

**THE MORAY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING**  
**COMMITTEE**

**16TH APRIL, 1996**

**COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, ELGIN**

**PRESENT:-**

Councillors. G. McDonald (Chairman), H. McDonald (Vice Chairman), E. Aldridge, M.C. Howe, T.A. Howe, P. Mann, R.L. Patterson, D. Scaife, A.M. Scott, J. Stewart and H.M. Cumiskie (ex officio).

**IN ATTENDANCE:-**

The Director of Economic Development and Planning, Control Services Manager, Forward Planning Manager, Chief Building Control Officer in respect of item 8, Depute Chief Financial Officer, Principal Administration Officer, who acted as Clerk to the Meeting and the Principal Solicitor (Commercial and Conveyancing).

**APOLOGY:-**

An apology for absence was intimated on behalf of Councillor W. Jappy.

**1. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

In terms of the relevant Standing Order the meeting agreed to accept as an additional item of business to be transacted at the meeting, a report by the Chief Executive in regard to the Council's contribution to the funding of Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board, and (ii) an oral report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning regarding the payment of allowances to the Council's representative on the Cairngorms Partnership Board, on the Chairman certifying that, in his opinion, these matters required to be considered at the meeting on grounds of urgency.

**2. ORDER OF BUSINESS**

In terms of the relevant Standing Order the meeting agreed to vary the order of business as set down on the Agenda for the meeting to facilitate the conduct of the business to be transacted at the meeting.

**3. TRIBUTE TO THE LATE SIR MICHAEL JOUGHIN CBE, JP**

The Chairman referred to the announcement of the untimely death of Sir Michael Joughin CBE, JP past Chairman of Hydro Electric and Chairman of Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council. Members of the Committee joined the Chairman in expressing their appreciation of the contribution which Sir Michael had made to Findhorn and the wider community during his terms of office and also expressed their condolences to Sir Michael's family.

**4. LETTER FROM KEITH COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

The Chairman intimated to the meeting, the terms of a letter from Keith Community Council expressing its support for the actions taken by the Convener of the Moray Council in securing a number of artefacts belonging to Moray which had previously been located within the Grampian Regional Council Headquarters in Aberdeen, and expressing the hope that these artefacts would be returned to their places of origin within Moray.

The meeting noted with satisfaction the sentiments expressed by the Keith Community Council and agreed that the artefacts would be returned to their respective communities subject to adequate security and public access arrangements being assured.

## **5. RESOLUTION**

The meeting resolved that in terms of Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, the public and media representatives be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the items of business appearing at the relevant paragraphs of this Minute as specified below so as to avoid disclosure of exempt information of the class described in the appropriate Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

<u>Para. number of Minute</u>	<u>Para. number of Schedule 7A</u>
28	6
29	6
30	8 & 9
31	8 & 9
32	6

## **6. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning advising the Committee in regard to the impact of the recent BSE scare on the industry in Moray and the north-east of Scotland.

Prior to considering the Director's report the Chairman made a statement pledging support for the red meat processors in Moray and that the Council would work with the industry to rebuild the confidence in the meat sector. He stated that it was imperative that central government should make its position on the BSE issue clear and that precise guidance should be issued to the industry intimating that beef cattle farming played a major role in the agricultural industry, not only in Moray, but in Scotland as a whole, and urging central government to take steps to restore confidence in British beef. He also advised that, to date, the public had been subjected to much hearsay and scare mongering and it was time for clear scientific evidence to be produced and for a definite action plan to be established. He further advised that the Moray Council had joined forces with the Red Meat Task Force based in Aberdeenshire, to lobby the government to take action in this respect and also to consider the question of compensation for farmers effected by the scare. Moray would do all it could to help the meat processors in its own area and would view any applications for assistance sympathetically.

Members of the Committee concurred with the terms of the Chairman's statement.

Following discussions the meeting agreed to note the Report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning and to make copies available to the Departments of Education, Social Work, Technical and Leisure Services and COSLA for their respective interests.

The meeting also noted for its interest that beef would continue to be available to school meals provided that an alternative to beef was available.

## **7. LIST OF LEASES/RENT REVIEWS SUBMITTED FOR NOTING**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning giving details of new leases and rent reviews dealt with under delegated powers.

Following consideration the meeting noted the following new leases and rent reviews dealt with under delegated powers:-

<u>Name</u>	<u>Details/Property/Location</u>
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Jack Carmichael, Flooring Contractor	10 Pinefield Parade, Pinefield Industrial Estate, Elgin: Rent Review
City Electrical Factors	Unit 23, Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin: Rent Review
Drivesafe Services Limited	Unit 11, Elgin Business Centre, Maisondieu Road, Elgin: Building Lease
Raymond McKenzie	t/a McKenzie's Ices, 5 Diagonal Road, Elgin: Rent Review
Morris Mann	t/a Morris Mann Decorators, Site 35, Tyock Industrial Estate, Elgin: Building Agreement and Ground Lease

## **8. BUILDING (SCOTLAND) ACTS: APPLICATIONS FOR BUILDING WARRANTS**

### **i) Applications for Building Warrants approved under delegated powers**

There was submitted a report by the Control Services Manager advising that 270 applications for Building Warrants had been determined since 1st April, 1996 in terms of the powers delegated to him.

The meeting noted the report

ii) **Applications for Relaxation recommended for approval**

There was submitted a report by the Control Services Manager recommending that the following applications for relaxation in terms of the Building Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 1981, be granted.

96/00011/REL: Alterations to Courtyard Cottage, Gordon Castle, Fochabers for Gordon Castle Estates per Ian Holmes, 12 Councillors Walk, Forres.

Regulation 9(D2.3)

Requirements with regard to non-combustibility.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted subject to consultation with Grampian Fire Brigade.

96/00012/REL: Alterations to shop at 194 Mid Street, Keith for the Congregation of Keith North, Newmill & Boharm Church per Simpson & Wright, 96 Moss Street, Keith.

Regulation 9(D2.3)

Requirements with regard to non-combustibility.

Regulation 9(D2.15)

Requirements with regard to junction between separating or compartment walls and roof.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted subject to consultation with Grampian Fire Brigade.

96/00013/REL: Change of use of private garage to commercial garage at 1 Drum Cottages, Keith for Mr. S. Hamill.

Regulation 9(M3.1)

Requirements with regard to provision of sanitary facilities.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted subject to consultation with the Chief Environmental Protection Officer.

96/00015/REL: Alterations to shop at Forres Golf Club, Muirshade, Forres per Ian Holmes, 12 Councillors Walk, Forres.

Regulation 9(D2.3)

Requirements with regard to non-combustibility.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted subject to consultation with Grampian Fire Brigade.

96/00016/REL: Extension to provide additional bedrooms at Spey Bay Hotel, Spey Bay for Christies of Fochabers Ltd per Mr. H. Moir, 6 Charlotte Street, Fochabers.

Regulation 9(T2.5)

Requirements with regard to the provision of access between storeys for disabled persons.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

96/00017/REL: Extension of dwellinghouse at The Beeches, Linkwood, Elgin for Mr. & Mrs. I. Robertson per David A. Smith, Berrybauds, Clochan, Buckie.

Regulation 9(S2.9)

Requirements with regard to number of rises per flight.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

96/00018/REL: Alterations to form taxi office at 115 South Street, Elgin for Scotravel Ltd per Ashley Bartlam Partnership, 41 Moss Street, Elgin.

Regulation 9(D2.3)

Requirements with regard to non-combustibility.

Regulation 9(M3.1)

Requirements with regard to the provision of sanitary facilities.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted subject to consultation with Grampian Fire Brigade and the Chief Environmental Protection Officer.

96/00019/REL: Alterations to dwellinghouses at 1 & 3 Bridge Street, Keith for Mr. J. McCurrach, 28 Main Street, Newmill, Keith.

Regulation 9(S2.24)

Requirements with regard to the headroom above stairways and landings.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

96/00020/REL: Alteration to provide living accommodation at the Pavilion, Mayen Estate, Rothiemay, By Huntly for Mayen Holdings Ltd per Douglas R. Forrest Architects, Spence Mill, Gordon Street, Huntly.

Regulation 9(K2.1)

Requirements with regard to ventilation of rooms within dwellings.

Regulation 9(Q2.3)

Requirements with regard to the provision of kitchen facilities within dwellings.

Regulation 9(R2.1)

Requirements with regard to the provision of refuse storage facilities.

Regulation 9(S3.4)

Requirements with regard to the height of protective barriers.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

96/00021/REL: Alteration and extension of factory at 2 March Road, Buckie for Strathaird Seafoods Ltd per John Marr Architects, Viewfield House, Old Perth Road, Inverness.

Regulation 9(S2.9)

Requirements with regard to number of rises per flight.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

96/00022/REL: Alteration of dwellinghouse at 10 Yuill Avenue, Buckie for Mr. S. Durno per C. MacKay, Caledonia Property Maintenance Ltd, 1 Institution Road, Elgin.

Regulation 9(S2.24)

Requirements with regard to headroom above stairways and landings.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

96/00023/REL: Alteration of dwellinghouse at 17 King Street, Burghead for The Bank of Scotland per Ian Holmes, 12 Councillors Walk, Forres.

Regulation 9(K2.1)

Requirements with regard to ventilation of rooms within dwellings.

Regulation 9(Q2.5)

Requirements with regard to daylighting of apartments.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

96/00024/REL:

Alterations and change of use to provide office accommodation at 115 South Street, Elgin for Mr. A. Adam per Ashley Bartlam Partnership, 41 Moss Street, Elgin.

Regulation 9(D2.3)

Requirements with regard to non-combustibility.

Regulation 9(M3.1)

Provision of sanitary facilities.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted subject to consultation with Grampian Fire Brigade and the Chief Environmental Protection Officer.

96/00025/REL:

Erection of dwellinghouse at 2 Station Court, Portknockie for Mr. & Mrs.. J. Cowie per David A. Smith, Berrybauds, Clochan, Buckie.

Regulation 9(S2.7)

Requirements with regard to the design of private stairs serving dwellings.

Recommendation:-

That relaxation be granted.

Following consideration the meeting agreed that subject, where appropriate, to consultation with the Firemaster the relaxations applied for be granted as recommended subject to no objections being received in respect of the draft directions and that thereafter the relevant applications for Building Warrants be granted in terms of the Buildings Procedure (Scotland) Regulations 1981.

## **9. CURRENT PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

### **ELGIN - NO. 2 WARD**

- (a) 96/00026/OUT: Outline application to erect restaurant and lodge hotel at Linkwood Industrial Estate, Elgin for Morrison Developments Ltd.

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning recommending that he be granted delegated powers to approve an application for planning permission for outline consent to erect a restaurant and lodge hotel at Linkwood Industrial Estate, Elgin for Morrison Developments Ltd.

Following consideration the meeting agreed that the Director of Economic Development and Planning be granted delegated authority to approve the application subject to appropriate conditions.

### **LAICH - NO.7 WARD**

- (b) 95/01220/FUL: Demolish station house and erect six retirement houses at Station House, Harbour Street, Hopeman, Elgin for Mr. John Urquhart.

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning recommending approval of a planning application to demolish the station house and erect six retirement houses at Station House, Harbour Street, Hopeman, Elgin for Mr. John Urquhart, subject to appropriate conditions and to there being no objections from the North of Scotland Water Authority (NoSWA).

Following consideration the meeting agreed to approve the application subject to appropriate conditions and to there being no objection from the North of Scotland Water Authority (NoSWA).

#### **GLENLIVET - NO. 18 WARD**

- (c) 95/01524/FUL: Erect dwellinghouse on ground to the north-east of Ivybank, Braehead Terrace, Dufftown, Keith, Banffshire for Mrs. E. Gilbert.

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning recommending that planning permission be granted to erect a dwellinghouse on ground to the north-east of Ivybank, Braehead Terrace, Dufftown, Keith, Banffshire for Mrs. E. Gilbert.

Following consideration Councillor A.M. Scott, seconded by Councillor R.L. Patterson, moved that the application as submitted be refused; that permission for a single storey dwelling, as detailed in the original outline planning consent for the site, be approved, subject to suitable access to drainage maintenance being resolved and to appropriate conditions.

As an amendment Councillor T.A. Howe, seconded by Councillor H. McDonald moved that the application be approved as submitted.

On a division, there voted:-

For the Motion (2) - Councillors:- A.M. Scott and R.L. Patterson.

For the Amendment (8) - Councillors:- T.A. Howe, H. McDonald, E. Aldridge, M.C. Howe, G. McDonald, P. Mann, C.D. Scaife and J. Stewart.

The Chairman declared the amendment carried and, accordingly, planning permission be granted subject to the following conditions:-

1. The development to which this permission relates must be begun not later than the expiration of five years beginning with the date on which this permission is granted.
2. Unless otherwise agreed with the Council, as Planning Authority, the development hereby approved shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the approved plans and conditions.
3. No boundary fences, hedges, walls or any obstruction whatsoever over 1.0 m in height and fronting onto the public road shall be within 2.1 m of the edge of the carriageway.
4. The width of vehicular access shall be 2.4 - 3.0 m and have a maximum gradient of 1:20 measured for the first 5.0 m from the edge of the public carriageway. Section of access over the public footpath/verge shall be to Grampian Regional Council specification and surfaced in bitmac.
5. No water shall be permitted to drain onto the public footpath/carriageway.
6. Two private parking space(s) to be provided.

7. A turning area shall be provided within the curtilage of the site to enable vehicles to enter/exit in a forward gear.

**Reasons:**

1. The time limit condition is imposed in order to comply with the requirements of Section 38 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972.
2. In order to ensure that there are no unauthorised departures from the approved plans which could adversely affect the development or character and amenity of the surrounding properties and area.
3. In the interests of road safety.
4. In the interests of road safety.
5. In the interests of road safety.
6. In the interests of road safety.
7. In the interests of road safety.

**10. TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT PROCEDURE)  
(SCOTLAND) AMENDMENT ORDER 1996:  
CONSULTATION WITH COMMUNITY COUNCILS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning drawing the Committee's attention to terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) (Scotland) Amendment Order 1996 which introduced statutory provisions for consultations with Community Councils. The report recommended that discussions be initiated with Community Councils with a view to identifying categories/types of applications on which they would wish to be consulted as an aid to making the consultation process as efficient and effective as possible.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to initiate discussions with Community Councils or appropriate Community Associations in areas where Community Councils had not been established, to identify categories/types of applications on which they would wish to be consulted as an aid to making the consultation process as efficient and effective as possible.

**11. CONTROL SERVICES SECTION - DELEGATION OF POWERS**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning recommending the adoption of a scheme of delegation to determine all applications for planning permission other than in respect of applications which would require an amendment to the Local Plan or Structure Plan which would require to be considered by The Moray Council.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:-

- (i) That the scheme of delegation, as set out in Appendix II to the Report, be approved;
- (ii) That Councillors should only refer applications to the Economic Development and Planning Committee after consultation when disagreement with the recommendation was of major strategic importance, seriously affecting existing policy;
- (iii) That Committee site visits be reserved for only the most controversial or major proposals and that photographs of sites be provided for applications which were the subject of consultation with Councillors or which were reported to the Committee;
- (iv) That Members of the Council who were not members of the Committee would be afforded the opportunity of addressing the Committee on applications of a controversial nature;
- (v) That the principle of delegating power from the Director to Planning Officers be approved, subject to the consideration of further reports describing the levels of responsibility, categories of application and monitoring of decisions; and
- (vi) That the system be monitored by the Director to allow for future reviews by the Committee.

**12. AGENDA ADVICE NOTE FOR MOTIONS CONTRARY TO RECOMMENDATION**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning recommending that a Guidance Note be attached to Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting Agendae in respect of reports on applications to assist Members of the Committee in ensuring that decisions taken were in accordance with proper procedure thereby reducing the likelihood of claims of maladministration being brought against the Authority.

After consideration the meeting agreed that the Guidance Note be attached to each Economic Development and Planning Committee meeting Agendae in respect of current planning applications to assist Members of the Committee in exercising their responsibilities.

**13. THE BUSINESS SHOP**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning inviting the Committee to consider participating in "The Business Shop", a point of reference for business information enquiries intended to assist the local business community with its requirements for data/details/statistics/addresses, etc.

Following consideration the meeting agreed that:-

- (i) The concept of a single access point for industrial and economic development enquiries be supported given that the principle was similar to the Moray Access Points currently being operated as a pilot exercise by the Council;
- (ii) Discussions be initiated with the Local Enterprise Company to establish how the concept might be developed within the spirit of partnership; and
- (iii) Further discussions with the Enterprise Company be commenced on a variety of issues given their common interest in the economic future of Moray which would allow for some form of co-ordinated activity to be agreed within a framework where financial and policy issues could be considered.

#### **14. OIL RIG FABRICATION INDUSTRY**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning inviting the Committee to consider its relationship and involvement with the oil rig fabrication industry and recommending participation in a reconstituted Local Authority Standing Committee on Oil Fabrication (LASCOF). The report also recommended that matters relating to oil fabrication and associated technology and developments be dealt with through LASCOF thereby negating the requirement for continuing the local link with the yards at Nigg and Ardersier through the Moray Firth Group.

Following consideration the meeting agreed to participate in the new LASCOF structure; that continuing links with the BARMAC Yards at Nigg and Ardersier be investigated; and that a further report be submitted in due course.

#### **15. FISHING VESSEL DECOMMISSIONING SCHEME**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning requesting that the Committee homologate his decision, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee, to respond to a consultative circular issued by the Scottish Office seeking comments on possible changes to the UK's fishing vessel decommissioning arrangements by Friday 12th April, 1996.

Copies of the consultative circular and the Council's response were circulated for Members' information.

Following consideration the Committee agreed to homologate the decision taken by the Director of Economic Development and Planning in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee to respond to a consultative circular on possible changes to the UK's fishing vessel decommissioning arrangements and endorsed the views put forward on behalf of the Council.

#### **16. GRAMPIAN VENTURE CAPITAL FUND**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning inviting the Committee to consider nominating three representatives to the Board of Directors of the Grampian Venture Capital Fund Limited.

Following consideration the meeting agreed that the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, together with the Chairman of the Policy and Resources Committee, be appointed to the Board of Directors of the Grampian Venture Capital Fund Limited.

## **17. TEXTILE SECTOR PROJECT CO-ORDINATION**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning seeking approval of arrangements agreed with Officers of the Aberdeenshire Council regarding the allocation of costs of employing Sector Executives for the Textile and Food Industries within the areas of the respective Authorities.

Following consideration the Committee agreed that:-

- (i) The recommendations contained in the report be approved;
- (ii) A procedure be established to monitor the workloads of the Sector Executives between the two authorities.

## **18. ASSISTANCE TO INDUSTRY**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning seeking approval for the continuation of a Small Business Enterprise Scheme (SBES) which offered financial assistance to businesses by providing grant and loan funding.

Following consideration the meeting agreed:-

- (i) To continue a Small Business Enterprise Scheme offering grant and loan funding assistance to the small business community; and
- (ii) The name of the scheme be the Moray Business Enterprise Scheme.

## **19. POLICY REVIEW OF SCOTTISH ENTERPRISE/HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS ENTERPRISE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning inviting the Committee to homologate his decision taken in consultation with the Chairman of the Committee to respond to a Scottish Office document on a Policy Review of Scottish Enterprise and the Highlands and Islands Enterprise given that responses required to be submitted by 31st March, 1996.

The meeting agreed:-

- (i) To homologate the decision taken by the Director, in consultation with the Chairman, to respond to the Scottish Office on behalf of the Council; and
- (ii) To note the terms of the response submitted on behalf of the Council.

## **20. SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT - EUROPEAN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE - 22-26 APRIL, 1996**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning regarding an invitation to attend an European Inter-Governmental Conference on Sustainable Mountain Development to be held in Aviemore from 22nd to 26th April, 1996 and inviting the Committee to consider appointing delegate(s) to participate in associated field visits arranged for Wednesday 24th April, 1996.

Following consideration the meeting agreed:-

- (i) To authorise Councillor A.M. Scott, the Council's nominee on the Cairngorms Partnership Board, and an Officer, to be nominated by the Director, to participate in the field visits arranged for Wednesday 24th April, 1996;

- (ii) That in future Reports, Officers should refrain from recommending that a particular Member be delegated to represent the Authority where Member representation is required; and
- (iii) That arising from the Council's representation on the Board, the payment of allowances be in accordance with that agreed by the Committee, subject to the arrangement being confirmed by COSLA.

## **21. CAIRNGORMS FUNICULAR RAILWAY PROJECT**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning inviting the Committee to consider its position in relation to the response of the Moray District Council previously submitted to the Highland Regional Council in regard to a planning application in respect of the Cairngorms Funicular Railway Project.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:-

- (i) To adopt the response by Moray District Council to the Highland Regional Council as the Moray Council's formal position regarding the Cairngorms Funicular Railway Project; and
- (ii) To support the recommendation of the former Grampian Regional Council that the application be called-in under Section 32(1) of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1972 in order to ensure that the future planning authorities of the north-east of Scotland could be in a position to implement the approved Structure Plan for the area; and that such a call-in should lead to a public inquiry; and
- (iii) That (i) and (ii) above were necessary to ensure the Council's position was protected until the necessary guarantees were secured.

## **22. REPRESENTATIONS BY FINDHORN AND KINLOSS COMMUNITY COUNCIL ON FINDHORN FOUNDATION**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning bringing to the Committee's attention a Resolution agreed by Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council calling on the Council to consider limiting the expansion of the Findhorn Foundation in Findhorn.

Following consideration the meeting noted:-

- (i) That such an alteration to the Findhorn Statement in the Local Plan as sought by the Findhorn and Kinloss Community Council would not achieve their objectives in regard to the Findhorn Foundation;
- (ii) That to exclude the Findhorn Foundation or any other named developer from developing a site designated for housing would be likely to be unsuccessful should a refusal of planning permission be the subject of appeal; and
- (iii) That the policy for replacement of residential caravans related to other caravan sites in Moray and that an exception in the case of Findhorn could not be justified on the grounds put forward by the Community Council.

## **23. RURAL POLICY - SCOTTISH OFFICE WHITE PAPER**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning regarding the scope of the main provisions of the Scottish Office White Paper on Rural Policy and inviting the Committee to consider taking a lead role in the establishment of Local Rural Partnerships.

The meeting also noted the terms of an oral report by the Forward Planning Manager on his attendance along with the Chairman at the launch in Fort William of the Scottish Office Initiative which had been initiated by the Scottish Rural Forum.



Following discussion the Committee agreed:-

- (i) That the Council note the publication of the Scottish Office White Paper on Rural Policy;
- (ii) That the Council take the lead in establishing Local Rural Partnerships if that should prove cost effective;
- (iii) To encourage the Government to ensure that Local Rural Partnerships were given adequate resources through the Rural Partnership Fund for their administrative needs and for essential projects, and that other mainstream funding to support rural life was maintained; and
- (iv) To encourage the Government to ensure, through the National Rural Partnership, that its Departments and Agencies implemented fully the principle of flexibility of delivery of local services and support of Local Rural Partnerships
- (v) That it be remitted to the Director of Economic Development and Planning to discuss with the local communities, the question of submitting applications for funding under the Challenge Fund.

**24. BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST - APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

**(i) Moray Town Scheme Grants**

Reports were submitted by the Director of Economic Development and Planning regarding applications for grants in terms of the Moray Town Scheme.

Following consideration the Committee agreed that grants be awarded as follows:-

<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Property</u>	<u>Grant</u>
Mrs. J. McLaren,	8 South Castle Street, Cullen	£266.33
Mr. D. Addison	11 Victoria Street, Cullen	£5,278.69
Mrs. C. Chalmers	24 Castle Terrace, Cullen	£5,757.50
Mrs. Runcie	200 Seatown, Cullen	£220.31
Mr. R. Gill	9 North Castle Street, Cullen	£992
Mrs. G. Duncan	121 Seatown, Cullen	£324.30
Mrs. Simpson	14/16 Station Road, Findochty	£5,805
Mr. & Mrs. Johnston	20 Station Road, Findochty	£911.24

Mr. & Mrs. Murray	St. Clair, 16 Castle Street, Findochty	£2,397
Mr. W. Scott	7 Burnside Street, Findochty	£1,314.24
Mr. J.D. Mackenzie	11 Castle Street, Findochty	£1,292.50
Mr. D. Hay	20 Maxwell Street, Fochabers	£1,550
Mrs. A. Dean	23 Batchen Street, Forres	£685.61
Mr. & Mrs. Adams	18a High Street, Forres	£1,353.30
Mr. I. Geddes	40 Church Street, Portknockie	£1,050.45
Mr. & Mrs. Davidson	10 Admiralty Street, Portknockie	£593.38
Mrs. A. McKay	1 Bridge Street, Portknockie	£2,239.58
Mr. N. Hedley	6 Patrol Place, Portknockie	£282
Mr. J. Mair	11 Park Street, Portknockie	£1,436.42

(ii) **Civic Amenity Grants**

Reports were submitted by the Director of Economic Development and Planning regarding applications for grants in respect of Civic Amenities Act Grant.

Following consideration the Committee agreed that Civic Amenity Grants be awarded as follows:-

<b><u>Applicant</u></b>	<b><u>Property</u></b>	<b><u>Grant</u></b>
Group Captain K. Bonney	21 Findhorn	£1,400
Mr. Copland	50 Yardie, Buckie	£229.12
Major R. MacLeod	Dalvey House, Dalvey	£3,200

## 25. THE NORTH GRAMPIAN CONSERVATION PROJECT

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning inviting the Committee to consider a request for financial support from the Grampian Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (Grampian FWAG), in association with Aberdeenshire Council, for support towards

the North Grampian Conservation Project in its endeavours to encourage landowners to take account of their responsibilities for the conservation of the environment in the management of their land by making advice and grant aid available.

Following consideration the Committee agreed:-

- (i) To recognise the important role played by the North Grampian Conservation Project in terms of benefiting the natural environment, the local economy and practical conservation skills;
- (ii) To support, in principle, the North Grampian Conservation Project with an annual contribution of up to £3,000 for the next three years;
- (iii) To contribute up to £2,000 towards the project grant aid in 1996/97 subject to review thereafter; and
- (iv) To ensure that the Moray Council's involvement in the Project was recognised in any project publicity or printed material.

## **26. CAPITAL BUDGETS**

The meeting noted that this item had been withdrawn from the Agenda.

## **27. VISIT BY LANDSHUT OBERBURGERMEISTER**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning seeking authorisation for discussions to be held in regard to possible economic links between Landshut, Lower Bavaria and Moray during a forthcoming visit to Elgin by the Oberburgermeister of Landshut as part of the fortieth anniversary of the twinning partnership between Elgin and Landshut.

The meeting also noted that 1996 marked the 25th Anniversary of the twinning link between Lossiemouth and Hersbruck, Bavaria and given that Lossiemouth would be hosting the 1996 celebrations, it might be appropriate to arrange to meet with representatives of the Hersbruck delegation also.

Following consideration the meeting agreed:-

- (i) To authorise the Chairman and Vice Chairman together with the Director of Economic Development and Planning to meet with the Oberburgermeister of Landshut and representatives of Hersbruck to discuss possible economic links between Moray and their respective areas; and
- (ii) That discussions be initiated with the Moray Twinning Association with a view to developing economic links with the other twinning links in Moray.

## **28. BOVINE SPONGIFORM ENCEPHALOPATHY (BSE)**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning advising the Committee of the impact of the recent BSE scare on the industry in particular the impact on agriculture and beef processors in Moray and the north-east of Scotland.

Following consideration the meeting agreed:-

- (i) That the report be noted;
- (ii) That sympathetic consideration be given to any requests for financial assistance from beef processors in the area;

- (iii) To continue to work with the industry and associated bodies to rebuild the confidence in the meat sector; and
- (iv) That monitoring reports be submitted, in confidence, to future meetings of this Committee and its Services Sub-Committee.

**29. OUTSTANDING ENFORCEMENT CASES: MONITORING SCHEDULE**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning in regard to the monitoring of outstanding enforcement cases.

Following consideration the meeting agreed to note the report.

### **30. LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION: PROPERTY TRANSFER ORDER**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning advising the Committee on the current position with regard to the transfer of properties between Grampian Regional Council and the unitary authorities and seeking homologation of the decisions taken by the Chief Executive to refer a number of issues arising from discussions with Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City Councils which remained unresolved, to the Property Commission.

Following consideration the Committee, in noting the report, agreed to homologate the decisions taken by the Chief Executive to refer matters to the Property Commission. The meeting also agreed to commend the Officers involved for their actions to date.

### **31. PROPOSED SALE OF LAND AT WATERFORD ROAD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, FORRES**

There was submitted a report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning seeking the Committee's approval of terms provisionally agreed by the Estates Surveyor for the sale of an area of land at the new industrial estate at Waterford Road, Forres to Keith Builders Merchants Limited.

Following consideration the Committee approved the provisional terms and remitted it to the Legal and Administration Services Manager to complete the transaction.

### **32. ABERDEEN AND GRAMPIAN TOURIST BOARD**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive inviting the Committee to consider its position in relation to the funding of the Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board in the light of a likely shortfall in funding the Board's activities for the financial year to March 1997.

Following consideration the meeting agreed:-

- (i) To make an immediate payment to the Tourist Board of 50% of the Council's contribution, subject to the balance being made available following the outcome of the ongoing discussions involving the three unitary authorities and the Tourist Board and that it be indicated that in the event of significant further reduction in services to the Moray Council area then the position would be reviewed;
- (ii) To establish a tourism task force comprising of the Chairman and Vice Chairman of this Committee and Councillors Scaife and Mann together with appropriate officials of the Council with a view to participating in the ongoing discussions with the Aberdeen and Grampian Tourist Board and to develop appropriate strategies and policies with regard to the provision of tourism services and development of the tourist industry within Moray; and
- (iii) That a report in regard to alternative means of Tourist Information Centre provision within Moray be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.