

MINUTE
of
EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting held at 7.00pm in the Council Chamber, Council Headquarters, Giffnock on 29 October 2014.

Provost Alastair Carmichael
Deputy Provost Betty Cunningham
Councillor Tony Buchanan
Councillor Danny Devlin
Councillor Jim Fletcher (Leader)
Councillor Charlie Gilbert
Councillor Barbara Grant
Councillor Kenny Hay
Councillor Alan Lafferty
Councillor Ian McAlpine

Councillor Gordon McCaskill
Councillor Stewart Miller
Councillor Mary Montague
Councillor Paul O’Kane
Councillor Tommy Reilly
Councillor Ralph Robertson
Councillor Jim Swift
Councillor Gordon Wallace
Councillor Vincent Waters

Provost Carmichael in the Chair

Attending:

Lorraine McMillan, Chief Executive; Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive; Julie Murray, Director of Community Health and Care Partnership; Andy Cahill, Director of Environment; Louise Pringle, Head of Customer and Business Change Services; Barbara Clark, Chief Accountant; Robert Hammond, Venue Development Manager; Eamonn Daly, Democratic Services Manager; and Ron Leitch, Committee Services Officer.

Apologies:

Councillor Elaine Green.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

1264. There were no declarations of interest intimated.

MINUTE OF SPECIAL MEETING - SEPTEMBER 2014

1265. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the special meeting held on 24 September 2014.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

1266. The Council considered and approved the Minute of the meeting held on 24 September 2014.

MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF COMMITTEES

1267. The Council considered and approved the Minutes of the meetings of the undernoted except as otherwise referred to in Items 1268 and 1269 below:-

- (a) Licensing Committee – 24 September 2014;
- (b) Cabinet – 25 September 2014;
- (c) Cabinet (Police & Fire) – 25 September 2014;
- (d) Audit and Scrutiny Committee – 25 September 2014;
- (e) Education Committee – 30 September 2014;
- (f) Cabinet – 2 October 2014;
- (g) Planning Applications Committee – 8 October 2014;
- (h) Cabinet – 16 October 2014;
- (i) Licensing Committee – 22 October 2014.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE – 8 OCTOBER – ONLINE PLANNING INFORMATION

1268. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Planning Applications Committee of 8 October 2014 (Page 1194, Item 1246 refers), when the committee had agreed to changes in procedures in dealing with planning applications to the effect that personal data and representations of parties making comment on planning applications would no longer be displayed online, Councillor Swift expressed concerns at this new approach, suggesting that this was disadvantageous to those residents who would be unable to visit planning offices in person to view representations.

In reply, the Director of Environment and Councillor Hay, Chair of the Planning Applications Committee, explained the reasons why the changes were being introduced. In particular, Councillor Hay emphasised that a full explanation of the proposals had been provided at the meeting by the Planning and Building Standards Manager, that the new proposals brought the Council into line with the latest guidance from the information Commissioner and that similar proposals were already in place amongst many other Scottish authorities. It was also confirmed that individuals would still have online access to all other information they required to enable them to comment on planning applications.

The Council noted the position.

CABINET – 16 OCTOBER 2014 – SALE OF RHUALLAN HOUSE

1269. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 16 October 2014 (Page 1202, Item 1255 refers), when the Cabinet had approved the sale of Rhuallan House, Councillor Grant sought clarification of why, in terms of best value, the Cabinet had decided to accept an offer other than the one that was most financially advantageous to the Council.

In reply, Councillor Fletcher explained what other factors, other than simply the financial consideration offered to the Council, had been a factor in the Cabinet's decision.

The Council noted the information.

GENERAL FUND CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1270. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 25 September 2014 (Page 1159, Item 1213 refers), the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive recommending adjustments to the 2014/15 General Fund Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

Referring to proposals to bring forward £1.2 million in the current financial year to cover costs of professional services received to date associated with the new Barrhead High School project, in accordance with Hub requirements, Councillor Swift, whilst offering support for the new school questioned whether, in light of the delay to the proposed construction, this action was appropriate.

He also sought clarification of whether the Council would lose the funds in the event the construction of the school did not go ahead.

In addition, Councillor McCaskill sought details of the professional services that had been provided resulting in the need to bring forward the funds from later years in the Programme.

Having heard Councillor O'Kane welcome the support for the construction of a new Barrhead High School and outline the efforts that had been made to date by both officers and Elected Members to ensure the project went ahead, the Chief Accountant explained that the payment of the £1.2 million was required in terms of the Council's agreement with Hubco. She further undertook to clarify for Councillor Swift the position relative to the funding in the event the project did not proceed and to provide Councillor McCaskill with details of the professional services provided in respect of which the payment was being made.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the programme; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £208,000 would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

HOUSING CAPITAL PROGRAMME

1271. Under reference to the Minute of the meeting of the Cabinet of 25 September 2014 (Page 1160 Item 1214 refers), the Council considered a report by the Chief Executive recommending adjustments to the 2014/15 Housing Capital Programme in light of issues that had arisen since the programme had been approved.

The Council:-

- (a) approved the movements within the programme; and
- (b) noted that the shortfall of £149,000 would be managed and reported on a regular basis.

PROVOST'S ENGAGEMENTS

1272. The Council considered and noted a report by the Deputy Chief Executive, providing details of the civic engagements attended by and civic duties performed by Provost Carmichael since the last meeting.

1212

STATEMENTS BY CONVENER

1273. Provost Carmichael intimated that no statements had been received.

**STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES ON JOINT BOARDS/COMMITTEES AND
COMMUNITY JUSTICE AUTHORITY**

1274. Provost Carmichael intimated that no statements had been received.

PROVOST