

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**Minute of special meeting of Falkirk Council held in the Municipal Buildings, Falkirk on Friday 20 October 2017 at 9.30 a.m.**

**Councillors:** David Aitchison                      Fiona Collie                      Cecil Meiklejohn  
David Alexander                      Jim Flynn                      Lynn Munro  
David Balfour                      Paul Garner                      Laura Murtagh  
Lorna Binnie                      Dennis Goldie                      Malcolm Nicol  
Robert Bissett                      David Grant                      Alan Nimmo  
Allyson Black                      Nigel Harris                      John Patrick  
Jim Blackwood                      Gordon Hughes                      Pat Reid  
Gary Bouse                      James Kerr                      Depute Provost Ann Ritchie  
Billy Buchanan                      Adanna McCue                      Robert Spears  
Provost Tom Coleman                      John McLuckie

**Officers:** Douglas Duff, Head of Planning and Economic Development  
Colin Moodie, Chief Governance Officer  
Mary Pitcaithly, Chief Executive  
Antonia Sobieraj, Committee Services Officer

**FC45. Sederunt**

The sederunt was taken by way of a roll call. An apology was intimated on behalf of Councillor Coombes.

**FC46. Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

Prior to consideration of a motion proposed by Councillor Goldie (agenda item 3 (ii)), the Provost stated that the information requested in the substantive part of the motion was available within the 2017/18 budget. The Head of Planning and Economic Development provided an update regarding the budget line for necessary repair works for Abbotsford House confirming that the amount available was £11,000 per annum. He confirmed that there were no plans to spend beyond this level and agreed that plans beyond the agreed budget would be brought before members for their consideration.

Following discussion and in light of the statement made by the Head of Planning and Economic Development, Councillor Goldie withdrew his motion.

## **FC47. Motion**

Council considered the following motion by Councillor Goldie, seconded by Councillor Nimmo, that:-

At the meeting of the Council's Executive on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2017, the Leader of the Council, Cecil Meiklejohn, whilst discussing agenda item 9 Strategic Property Review: Abbotsford House, stated in relation to other sites for a new Council building " What concerns me Councillor Goldie is that you spoke about obviously discussions you have had with colleagues within your Council Administration that were not shared with others regarding particular sites and I want to make it clear that, that was not something involved in the discussions I was involved in.

The Statement by Councillor Meiklejohn infers that I as an individual, and the Council administration at the time did not make it clear that when trying to find a solution to the Councils Headquarters requirements the Callendar Square Shopping Centre was at that time an option. Councillor Meiklejohn was present at the Meeting of the full Council on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> of December, when I as portfolio holder for economic development advised Council that Callendar Square was an option and that discussions had taken place in this regard. Councillor Meiklejohn submitted apologies to a meeting of the Strategic Property Review on Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of February 2017 and sent her deputy Councillor Garner in her place.

Item 2 on the agenda for this meeting was a presentation by the Head of Economic Development and Environmental Services on four potential options for a town Centre HQ. The agenda shows the first option to be discussed was Callendar Square – including arts centre. Also in attendance at this meeting was former Councillor Brian McCabe of the Naig group. Apologies were submitted by Depute Provost John Patrick (all political groups were therefore given the opportunity to discuss and ask questions regarding the proposal for Callendar Square).

Council seeks more clarity on this statement from Councillor Meiklejohn and having heard Mrs Meiklejohn further on this issue, Council will determine what action if any should be taken against Cecil Meiklejohn, Leader of the Council.

Council agreed to a short recess at 10.26 a.m. to allow members to consider the terms of the motion in light of the responses given by the Leader of the Council and Councillor Garner. The meeting reconvened at 10.52 a.m. with all members present as per the sederunt.

## **Decision**

**Council agreed to take no action.**