

## MINUTE

of

NEILSTON, UPLAWMOOR AND NEWTON MEARNS NORTH AND BARRHEAD  
AREA FORUM

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Offices, 211 Main Street, Barrhead on 25 February 2016.

**Present:**

Councillor Kenny Hay (Chair); Councillor Tony Buchanan; Grace Brookmyre (East Renfrewshire Faith Forum); David Pearson (Crookfur, Greenlaw and Mearns Village Community Council); and Alan Walker (Neilston Development Trust).

Councillor Hay in the Chair

**Attending:**

Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

**Apologies:**

Councillors Elaine Green, Paul O’Kane and Tommy Reilly; Inspector Alan Dickson (Police Scotland); and Station Manager David Fothergill (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

**MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

1. The forum considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 10 December 2015.

**PROJECT MONITORING AND PROPOSALS 2015/16**

2. The Forum considered a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, giving details of the budget allocation for 2015/16.

The report explained that at the previous meeting the Forum had agreed that further information would be sought regarding the noise reduction project at Uplawmoor Skate Park to allow a final decision to be made on the request for additional funding. Attempts had been made to contact Metropolitan Insulation Services regarding the work carried out in Glasgow but no response had been received. Since insufficient time remained to complete the project before the end of the financial year the funding previously agreed had been returned to the Area Forum budget and Uplawmoor Community Council, which had submitted the proposal, had been advised in writing of the decision.

The Committee Services Officer explained that two projects had recently been submitted for consideration, these being for an information signpost at High St/Main St, Neilston and for a dog waste bin at Mure Hall, Uplawmoor. Following urgent discussion with and considerable effort by officers within the appropriate services, it had been confirmed earlier in the day that it was most unlikely that either of these projects could be completed by the end of the financial year.

A list of projects approved by the forum and under delegated powers was included as an appendix to the report.

Councillor Hay expressed regret that it had not been possible to complete some of the projects submitted for consideration and invited views on how the outstanding balance of approximately £4190 could be spent by the end of the financial year to the benefit of the local community.

Councillor Hay, supported by Councillor Buchanan, proposed that an approach be made to the company which had supplied and installed World War 1 commemorative benches at the war memorial in Cowan Park, Barrhead with a view to establishing if a further three such benches could be provided on a supply-only basis with a view to these being installed by the Council in the new financial year at sites to be agreed with local communities.

Mr Walker advised that a landscaping contractor working on behalf of Neilston Development Trust to plant a number of trees within Kingston Park, Neilston had indicated to him that if funding was available an increased number of trees could be planted and invoiced by the end of the financial year.

Following discussion on these suggestions, the forum agreed:-

- (a) that the Committee Services Officer would ascertain the possibility of three World War 1 commemorative benches being provided on a supply-only basis;
- (b) that Councillor Hay would approach relevant officers within the Environment Department with a view to installing these benches in the new financial year at sites yet to be confirmed;
- (c) that Mr Walker would advise the Project Manager for the Kingston Park project to contact the Committee Services Officer regarding the possible availability of funds to provide additional trees; and
- (d) otherwise, to note the report.

## **QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION**

3. The following issues were raised:

### Holehouse Brae, Neilston

Mr Walker raised the condition of a retaining wall at Holehouse Brae, Neilston which was causing concern to local residents. Councillors Hay and Buchanan undertook to contact officers within the Environment Department as a matter of urgency in view of the safety implications of the poor condition of this wall.

## Future community engagement arrangements

Mr Walker sought information on future community engagement following the dissolution of area forums. Councillor Buchanan, supported by Councillor Hay, explained that it was anticipated that the recently revamped community councils would be encouraged to be more proactive in engaging with the Council and other agencies with a view to better representing their local communities.

The forum noted the position.

## **VALEDICTORY REMARKS**

4. Councillor Hay commented that this was the final meeting of the area forum. He expressed his appreciation and thanks to Elected Members, community partners, community representatives and officers for their support during his time as Chair.

CHAIR

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