

DUMBARTON AREA COMMITTEE

At a Meeting of Dumbarton Area Committee held within Committee Room 2, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 5 February 2003 at 7.00 p.m.

Present: Councillors Geoffrey Calvert, James McCallum, Linda McColl, John McCutcheon and Iain Robertson. Jack Duffy, Alistair Tuach, Harry Johnston, Hugh O'Donnell, Robert Simpson, Neil McFadyen and Martin Hollern.

Attending: Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services and Lorraine Beveridge, Administrative Assistant, Legal and Administrative Services.

Councillor John McCutcheon in the Chair

URGENT ITEM

Before commencing with the business of the meeting and after hearing the Chair, the Committee agreed to accept an emergency item on a proposed extension of agreement concerning 2.24 acres or thereby of ground adjacent to Sandpoint Marina, Woodyard Road, Dumbarton to be taken at the end of the meeting.

Thereafter, the business of the meeting was varied as hereinafter minuted.

RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR JOHN TRAINER

The Committee noted that Councillor John Trainer had resigned from membership of West Dunbartonshire Council on 31 January 2003 and that his position on Dumbarton Area Committee would remain vacant until the local elections were held in May 2003.

In this connection the Director of Corporate Services informed the Committee that due to Councillor Trainer's resignation the membership of the Committee was now 5 elected members and 3 community representatives with voting powers. Therefore, in accordance with Section 57(3) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, Dumbarton Area Committee could no longer operate with delegated powers and any future decisions made by this Committee would have to be submitted to Council for approval.

The Committee noted the position.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

On the motion of Councillor McCutcheon, seconded by Mr Duffy, the Minutes of Meeting of the Dumbarton Area Committee held on 4 December 2002 were submitted and approved as a correct record.

Thereafter, the Committee heard updates on the following issues:-

(a) Reallocation of Scottish Budget Resources

Mr Johnston referred to Environmental Grants awarded by the Area Committee to West Dunbartonshire Town Centres Initiative Limited and advised as follows:-

- (i) That Christmas lights had now been purchased to upgrade and improve the Christmas illuminations in Dumbarton.
- (ii) That after discussions with the Director of Commercial and Technical Services, the following town signage had been ordered which would bear the inscription 'Dumbarton Ancient Capital of Strathclyde':-
 - 1. A82 westbound between Dumbuck Quarry and the Abbotsford Hotel.
 - 2. A82 eastbound before Barloan Roundabout.
 - 3. A814 Glasgow Road westbound, east of Dumbuck Hotel.
 - 4. A814 Cardross Road, eastbound close to the Council's boundary with Argyll and Bute.
 - 5. A812 Renton Road near the entrance to the travelling people's site.
 - 6. A813 Stirling Road near to the Bellsmyre Junction.
- (iii) That he had contacted the Department of Education and Cultural Services in respect of the 'Keep Dumbarton Tidy Campaign' and awaited their reply.

The Committee noted the position.

(b) Condition of the Driveways and Footpaths of Dumbarton Cemetery, Stirling Road, Dumbarton

Mr O'Donnell advised that he had met with Mr David Simpson, Technical Inspector, Land Services, Department of Commercial and Technical Services to discuss his concerns in relation to the condition of the driveways and footpaths in Dumbarton Cemetery. At this meeting Mr Simpson had confirmed that the tyres on the dumping trucks had been changed which would limit the damage to the edgings, potholes had been repaired and that damaged edgings would be repaired in the Spring.

Thereafter, in view of the above Mr O'Donnell informed the Committee that in his opinion a report submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to a meeting of the Committee held on 2 October 2002 which provided a response to the issues raised with regard to Dumbarton Cemetary was unsatisfactory.

The Committee noted the position.

(c) Flood Prevention in Dumbarton

Mr Tuach referred to the Minutes of Meeting of the Committee held on 2 October 2002 and advised that he had requested that a report be submitted to the Committee on whether or not a flood plain, not plan, would be possible for the burn areas above the Silverton area. He also noted that the report commissioned from the Babbie Group had not considered Gruggies Burn.

In response, Councillor Robertson advised that under the Scottish Executive's rulings every Local Authority had to have a flood plan in place and that West Dunbartonshire Council's plan, which would look at flood plains, would be in place by Autumn 2003.

After discussion the Committee agreed to note the above position and to request the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to submit a report on the feasibility of a flood plain to the next meeting of the Committee.

OPEN FORUM/WRITTEN QUESTIONS

The Committee noted that no written questions had been submitted for consideration at this meeting.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

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

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 and making recommendations thereon.

Having heard the Chair, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that a further report would be made to the Community Development Co-ordinating Committee requesting decisions on ideas raised by Area Committees for future training;
- (2) that the aforementioned report would also consider how to improve the uptake of training by members of the committees; and
- (3) otherwise to note the contents of the report.

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

Reference was made to the Minutes of Meeting of the Dumbarton Area Committee held on 4 December 2002, when it had been agreed that Community Representatives would complete proformas in respect of local priorities for Council spending for 2003/2004.

After hearing the Director of Corporate Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that three Community Representatives had responded to this request, all from Dumbarton Area Committee, and that their responses had been sent to all Councillors for consideration when setting the budget;
- (2) to note that the four Directors who had been assigned to Area Committees had been sent copies of the responses, with issues relevant to their Departments highlighted;
- (3) to note that the Local Authority Police Liaison Officer had also received a copy of the points raised on community safety and policing;
- (4) to note that the Council's Budget for 2003/2004 would be agreed at a meeting of the Council to be held on Thursday 13 February 2003; and
- (5) to thank those members of Dumbarton Area Committee for their response in relation to local priorities for Council spending for 2003/2004.

THE OLD ACADEMY BUILDING CHURCH STREET, DUMBARTON

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Dumbarton Area Committee held on 4 December 2002, a report was submitted by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services advising of the condition of the Old

Academy Building, Church Street, Dumbarton and the progress made with the work required to prevent the possible collapse of the rear elevation.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Corporate Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed to note the contents of the report.

APPLICATION FOR LOCAL GRANT

A schedule was submitted by the Director of Corporate Services providing details of an application for a local grant.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Corporate Services in further explanation, the Committee agreed that the application for a local grant be dealt with as shown in the Appendix to these Minutes.

FLOOD PREVENTION STUDY IN DUMBARTON

Mr Johnston, who had requested that the Committee discuss the above issue, declared that he felt that his questions on flood prevention had been answered at the Council meeting held on 29 January 2003.

After discussion and having heard Councillors Robertson, McCallum and Calvert in answer to community representatives' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note that a report by the Director of Commercial and Technical Services apprising the Council of the findings of the flood study carried out by the Babbie Group into flooding in Dumbarton and the Surrounding Areas had been submitted to a meeting of the Council held on 29 January 2003;
- (2) to note that at that meeting it had been agreed, amongst other things, that flooding in Dumbarton Central and Dumbarton East needed to be addressed urgently and in the context of other significant proposals and potential developments affecting Dumbarton Town Centre; and
- (3) to note that the Babbie Group's report had not included the area around Gruggies' Burn.

NOTICES OF MOTION

- (1) A motion was submitted from Mr Duffy in the following terms:-

I would propose that the Dumbarton War Memorial, currently situated in Levensgrove Park be moved to the Dumbarton Municipal Buildings. I would also propose that the Statue of William Denny be moved to the Denny Tank Museum to make way for the War Memorial.

Mr Duffy moved and was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor McCallum.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (a) to approve the above motion and that it be submitted to the Council for consideration;
- (b) to request the Director of Commercial and Technical Services to submit a report with the motion on costings of the proposal to the February or March meeting of the Council; and
- (c) that the report should take into consideration the proposed development of the former Allied Distillers' site.

- (2) A motion was submitted by Councillor McCallum in the following terms:-

This Committee wishes to record its fullest support and confidence in Councillor Calvert. In his civic role as Depute Provost he has conducted himself with dignity and impartiality.

The Committee has no confidence in Councillor McCutcheon as its Chair.

His threatening and irrational statements made at the December meeting of the Council which were an attempt to bully or intimidate a fellow member of the Council show that he lacks the necessary judgement and competence to be Chair of an Area Committee.

That he would confuse the civic responsibilities of Councillor Calvert with his political role shows he does not understand the key principles of the "Code of Conduct for Councillors". The Code instructs him to "respect all other Councillors and Council employees and the role they play, treating them with courtesy at all times."

Councillor McCallum moved and was heard in support of his motion which was seconded by Councillor Linda McColl.

As an amendment Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor McCutcheon, moved that:-

Dumbarton Area Committee agrees that Councillor Calvert fulfils his civic role as Depute Provost with dignity and impartiality however the Committee agrees that this is not the appropriate forum for this motion.

After discussion, on a vote being taken, 4 Members voted for the amendment and 4 Members for the motion. There being an equality of votes, it fell to the Chair to use his casting vote which was cast in favour of the amendment. The amendment was accordingly declared carried.

NEW LOCAL APPLICATION 2002/2003 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE FINANCE WORKING GROUP ON 28 JANUARY 2003

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Finance Working Group held on 28 January 2003, a schedule was submitted advising of a decision made in respect of a grant application received from the British Red Cross (reference number 02/127), subject to appropriate consultation with Dumbarton Area Committee.

After discussion and having heard the Director of Corporate Services in further explanation and in answer to Members' questions, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to note the Finance Working Group's decision to award a grant of £5,250 to the British Red Cross to pay rental on the Council's property at Poplar Road, Dumbarton; and
- (2) that the Director of Corporate Services should consider a review of the lease arrangements with the applicant to try and avoid this situation re-occurring in future years.

EMERGENCY ITEM OF BUSINESS PROPOSED EXTENSION OF AGREEMENT CONCERNING 2.24 ACRES OR THEREBY OF GROUND ADJACENT TO SANDPOINT MARINA, WOODYARD ROAD, DUMBARTON

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of Council held on 29 January 2003, a report by the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services advising of an opportunity to extend the existing agreement concerning 2.24 acres or thereby of ground adjacent to Sandpoint Marina, Woodyard Road, Dumbarton, was submitted for consultation by the Dumbarton Area Committee.

After discussion, the Committee agreed:-

- (1) to recommend to Council that the terms of the agreement with Mr and Mrs Doherty be amended to allow them to purchase 2.24 acres or

thereby of ground shown hatched on the plan appended to the report for £1 (ONE POUND) on 22 July 2003 without completing the required rock armour defences and infilling works prior to this date provided they:-

- (i) agree to extend the period during which the Council can tip inert materials on the site for a period of 2 years (i.e. until 22 July 2005);
- (ii) agree to complete the sea defences and infilling works previously specified within 2 years (i.e. prior to 22 July 2005); and
- (iii) agree to pay the Council £80,000, being the market value of the site noted in the Report to the Council's Policy and Resources Committee on 12 November 1997, if the rock armour sea defences and infilling works are not completed by 22 July 2005.

and

- (2) to request the Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services to submit a report clarifying the offer of accommodation within the owner's land, to the Dumbarton Motor Boat and Sailing Club and Associated Watersports Group, to the next meeting of the Committee.

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 4.00p.m. on Wednesday 19 March 2003.

DATE AND VENUE FOR NEXT MEETING

The Committee noted that the next meeting of the Area Committee would be held on Wednesday 2 April 2003 at 7.00 p.m. After discussion, it was agreed that the meeting of the Area Committee be held in the Council Chambers, Municipal Buildings, Station Road, Dumbarton, if available.

OPEN FORUM – VERBAL QUESTIONS/ISSUES

There were no issues or questions raised by members of the public.

The meeting closed at 8.25 p.m.