) two-way shuttle operation controlled by traffic signals; and
 - (iii) continued pedestrianisation of the Bridge; and
- (b) to instruct the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to submit a further report to Council once the consultation exercise and the Traffic Impact Assessment had been completed.

MILLENNIUM MEMENTO

With reference to the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 26 January 2000, a report was submitted by the Chief Executive on the reasons for the lack of progress in implementing a decision by Council to issue Millennium Medals to all West Dunbartonshire schoolchildren.

Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Trainer, moved that the Council agree:-

- (a) to note the apology by the Chief Executive for the failure to carry out the Council decision;
- (b) to award the winner of the Art Competition for the Millennium Logo art shop vouchers to the value of £50.00; and

- (c) to present each school in West Dunbartonshire with a Community Cup which could be presented to an individual, group or class within each school.

As an amendment, Councillor McElhill, seconded by Councillor McCutcheon, moved that the Council:-

- (a) note the Chief Executive's apology for the failure to carry out the Council's decision; and
- (b) award the winner of the Art Competition for the Millennium Logo art shop vouchers to the value of £50.00.

On a vote being taken, 3 Members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT FUND - ROUND 4 (2002 - 2003)

A report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services seeking delegated authority to finalise and submit the Council's Public Transport Fund Bid for 2002 - 2003 by 6 August 2001.

The Council agreed to delegate authority to the Director of Commercial and Technical Services and the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services, Scottish Enterprise Dunbartonshire and Town Centres Initiatives Ltd., to finalise and submit the Public Transport Fund Bid for 2002 - 2003 as outlined in the report.

CHILDCARE CHARGES - OUT OF SCHOOL CARE CHARGES

With reference to the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 25 April 2001, the Portfolio Holder for Education and Cultural Services reported on the up-to-date position regarding the representations made to the Scottish Executive on behalf of those people falling into categories which did not qualify for assistance with childcare costs.

The Council:-

- (a) noted that representation had been made to the Scottish Executive; and
- (b) agreed that the Scottish Executive be pressed for a response and that a copy of said response be sent to all Members.

MANDATORY AND DISCRETIONARY RELIEF OF RATES FOR CHARITABLE ORGANISATIONS, NON PROFIT MAKING ORGANISATIONS AND SPORTS CLUBS

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services proposing a review of the Council's policy for discretionary relief of rates for premises occupied by charitable organisations, non profit making organisations and sports clubs.

DECLARATIONS OF NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST

Provost Macdonald and Councillors Trainer and Collins declared a non-pecuniary interest in this item of business.

Councillor Devine, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council agree:-

- (a) to instruct the Director of Corporate Services to review the present policy of discretionary rates relief and report back to Council accordingly;
- (b) to delegate authority to the Director of Corporate Services to agree the award of 100% rates relief to organisations which satisfy the Council's policy;
- (c) that organisations such as Credit Unions, Citizens' Advice Bureaux, Community Councils and premises used for Councillors surgeries should now be eligible for rates relief and that any elected member who considered that other organisations/groups should be treated similarly should supply the Director of Corporate Services with the necessary details to enable him to submit a report to a future meeting of Council for consideration; and
- (d) to instruct the Director of Corporate Services to submit an annual report on all such discretionary relief awarded to the Executive by no later than 30 June in the following financial year.

As an amendment, Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that the Director of Corporate Services prepare a draft policy based upon his report including all the groups mentioned under paragraph 3.5 of the report and that the draft policy be submitted to a future meeting of Council for its consideration.

On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 14 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

SCOTTISH STEERING COMMITTEE OF NUCLEAR FREE LOCAL AUTHORITIES (NFLA) (SCOTLAND) AFFILIATION FEE

A report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services advising of the 2001/2002 affiliation fee sought by the Scottish Steering Committee of NFLA (Scotland).

Provost Macdonald, seconded by Councillor White, moved that the Council agree to authorise payment of the 2001/2002 NFLA (Scotland) Affiliation fee in the sum of £1,038.00.

As an amendment, Councillor McCutcheon, seconded by Councillor Robertson, moved that the Council agree to authorise the payment to NFLA (Scotland) whilst noting that although

New Labour supported a nuclear free policy locally, nationally that party was pursuing a policy which retained nuclear weapons and proposed to establish new nuclear power plants.

On a vote being taken, 6 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

CLYDEBANK ASBESTOS GROUP - CAMPAIGN EXPENSES

With reference to the meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 28 March 2001, a report was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services proposing that the Council meets certain costs incurred by Clydebank Asbestos Group in their campaign for compensation for the victims of asbestos following the collapse of Chester Street Insurance Holdings.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) that the expenses submitted by Clydebank Asbestos Group in the sum of £2,504.86 be met by the Council subject to the Head of Finance being satisfied as to the expenses incurred;
- (b) to note that the COSLA Group had met in connection with this matter and that a report would be submitted to Council advising of the outcome in course; and
- (c) to express its congratulations to the Clydebank Asbestos Group for its marvellous efforts which had resulted in securing compensation for the victims of asbestos.

JUSTICES OF THE PEACE ANNUAL JOINT TRAINING SEMINAR 27 OCTOBER 2001

A report was submitted by the Clerk to the District Court proposing that the Council hosts the Justices of the Peace Annual Joint Training Seminar on Saturday 27 October 2001 and suggesting that the necessary arrangements be made to progress the event.

The Council agreed:-

- (a) to host the Justices of the Peace Annual Joint Training Seminar on 27 October 2001; and
- (b) to authorise the Clerk to the District Court to make the necessary arrangements to progress the event.

FRIENDS OF THE EARTH SCOTLAND - THE ACCESS ALL AREAS CONFERENCE - 27 OCTOBER 2001

A letter was submitted from Friends of the Earth Scotland inviting the Council to sponsor 'The Access All Areas Conference' to be held in Glasgow on Saturday 27 October 2001.

The Council agreed to support the Friends of the Earth Scotland conference by sending a donation of £100.

WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL - RESOLUTION REGARDING DECLINE IN FINANCIAL RESOURCES TO FUND MAINTENANCE OF ROADS, FOOTPATHS AND LIGHTING

A resolution received from West Lothian Council in the following terms was submitted:-

West Lothian Council expresses its serious concerns with regard to the poor condition of local roads, footpaths and street lighting and the inadequate financial resources available to tackle these vital matters.

West Lothian has an identified backlog of necessary roads, footpaths and street lighting capital works totalling approximately £28.4 m and an annual maintenance requirement for such works of £7 m.

The Council notes that this Council's capital provision (2000/2001) for roads, street lighting and footpaths was £2.35 m.

The Council further notes:-

The Westminster Government's assertion in "Transport 2010: The Ten Year Plan" that "as a result of past under-investment, local roads are in their worst condition for 30 years, with consequences for traffic flow and safety."

And the Westminster Government's commitment for England and Wales to "halt the deterioration in local road conditions by 2004 and eliminate the backlog by the end of the plan period."

The Council asserts that substantial additional resources are now required to halt the deterioration of our local roads, footpaths and street lighting and agrees to write to the Scottish Executive strongly expressing -

The need for an immediate injection of additional financial resources to halt the decline in maintenance of roads, footpaths and lighting, and the requirement for further resources to be made available to eliminate the identified backlog of necessary roads, footpaths and street lighting works over an agreed period.

It was also agreed that this motion be circulated to all Scottish Councils seeking their support for the provision of additional resources for roads, footpaths and street lighting works.

The Council agreed to support the terms of the motion from West Lothian Council and instructed the Director of Corporate Services to write to the Scottish Executive to make representation for the provision of additional resources for roads, footpaths and street lighting works.

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL - RESOLUTION REGARDING

SUPPORT FOR THE TERRITORIAL ARMY AND HIGHLAND RESERVE FORCES AND CADETS ASSOCIATION

A resolution received from Perth and Kinross Council in the following terms was submitted:-

- (i) Being mindful of the need to continually improve military capability, the Council deeply regrets the disproportionate cuts made to the Territorial Army in the Highlands which have already diminished the military support available in times of civil emergency.
- (ii) the Council express its concern that the relocation to Edinburgh of the last senior headquarters of the Territorial Army in the Highlands, at St. Leonard's Bank in Perth, would (1) undermine sympathy and support at local political and community, inevitably degrading military linkage - already dangerously thin - within the civilian community in the Highlands, and (2) have a serious and adverse impact on the longer term well-being of the Army at all levels, Regular, Territorial and Cadets.
- (iii) Noting that a letter had been sent to Dr. Lewis Moonie, Defence Under Secretary of State, by the Provost on this issue, the Council agreed that a further letter be sent expressing, on a cross party basis, the Council's views on the retention of the headquarters in Perth and that a letter be also sent to other local authorities seeking their support.

Following consideration, the Council noted that it had already expressed a view on this issue at its meeting on 25 April 2001 and accordingly agreed to note the letter from Perth and Kinross Council.

RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL - CAMPAIGN TO ALLOW RETENTION OF HOUSING CAPITAL RECEIPTS BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES

A letter was submitted from Renfrewshire Council seeking the Council's support for COSLA to co-ordinate a campaign to allow all housing capital receipts to be retained by local authorities so that the necessary investment in council housing could be undertaken.

The Council agreed to support the terms of Renfrewshire Council's letter and instructed the Director of Corporate Services to write to Renfrewshire Council and COSLA accordingly.

NOTICE OF MOTION

A motion received from Councillor Calvert in the following terms was submitted:-

This Council congratulates John McFall MP and Tony Worthington MP on their successes in being re-elected at the General Election held on 7 June 2001. The substantial majorities which both MP's achieved reaffirm the electorate's support for Labour policies.

This Council will continue to work closely with our MP's to deliver the quality of front-line services which the community has voted for overwhelmingly."

Councillor Calvert was heard in support of his motion and was seconded by Councillor McCafferty.

As an amendment, Councillor McGregor, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that:-

West Dunbartonshire Council congratulates John McFall and Tony Worthington on their election to serve the people of West Dunbartonshire in the UK Parliament and would request that:-

both MP's join up with the growing number of Labour members who are ferocious in their criticism of the New Labour Government's preference for Private Finance Initiatives or Public/Private Partnerships especially when they restructure local government.

they allay the fears of the public services unions who are definitely against such a move and that they will be making their views known to the Prime Minister that they will not support such a move.

Councillor McLaughlin, in terms of Standing Order 18(h), moved for closure of the debate and the Council unanimously agreed.

On a vote being taken, 7 Members voted for the amendment and 13 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

VALE OF LEVEN HOSPITAL MATERNITY SERVICES

As an emergency item, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved:-

That this Council agrees that if the Maternity Review recommendations are accepted it would mean that no births would take place at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

The Review Group recommends the creation of Maternity Care Centres at Paisley and the Vale of Leven which effectively only offers basic maternity services such as post and pre-natal clinics and advice etc. which means the birth and baby care unit will be based in Paisley. It is felt by the public that this is a downgrading of services and in order to protect these services the Council agree the following:-

To call upon the Health Minister, Susan Deacon, the MP's, MSP's and all elected Members of West Dunbartonshire to unite together to protect the maternity provision currently enjoyed at Vale of Leven Hospital and to call upon the Argyll and Clyde Health Trust not to implement the recommendations but to maintain and enhance the services currently there.

As an amendment, Councillor Trainer, seconded by Councillor White, moved that this Council:-

Notes that the Maternity Services Review Steering Group has recommended that its preferred option, on the grounds of service delivery, quality and cost is a Specialist Unit at Royal Alexandra Hospital with maternity care at the existing District General Hospitals - Vale of Leven and Inverclyde Royal.

This would effectively reduce maternity provision at the Vale of Leven Hospital to such an extent that planned births would take place at the Royal Alexandra Hospital. This is not acceptable to the Council or to the people of West Dunbartonshire.

Whilst noting that this recommendation is one of four options and that Argyll and Clyde Health Board has still to take a view on the matter, the Council resolves to oppose the end of full maternity services at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

The Council calls on Argyll and Clyde Health Board to reject this proposal and retain a full maternity service at the Vale of Leven.

Further, the Council resolves to unite with the MP's and MSP's for the area (John McFall, Tony Worthington, Jackie Baillie and Des McNulty) and Trades Unions to protect the maternity provision currently enjoyed at the Vale of Leven Hospital.

Councillor McLaughlin, with the consent of his seconder, agreed to accept the terms of the amendment and the Council resolved accordingly.

The meeting concluded at 10.30 p.m.