

## WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held within the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Municipal Buildings, Dumbarton Road, Clydebank on Wednesday, 26th November 1997.

**Present:** Provost Patrick O'Neill (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Alistair Macdonald (LAB), James Doherty (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), George Cairney (LAB), John McCutcheon (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Duncan Mills (LAB), Craig McLaughlin (SNP), Ronald McColl (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and James Chirrey (SNP).

**Attending:** Michael Watters, Chief Executive, Ian Leitch, Depute Chief Executive & Solicitor to the Council, Eric Walker, Director of Finance, Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Leisure Services, Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing, Ian Fernie, Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services, Allan Findlay, Director of Contract Services, Patrick Cleary, Director of Roads and Technical Services, John Bak, Head of Personnel and Training, Mary Cullen, Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations and Angela Clements, Head of Information Services.

### **Provost Patrick O'Neill in the Chair**

### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 29th October 1997 were submitted for approval.. Having heard Councillor Mackechnie, it was agreed to amend the Minute (**Volume page 2713, para (c) (iii)**) to read as follows:

“...for those residents of West Dunbartonshire Council who have paid their Council tax in full...”

Subject to this amendment, the minute was approved on the motion of Provost O'Neill, seconded by Councillor White.

### **MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES**

#### **Finance Committee**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 12th November 1997 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Cairney, seconded by Councillor White.

#### **Policy and Resources Committee**

There were submitted Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 12th November 1997. Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, moved approval of the Minute.

As an amendment, in relation to Urban Programme Monitoring (**Volume page 2780**), Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor Wailes, moved that the proposed West Dunbartonshire Activity Centre sub-committee be not set up. On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion, which accordingly carried.

### **Committee Minutes submitted for information**

The following Committee Minutes were submitted for information:-

**Planning and Economic Development Committee:** 29th October 1997

**Education Committee:** 29th October 1997

With reference to the item on the Education Department Revenue Budget 1997/98 (**Volume page 2747 refers**), Councillor McColl having requested clarification of certain staffing matters, it was noted that Councillor McCafferty as Convener of the Education Committee would revert to Councillor McColl once he had had the opportunity of discussing the issue with the appropriate officers.

**Appeals Committee:** 30th October 1997 (reconvened from 16th October 1997) and

6th November 1997 (reconvened from 4th September 1997)

**Tendering Committee:** 12th November 1997

**Information Services Committee:** 12th November 1997

### **MATTERS OUTWITH DELEGATED POWERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL**

It was noted that meetings of the Housing and Social Work Committees had taken place earlier that day, that the Minutes were not due to come before Council until its December meeting and that one item had arisen at each Committee which was outwith that Committee's delegated powers but required approval as a matter of urgency. The items were as follows:-

**(a) Housing Committee: 26th November 1997: HRA Housing Revenue Programme 1997/98**

There was tabled and approved on the motion of Councillor Flynn, excerpt minute of the Housing Committee in relation to the HRA Housing Revenue Programme 1997-98, which excerpt forms Appendix I to this Minute.

**(b) Social Work Committee - 26th November 1997  
Andrew McIntyre Trust: Disbursement of monies to the Auchentoshan Resource Centre**

There was tabled and approved on the motion of Councillor Mills, excerpt minute from the meeting of the Social Work Committee of 26th November 1997, which excerpt forms Appendix II to this Minute.

## **CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1992 - LICENSING OF LATE HOURS CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29th October 1997 relative to the licensing of late hours catering establishments, (**Volume page 2716 refers**), Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved the Suspension of Standing Orders to permit the item to be reconsidered. On a vote being taken, 8 Members voted for the Motion and 13 against. The Motion, having failed to secure the required two-thirds majority, accordingly fell.

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning and Economic Development Committee held on 29th October 1997 (**Volume pages 2727/2728 refer**), Councillor McCutcheon, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved the following Notice of Motion:-

"In view of the unacceptable unemployment figures for West Dunbartonshire it is proposed that West Dunbartonshire Council sets up a working group (4 Labour, 2 SNP) with the remit to develop a campaign and to organise appropriate action on this issue.

It is also proposed that West Dunbartonshire Council organises a seminar on unemployment to which Dunbartonshire Enterprise, Locate in Scotland, a Scottish Office Minister, local businesses and the local community will be invited."

As an amendment, Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor White, moved as follows:

"That this Council cognisant of worsening unemployment statistics proposes a Forum be initiated with a view to examining all means of redressing this situation.

The Forum to be organised through the auspices of West Dunbartonshire Council and to consist of representatives from agencies across the public and private spectrum who are recognised as having a remit of a contributory nature on this subject, together with officials and elected members of this authority. Additionally, it is proposed the Forum be extended to invite Parliamentary and European Representation, if available.

The purpose of the Forum will be - To examine what measures individually and collectively we can adapt which are designed to create jobs of a meaningful nature throughout West Dunbartonshire whilst at the same time protecting where possible existing employment.

Those measures to contain within broad guidelines the preparation of a case for maximising central government aid for economic development including -

- a. The awarding of full Assisted Area status to Dumbarton and the Vale of Leven in line with incentives available to Clydebank.
- b. Consideration also to the designation of an Enterprise Zone with a view to encouraging employment and inward investments.

- c. Bringing forward proposals and securing adequate funding for the development and promotion of strategic economic development locations.
- d. Identifying what more can be done to raise skill levels through learning and training initiatives including the use of European Social Fund monies.

On completion of its deliberations, the Forum should pass its findings and action plan for consideration, with presentations being made where appropriate to National Economic Development bodies (e.g. Locate in Scotland) and a meeting also be sought at Ministerial level.

It is important to ensure we do not perpetuate yet another partnership body in parallel to existing arrangements - particularly that of West Dunbartonshire Partnership. Accordingly a short set life span should be envisaged with regard to these proposals."

On a vote being taken, 13 Members voted for the Amendment and 8 for the Motion. The Amendment was accordingly carried.

#### **WEST DUMBARTON ACTIVITY CENTRE**

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 29th October 1997 (**Volume page 2714 refers**) there was submitted report by the Chief Executive on West Dumbarton Activity Centre. After full discussion, the Council, on the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, thanked the Chief Executive for his report, agreed to note the report and referred it to the Sub-Committee on the West Dunbartonshire Activity Centre.

#### **CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 AND PUBLIC ORDER ACT 1986 PUBLIC PROCESSIONS**

There was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council on a request to amend the conditions under which public parades/processions can take place within West Dunbartonshire. After discussion, and having heard Councillor McCallum, the Council unanimously agreed to amend the conditions attached to public processions so that no bands accompanying such processions shall play before 9 a.m. nor after 9 p.m.

#### **ACCOMMODATION CHARGES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES**

There was submitted and approved report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council recommending an increase in the accommodation charges for civil marriages in the three Area Registration Offices from £39 to £45 with effect from 1st April 1998.

#### **DISPUTE IN LIBRARY SERVICE**

There was submitted report by the Director of Education and Leisure Services on discussions held between UNISON and management on the current dispute within the Library Service. After discussion, the Council thanked the officers and the Trades Unions for the effort which they had invested in finding a solution to the dispute and, on the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, unanimously approved the recommendations contained within the report as follows:-

- (a) that approval be given to allow management to enter into a local agreement with UNISON to resolve the current library dispute by the payment of 3% capped at the level of the top point of GS 1/2 in recompense for the requirement to work from 5.00 p.m. to 8.00 p.m. one evening per week;
- (b) that the funding for such an award be from within existing budgets; and
- (c) that implementation be from 3rd November 1997.

#### **CODE OF CONDUCT FOR THE GUIDANCE OF MEMEBERS CONSIDERING PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services proposing the adoption of a Code of Conduct for elected members in relation to the development control process and the difficulties arising from being lobbied by applicants or objectors.

On the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor White, the Council unanimously agreed to continue this item to the next meeting of Council to allow further time for consultation with the officers.

#### **WELFARE TO WORK - THE NEW DEAL**

There was submitted report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services advising on progress in respect of implementation of the New Deal within West Dunbartonshire. The Council noted an amendment to the report - namely the substitution of "80" for "18" in paragraph 3.5 thereof - and, on the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Whiten unanimously approved the recommendations as contained in the report as follows:-

- (a) formally to agree to participate in the delivery of the New Deal according to the general requirements set out in the report;
- (b) to homologate officers' actions in submitting appropriate European Social Fund applications;
- (c) to instruct officers to continue to participate in the Dunbartonshire New Deal Steering Group and in appropriate sub-groups; and

- (d) to await further reports advising of developments in respect of the New Deal and setting out any resource implications for the Council prior to any financial commitment being undertaken.

The Council further agreed that it would also be helpful to invite the Employment Services to prepare and deliver a briefing for elected Members on Welfare to Work.

### **FAIFLEY CENTRE FOR COMMUNITY REGENERATION**

There was submitted progress report by the Director of Economic; Planning and Environmental Services on the conversion of the redundant Faifley Primary School. After discussion, the Council approved the recommendations contained within the report, as follows:-

- (a) to proceed with phase 1 of the Faifley Centre for Community Regeneration forthwith, permitting significant capital expenditure before the end of financial year 1997/98 while instructing officers to proceed to clarify revenue issues as soon as possible; and
- (b) that any revenue costs which are not met by a contribution from the West Dunbartonshire Partnership would require to be found from the Council's mainline revenue budget in 1997/98.

### **C.C.T.V. CHALLENGE FUNDING**

There was submitted report by the Head of Corporate Policy and Public Relations on CCTV Challenge Funding. The Council noted that the locations identified for CCTV challenge funding next year were Dumbarton Town Centre; Ladyton School, Bonhill, Dalmuir multi-storey flats, Clydebank Central Area and Clydebank East End multi-storey flats and that the scheme would be monitored live at Clydebank Police Office. It was further noted that the fee for the considerable preparatory work carried out on the bid by Clydebank CCTV Trust would be £7,500, which would be included therein, but that should the bid prove unsuccessful, the Trust would seek a fee of £2,500 from the Council.

After discussion, on the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Doherty, the Council approved the recommendations contained within the report, namely that £117,250 be allocated from 1998/99 capital programme and that a payment of £2,500 be made to Clydebank CCTV Trust should the funding bid be unsuccessful.

### **NOMINATIONS**

#### **(a) Lomond and Clyde Festival Association**

The Council noted that, following the resignation of Councillor Flynn, there was a vacancy on the Festival Association Committee.

Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that Councillor Campbell be nominated to serve on the Committee.

As an Amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved as follows:-

"That no action is taken at this time with regards to this nomination, and that the Council withdraws all funding and support for the Lomond and Clyde Festival Association until all office bearers and members involved up to October 30th 1997 resign.

Furthermore, this Council will undertake to set up a working group comprising of 4 Labour and 2 SNP plus appropriate officers to investigate ways to secure a future for the Lomond and Clyde Festival, including making it a truly Council-wide event."

After discussion, the Council agreed to adjourn for ten minutes to allow Councillors White and Mackechnie to discuss the content of a letter from the Secretary of the Festival Association to which Councillor McColl had made reference.

The meeting reconvened at 8.40 p.m. On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, the Council then agreed to adjourn for a further fifteen minutes to permit the matter to be discussed by the political groups.

The meeting reconvened at 8.55 p.m.

Having heard Councillor White, the Council, in terms of Standing Order 20, consented to the Motion being withdrawn. The Amendment accordingly became the Motion.

As an Amendment to that Motion, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Devine, moved as follows:-

"This Council views with great concern the admission now made by the Secretary of the Lomond and Clyde Festival Association that information in the annual accounts is false with respect to security arrangements.

The production of information, knowing this to be false is wholly unacceptable.

This Council will consider its future role after a full briefing from officers at the next Council meeting."

On a vote being taken, 13 Members voted for the Amendment and 8 for the Motion. The Amendment was accordingly carried.

**(b) Argyll and Clyde Health Board Area Joint Member Group**

On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, the Council agreed to change the Council's member representation on the above Group to comprise Councillor

Flynn as Convener of the Housing Committee and Councillor Mills as Convener of the Social Work Committee.

### **ELECTED MEMBERS' PFI BRIEFING**

There were submitted details of a half day PFI briefing organised by COSLA for elected members to be held on Wednesday 3rd December 1997 at Rosebery House, Edinburgh. It was agreed that Councillor McCafferty or substitute attend at a cost of £55 plus VAT per delegate.

### **BEST VALUE REGIME (BVR)**

On the motion of Councillor White, it was agreed that the Member/Officer working group on BVR comprise 4 elected members, being 3 Labour and 1 SNP. The Council noted that Councillors White, Cairney and McCallum would be the Labour representatives and Councillor Mackechnie the SNP representative.



**EXCERPT MINUTE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MEETING OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL OF 26TH NOVEMBER, 1997.**

**HOUSING COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Housing Committee held within the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 26th November, 1997.

**Present:** Councillors James Flynn (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Craig McLaughlin (SNP) and Margaret McGregor (SNP).

**Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Tim Rhead, Housing Strategy Manager; Cy Neil, Housing Manager (Dumbarton & Vale of Leven); Willie Croft, Housing Manager (Clydebank); Joe Reilly, Finance and Administrative Officer; Stephen Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services; and Alan Summers, Manager of Construction Operations.

**Apology for Absence:** An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor Duncan Mills (LAB).

**Councillor James Flynn in the Chair**

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**EXCERPT MINUTE**

**HRA CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997/98 - NOVEMBER UPDATE**

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Social Work and Housing:-

- (a) updating Members on the 1997/98 Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme; and
- (b) making recommendations in respect of amendments to the Capital Programme to maximise expenditure in light of additional resource availability and slippage on certain projects.

Having heard the Director of Social Work and Housing in answers to Members' questions and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the additional allocation for energy efficiency be used to provide additional energy efficiency work to existing contractors or to other contractors who are Members of the West Dunbartonshire Council Housing Energy Conservation Act Partnership, and to

authorise the Director of Social Work and Housing to progress work under this budget in line with Scottish Office parameters advised in the letter of consent,

- (2) that the Clydebank roof/render budget be increased by £300,000 to £1.555 million;
- (3) that the Dumbarton/Alexandria void house/miscellaneous capital projects budget be increased by a further £200,000 to £800,000,
- (4) that the John Knox Street Project be progressed under the Clydebank void house/miscellaneous capital projects budget at a cost of £250,000;
- (5) that the Dumbarton/Alexandria central heating budget be increased by £200,000 to commence replacement of partial central heating. Furthermore this budget be targeted to new Bonhill until a policy for a further programme is approved by the Committee;
- (6) that the Clydebank central heating budget be increased by £400,000;
- (7) that the Dumbarton/Alexandria window replacement budget be increased by £200,000 to £1.3 million;
- (8) that the Clydebank window replacement budget be increased by £100,000 to £350,000;
- (9) that the Dumbarton/Alexandria special needs budget (Aids and Adaptations) be increased by £130,000 to £330,000;
- (10) that the electrical upgrading budget be increased by £100,000 to £250,000;
- (11) that the budget for committed expenditure carried forward from 1996/97 be increased by £240,000; and
- (12) that a Report apprising Members of the up-to-date position of projects contained within the 1997/98 Capital Programme and making recommendations in respect of the 1998/99 Capital Programme, be submitted to the next Meeting of the Committee.

It was noted that the decisions contained in paragraphs (1) to (11) above required to be remitted to Council for ratification, as they were outwith the delegated powers of this Committee.

**EXCERPT MINUTE FOR SUBMISSION TO THE MEETING OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL ON 26TH NOVEMBER, 1997.**

**SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE**

At a Meeting of the Social Work Committee held within the Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday 26th November, 1997.

**Present:** Councillors Duncan Mills (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), John Wailes (SNP), William Mackechnie (SNP), Margaret McGregor (SNP), James Flynn (LAB) and James Chirrey (SNP).

**Attending:** Tim Huntingford, Director of Social Work and Housing; Iain M. Murray, Resources Manager; Anne Ritchie, Operational Services Manager; William Clark, Planning, and Development Manager; Stephen Brown, Manager Legal and Administrative Services; and Colin Meehan, Assistant Principal Officer.

**Councillor Duncan Mills in the Chair**

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**EXCERPT MINUTE**

**ANDREW McINTYRE TRUST**

There was submitted a Report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council concerning the proposed disbursement of the remaining funds held by the Andrew McIntyre Trust to the Auchentoshan Resource Centre.

Having, heard Mr. Brown, Manager - Legal and Administrative Services, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) that the remaining monies contained within the Trust be gifted to the Auchentoshan Resource Centre for the purposes of purchasing sensory equipment to create a new resource, and
- (2) on completion of the sensory area, a formal presentation should be arranged involving Mrs. McIntyre, and a commemorative plaque erected in the Centre in memory of Andrew.

It was noted that the above decision required to be remitted to Council for ratification, as it was outwith the delegated powers of this Committee.