

VALE OF LEVEN AREA COMMITTEE

At the meeting of the Vale of Leven Area Committee held in the Main Hall, Christie Park Primary School, Middleton Street, Alexandria on Tuesday, 4 February 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors James Bollan, Geoffrey Calvert, Ronnie McColl, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin and Connie O'Sullivan*. James Elder-Woodward, John Kelly*, Fiona Malcolm, Martin Rooney and David Thompson.

*Arrived later in the meeting.

Attending: David McMillan, Director of Commercial and Technical Services; Linda Hall, Section Head (Tenancy Services), Stephen West, Section Head (Accounting and Budgeting); Tom Jackson, Community Planning Co-ordinator and George Hawthorn, Senior Administrative Officer.

Also

Attending: Inspector Harry Gould, Strathclyde Police.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Joe Callaghan.

Councillor Margaret McGregor in the Chair

CHAIR

The Committee noted that Council, at its meeting on 18 December 2002, had agreed to appoint Councillor Margaret McGregor as Chair of the Vale of Leven Area Committee.

Councillor McGregor (Chair) informed the Committee that Mr Callaghan was unable to attend this meeting due to serious illness and, on behalf of the Committee, wished him a speedy recovery to good health. It was agreed that the Clerk, on behalf of the Committee, would send a get-well card to Mr Callaghan.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of Meeting of the Vale of Leven Area Committee held on 3 December 2002 (adjourned to 11 December 2002) were submitted and approved as a correct record.

ENVIRONMENTAL GRANTS

A paper was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing information on applications received for environmental projects in the Vale of Leven area.

At this point, Mr West, Section Head (Accounting and Budgeting) informed the Committee that Council, at its meeting on 29 January 2003, had agreed that for the remainder of the current financial year only, the Area Committees be permitted to award more than one grant per organisation in order to spend the money before the end of the financial year.

On the motion of Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Bollan, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to make the undernoted awards from the Local Grants Budget:-

<u>Name of Organisation</u>	<u>Award</u>
Beechwood & Wheatcroft Residents Association	£1,000
Dumbarton and District Pipe Band	£1,000
Carman Social Inclusion Centre	£1,000
Renton Youth Action Group	£900

- (2) to authorise the Director of Corporate Services:-

- (a) to approve any further applications for grant received from the Beechwood & Wheatcroft Residents Association, up to a maximum of £2,166.63; and
- (b) to approve any further applications for grant received from Dumbarton and District Pipe Band, up to a maximum of £1383.37.

LOCAL GRANTS

A paper was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing information on applications received in respect of local grants.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to award the Vale of Leven Baptist Youth Club the sum of £1000.

VARIATION IN ORDER OF BUSINESS

Having heard the Chair, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business as hereinafter minuted.

COMMUNITY SAFETY IN THE ROSSHEAD AREA

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee on 3 December 2002, the Committee was invited to discuss possible solutions to the community safety problems that had been raised during the previous meeting.

The Chair informed the Committee that Inspector Gould was present and invited to him to speak to the Committee on the above issue. Inspector Gould outlined the various types of activity that Strathclyde Police was currently undertaking, in co-operation with the local community, to address the fear of crime and deal with criminal behaviour in Alexandria.

John Kelly and Councillor O'Sullivan entered the meeting during discussion on this item.

Following discussion and having heard Inspector Gould in answer to Members' questions, the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, thanked Inspector Gould for his attendance. Thereafter, it was agreed that Inspector Gould would be invited back to a future meeting of the Committee.

At this point Inspector Gould left the meeting.

OPEN FORUM

(A) WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

(i) Organisation of Area Committee Meeting on 3 December 2002

A copy of a letter received from the Rosshead Tenants & Residents Association expressing concerns on the organisation of the meeting of this Area Committee held on 3 December 2002, was submitted for consideration.

Having heard Councillor McGregor (Chair) and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note, that due to the size of the room, the Area Committee would not meet in the Alexandria Community Education Centre again;
- (b) that, in light of the volume of business, to recommend to Council that the Vale of Leven Area Committee be permitted to meet once a month; and
- (c) that an item on 'Future Agenda Items' be placed on the end of every Agenda to enable the Committee to consider and organise future agendas.

(ii) Public Toilets – Alexandria Town Centre

A copy of a letter from Mrs B. Carson, 20 Tontine Park, Renton was submitted for consideration, concerning the issue of access for wheelchair users to public toilets in Alexandria Town Centre.

Councillor Bollan, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved as follows:-

This Area Committee calls for a report with costs, from the Director of CATS regarding the establishment of new Public Toilets at the top of Bank Street in Alexandria. The site to be directly opposite the existing old and unsuitable Public Toilets. The proposed toilets should have full access for people with a disability. The report should include costs for the demolition of the existing Public Toilets and the approximate value of the capital receipt from the sale of the land. This report to be tabled for discussion at the next Area Committee meeting.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to approve the above motion, subject to the proviso that the Director, in preparing his report, would not be restricted to the proposed location of the new toilets as detailed above.

(B) VERBAL QUESTIONS/ISSUES

A member of the public requested the Committee to consider allowing the public to ask questions at every agenda item and not just during the Open Forum session.

Councillor McGregor advised that there was no provision for this in the Council's Standing Orders at present and pointed out that, if permission were to be granted, the Committee might not be able to give consideration to all of the items on the Agenda.

(C) CLOSING DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN MOTIONS/QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION AT NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the closing date for submission of written motions/questions for consideration at the next meeting of the Committee was Tuesday, 18 March 2003.

UPDATE ON RENTON COMMUNITY PLANNING PILOT

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee on 3 December 2002 (adjourned to 11 December 2002), a report was re-submitted by the Community Planning Co-ordinator providing information on the Community Planning Pilot in Renton and advising of progress to date.

Having heard Mr Jackson, Community Planning Co-ordinator give the Committee an update on the pilot project and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the progress made to date.

ACCESS TO PREMISES

With reference to the recommendation of this Committee on 6 August 2002, the Committee was advised that Council had agreed that the undernoted recommendation of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee (CDCC) be referred back to this Committee to allow Members to consider whether they wished to enter into an agreement with the Social Inclusion Partnership in relation to shared premises.

Recommendation to the CDCC:-

- “(c) that the Council, in conjunction with the Social Inclusion Partnership and the Vale of Leven Area Committee, investigate possible premises for use by Vale of Leven Area Committee Community Representatives and that the matter be otherwise continued in relation to the other three Area Committees.”

Councillor Bollan, seconded by Mrs Malcolm, moved that the Committee should recommend that Council should pursue the issue of shared premises with the Social Inclusion Partnership.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, moved that Council should investigate the possibility of entering into an agreement with the Social Inclusion Partnership in relation to shared premises and report back to the Area Committee detailing all costs involved, prior to any final decision being made on the matter.

On a vote being taken, four Members voted for the amendment and three for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

PLAY AREAS/AMENITIES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee on 1 October 2002:-

- (a) a report was re-submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services providing background information on the provision of play equipment in the Vale of Leven area; and
- (b) a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services advising of the current position of the play area development at Levenbank Terrace.

Having heard Councillor McGregor (Chair), the Committee agreed to note the contents of the reports and continue consideration of the issue until Mr Callaghan was well enough to participate.

LOCAL AUTHORITY HOUSING ISSUES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee on 3 December 2002, the Committee discussed possible solutions to the various housing issues which had been highlighted during the previous meeting.

Having heard Councillor McGregor (Chair), the Committee agreed to continue consideration of this issue until Mr Callaghan was well enough to participate.

.

DAMP HOUSING IN ROSSHEAD

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of this Committee on 3 December 2002, an excerpt minute from the meeting of the Housing Issues Working Group on 16 January 2003 concerning the issue of damp housing in Rosshead, was submitted for information.

The Committee noted that the Working Group had agreed:-

- (a) to request officers to compile a dampness register to include all properties with a history of dampness;
- (b) that within the register, all properties be categorised by type of dampness and a record kept of the course of action taken to remedy problem;
- (c) that officers should examine the feasibility of using capital resources to fund dampness repairs;
- (d) that officers report back to the next meeting with progress on the compilation of the Register; and
- (e) that the Vale of Leven Area Committee be informed of the Working Group's decision.

Following discussion and having heard Councillor McLaughlin in further explanation, the Committee agreed to support the decisions of the Housing Issues Working Group as detailed above.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS

(A) VALE OF LEVEN ACADEMY REBUILD

There was submitted a motion received from Mr Martin Rooney in the following terms:-

The Vale of Leven Area Committee calls on the Director of Education to bring forward a report on the rebuilding of the Vale of Leven Academy, after the recent fire and to include what improvements on the previous facilities are intended as part of the rebuilding. The report should also include the potential timescale of the rebuild and the expected involvement of staff and pupils.

At this point Councillor McGregor provided the Committee with a verbal update on the rebuilding of the Vale of Leven Academy and informed the Committee that a copy of report would be issued to all Members of the Committee for information.

The Committee agreed to note the verbal update.

(B) VALE OF LEVEN ACADEMY ACHIEVEMENTS

There was submitted a motion received from Mr Martin Rooney in the following terms:-

The Vale of Leven Area Committee congratulates all the hard work of staff and pupils over recent weeks and months. The Area Committee also recognises the continued improvement in school morale as evidenced by the increased involvement in extra curricula activities. We further congratulate both staff and pupils on their continuing improvement in examination and attainment levels. In addition, the Area Committee is delighted to note that the Vale of Leven Academy currently offers the highest number of subjects at Advanced Highers than any other school in West Dunbartonshire.

Having heard Councillor McGregor (Chair), the Committee unanimously agreed to approve the above motion.

(C) LOMOND SHORES

There was submitted a motion received from Mr Martin Rooney in the following terms:-

The Vale of Leven Area Committee calls on the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to provide a report on the Lomond Shores Development. In particular the report should identify the total percentage of personnel with postcodes in West Dunbartonshire that are employed by Lomond Shores. In addition the report should highlight the ways in which the Council is able to encourage and assist further economic development in partnership with Lomond Shores.

Mr Rooney moved and was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan.

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

That the Committee notes the positive and ongoing effect that the Lomond Shores Development is having on employment and the economic viability of the area.

This Committee invites Mr Damon Scott, Communications Manager of Lomond Shores, to the next meeting of this Committee to update Members on the future development plans for the site.

At this point Mr Rooney, with the consent of the Committee, withdrew his motion. There being no other motions/amendments, Councillor McColl's motion was approved.

(D) TRANSPORT LINKS

There was submitted a motion received from Mr Martin Rooney in the following terms:-

The Vale of Leven Area Committee calls on the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to provide a report on the transport links between Clydebank and the Vale of Leven. The report should identify the contingencies in the event that the A82 is unusable.

Mr Rooney moved and was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan.

At this point the Director of Commercial and Technical Services informed the Committee that there were alternative routes for road traffic if the A82 were to be blocked due to an accident or congestion. He also informed the Committee that as the A82 was a trunk road, the Scottish Executive was responsible for its maintenance etc.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Mrs Malcolm, having agreed to accept an addendum proposed by Councillor Bollan (second paragraph of motion), moved that:-

The Committee should note the motion.

That a letter be sent to the Scottish Executive (1) highlighting the concerns expressed by the Committee on the transportation of emergency patients to and from the Vale of Leven Hospital in the event of a blockage on the A82 and (2) requesting that consideration should be given to the identification of resources to provide a suitable alternative route.

On a vote being taken, six members voted for the amendment and one for the motion. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

SUPERMARKET DEVELOPMENTS IN VALE OF LEVEN AREA – CONSULTATION

It was noted that Mr Joe Callaghan had requested that the Area Committee discuss the issue of public consultation on the proposed supermarket developments in the Vale of Leven area.

Following discussion, Mrs Malcolm, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved that the matter be continued to a future meeting.

As an amendment, Councillor Calvert, seconded by Councillor O'Sullivan, moved that the issue be continued and, prior to consideration of this matter, a paper detailing the rules of public consultation on planning matters be issued to community representatives.

On a vote being taken, no Members voted for amendment and six for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO- ORDINATING COMMITTEE HELD ON 9 DECEMBER 2002

The Minutes of Meeting of the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee held on 9 December 2002 were submitted and noted.

AREA COMMITTEE TRAINING – AWARDING LOCAL GRANTS

A report was submitted by the Chief Executive providing feedback on the recent training carried out on awarding local grants.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note the contents of the report; and
- (b) to note that a further report would be made to the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee to request decisions on the ideas raised by Area Committees for future training. It was noted that the report would also consider how to improve the uptake of training by members of the committees.

AREA COMMITTEES – BUDGET CONSULTATION 2003-2004 – LOCAL PRIORITIES FOR SPENDING

The Committee noted the following update in respect of the Budget Consultation 2003/2004:-

At the last round of meetings of the Area Committees, Community Representatives were asked to outline priorities for local spending. Three Community Representatives responded to this request, all from Dumbarton Area Committee. Their responses have been sent to all Councillors for consideration when setting the budget. The four Directors who are assigned to Area Committees have been sent copies of the responses, with issues relevant to their Departments highlighted. The Local Authority Police Liaison Officer has also received a copy of the points raised on community safety and policing.

DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would be held in Christie Park Primary School, Middleton Street, Alexandria on Tuesday, 1 April 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

The meeting closed at 9.25 p.m.

OPEN FORUM

(A) WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

(i) Organisation of Area Committee Meeting on 3 December 2002

A copy of a letter received from the Rosshead Tenants & Residents Association expressing concerns on the organisation of the meeting of this Area Committee held on 3 December 2002, was submitted for consideration.

Having heard Councillor McGregor (Chair) and following discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to note, that due to the size of the room, the Area Committee would not meet in the Alexandria Community Education Centre again;
- (b) that, in light of the volume of business, to recommend to Council that the Vale of Leven Area Committee be permitted to meet once a month; and
- (c) that an item on 'Future Agenda Items' be placed on the end of every Agenda to enable the Committee to consider and organise future agendas.