

DRAFT

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2015 at 9.30 A.M.

<u>COUNCILLORS:</u>	David Alexander	Linda Gow	Rosie Murray
	David Balfour	Gordon Hughes	Malcolm Nicol
	Stephen Bird	Steven Jackson	Alan Nimmo
	Allyson Black	Charles MacDonald	Martin Oliver
	Jim Blackwood	Brian McCabe	Baillie Joan Paterson
	Baillie William Buchanan	John McLuckie	Depute Provost John
	Steven Carleschi	John McNally	Patrick
	Colin Chalmers	Adrian Mahoney	Provost Pat Reid
	Tom Coleman	Craig Martin	Ann Ritchie
	Dennis Goldie	Dr Craig R Martin	Robert Spears
	Gerry Goldie	Cecil Meiklejohn	Sandy Turner

OFFICERS: Karen Algie, Head of Human Resources and Customer First
Margaret Anderson, Director of Social Work Services
Rose Mary Glackin, Chief Governance Officer
Gary Greenhorn, Joint Acting Director of Education Services
David McGhee, Head of Resources and Procurement
Colin Moodie, Depute Chief Governance Officer
Anne Pearson, Joint Acting Director of Education Services
Brian Pirie, Democratic Services Manager
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive
Bryan Smail, Chief Finance Officer

FC73. PROVOST'S REMARKS

Provost Reid paid tribute to Charles Sneddon, former Provost of Bo'ness Town Council and member of Central Regional Council, who had passed away on 7 March 2015 and offered, on behalf of the Council, his condolences to Mr Sneddon's family.

FC74. SEDERUNT

An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Dennis Goldie. Councillor Goldie subsequently joined the meeting at item FC86.

FC75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made at this point in the meeting.

FC76. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

(a) Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 17 December 2014.

Decision

The minute of the meeting held on 17 December 2014 was agreed as a correct record.

(b) Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 12 January 2015.

Decision

The minute of the special meeting held on 12 January 2015 was agreed as a correct record.

(c) Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 11 February 2015.

Decision

The minute of the special meeting held on 11 February 2015 was agreed as a correct record.

(d) Volume of Minutes – Volume 4 2014/2015.

Decision

The Volume of Minutes – Volume 4 2014/15 was noted.

(d) Information Bulletin – Volume 4 2014/2015.

Decision

The Information Bulletin – Volume 4 2014/2015 was noted.

Councillor G Goldie joined the meeting during the previous item.

FC77. QUESTIONS

In terms of Standing Order 32.1, written questions may be submitted to the Leader of the Council and/or portfolio holders on any matters relating to business transacted at any meeting of the Executive or Education Executive since the last Volume of Minutes was published.

No questions had been submitted.

FC78. SCRUTINY PLAN 2015

Council considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer inviting members to agree areas for detailed scrutiny as part of the annual scrutiny plan.

The Scrutiny Committee agreed, on 19 February 2015 (ref SC65), to recommend the following topics to Council for inclusion in the annual scrutiny plan:-

- the operation of the complaint system within the Council, in particular, the extent to which complaint outcomes are considered and lessons learned for the future. The scope of the scrutiny panel would include customer feedback as well as formal complaints, and
- outcomes for looked after children.

The committee also agreed to recommend that a third 'slot' in the annual plan would be left vacant and that area for scrutiny would be agreed by the committee with preference given to a subject suggested by the opposition members on the committee should those members participate in the scrutiny process.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Baillie Paterson, moved that Council agrees:-

- (1) the following areas for scrutiny as part of the annual scrutiny plan-
 - (i) the operation of the complaint system within the Council, in particular, the extent to which complaint outcomes are considered and lessons learned for the future. The scope of the scrutiny panel would include customer feedback as well as formal complaints, and
 - (ii) outcomes for looked after children, and
- (2) that the Scrutiny Committee should agree a third area for scrutiny with preference given to a subject suggested by the opposition members on the committee, in the event that they participate in the scrutiny process.

As an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved the following in substitution for clause (2) of the motion:-

There should be flexibility within the scrutiny plan in order to be able to react to emerging issues particularly in respect of the functions of the council.

In light of the predicted budget deficit over the next 3 years and the significant budget variation that has emerged over the course of this financial year, it is agreed that there should be a standing item placed in the scrutiny plan.

Each service would be required to bring forward a financial performance plan to the Scrutiny Committee to enable the effective monitoring of individual service budgets in order to deliver the greater financial efficiencies required by this Council.

Council then adjourned at 9.55a.m. to allow members to consider the motion and amendment and reconvened at 10.15a.m with members present as per the sederunt, with the exception of Councillor D Goldie.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.

At this point, Councillor Black declared a non-financial interest in item FC80 as a civilian instructor with 1333 Spitfire Squadron, Grangemouth but did not consider that this required her to recuse herself from consideration of the item having regard to the objective test in the code of conduct.

FC79. FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST – DIRECTOR APPOINTMENT

Council considered a report by the Chief Executive advising of the resignation of Councillors Nicol and Mahoney as Directors of the Board of the Falkirk Community Trust and recommending that Council appoints successors.

Councillor C Martin advised that the positions were again offered to the opposition.

Councillor McCabe, seconded by Councillor Spears, nominated Councillor Spears.

Councillor Nicol, seconded by Councillor Coleman, nominated Baillie Buchanan.

Decision

Council appointed Baillie Buchanan and Councillor Spears as Directors of the Board of Falkirk Community Trust

FC80. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

Council considered a report by the Chief Governance Officer detailing those deeds that had been signed by her since the last meeting.

Decision

Council noted the report.

FC81. MOTION

Standing Orders

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor G Goldie, moved that:-

This Council agrees to publish the attendance and apologies of members at every Council meeting (to include committees held in public) on its website within 48 hours of the meeting being held. This information is to include the detail of any motion, amendment or addendum submitted and the result of any division with a clear record of how each member voted, including abstentions.

Council agrees that the Chief Governance Officer will report to the next available meeting of Council on any necessary changes to the Standing Orders to give effect to this proposal.

As an amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Jackson, moved the terms of the motion, with the following addendum:-

In addition Council should obtain and publish as soon as possible the attendance records of those who are nominated to the following external bodies by the Council: Transitional Board for Health and Social Care Integration (and its successor), Falkirk Community Trust, Forth Valley Health Board and the Fife and Forth Valley Community Justice Authority.

Councillors Jackson and Coleman then gave notice of further amendments.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:

For the motion(16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment(15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Having given notice of a further amendment, Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor McCabe, moved the terms of the motion subject to the following addendum:-

Extend the recording of all Council meetings and provide an audio link for members of the public on Falkirk Council's website.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 31 members present with voting as undernoted:

For the motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the Amendment (15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Having also given notice of a further amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Alexander, moved the terms of the motion subject to the following addendum:-

As a further demonstration of the full purpose of the motion, Council agrees to place on its website all records requested by the movers of the motion from the first statutory meeting of Council in 2012.

Councillor D Goldie joined the meeting at this point.

In terms of Standing Order 22.4(i) a vote was taken by roll call, there being 32 members present with voting as undernoted:

For the motion(17) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Patrick; Baillies Buchanan and Paterson; Councillors Black, Blackwood, D Goldie, G Goldie, Gow, MacDonald, McLuckie, Mahoney, C Martin, Dr C R Martin, Murray, Nicol and Nimmo.

For the amendment(15) – Councillors Alexander, Balfour, Bird, Carleschi, Chalmers, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, McCabe, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears and Turner.

Decision

Council agreed the motion.