

WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL

At the Statutory meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Council Offices, Garshake Road, Dumbarton on Wednesday, 14 May 2003.

Present: Councillors Denis Agnew, Margaret Bootland, Dennis Brogan, Geoffrey Calvert, Gail Casey, Anthony Devine, Jack Duffy, James Flynn, Alistair Macdonald, John Maceira, Douglas McAllister, James McCallum, Linda McColl, Duncan McDonald, Margaret McGregor, Craig McLaughlin, Marie McNair, Connie O'Sullivan, Martin Rooney, Andy White and Raymond Young.

Attending: Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive; Eric Walker, Director of Corporate Services; Dan Henderson, Director of Economic, Planning and Environmental Services; Alexis Jay, Director of Social Work and Housing Services; Ian McMurdo, Director of Education and Cultural Services; Stephen Brown, Head of Legal and Administrative Services and Julie Herrity, Senior Administrative Officer.

Apology: An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor James Bollan.

INTERIM CHAIRMAN

- 1 Tim Huntingford, Chief Executive convened the Statutory meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council, pending the appointment of a new Provost and welcomed all those present to the first meeting of the third term of West Dunbartonshire Council.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS – 1 MAY 2003

- 2 A report by the Returning Officer was submitted on the results of the elections for West Dunbartonshire Council held on 1 May 2003 as shown in the Appendix to these minutes.
- 3 The Council agreed to note the report.

ELECTION OF PROVOST

- 4 The Chief Executive invited nominations for the election of a new Provost for West Dunbartonshire.
- 5 On the motion of Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, the Council unanimously agreed that Councillor Alistair Macdonald be elected as Provost of West Dunbartonshire Council.

ADJOURNMENT

- 6 The Chief Executive advised that it was customary after the election of a new Provost for the Council to adjourn for a short period of time to allow the new Provost to be formally invested with the Chain of Office.
- 7 The Council unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at this point and resumed shortly thereafter, those present being as shown in the sederunt.
- 8 On resumption, Provost Macdonald took the Chair.

ACCEPTANCE OF PROVOSTSHIP

- 9 Provost Macdonald thanked the Council for honouring him by appointing him as the new Provost of West Dunbartonshire.

EMERGENCY MOTION

- 10 Provost Macdonald advised that he had been requested to consider an emergency motion at this meeting but he indicated that he had decided that the motion should be considered at the next Ordinary meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council.

ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

- 11 A copy of the existing Standing Orders for West Dunbartonshire Council was submitted for consideration and it was suggested that Council might wish to approve the Standing Orders for an initial period of six months in order to allow any review considered necessary by Council.
- 12 It was noted that notwithstanding any temporary approval of Standing Orders, some interim modification to Standing Orders might be required to reflect any decision taken by Council in respect of the following items of business.
- 13 On the motion of Councillor White, the Council agreed that the current Standing Orders be approved until the Special Meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council on Wednesday, 4 June 2003, subject to any changes which may be required thereto as a result of decisions made in respect of the following items.
- 14 Councillor White also took this opportunity to congratulate Provost Macdonald on his election as Provost.

ELECTION OF DEPUTE PROVOST

15 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor McCallum, moved that Councillor Linda McColl be elected as Depute Provost for West Dunbartonshire.

16 The Council unanimously agreed.

ELECTION OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

17 Councillor O'Sullivan, seconded by Councillor McCallum, moved that Councillor White be elected as Leader of the Council.

18 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that this appointment be opposed and that the Labour Group be requested to reconsider the nomination.

19 On a vote being taken, 3 members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

ELECTION OF DEPUTE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

20 The Council unanimously agreed that Councillor O'Sullivan be elected as Depute Leader of the Council.

CONSTITUTION AND APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES ETC OF WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL AND APPOINTMENT OF CONVENERS OF COMMITTEES

21 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted inviting the Council to consider (i) the appointment of such Committees etc., as it deemed appropriate and (ii) the appointment of Conveners thereto.

22 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that the matter be continued to the Special meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2003.

23 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that the matter be considered tonight.

24 On a vote being taken, 3 members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion which was accordingly declared carried.

REMIT AND DELEGATION TO COMMITTEES AND OFFICERS

25 The Council was requested to approve the existing remits and delegation to Committees and Officers.

- 26 The Council agreed to continue with the existing remit until the Special meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2003, subject to any modifications required as a result of decisions taken at this meeting being made.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE LICENSING BOARD

- 27 The Council was advised that it had a statutory duty to appoint Councillors to the Licensing Board and that in accordance with the Licensing (Scotland) Act 1976 the minimum number to be appointed should be not less than six Members of the Council.
- 28 The Council agreed that the matter be continued to the Special meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2003.

CHILDREN'S PANEL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

- 29 The Chief Executive advised that in accordance with Schedule 1(3) of the Children (Scotland) Act 1995, the Council was required to nominate two persons to serve on the West Dunbartonshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee. The previous Council had agreed that one person be nominated by the Labour Group and one person by the SNP Group. Mr Hugh McLafferty (previously nominated by the Labour Group) and Mrs Patricia Shannon (previously nominated by the SNP Group) had intimated that they were willing to continue to serve on the CPAC.
- 30 The Council agreed to re-appoint Mr McLafferty and Mrs Shannon to the West Dunbartonshire Children's Panel Advisory Committee.

COMMITTEE TIMETABLE TO DECEMBER 2003

- 31 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted requesting approval of a timetable in respect of meeting dates of West Dunbartonshire Council and Committees, subject to any adjustments or changes consequent upon decisions taken previously in the agenda.
- 32 The Council agreed to continue the timetable of meetings to the Special meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2003.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

- 33 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted in respect of the filling of vacancies on Outside Bodies.

- 34 The Council agreed that the matter be continued to the Special meeting of West Dunbartonshire Council to be held on 4 June 2003, subject to nominations requiring urgent consideration being made on an interim basis by the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Leader of Council.

EX-OFFICIO JUSTICES OF THE PEACE

- 35 A letter from the Scottish Executive was submitted inviting nominations for up to one quarter of the Council's Elected Members to serve as ex-officio Justices for this area.
- 36 The Council agreed that the matter be continued to the Special meeting of Council to be held on 4 June 2003.

WEST OF SCOTLAND EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM MEETING WITH SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SCOTLAND ON FUTURE EU REGIONAL POLICY

- 37 It was reported that a meeting had been scheduled by the West of Scotland European Consortium with the Secretary of State for Scotland on 19 May, 2003 and an invitation had been extended to the Council to send its newly appointed representative.
- 38 The Council agreed that the Labour Group nominate someone to attend the meeting.

GLASGOW HUMANE SOCIETY

- 39 It was reported that advance notice had been received from the Glasgow Humane Society of two events taking place shortly, these being the Launch of a New Rescue Boat on Saturday, 31 May 2003 in Glasgow and the AGM on 6 June 2003 in Glasgow. It was anticipated that the newly appointed representative to the Glasgow Humane Society would be invited to attend.
- 40 The Council agreed that the Labour Group nominate someone to attend the events.

STRATHCLYDE POLICE – CHOICE FOR LIFE

- 41 It was reported that two themed, multi-media events organised by Strathclyde Police, designed to promote alternative lifestyles to drug abuse were to be held on 20 and 21 May, 2003. The target audience was to be Primary 7 pupils, but an invitation had also been extended to the Council's newly appointed representatives to the Strathclyde Joint Police Board to attend.

- 42 The Council agreed that the Labour Group nominate someone to attend the events.

SCHEME OF MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

- 43 A report by the Director of Corporate Services was submitted advising of the Scheme of Members' Allowances and requesting that consideration be given thereto.
- 44 Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Calvert, moved that Council implement the Basic Allowances at a level in accordance with Scottish Office Circular 2/2002 of 15 February 2002, and implement the COSLA recommendations in relation to Special Responsibility Allowances i.e. this being Scale 1 for Provost and Leader of Council, Scale 2 for Depute Provost and Depute Leader and Scale 5 for Leader of the Opposition.
- 45 As an amendment, Councillor McLaughlin, seconded by Councillor McGregor, moved that the matter be continued to a future meeting of Council.
- 46 On a vote being taken, 3 members voted for the amendment and 17 for the motion, which was accordingly declared carried.

The meeting closed at 7.20 pm