

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At a Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held within the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 29th October 1997

Present: Provost Patrick O'Neill (LAB), James McElhill (SNP), Mary Campbell (LAB), Daniel McCafferty (LAB), John Syme (LAB), Andrew White (LAB), Anthony Devine (LAB), Alistair Macdonald (LAB), Patricia Rice (LAB), George Cairney (LAB), John McCutcheon (SNP), James McCallum (LAB & CO-OP), Geoffrey Calvert (LAB & CO-OP), 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.

Apologies for Absence: Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors James Doherty (LAB) and John Wailes (SNP).

Provost Patrick O'Neill in the Chair

CONDOLENCES

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, Provost O'Neill expressed the Council's condolences to Councillors Doherty and Wailes on their recent bereavements.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held on 24th September, 1997 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Cairney, seconded by Councillor White.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

Finance Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 17th September, 1997 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor Cairney seconded by Councillor White.

Policy and Resources Committee

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17th September, 1997 were submitted and approved on the motion of Councillor White seconded by Councillor McCallum.

Committee Minutes submitted for information

The following Committee Minutes were submitted for information:

Information Services Committee: 17th September, 1997

Tendering Committee: 17th September, 1997

Appeals Committee: 18th September, 1997

Social Work Committee: 1st October, 1997

Housing Committee: 1st October, 1997

Special Planning and Economic Development Committee: 1st October, 1997

Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee: 15th October, 1997

Roads and Technical Services Committee: 15th October, 1997

MATTERS OUTWITH DELEGATED POWERS SUBMITTED FOR APPROVAL

(a) Housing Committee (Volume pages 2655/2656 refer) - Concierge Service

The Council, on the motion of Councillor Flynn seconded by Councillor White, unanimously approved the following recommendations of the Housing Committee of 1st October, 1997:

- (i) to approve the introduction of additional security measures to the group of maisonettes and multi-storey buildings located at the east end of Clydebank;
- (ii) to approve a capital budget of £900,000 for this project. Most of this funding will produce a commitment from 1998/99 resources;
- (iii) to the replacement of existing caretaker arrangements by a Concierge Service;
- (iv) that the scheme be funded in general through the Housing Revenue Account;

- (v) that any proposed changes to working practices and conditions be discussed with the relevant Trades Unions; and
 - (vi) to authorise the Director of Social Work and Housing to proceed with drawing up job descriptions, operational procedures and detailed budgets for the development.
- (b) Policy and Resources Committee (Volume page 2602 refers) - Surplus Land Adjacent to 7 Cardross Road, Dumbarton**

It was agreed to remit this matter back to the Policy and Resources Committee at its next meeting.

- (c) Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee (Volume page 2692 refers) - Passport to Leisure Scheme**

Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor White, moved approval of the recommendations as follows:

- (i) that the Passport to Leisure Scheme be introduced with effect from 1st January, 1998; and
- (ii) to approve the pricing of the scheme on the basis detailed in the report.

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

- (i) that the concessionary rates as detailed in the report be implemented;
- (ii) that employees of the Council do not receive free Passports to Leisure; and
- (iii) that officers investigate the introduction of an intermediate tariff of £15.00 per family and £7.50 per adult for those residents of West Dunbartonshire who pay full Council tax and who are not in arrears.

On a vote, 7 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion, which was accordingly carried.

SCOTTISH PRISON SERVICE - APPOINTMENT TO VISITING COMMITTEES

With reference to the Minutes of Meeting of the Council held on 26th June, 1996 (**Volume page 743 refers**) there was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council advising that the period of nomination of Mr. Daniel McLaughlin, the Council's lay representative on the Barlinnie Prison Visiting Committee, had now expired and seeking a new nominee. After discussion, the Council agreed to re-appoint Mr McLaughlin if he so agrees.

URBAN PROGRAMME SUPERVISION

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th September, 1997 (**Volume page 2578 refers**), there were submitted reports by the Chief Executive and by the Officer Working Group on Urban Programme monitoring arrangements. Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, moved as follows:

1. This Council, noting that investigations are currently on-going into matters concerning West Dumbarton Activity Centre, and in particular a Police investigation, instructs the Chief Executive to prepare a further report to be brought forward to the next Council meeting if practicable, bringing together all aspects of the matter known so far, without prejudice to any Police enquiries;
2. that this Council, recognises the overriding importance of reaching a conclusion from these investigations currently underway and in particular the Police investigation; and accordingly,
3. Instructs the Chief Executive to afford whatever assistance may be required to the Police in the conduct of investigations, including the offer of staff assistance;
4. Instructs the Chief Executive to advise this Council at a future date when the conclusion of inquiries is known; meanwhile approves the report prepared by the working group of officers with regard to procedures for urban programme projects and approves the additional report from the Chief Executive in connection therewith;
5. Notes that there will be regular reports to the Policy and Resources Committee with regard to the monitoring arrangements in practice on urban programme projects.

As an amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved;

1. That the recommendations of the Working Group report, as amended by the Chief Executive's report in relation to delegated powers, be approved;
2. That, since the Chief Executive and Council staff had already been giving assistance to the Police in their investigation, there was no need to instruct them so to do; and
3. That a further report be brought forward on the outcome of the investigation.

On a vote, 7 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion which was accordingly carried.

INTRODUCTION OF SINGLE BENEFIT APPLICATION FORM

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th September, 1997 (**Volume pages 2580/2581 refer**) there was submitted report by the Director of Finance advising on progress towards the introduction of a single benefit application form and making recommendations thereon. After discussion, the Council noted progress to date and that the target live date was June 1998.

COUNCIL CANTEEN AND TROLLEY SERVICE

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 24th September, 1997 (**Volume page 2585 refers**), there was submitted and approved report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council recommending increased prices for the Canteen and trolley service. After discussion, on the motion of Councillor Rice seconded by Councillor White, the Council approved the pricing recommendations detailed in Appendix I to this Minute and instructed that they be applied as soon as reasonably possible.

VEHICLE LIVERY

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Contract Services Policy Board held on 3rd September, 1997 (**Volume page 2522 refers**), there was submitted report by the Director of Contract Services on vehicle livery. After discussion, on the motion of Councillor Rice seconded by Councillor McGregor, the Council agreed to adopt white as the colour for the livery.

CLYDEBANK ARTS CENTRE, APPOINTMENT OF TRUSTEE

The Chief Executive intimated a non-pecuniary interest in this item and took no part in the discussion thereon.

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17th September, 1997 (**Volume page 2610 refers**), there was submitted letter from Clydebank Arts Centre inviting the Council to nominate a Trustee to their Board. The Council agreed to nominate Councillor Macdonald.

FUTURE OF CROSSLET HOUSE

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive seeking instructions on the future of Crosslet House. After discussion, Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, moved that two specifications be prepared, one for demolition and marketing of a cleared site and the second for marketing of the site as it stands and that a further report be submitted to Council.

As an amendment, Councillor Mackechnie, seconded by Councillor McColl, moved that the building be demolished and the site marketed as a cleared site.

On a vote, 7 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion which was accordingly carried.

REMEMBRANCE DAY - 9TH NOVEMBER 1997

There was submitted report by the Chief Executive advising that D Company of the 7th/8th (Volunteer) Battalion of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders, the organisation which had previously co-ordinated arrangements for the Remembrance Day Service at Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton had intimated that, because of budgetary constraints, it could no longer do so.

The Council agreed to take over the administrative arrangements for the Remembrance Day Parade and to provide appropriate hospitality for the invited guests. It was noted that this was also the current practice in Clydebank.

CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 LICENSING OF LATE HOURS CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS

With reference to the meeting of the Environmental Protection and Leisure Services Committee on 15th October, 1997 (**Volume page 2681 refers**), there was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council advising on the existing licensing anomaly between the former Clydebank and Dumbarton District Council areas in relation to late hours catering.

Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor Campbell, moved that the Council take an in principle decision to adopt a unified system of licensing for catering establishments across the West Dunbartonshire area based on the Clydebank model; i.e. the requirement for street traders' licences rather than late hours catering licences for food outlets operating between 11p.m. and 5a.m.

As an amendment, Councillor McColl, seconded by Councillor Mackechnie, moved that the Council take an in principle decision to introduce Late hours catering licensing to the former Clydebank District, in accordance with the Dumbarton system.

On a vote, 6 Members voted for the Amendment and 13 for the Motion which was accordingly carried.

ALEXANDRIA COMMUNITY DOG TRAINING CENTRE, 43-49 ALEXANDER STREET, ALEXANDRIA - SALE OR LEASE OF PROPERTY

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting of the Council held on 18th December, 1996 (**Volume pages 1584-1585 refer**), there was submitted report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council on a request by the Alexandria & District Community Dog Training Service that the Council review its earlier decision and agree to sell the property at 43-49 Alexander Street, Alexandria to the Service at a nominal sum.

On the motion of Councillor Macdonald, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, the Council agreed to sell the property to Alexandria Community Dog Training Centre, at the nominal price of £10, subject to the consent of the Secretary of State in terms of Section 74 of the 1973 Act, and on condition that the property be used for the purposes of a Dog Training Service only.

REVISION OF CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN 1997-1998 (NON-HOUSING AND NON HRA)

There was submitted report by the Director of Finance requesting that the Council consider the draft revisions to the 1997/98 Capital Plan in respect of Education, Social Work, Roads, General Services and Non HRA projects to enable the inclusion in the Plan of £600,000 of necessary expenditure to resolve the I.S. Year 2000 problem.

The Council approved the re-profiling of certain projects and the potential utilisation of the anticipation facility as summarised in Appendix 2 to this Minute. The Council further noted that an equivalent sum of approximately £600,000 would require to be earmarked from the 1998/1999 consent as a consequence of the adjustments.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME 1997-1998

There was submitted report by the Director of Social Work and Housing requesting approval of amendments to the Housing Capital Programme 1997/98. The Council approved additional expenditure as follows:

	Approved Budget	Additional Expenditure
1.Clydebank Multi-Storey Flats (emergency lights)	100,000	30,000
2.Clydebank Roof Render	1,260,000	95,000
3.Clydebank Voids	550,000	200,000
4.Dumbarton/Vale Voids	400,000	200,000
5.Dumbarton/Vale Central Heating	900,000	318,000
6.Dumbarton/Vale Windows	866,000	233,750

It was noted that a report would be made to the Housing Committee when further information was available.

In response to a question by Councillor Mackechnie, the Director of Social Work and Housing advised that an issue raised at West Dunbartonshire Partnership with regard to the Council's failure to qualify for approved funds is under investigation at the Chief Executive's request and would be reported to a future meeting of the Housing Committee.

MEASURED TERM CONTRACT AND OTHER PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

There was submitted report by the Director of Roads and Technical Services advising of the outcome of the evaluation exercise for the Measured Term Contract for Housing and Other Property Maintenance 1997/2000.

On the motion of Councillor Flynn, seconded by Councillor White, the Council agreed to award the contract to Contract Services.

COSLA QUALITY NETWORK

There was submitted and approved report by the Depute Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council recommending that the Council participate in the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities Network and Quality Awards Scheme at a cost of 2,000.

COSLA - BEST VALUE ELECTED MEMBERS' NETWORK

There was submitted letter from COSLA seeking an elected member representative to serve on the Best Value Elected Members' Network. It was agreed to appoint Councillor McCallum.

COSLA - LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANIFESTO - FOUR YEAR TERM OF OFFICE FOR COUNCILLORS

There was submitted and noted correspondence received from COSLA and from the Secretary of State for Scotland in relation to the next round of local Government elections.

1997 CONFERENCE OF THE EUROPEAN NETWORK OF THE UNEMPLOYED (ENU) - GLASGOW, 13TH TO 17TH NOVEMBER 1997

There was submitted letter from the Scottish Trades Union Congress (STUC) seeking a financial contribution towards the cost of the "1997 Conference of the European Network of the Unemployed (ENU)" to be held in Glasgow on 13th to 17th November, 1997. It was agreed to make a donation of £100.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TREE COUNCIL

With reference to the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council on 25th September, 1996 (**Volume page 1206 refers**), the Council approved renewal of the affiliation to the Tree Council.

SECURE STATUS FOR GAELIC; PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS

There was submitted letter from Comunn Na Gàidhlig seeking support for a campaign on secure status for the Gaelic language. The Council agreed to note the programme of public consultation meetings and to endorse and support the campaign for secure status.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

Invitations to conferences/seminars were submitted and dealt with as undernoted:

- (a) "SCOPE" National Conference and Exhibition (Disability - A Shared Agenda), Blackpool, 6th - 8th November 1997 - Noted

- (b) COSLA - Decentralisation - Transforming Local Governance - Edinburgh 28th November 1997.

It was noted that Fife Council were hosting a study visit on Thursday 27th November 1997 in conjunction with the Conference which would offer delegates the opportunity to examine Fife Council's decentralisation structures including visits to local Services offices.

It was agreed that Councillor Devine, an officer from Corporate Policy and Public Relations, a member of the Community Initiatives Committee and a member of the S.N.P. Group be authorised to attend.

INCREASES IN CANTEEN PRICES

	CURRENT PRICE	NEW PRICE
	(£)	(£)
Soup	0.50	0.60
Starter	0.50	0.60
Fruit Juice	0.50	0.60
Main Course	1.76	1.95
Main Course	1.41	1.60
Hot Sweet	0.56	0.65
Cold Sweet	0.56	0.65
Salad Portion	0.31	0.40
Baked Potato	0.90	1.00
Sandwich	0.60	0.70
Cold Roll	0.50	0.60
Hot Roll	0.39	0.50
Filled Croissant	0.90	1.00
Take Out Salad	1.41	1.60
Tea	0.24	0.35
Coffee	0.28	0.40
Milk	0.23	0.30

Additional Items from Trolley

Scone and Butter	0.30	0.40
Buttered Roll	0.26	0.28
Filled Roll (Hot)	0.39	0.50
Filled Roll (Cold)	0.50	0.60
Home Baking	0.30	0.35

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PLAN 1997/98(NON-HOUSING and NON-HRA)RECOMMENDED ADJUSTMENTS TO PLAN

<u>Narrative</u>	<u>Per Original Plan</u>	<u>Delay Until 1998/99</u>	<u>1997/98 Revised</u>
Education			
Toilet Upgrades	35,000	15,000	20,000
School Kitchens	30,000	15,000	15,000
Jamestown Primary School (Access Road)	15,000	15,000	0
Meadowview Nursery (Polycarbonate Windows)	7,500	7,500	0
Janitors' Houses	45,000	30,000	15,000
Our Lady of Loretto (Replacement Windows)	60,000	30,000	30,000
St Andrew's High School (Roof Renewal)	80,000	40,000	40,000
Sub-Total	<u>272,500</u>	<u>152,500</u>	<u>120,000</u>
Environmental Services, etc.			
Denny Civic Theatre	80,000	40,000	40,000
Sub-Total	<u>80,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>	<u>40,000</u>
Social Work			
Major Planned Maintenance (General Slippage)	688,000	75,000	613,000
Sub-Total	<u>688,000</u>	<u>75,000</u>	<u>613,000</u>
Roads and Transportation			
Roads Safety and Traffic Calming	160,000	30,000	130,000
Cycling	20,000	20,000	0
Noise Regulations	5,000	2,000	3,000
Sub-Total	<u>185,000</u>	<u>52,000</u>	<u>133,000</u>
Planning			
Imp. of Industrial and Commercial Premises	200,000		
Delay -			
Levenbank Terrace Compensation		10,000	
Clyde Street		20,000	
Factory Shop Refurbishment		25,000	
Sub-Total	<u>200,000</u>	<u>55,000</u>	<u>145,000</u>
Contract Services			
General Slippage	315,000	30,000	285,000
Sub-Total	<u>315,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>285,000</u>
Information Services/Finance			
General Slippage	750,000	30,000	720,000
Sub-Total	<u>750,000</u>	<u>30,000</u>	<u>720,000</u>
1998/99 Consent Anticipation		165,500	
Total (21.10.97)		<u>600,000</u>	