

THE MORAY COUNCIL

MINUTE OF MEETING OF THE MORAY COUNCIL

24TH OCTOBER, 1996

COUNCIL CHAMBER, COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS, ELGIN

PRESENT:-

Councillors:- G. McDonald (Convener), E. Aldridge, M. Anderson, D. Crawford, A. Farquharson, M.C. Howe, W. Jappy, A. Keith, R.J. Laing, P. Mann, H. McDonald, R.L. Patterson, C.D. Scaife, A.M. Scott, J.M. Shaw and J. Stewart.

IN ATTENDANCE:-

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Corporate Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance & IT), Director of Community Services, Director of Economic Development and Planning, HSA (Depute) Planning and Resources, Education Department, Chief Leisure Officer, Legal and Administration Services Manager, Communications Officer, and the Principal Administration Officer, who acted as Clerk to the Meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors H.M. Cumiskie and T.A. Howe.

2. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

The Meeting agreed to accept as an additional item of business to be considered at the meeting a Report by the Communications Officer regarding a proposal to install the Council's heraldic crest in a stained glass window in St. Aidan's Church at RAF Lossiemouth given that the RAF authorities were proposing to hold a Service of Dedication on Sunday, 10th November, 1996.

3. RESOLUTION

The Council agreed in terms of Section 50A(4) and (5) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, as amended, to exclude the public from the meeting during consideration of Item 27 of business so as to avoid the disclosure of exempt information of the class described in Paragraphs 8 & 9 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

4. PRIOR MINUTE

The Minute of Meeting of the Council dated 12th September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

5. MINUTE OF MEETING OF SOCIAL WORK COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Social Work Committee dated 19th September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

6. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF HOUSING COMMITTEE

(i) Minute of Meeting dated 19th September, 1996

The Minute of Meeting of the Housing Committee dated 19th September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

(ii) Minute of Meeting of Sub-Committee dated 4th September, 1996

The Minute of Meeting of the Housing Sub-Committee dated 4th September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

7. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

(i) Minute of Meeting dated 24th September, 1996

The Minute of Meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Committee dated 24th September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

(ii) Minute of Special Meeting dated 23rd September, 1996

The Minute of Special Meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Committee dated 23rd September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

(iii) Minute of Meeting of Services Committee dated 15th October, 1996

The Minute of Meeting of the Economic Development and Planning Services Committee dated 15th October, 1996 was submitted and approved.

8. MINUTE OF MEETING OF LICENSING COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Licensing Committee dated 26th September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

9. MINUTE OF MEETING OF TECHNICAL AND LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Technical and Leisure Services Committee dated 3rd October, 1996 was submitted and approved.

10. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF EDUCATION COMMITTEE

(i) Minute of Meeting dated 8th October, 1996

The Minute of Meeting of the Education Committee dated 8th October, 1996 was submitted and approved.

Arising from consideration of the foregoing Minute, the Meeting noted that a Report on the Education Revenue Budget would be included on the Agenda for consideration at the next meeting of the Education Committee.

(ii) Minute of General Purposes Sub-Committee dated 17th September, 1996

The Minute of Meeting of the Education General Purposes Sub-Committee dated 17th September, 1996 was submitted and approved.

11. MINUTE OF MEETING OF POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee dated 10th October, 1996 was submitted and approved subject to Para. 32(d)(i) being amended to read:-

“To authorise Officers to invite expressions of interest with regard to the potential leasing, sale or other arrangements for the Quarries;”.

Elgin Christmas Lights Display 1996

- (i) Under reference to Para. 16(b) (Elgin Christmas Lights Display 1996) the Meeting approved a motion by Councillor H. McDonald, seconded by Councillor Anderson, that the contribution from the Elgin Common Good Fund towards the Christmas Lights Display in Elgin for 1996 be increased to a maximum of £10,000.

School Transport Services Working Party

- (ii) Under reference to Para. 24 (Provision of School Transport Services) the Meeting approved the recommendation of the Policy and Resources Committee that the Working Party proposed to be established by the Technical and Leisure Services Committee to review the Provision of School Transport Services should now report to the Policy and Resources Committee.

The Meeting further agreed that notwithstanding the appointments made by the Technical and Leisure Services Committee to the Working Party, the membership should now comprise the Convener and Councillors Aldridge, Farquharson, Jappy and Scaife.

12. ELGIN TOWN CENTRE - PEDESTRIANISATION AND TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT SCHEME

There was submitted a Joint Report by the Directors of Economic Development and Planning and Technical and Leisure Services putting forward a number of recommendations relating to the continued monitoring and reviewing arrangements of the Pedestrianisation and Traffic Management Scheme in Elgin Town Centre.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to approve the recommendations contained in the Report subject to (a) recommendations 6.1.7, 6.1.11 and 6.1.13 being deleted, and (b) a copy of the Report and its revised Recommendations being forwarded to the Elgin Business Association, the City and Royal Burgh of Elgin Community Council and the Local Enterprise Company for their consultation and comments.

13. MORAY CCTV FEASIBILITY STUDY

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning recommending that the Council accept, in principle, the general findings, aims, recommendations and conclusions of the Draft Moray CCTV Feasibility Study which had been undertaken jointly by the Economic Development and Planning Department and Grampian Police and which were summarised in the Report.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed:-

- (i) To accept in principle the general findings, aims, recommendations and conclusions of the Draft Moray CCTV Feasibility Study, as summarised in the Report;
- (ii) To establish the setting up of a CCTV Liaison Group as soon as possible to consider and reach a decision on the findings of the Feasibility Study;
- (iii) That the Liaison Group should comprise Councillors G. McDonald, Cumiskie, Anderson, Farquharson, Jappy, Keith, Laing, Mann and H. McDonald as the Elected Members for the four Centres identified in the Report which would benefit most from the installation of CCTV, along with representatives of the respective Community Councils, Traders Associations and other local bodies;
- (iv) That Community Councils and other bodies be urged to nominate their representatives to the Liaison Group at the earliest opportunity in order that the findings of the Liaison Group could be considered by the Council in time for an application for Challenge Funding to be submitted by the Fund's deadline for applications at the end of January, 1997; and
- (v) That the Scheme be implemented in two Phases on the basis that priority would be determined by the ability of the Centres to meet the private funding criteria which was essential if the Scheme was to qualify for Challenge Funding.

14. HARMONISATION OF MANUAL WORKERS' HOURS OF WORK

There was submitted a Report by the Depute Chief Executive (Corporate Services) recommending that the Council give consideration to a request from the Trade Unions that negotiations be re-commenced with the Unions on the harmonisation of Manual Workers' Hours of Work in terms of Manual Worker Circular MW/130.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to await the outcome of nationally negotiated agreements before proceeding further.

15. REVIEW OF NATIONAL AND LOCAL PERFORMANCE INDICATOR MANAGEMENT

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive recommending the implementation of revised procedures for the management of national and local performance indicators throughout the various departments of the Authority.

The Meeting noted the revised procedures as detailed in the Report.

16. FORRES COMMON GOOD FUND: FORRES CHRISTMAS LIGHTS COMMITTEE

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive regarding an application from the Forres Christmas Lights Committee for financial assistance from the Forres Common Good Fund towards maintaining and renewing the Christmas Lights Display in Forres for 1996.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to award a grant of £1,000 from the Forres Common Good Fund.

17. CONVENTION OF THE HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive regarding an invitation from the Secretary of State for Scotland to appoint a nominee to serve on the proposed new Convention of the Highlands and Islands to strengthen co-ordination among the various economic development interests in the area.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed (a) to appoint the Convener, Councillor G. McDonald as its nominee to serve on the proposed new Convention of the Highlands and Islands, and (b) to make representations to the Secretary of State that the Authority's representation on the Convention be increased to two members comparable with that allocated to the Argyll and Bute Council given that apart from two Electoral Divisions, the bulk of The Moray Council area was within the Highlands and Islands European Parliamentary Constituency.

18. COSLA SURVEY: LOCAL PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive inviting the Meeting to consider a request from COSLA for the Council's views regarding the standardisation of Local Public Holidays in the light of the results of a survey conducted by the Scottish Chamber of Commerce amongst its members which indicated support for Local Holidays being standardised and for identical Bank Holidays being observed throughout the UK.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to advise COSLA of the Council's opposition to any change to the existing arrangements for Local and Bank Holidays.

19. CONFERENCE - THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCING - GLASGOW

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive inviting the Meeting to consider whether the Council should be represented at a Conference on Local Government Financing to be held in Glasgow on 7th November, 1996.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed not to be represented at this Conference.

20. SCOTTISH LOW PAY UNIT ANNUAL CONFERENCE

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive inviting the Meeting to consider nominating a delegate to attend the Scottish Low Pay Unit Annual Conference to be held in Stirling on 22nd November, 1996.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed not to be represented at the Conference.

21. SUPERANNUATION FUND FORUM - ABERDEEN

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive inviting the Council to consider nominating Officers to attend a Superannuation Fund Forum being hosted by Aberdeen City Council in Aberdeen on 11th November, 1996.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to authorise the Depute Chief Executive (Finance & IT) or his nominee to attend the Forum.

22. MORAY EDUCATION BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive advising that the Convener, Councillor G. McDonald had been invited to become a founding Director of the Moray Education Business Partnership.

The Meeting noted the position.

23. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMISSION PROJECT ON MAINSTREAMING IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT: NOMINATION OF MEMBER CONTACT

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive inviting the Council to nominate a Member with an interest in Equal Opportunities to participate in a networking arrangement which Councillor Margaret Smith, Aberdeen City Council was establishing to assist her in her role as Equal Opportunities Spokesperson of COSLA.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed that Councillor Patricia Mann be nominated as the Member Representative.

24. PUBLIC INQUIRY - SUICIDES IN CORNTON VALE PRISON, STIRLING

There was submitted a Report by the Chief Executive regarding a request from West Dumbartonshire Council that the Council endorses a motion approved by that Authority calling on the Secretary of State for Scotland to hold a Public Inquiry into the five deaths which have occurred in Cornton Vale Prison, Stirling during the last ten months.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland in the following terms:- "This Council believes that a Public Inquiry is the only way to satisfy the public's grave concern regarding these desperately tragic deaths at Cornton Vale Prison, Stirling".

25. SCOTCH WHISKY ASSOCIATION - REDUCTION IN DUTY ON SCOTCH WHISKY

There was submitted a Report by the Director of Economic Development and Planning recommending that the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer in support of the campaign by the Scotch Whisky Association urging him to reduce the duty on Scotch Whisky in his forthcoming Budget.

The Meeting also noted the terms of a Statement by the Convener in support of the Whisky Industry's campaign to reduce the tax on Scotch Whisky.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to write to the Chancellor of the Exchequer supporting the Scotch Whisky Association's campaign for a reduction in the duty on Scotch Whisky.

26. PROPOSAL TO INSTALL THE COUNCIL HERALDIC CREST IN ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH AT RAF LOSSIEMOUTH

There was submitted a Report by the Communications Officer inviting the Meeting to consider a request from the Anglican Chaplain at RAF Lossiemouth for permission to install a commemorative stained glass window depicting the Council's Heraldic Crest in St. Aidan's Church, RAF Lossiemouth,

seeking a contribution of £250 towards its cost and inviting a representative of the Council to attend a Service of Dedication on Sunday, 10th November, 1996.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed:-

- (i) To authorise the use of the Council's Heraldic Crest in the commemorative stained glass window at St. Aidan's Church, RAF Lossiemouth;
- (ii) That a contribution of £250 be made towards the cost of materials; and
- (iii) That Councillor Stewart be nominated to represent the Council at the Service of Dedication on 10th November, 1996.

**27. PROPOSALS FOR SHARING WOODHILL HOUSE RUNNING COSTS
(Paras 8&9)**

There was submitted a Joint Report by the Depute Chief Executive (Corporate Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance & IT) inviting the Meeting to consider proposals by the Aberdeen City Council for the allocation of the running costs of Woodhill House, Aberdeen between the three user Authorities and the Grampian Valuation Joint Board.

Following consideration the Meeting agreed to an allocation of running costs of Woodhill House based on a formula which would relate to the number of Moray Council staff currently located in the building.