

- (2) The applicant is advised that the development requires Listed Building Consent.

In accordance with a decision taken at the start of the meeting, **NOTED** that the following two items had been continued to a future meeting to allow inspections of the sites by Committee:-

P141. ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE AT GLEN HOUSE, GLEN ROAD, TORWOOD, LARBERT FK5 4SN FOR MR ALAN MILLIKEN - P/11/0692/FUL

P142. ERECTION OF NEW DEER FENCING AND GATES AT BURNHOUSE FARM, BONNYBRIDGE FK4 2HH FOR MRS VIRGINIA LUCEY - P/11/0651/FUL

The Committee **AGREED** to hear the following two items together as they related to the same project.

P143. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PATHS AND ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PATHS ON LAND TO THE NORTH WEST OF DALDERSE SEWAGE WORKS, FALKIRK FOR THE HELIX TRUST - P/11/0687/FUL

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission for the formation of public access footpaths and cycleways to the north of Farm Street and Lomond Drive to the south of the River Carron on land to the north west of Dalderse Sewage Works, Falkirk.

AGREED to **GRANT** planning permission, subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) The development to which the permission relates must be begun within three years from the date of the permission.
- (2) The approved footpath/cycleway 'X' shall be constructed to extend to and connect with the existing path at the western end of Lomond Drive, Falkirk.

Reason(s):-

- (1) To comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
- (2) To provide footpath/cycleway connection with existing infrastructure.

Informative:-

- (1) For the avoidance of doubt, the plan(s) to which the decision refer(s) bear the online reference number(s) 01A, 02, 03A, 04A, 05A and 06A.
- (2) The development will require the approval of Roads Construction Consent from the Roads Development Unit of Falkirk Council prior to the commencement of works.

P144. CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PATHS AND ENHANCEMENT OF EXISTING PATHS ON LAND TO THE NORTH WEST OF DALDERSE SEWAGE WORKS, FALKIRK FOR THE HELIX TRUST - P/11/0688/FUL

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission for the formation of public access footpaths and cycleways to the east of Lomond Drive and within the boundary of the Abbotshaugh Community Woodland on land to the north west of Dalderse Sewage Works, Falkirk.

AGREED to **GRANT** planning permission, subject to the following conditions:-

- (1) The development to which the permission relates must be begun within three years from the date of the permission.
- (2) Prior to the commencement of development details of pedestrian/cyclist protection measures to be provided at the location where path 'L' adjoins Abbots Road shall be provided for the assessment of Falkirk Council as Planning Authority. Development shall not commence until the written approval of Falkirk Council is provided, including amendment as required.

Reason(s):-

- (1) To comply with Section 58 of the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1997.
- (2) In the interests of road safety.

Informative:-

- (1) For the avoidance of doubt, the plan(s) to which the decision refer(s) bear the online reference number(s) 01A, 02A, 03, 04A, 05A and 06A.

P145. SITING OF TEMPORARY CARAVAN, FORMATION OF FLOODLIT HORSE TRAINING ARENA, EXTENSION TO EXISTING SHED, ERECTION OF STORAGE SHED AND ERECTION OF ENTRANCE FEATURE WALL (RETROSPECTIVE) AT HOMESTEAD FARM, BINNIEHILL ROAD, SLAMANNAN, FALKIRK FK1 3BE FOR MR GERRY CROLLA – P/10/0636/FUL

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 2 November 2011 (Paragraph P98 refers), there was submitted a Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission for the siting of a temporary caravan, the formation of floodlit horse training arena, the extension to an existing shed, the erection of a storage shed and the erection of an entrance feature wall (retrospective) at Homestead Farm, Binniehill Road, Slamannan, Falkirk.

On 2 November 2011, the Committee agreed to grant planning permission, with the exception of the caravan, and subject to the Director of Development Services investigating the possibility of a Tree Preservation Order over the remaining trees on site and that trees to be planted, as required by condition, be of robust specification and advanced level of maturity and that matters be reported back to Committee.

NOTED that the site was inspected by Landscape Officers and an assessment carried out using a standard methodology to assess amenity value. It was concluded that neither the small conifer block at the entrance to the east, nor the linear tree belt along the former railway line to the north west would merit a Tree Preservation Order.

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2012 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Fry, Hughes, Kenna and C Martin.

CONVENER: Councillor C Martin.

APOLOGY: Councillor R Spears

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, of Development Services; of Education and of Social Work Services; Chief Finance Officer; Depute Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance); Chief Governance Officer; Depute Chief Governance Officer; Head of Human Resources; Legal Services Manager; and Senior Committee Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: None.

PR87. BUDGET 2012/13

There was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 31 January 2012 by the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer referring to (a) the Revenue Budget 2012/13 to 2014/15; (b) the three year General Capital Programme 2012/13 – 2014/15; (c) the Housing Revenue Account and Council House Rents 2012/13 – 2014/15; and (d) the Housing Investment Programme 2012/13 to 2014/15, inviting Committee to give consideration to the terms thereof and to make such recommendations thereon to Council as it considers appropriate. A copy of a report on the Falkirk Community Trust – Business Plan, which will be considered by Council as part of the budget setting process, was also attached for Members' information.

AGREED to refer the budget reports to the Special Meeting of Falkirk Council to be held later in the day.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2012 at 10.00AM.

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, Lemetti (Items FC86 to FC89), A MacDonald (Item FC86 to FC88), C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears, Thomson, Turner and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid.

APOLOGY: Councillor Patrick.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, of Development Services, of Education Services, and of Social Work Services; Chief Finance Officer; Depute Chief Finance Officer (Corporate Finance); Chief Governance Officer; Depute Chief Governance Officer; Heads of Economic Development and Environmental Services, of Housing, of Human Resources and Customer First, and of Policy, Technology and Improvement; Building Design Manager (R Millar); Accountancy Service Managers (D Cairney and B Heron); Legal Services Manager (I Henderson) and Democratic Services Manager.

ALSO

ATTENDING: Chief Executive, Falkirk Community Trust.

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: Provost Reid and Councillors Gow, Nicol, Mahoney and Waddell declared non financial interests in items FC 87 and 88 as Directors of the Falkirk Community Trust, but did not consider that this required them to recuse themselves from consideration of the items having had regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct and the relevant specific exemption contained in the Code.

FC86. MINUTE

There was submitted (tabled) and **NOTED** Minute of Special Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2012.

FC87. FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST – BUSINESS PLAN

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2012 (Paragraph PR87 refers) there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 1 February by the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer (a) presenting the Falkirk Community Trust Business Plan for 2012/13; (b) detailing the Trust's proposed Revenue budget and Capital programme for 2012/13, and (c) recommending that Council approves a service payment of £11.970m to the Trust.

AGREED to approve:-

- (1) the Falkirk Community Trust Business Plan for 2012/13;
- (2) a Service payment of £11.970 m to Falkirk Community Trust for 2012/13, and
- (3) the capital expenditure proposals for 2012/13 as detailed in the 2012/13 Plan.

Councillor Gow entered the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC88. REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13 – 2014/15

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2012 (Paragraph PR87 refers) there was submitted Joint Report (circulated) dated 1 February 2012 by the Chief Executive and the Chief Finance Officer providing a draft revenue budget for 2012/13 to 2014/15.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Mahoney, moved that Council:-

- “(1) accepts the draft budget for 2012/13 as set out in the report;
- (2) levies a council tax for 2012/13 as follows:
 - a council tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in council tax valuation band D of £1,070 representing a nil increase;
 - a council tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other council tax valuation bands in accordance with section 74(1) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the report)
- (3) instructs Chief Officers to deliver services within the specific budget allocation for each Service and authorises them to take such actions as may be required to give effect to the service delivery proposals outlined in parts 5 and 6 of the report, and
- (4) notes the progress in respect of the current negotiations with Trade Unions and agrees to set aside £230K to allow officers to continue negotiations within the confines of the original package, as outlined in section 5.3 of the report, including an extension to the period of no compulsory redundancies until 31 March 2013.”

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved alterations to the draft revenue budget:-

- (1) "increase the starting point in income terms before charging for Social Works Services commences to benefit rate plus 30% buffer thus assisting the lowest income groups and individuals most

Cost £200,000
 - (2) village and other centres of population below District Centre status such as Bainsford, Bonnybridge, Camelon, Charlotte Dundas Centre and Slamannan require regeneration. The proposal is to pump prime this process with additional resources to Economic Development.

Cost £150,000
 - (3) additional spend on the Parks Strategy

Cost £160,000
 - (4) Blackness Flood Defences – to tackle the outstanding Western Terrace flood defences

Cost £100,000
 - (5) Sports Initiatives for Young People – to bring forward schemes that make it easier for young people to participate in sport activities

Cost £150,000
 - (6) Develop partnerships with the voluntary sector for the development of Social Enterprises

Cost £75,000
 - (7) Maintain the SRPS grant at its 2011/12 level

Cost £5,000
 - (8) Restore free school meals to the pupils of Carrongrange who do not have the option of going home for lunch

Cost £20,000
 - (9) A feasibility study into a joint venture with NHS Forth Valley on the development of a shared health/social work campus in Bonnybridge in light of the closure of Bonnybridge hospital

Cost £20,000
- Total Spend £880,000**

The foregoing to be funded from additional income as follows :-

- (1) set target for Council Tax collection at 2010/11 performance levels

Income Generated £300,000
 - (2) over the last five years the average difference between the end of year financial predications and the end of the year actual position is plus £2,133,000. Allocate a modest 25% rounded down slightly, of this figure to projections

Income Generated £580,000
- Total Income £880,000**

In addition the sum of £230k is to be allocated from the implementation of the living wage with effect from 1 April 2012 with funding coming from reserves on the understanding that the Trade Unions will have agreed to replace the current car allowance scheme with the HMRC Scheme thereby saving £270k".

Council then adjourned for 80 minutes to allow members to consider the terms of the Motion and Amendment. Council reconvened at 1pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

Councillor Martin, with the consent of the Provost, and of Councillor Mahoney, as his seconder, adjusted the terms of his Motion to incorporate the following items from the Amendment (with the additional costs to be met from Reserves):-

- additional spend on Parks strategy - £160,000
- sports initiatives for young people – to bring forward schemes that make it easier for young people to participate in sports activities - £150,000
- restore free school meals to the pupils of Carrongrange School - £20,000, with the additional instruction that officers consider extending the provision to other specialist units and report back with equality and poverty impact assessments

Council then adjourned for lunch for 45 minutes and reconvened at 2.00pm with all members present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillor Fry.

Councillor Spears gave notice of a further Amendment.

Following discussion, and in terms of Standing Order 2.4 (1), a vote was taken, there being 30 members present with voting (Councillor A MacDonald having then left the meeting) as undernoted:-

For the adjusted Motion (17) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol, Nimmo and Waddell.

For the Amendment (13) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears, Thomson and Turner.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to:-

- (1) accept the Draft Budget 2012/13 as set out in the report and appendices, subject to the following additions to be funded from reserves:-

- additional spend on the parks strategy (£160,000)
- sports initiatives for young people (£150,00)
- restore free school meals to the pupils of Carrongrange (£20,000),

- (2) levy a Council Tax for 2012/13 as follows:-

- (i) a Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in Council Tax Valuation Band D of £1,070, representing a nil increase;
- (ii) a Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other Council Tax Valuations Bands in accordance with Section 74 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as set out in paragraph 8.2 of the Report)

- (3) instruct Chief Officers to deliver Services within the specific budget allocation for each Service and authorise them to take such actions as may be required to give effect to the service delivery proposals outlined in parts 5 and 6 of the report;
- (4) note the progress in respect of the current negotiations with Trade Unions and to set aside £230K to allow officers to continue negotiations within the confines of the original package, as outlined in section 5.3 of the report, including an extension to the period of no compulsory redundancies until 31 March 2013, and
- (5) ask Officers to prepare a report, including an equalities and poverty impact assessment, on the provision of free school meals at each of the Council's specialist units.

In terms of Standing Order 19.6 the Motion became the substantive Motion upon which the further Amendment could be moved.

Councillor Spears, seconded by Councillor Nicol, moved the terms of the substantive Motion but with the allocation of:-

- £50,000 per annum, to be met from reserves in 2012/13, for the formation of a veterans office to be situated in a central location in Falkirk, accessible to veterans.

(Councillor C Martin then gave notice of a further Amendment.)

Following discussion, and in terms of Standing Order 2.4 (1), a vote was taken, there being 30 members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (16) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nimmo and Waddell.

For the Amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, McNally, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Oliver, Ritchie, Spears, Thomson and Turner.

Accordingly, **AGREED** the terms of the substantive Motion.

By way of further Amendment, Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Gow, moved the terms of the substantive Motion, subject to the inclusion of the following:-

“Council agrees with the Veterans Champion that £50k be allocated to the budget from reserves to improve service to local veterans and therefore instructs Officers to discuss with the various ex-servicemen's organisations to ensure that the money is spent in the best interest of the veterans.

Council instructs Officers to report back to the relevant Committee.”

The further amendment was approved by Council without a vote.

Accordingly, **AGREED**, to:-

- (1) approve the Draft Budget 2012/13 as set out in the report and appendices, subject to the following additions to be funded from reserves:-
 - additional spend on the parks strategy (£160,000)
 - sports initiatives for young people (£150,00)
 - restore free school meals to the pupils of Carrongrange (£20,000)
 - Veterans Support (£50,000)
- (2) set a Council Tax for 2012/13 as follows:-
 - (i) a Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in Council Tax Valuation Band D of £1,070, representing a nil increase;
 - (ii) a Council Tax to be paid in respect of a chargeable dwelling in each of the other Council Tax Valuations Bands in accordance with Section 74 (1) of the Local Government Act 1992 (as set out in paragraph 8.2 above)
- (3) instruct Chief Officers to deliver Services within the specific budget allocation for each Service and authorise them to take such actions as may be required to give effect to the service delivery proposals outlined in parts 5 and 6 of the report;
- (4) notes the progress in respect of the current negotiations with Trade Unions and agrees to set aside £230K to allow officers to continue negotiations within the confines of the original package, as outlined in section 5.3 of the Report, including an extension to the period of no compulsory redundancies until 31 March 2013;
- (5) ask Officers to prepare a full report, including an equalities impact assessment, on the provision of free school meals at each of the Council's Specialist Units, and
- (6) ask officers to discuss with the various ex-servicemen's organisations to ensure that the £50k included in the budget for veterans support, is spent in the best interests of the veterans and to report to the outcome to the relevant Committee.

FC89. THREE YEAR GENERAL CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2012/13 – 2014/15

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2012 (Paragraph PR87 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 26 January 2012 by the Chief Finance Officer setting out the proposed capital investment plans of Falkirk Council for the next three financial years 2012/13 to 2014/15.

AGREED to approve the General Services Capital Programme and the Prudential Indicators as detailed in Appendix 2 to the Report.

Councillor Lemetti left the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

FC90. HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT & COUNCIL HOUSE RENTS 2012/13 – 2014/15

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2012 (Paragraph PR87 refers), there was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 1 February 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and the Chief Finance Officer (a) presenting a draft Housing Revenue Account for the financial year 2012/13; (b) making recommendations on the level of council house and garage rents for 2012/13, and (c) proposing indicative rent levels for the years 2013/14 and 2014/15.

AGREED to approve the Draft Housing Revenue Account budget for 2012/13, and the following:-

- (1) no rent increase to be applied from 1 April 2012. The average fortnightly charge, based on the 24 fortnightly periods with no rent being charged during the fortnightly periods commencing 25 June 2012 and 23 December 2012, would therefore remain at £115.76;
- (2) utilisation of c£2.6m from the Housing Revenue Account reserves;
- (3) lock-up garage rentals to remain at an average of £5.33 per week;
- (4) garage site rentals to remain at £75 per annum;
- (5) Castings Hostel rentals remain at £137.69 per room per week (excluding fuel charges);
- (6) homeless property rentals remain at an average of £159.62 per week, and

NOTED the indicative budgets and rent increases for 2013/14 and 2014/15 as representing the best information available at this time.

FC91. HOUSING INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2012/13 – 2014/15

With reference to Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2012 (Paragraph PR87 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 25 January 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services setting out the 3 year forward planning assumptions for the HRA Investment Programme for the years 2012/13 to 2014/15.

AGREED the expenditure proposals outlined in the 2012/13 to 2014/15 Housing Investment programme as set out in Appendix 1 to the Report.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the PLANNING REVIEW COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2012 at 2.30 P.M.

PRESENT: Councillors Alexander, Buchanan, McLuckie and Nicol.

CONVENER: Councillor Buchanan.

APOLOGY: Councillor Oliver.

ATTENDING: Legal Services Manager (I Henderson); Senior Planning Officer (B Vivian); Craig Russell (Roads Development Officer) and Committee Services Officer (S Barton).

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: None.

PRC7. MINUTE

There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of the Planning Review Committee held on 15 December 2011.

PRC8. OPENING REMARKS

The Convener welcomed everyone in attendance to this meeting of the Planning Review Committee and following a short introduction asked Mr Henderson, Legal Services Manager, to provide a summary of the procedure to be followed at the Committee.

PRC9. APPLICATION FOR REVIEW – PLANNING APPLICATION P/11/506/FUL, EXTENSION TO DWELLINGHOUSE AT 17 CAMPFIELD STREET, FALKIRK, FK2 7DN

There were submitted documents (circulated) in relation to the Application for Review submitted by Mr William Smith for an extension to a dwellinghouse at 17 Campfield Street, Falkirk.

The Committee heard a short presentation from Mr Vivian, who provided a summary of the application and referred to the Report of Handling and the reasons for refusal of the application.

After discussion and having heard advice from Mr Henderson and Mr Vivian, the Committee **AGREED:-**

- (1) that they did not have sufficient information to allow them to make a determination, therefore the matter be continued to a future meeting of the Committee on a date to be agreed;
- (2) that further information in the form of written submissions, be submitted by the Director of Development Services providing copies of approved plans in relation to the properties as detailed on page 13 of the Agenda;
- (3) that the written submissions requested be provided within a period of 14 days from receipt of the request;
- (4) that the written submissions requested be copied to the applicant in order that the applicant may make comments in reply, and
- (5) to conduct an accompanied inspection of the site in question on a date to be agreed.

PRC10. APPLICATION FOR REVIEW - PLANNING APPLICATION P/11/0465/PPP SUBDIVISION OF PLOT AND ERECTION OF NEW DWELLINGHOUSE AT RUMAH, SHIELDHILL ROAD, REDDINGMUIRHEAD, FALKIRK FK2 0DU

There were submitted documents (circulated) in relation the Application for Review submitted by Mr Graham Jinks on behalf of Mr D Donaldson for the sub-division of plot and erection of a new dwellinghouse at Rumah, Shieldhill Road, Reddingmuirhead, Falkirk.

The Committee heard a short presentation from Mr Vivian, who provided a summary of the application and referred to the Report of Handling and the reasons for refusal of the application. The Committee also heard from Mr Russell who answered questions in relation to road safety matters in relation to the application.

After discussion and having heard advice from Mr Henderson, the Committee **AGREED:-**

- (1) that they did not have sufficient information to allow them to make a determination, therefore the matter be continued to a future meeting of the Committee on a date to be agreed;
- (2) that further information in the form of written submissions, be submitted by the Roads Development Unit to provide a report which gives a clear explanation of the accepted position (referencing relevant guidance and policies) in relation to road junctions of the nature proposed at this location including expected size, dimensions, configuration, visibility splay and distances involved;
- (3) that the written submissions requested be provided within a period of 14 days from receipt of the request;

- (4) that the written submissions requested be copied to the applicant in order that the applicant may make comments in reply to them, and
- (5) to conduct an unaccompanied site visit of the site in question on a date to be agreed.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the HOUSING AND SOCIAL CARE COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2012 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Gow, C MacDonald, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Patrick and Turner.

CONVENER: Councillor Blackwood.

APOLOGY: Councillor Jackson.

ATTENDING: Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and of Social Work Services; Heads of Community Care and of Housing Services; Acting Head of Children & Families and Criminal Justice; Accountancy Service Manager (B Heron); Service Manager (S Loudon); Depute Chief Governance Officer and Committee Services Officer (S Barton).

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Councillor Meiklejohn declared a non-financial interest in Items HSC40 and HSC41 by virtue of her involvement as a member of the Care Inspectorate Board, but did not consider that this required her to recuse herself from consideration of these items, having regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

HSC39. MINUTES

There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED:-**

- (a) Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Social Care Committee held on 8 November 2011, and
- (b) Minute of Special Meeting of the Housing and Social Care Committee held on 28 November 2011.

HSC40. FALKIRK CHILD PROTECTION COMMITTEE – FUTURE WORK PLAN

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 23 January 2012, by the Director of Social Work Services advising of the work programme which the Falkirk Child Protection Committee will take forward over the next 2 years.

Discussion took place on the importance of having some form of development plan to allow for continuous improvement.

NOTED:-

- (1) the positive findings of the Care Inspectorate Report on Services to Protect Children and Young People in the Falkirk Council area, and
- (2) the plan developed by the Falkirk Child Protection Committee which is designed to ensure that services continue to improve

AGREED to ask the Director of Social Work to bring back further updates on the progress achieved in implementing this plan.

Councillor Gow entered the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

HSC41. SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT REVIEW OF SOCIAL WORK COMPLAINTS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 23 January 2012, by the Director of Social Work Services (a) informing of the Scottish Government consultation in relation to the review of the social work complaints procedure, and (b) attaching as an Appendix, the proposed Falkirk Council response for approval.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the need to be able to set policy locally, ensuring they are implemented in a clear and transparent manner
- a requirement to look at the timescales for dealing with complaints to ensure that targets are realistic
- clarification required on the roles of all involved in the complaints process
- the importance of Elected Member involvement in the Review Committee

NOTED the content of the report and the proposals from Scottish Government.

AGREED to approve the content of the response to the consultation as detailed in the appendix to the Report.

HSC42. UPDATE – COMMISSIONING STRATEGY FOR SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 23 January 2012, by the Director of Social Work Services (a) providing an update on the Commissioning priorities for Social Work Services which were set out in the Commissioning Strategy for Social Care which was agreed in November 2009; (b) reflecting the impact of the financial crisis and some of the other key policy drivers which have affected these and new emerging priorities since November 2009, and (c) setting out the immediate commissioning priorities for Social Work Services and identifying the work being undertaken that will lead to a full updated Commissioning Strategy.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the implications for staff

- the need to ensure a level of consistency for services
- the importance of financial viability checks for care home providers
- the demands of an ageing population on healthcare

NOTED:-

- (1) the progress made against the Commissioning Priorities set out in 2009 detailed in Appendix 1 to the report;
- (2) the planned commissioning work for 2012/13;
- (3) the new policy drivers at national and local level and the impact on commissioning priorities for Social Care, and
- (4) that work is also being undertaken to develop longer term Commissioning Strategies - for Falkirk Council Social Work Services and for various Joint Commissioning agendas (Older People's services, Learning Disability services and Children's services).

AGREED that the Director of Social Work Services should provide full reports on progress during 2012/13.

HSC43. PROGRESS REPORT ON SELF-DIRECTED SUPPORT IN SOCIAL CARE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012, by the Director of Social Work Services providing an update on the implementation of Self Directed Support (SDS) in Social care, both on a local and national level.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the success of the innovative voucher system which is being trialled for respite care
- the need for information to be supplied for Elected Members to allow them to direct constituents to the appropriate service
- the issues around joint care packages
- the development of an "App" for use by service users
- the implications for staff as a result of the more flexible approach to providing services

NOTED the progress made nationally and locally in moving towards self direction of care and support services.

AGREED to approve the next steps outlined to progress this policy further in 2012 and to request the Director of Social Work Services to provide timely updates over the coming twelve months.

HSC44. HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE INTEGRATION UPDATE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012, by the Director of Social Work Services providing an update on the evolving national agenda relating to potential health and social care integration.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- concerns over the accountability of any new partnership
- the importance of local Member input into decision making
- the need to improve the whole care pathway

NOTED the most recent Government announcements in relation to health and social care integration.

AGREED to ask the Director of Social Work Services to bring back further updates in due course.

HSC45. REDESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF SHORT BREAKS SERVICE FOR ADULTS WHO HAVE A LEARNING DISABILITY

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012, by the Director of Social Work Services providing an update on the outcome of the scoping work towards the redesign and development of a Short Breaks Service for adults who have a learning disability.

Having heard from Councillor Meiklejohn, the Convener **AGREED** to an additional recommendation being put to the Committee, namely:-

“that a Report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing information on developments in the short break service”

Thereafter,

NOTED:-

- (1) the completion of the scoping and consultation work, and
- (2) that the outcomes of the work indicated that the proposal would lead to increased costs.

AGREED:-

- (1) that no further work be undertaken in relation to this specific proposal, and
- (2) that a Report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee providing information on developments in the short break service.

HSC46. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY CARE LOCALITY AND INTEGRATED TEAMS AND INTAKE SERVICE PILOT

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012, by the Director of Social Work Services (a) informing on the progress of the review of Community Care Locality and Integrated Teams, and (b) providing information on what has been learned from the Intake Service Pilot which ran from March 2011 until September 2011.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- concerns over waiting times for low level assessments
- the need for workforce management to mitigate absence
- the effectiveness of the locality model
- the importance of stability for service users

Councillor Blackwood, seconded by Councillor McNeill moved the recommendations as contained in the Report.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Turner moved:-

“that Committee ask the Director of Social Work Services to look again at the operation of Community Care Teams and bring back a progress report in the autumn on the proposal to improve the equality of service provided”

On a division, 7 Members voted for the Motion and 4 Members voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly:-

NOTED the feedback from the Pilot.

AGREED:-

- (1) the Service should seek to consolidate the geographical teams, and
- (2) to have further discussions around the health and social care integration agenda

At conclusion of the foregoing item of business, the Convener thanked the Director of Social Work and all officers from Social Work Services for their support to the Committee.

The Committee **AGREED** to a short adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11.05 am and reconvened at 11.15 am with all those present as per the sederunt with the exception of Councillor Turner.

HSC47. RESHAPING CARE FOR OLDER PEOPLE: REABLEMENT PROJECT

There was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 13 January 2012, by the Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and Social Work Services (a) providing an update on the proposal to develop a reablement service in a care home environment; (b) seeking authority to use two properties within the Council's Housing with Care development at Tygetshaugh, Dunipace for a pilot reablement project, and (c) seeking authority to use up to a total of six Council-owned Housing with Care properties for reablement purposes at any one time.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the proposals to use Registered Social Landlords for future projects
- funding for the project

NOTED that it is no longer proposed to use accommodation in a care home to provide a reablement facility

AGREED to:-

- (1) providing an initial pilot reablement facility at nos. 1 and 3 Tygetshaugh, Dunipace as part of the joint work with Health in respect of the Reshaping Care for Older People agenda, and
- (2) authorise the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services to allocate up to a total of six Housing with Care properties for the purpose of providing reablement facilities at any one time.

Councillor Turner entered the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

HSC48. HOUSING ESTATE MANAGEMENT POLICY

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 25 January 2012, by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services (a) informing of the results of the public consultation on the Council's Housing Estate Management Policy; (b) seeking permission to consult further on the basis of a draft policy document, and (c) recommending further consultation in relation to paid for services, in light of the Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the number of respondents to the consultation
- the need to make owner/occupiers aware that they can opt out of any stair cleaning paid for service

NOTED:-

- (1) that a further report will be provided to Policy and Resources Committee, following consultation on the draft Housing Estate Management Policy, and

- (2) the requirement to consult on the Property Factors (Scotland) Act 2011 with a further report to Committee outlining the implications for Falkirk Council.

AGREED to approve the draft Housing Estate Management Policy subject to consultation.

HSC49. TENANT PARTICIPATION STRATEGY

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 25 January 2012, by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services (a) providing an update on progress made in implementing the Tenant Participation Strategy for the period 2009-2012; (b) seeking permission to consult on the Tenant Participation Strategy for 2013-2016, and (c) providing information on the Social Housing Charter which will be introduced in April 2012 under the Housing (Scotland) act 2010.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the good work of tenants and residents associations
- the importance of contact information being provided to Elected Members by tenants and residents associations

NOTED:-

- (1) the progress in Tenant Participation to date, and
- (2) that a further report will be provided to Committee on the draft Tenants Participation Strategy 2013-16 following consultation.

HSC50. PRIVATE SECTOR HOUSING ACTIVITIES

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 6 February 2012, by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services providing an update on the activities of the Private Sector Housing Section.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the impact of private sector leasing on the costs for bed and breakfast accommodation
- the costs for disabled adaptations
- the difficulties surrounding empty homes where the owner is unable to be traced/contacted

NOTED the contents of the Report.

HSC51. IMPLICATIONS OF THE HOUSING (SCOTLAND) ACT 2010 FOR RENT ACCOUNT MANAGEMENT

There was submitted joint Report (circulated) dated 25 January 2012, by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and the Chief Finance Officer (a) informing of the implications of the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 on the ways in which Falkirk Council seeks to prevent rent arrears and support tenants to address arrears when they arise; (b) summarising the main changes to be introduced, and (c) seeking permission to consult tenants and other service users about the changes in policy required to implement this legislation.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the importance of early intervention in cases of rent arrears
- concerns over the review of the rent setting structure

NOTED the implications on rent account management arising from the Housing (Scotland) Act 2010 and the introduction of the Scottish Social Housing Charter.

AGREED:-

- (1) that a further report will be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee following consultation with tenants and service users, on future Service Standards and how best to engage customers in the self assessment process for rents and service charges, and
- (2) that a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Committee, outlining the options in respect of a modernised Rent Setting Structure, as noted within paragraph 4.5 of the report.

Councillor Buchanan left the meeting during discussion of the foregoing item of business.

HSC52. SCOTTISH HOUSING REGULATOR INSPECTION – REPORT OF DRAFT IMPROVEMENT PLAN

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of the Housing and Social Care Committee held on 8 November 2011 (paragraph HSC26 refers), there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 January 2012, by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services (a) providing details of the draft improvement plan which has been prepared to address recommendations of the Scottish Housing Regulator, and (b) attaching as an Appendix to the Report a copy of the plan prior to it being put out for consultation with tenants and other service users.

Discussion took place on the following:-

- the benefits of a continuous improvement plan
- possible changes to the allocations policy and the impact on homeless figures

NOTED:-

- (1) the positive feedback from the Scottish Housing Regulator;
- (2) the requirement to consult with tenants and other service users in the contents of the plan, and
- (3) the contents of the draft improvement plan and the requirement for future reports to the Committee on progress with implementation of the plan.

HSC53. CLOSING REMARKS

At conclusion of the meeting, the Convener thanked the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and his staff for the support given to the Committee. The Convener also thanked all Members of the Committee for their contributions and conduct.

The Vice-Convener also gave thanks to all concerned with the Committee for the help and support given to him.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the CIVIC EVENTS PANEL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2012 at 9.30 AM.

PRESENT: Provost Reid and Depute Provost Black.

CONVENER: Provost Reid.

APOLOGY: Councillor Spears.

ATTENDING: Accountancy Assistant (L Callachan) and Members' Services Administrator (H Forster).

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: None.

CE10. MINUTE

There was submitted and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of the Civic Events Panel held on 10 November 2011.

CE11. CIVIC HOSPITALITY BUDGET 2011/12

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 1 February 2012 by the Chief Finance Officer detailing the expenditure and balance available in respect of the Civic Hospitality Budget 2011/12.

NOTED.

CE12. WORKERS EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Chief Governance Officer advising that a request had been received from the Workers Educational Association seeking support towards costs associated with the organisation's AGM held in November 2011.

AGREED to meet the cost of the provision of a buffet and refreshments, at a cost of £656.25, on the occasion of the Workers Educational Association's AGM held in Falkirk Town Hall on 26 November 2011.

CE13. CENTRAL SCOTLAND AFRICAN UNION

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 January 2012 by the Chief Governance Officer advising that a request had been received from Central Scotland African Union for civic recognition and a free let of Falkirk Town Hall on the occasion of their AGM to be held in February 2012.

AGREED to provide Civic Hospitality and a free let of Falkirk Town Hall for Central Scotland African Union, at an approximate cost of £720.00, on the occasion of organisation's AGM to be held in Falkirk Town Hall on 29 February 2012.

CE14. MCKECHNIE SCHOOL OF DANCE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 16 January 2012 by the Chief Governance Officer advising that a request had been received from Falkirk Sports Council for civic recognition for McKechnie School of Dance on the occasion of their 50th Anniversary.

AGREED to provide Civic Hospitality for McKechnie School of Dance, at an approximate cost of £720.00, in recognition of the schools 50th Anniversary, to be held on 16th March 2012.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 15 FEBRUARY 2012 at 9.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Goldie, Gow, Kenna, C R Martin and Patrick; G Allan (UNISON), S Brown (UCATT), M Cook (UNISON), H Schroder (Unite) and M Smith (EIS).

CONVENER: Councillor Goldie.

APOLOGIES: Councillor Meiklejohn.

ATTENDING: Directors of Development Services and Social Work Services; Head of Human Resources & Customer First, Human Resources Manager; Organisational Development Manager; Educational Resources Manager, and Senior Committee Services Officer.

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: None.

JCC20. MINUTE

There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of the Joint Consultative Committee held on 9 November 2011.

JCC21. EMPLOYEE TURNOVER

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 17 January 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services advising of the employee turnover figures for the period April to August 2011 as set against the benchmark comparison figure for public sector organisations of 8.5%.

NOTED.

JCC22. SICKNESS ABSENCE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 17 January 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services (a) providing updated information on sickness and absence across the Services for the period April to November 2011, and (b) advising of the steps taken to manage absence.

NOTED.

JCC23. SERVICE BASED FORUMS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 17 January 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services enclosing minutes from the most recent Service Based Forums.

NOTED.

JCC24. DISCIPLINARY POLICY

There was submitted Report (circulated) by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, advising (a) that the Council's Disciplinary Policy had been reviewed to take account of the revised ACAS Code of Practice on Discipline and Grievances at work, and updated legislation/case law and (b) presenting a draft revised policy for approval.

AGREED to refer the revised Disciplinary Policy to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval and immediate implementation.

JCC25. SNCT UPDATES TO FAMILY LEAVE POLICY (TEACHERS AND ASSOCIATED PROFESSIONALS)

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 4 January 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, advising of further updates to the Family Leave Policy (Teachers and Associated Professionals), relating in the main to the entitlement of accrued leave during any period of maternity, adoption or paternity leave and how this can be taken.

AGREED to refer the SNCT updates to Family Leave Policy (Teachers and Associated Professionals) to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval and immediate implementation.

JCC26. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE REPORT

With reference to the Minute of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 15 October 2011 (Paragraph PR54 refers) there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 19 January 2012 by the Director of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, advising of the background to, and outcome of, a consultation exercise carried out by Corporate and Neighbourhood Services on whether the Queen's Diamond Jubilee should be (a) an additional fixed annual leave date; (b) additional fixed annual leave date on Monday 4th June 2012 rather than Tuesday 5th June 2012, or (c) move one of the existing public holidays to Monday 4th June to allow for a long weekend.

NOTED the content of the Report.

AGREED the matter be referred to the Policy and Resources Committee on 21 February 2012 for a decision.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the PLANNING COMMITTEE held ON SITE on MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2012 commencing at 9.15 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Alexander, Buchanan, Carleschi (for applications P/11/0692/FUL, P/11/0651/FUL and P/10/0360/PPP); Lemetti (for application P/10/0762/FUL); McLuckie, Mahoney (for applications P/11/0651/FUL and P/10/0360/PPP); Oliver (for application P/10/0360/PPP); and Turner.

CONVENER: Councillor Buchanan.

APOLOGIES: Councillors McNeill, Nicol and Thomson.

ATTENDING: Head of Planning and Transportation (for application P/10/0360/PPP); Development Manager (for applications P/11/0651/FUL and P/10/0360/PPP); Development Management Co-ordinator (D Campbell) (for applications P/11/0632/FUL, P/10/0762/FUL and P/11/0692/FUL); Roads Development Co-ordinator; Senior Planning Officer (A Finlayson) (for application P/11/0632/FUL); Senior Planning Officer (J Milne) (for applications P/10/0762/FUL and P/11/0692/FUL); Senior Planning Officer (B Vivian) (for applications P/11/0651/FUL and P/10/0360/PPP); Roads Development Officer (C Russell) (for application P/10/0360/PPP); Environmental Health Officer (S Henderson) (for applications P/10/0762/FUL, P/11/0632/FUL and P/10/0360/PPP); Transport Planning Officer (K Swanson) (for application P/10/0360/PPP); Solicitor (K Quin); and Committee Officer (A Sobieraj).

DECLARATION

OF INTEREST: Councillor Oliver declared a non-financial interest in Item 6 (minute P149) as he had held discussions with the applicant's representatives and Planning officers, but did not consider that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item, having had regard to the objective test in the Code of Conduct.

P145. TEMPORARY STORAGE, TREATMENT AND DISTRIBUTION OF ORGANIC WASTE INCLUDING LIME TREATMENT AND OPEN WINDROW COMPOSTING AT JAWCRAIG BRICKWORKS, FALKIRK FK1 3AL FOR JAMES MCCAIG FARMS - P/10/0762/FUL

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 February 2012 (Paragraph P135 refers), Committee gave further consideration to Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission for temporary storage, treatment and distribution of organic waste, including open window composting and lime treatment at Jawcraig Brickworks, Falkirk.

The Convener introduced the parties present.

The Planning Officer (J Milne) outlined the nature of the application.

Mr Pollock, the applicant's agent, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr McCaig, the applicant's son, was heard in relation to the application.

Ms Neely, the applicant's technical representative, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Herd, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Ms Hirst, on behalf of Avonbridge and Standburn Community Council, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Goldie, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Bauer, on behalf of the National Farmers Union, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

The objectors highlighted the following issues:-

- The inappropriateness of the development in a green belt, its location and its excessive bulk and scale;
- The threat to wildlife and neighbouring SSSI in relation to birds;
- The harmful effect on plants and local human and animal populations;
- The generation of smells and pollution and the danger to health of the local human, bird and animals of bioaerosols and their windborne nature;
- The inadequacy of the road system to maintain the level of use and the significant number of traffic/lorry movements to and from the site;
- The adverse impact of traffic generation on the local amenity of the area;
- The adverse effect on the rural economy;
- The damage to the environment through water run-off;
- The lack of clarity on the storage of waste and drainage arrangements and the odours and vermin at the site;
- The continued exploitation of the rural community without benefit to that community;
- The potentially negative impact and wellbeing of neighbouring agricultural businesses and farming families through bioaerosols, the nearest dwelling being 90m from the site; and
- The capacity of the site falls just short (25,000 tonnes per annum) of constituting a 'major development'.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

Councillor Hughes, as local Member for the area, was heard in relation to the application.

Members thereafter visited part of the site and received clarification of the proposed use of the main building as well as viewing a proposed new access to the site.

The Convener concluded by thanking the parties for their attendance and advised that the matter would be determined by the Planning Committee on 7 March 2012.

P146. INSTALLATION OF A WIND TURBINE 225 KW (32.2 METRES TO HUB AND 45.7 METRES TO BLADE TIP), ANCILLARY INFRASTRUCTURE INCLUDING ACCESS TRACK, CRANE HARDSTANDING AREA AND TEMPORARY GROUND WORKS ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF KERSEBROCK FARM, FALKIRK FOR MR JOHN WATSON - P/11/0632/FUL

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 February 2012 (Paragraph P138 refers), Committee gave further consideration to Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission for the installation of a single wind turbine, ancillary infrastructure including an access track, a crane hardstanding area and temporary ground works on agricultural land to the north of Kersebrock Farm, Falkirk.

The Convener introduced the parties present.

The Senior Planning Officer (A Finlayson) outlined the nature of the application.

Mr Macken, the applicant's agent, was heard in relation to the application.

The objector was not present but the Members noted the concerns detailed in the Report.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

The Convener concluded by thanking the parties for their attendance and advised that the matter would be determined by the Planning Committee on 7 March 2012.

P147. ERECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSE AT GLEN HOUSE, GLEN ROAD, TORWOOD, LARBERT FK5 4SN FOR MR ALAN MILLIKEN - P/11/0692/FUL

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 February 2012 (Paragraph P140 refers), Committee gave further consideration to Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission for the erection of a dwellinghouse within the rear garden of an existing dwellinghouse at Glen House, Glen Road, Torwood, Larbert.

The Convener introduced the parties present.

The Senior Planning Officer (J Milne) outlined the nature of the application. Mr Milne also advised that an objection had been received by email from Larbert, Stenhousemuir and Torwood Community Council since the completion of the report to the Committee. The points raised would be included in the update report to the next Planning Committee. The objections were read out by Mr Milne at the meeting.

Mr Bell, the applicant's agent, was heard in relation to the application.

The objectors were not present but the Members noted the concerns detailed in the Report.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

The Convener concluded by thanking the parties for their attendance and advised that the matter would be determined by the Planning Committee on 7 March 2012.

P148. ERECTION OF NEW DEER FENCING AND GATES AT BURNHOUSE FARM, BONNYBRIDGE FK4 2HH FOR MRS VIRGINIA LUCEY - P/11/0651/FUL

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 February 2012 (Paragraph P141 refers), Committee gave further consideration to Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for full planning permission for the erection of 1.9 metre high deer fencing and gates to enclose new deer fields at Burnhouse Farm, Bonnybridge.

The Convener introduced the parties present.

The Senior Planning Officer (B Vivian) outlined the nature of the application.

Ms Lucey, the applicant, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Smith, the applicant's son, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Snedden, Deer Consultant, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Dunsmore, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Black, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Macleod, an objector, was heard in relation to the application.

The objectors highlighted the following issues:-

- The acreage is wrong on the plan related to the application;
- That Woodend Road was single track and narrow with very few passing places;
- That the road was over-congested with vans, lorries and cars and the increase in traffic on the road;
- The danger of walking on the road;

- That alterations were undertaken to the road without consent;
- The concerns relating to where the deer emanated from and their type;
- The fear of the deer spreading disease;
- The concerns of native deer coming in contact with farmed deer;
- The risk of animals being spooked/escaping when pheasant and duck shooting took place;
- The effect of the fences on the 'Right to Roam'; and
- That the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds was opposed to deer fencing.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

Councillor Blackwood, as local Member for the area, was heard in relation to the application.

Councillor Waddell, as local Member for the area, was heard in relation to the application.

Councillor Carleschi, spoke at the request of Councillor Coleman, a local Member for the area and having been unable to attend the meeting, in relation to the application.

Members thereafter examined the deer fencing already erected at Low Forrester Farm.

The Convener concluded by thanking the parties for their attendance and advised that the matter would be determined by the Planning Committee on 7 March 2012.

P149. DEVELOPMENT OF UP TO 550 HOUSES, A NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE INCLUDING RETAIL AND COMMUNITY USES, ACCESS JUNCTIONS, NEW ACCESS ROADS, PROVISION OF A NATURE CONSERVATION AREA, ASSOCIATED ROADS AND INFRASTRUCTURE ON LAND TO THE NORTH OF BANKVIEW NURSING HOME, KILSYTH ROAD, BANKNOCK FOR I & H BROWN LTD - P/10/0360/PPP

With reference to Minute of Meeting of the Planning Committee held on 1 February 2012 (Paragraph P134 refers), Committee gave further consideration to Report (circulated) dated 24 January 2012 by the Director of Development Services on an application for planning permission in principle for the development of land for up to 550 dwellinghouses, a neighbourhood centre including retail and community uses, a nature conservation area and associated infrastructure including access junctions, new roads and paths, surface water drainage facilities and landscaping on land to the north of Bankview Nursing Home, Kilsyth Road, Banknock.

The Convener introduced the parties present.

The Planning Officer (B Vivian) outlined the nature of the application.

Mr Farrar, the applicant's agent, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr Devlin, the applicant's representative, was heard in relation to the application.

Mr MacDonald and Mrs Cooper, objectors, requested clarification in relation to the development and indicated that as the responses from the applicant's representative satisfactory they had no further concerns in relation to the development at the planning in principle stage. The other objectors were not present but the Members noted their concerns detailed in the Report.

Questions were then asked by Members of the Committee.

Councillor Blackwood, as local Member for the area, was heard in relation to the application.

Councillor Waddell, as local Member for the area, was heard in relation to the application.

The Convener concluded by thanking the parties for their attendance and advised that the matter would be determined by the Planning Committee on 7 March 2012.

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of MEETING of the POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2012 at 9.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Fry, Hughes, Kenna, C Martin and Spears.

CONVENER: Councillor C Martin.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, Development Services and Social Work Services; Chief Finance Officer; Chief Governance Officer; Head of Educational Planning and Resources; Acting Head of Service (Children & Families and Criminal Justice); Licensing Co-ordinator (B Douglas), and Senior Committee Services Officer.

ALSO IN

ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Falkirk Community Trust.

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: None.

PR88. MINUTES

There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED:-**

- (a) Minute of Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 17 January 2011; and
- (b) Minute of Special Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 8 February 2012.

PR89. ADOPTION SERVICES

There was submitted Report (circulated) by the Director of Social Work Services (a) referring to the Adoption of Children (Scotland) Act 2007 and to the request issued in November 2011 by Scottish Government Ministers that local authorities provide Adoption Services Plans by 31 March 2012, and (b) attaching as an appendix a copy of the Adoption Services Plan prepared on behalf of Falkirk Council.

AGREED to approve the Adoption Services Plan for submission to the Scottish Government.

NOTED the developments in the Adoption Services and requested the Director of Social Work Services to provide Members with an update on progress in relation to the Adoption Allowance Scheme on Shared Services at a future date.

PR90. FINANCIAL POSITION 2011/12

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 2 February 2012 by the Chief Finance Officer presenting the latest update on the financial position of the Council for 2011/12, which reflected the situation as at 31 December 2012.

NOTED the latest projection of revenue spending for 2011/12.

PR91. CAPITAL PROGRAMMES UPDATE REPORT

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 2 February 2012 by the Chief Finance Officer presenting an update on the progress of both the General Services and Housing Capital Investment Programmes for 2011/12.

NOTED the status of the General Services and Housing Capital Investment Programmes for 2011/12.

PR92. FALKIRK COUNCIL PENSION FUND ACTUARIAL VALUATION AS AT 31 MARCH 2011

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 6 February 2012 by the Chief Finance Officer (a) referring to the Valuation of the Pension Fund conducted by Hymans Robertson, actuaries to the Falkirk Council Pension Fund, in accordance with Regulation 32 of the Local Government Pension Scheme (Administrative) (Scotland) Regulations 2008; (b) advising that the purpose of the valuation is to establish the financial position of the fund and to set the dates of employer contribution for all participating bodies for the next 3 year period, and (c) informing that the report relates to the position of Falkirk Council as an employer rather than an Administering Authority for the Pension fund.

NOTED the results of the valuation of the Falkirk Council Pension Fund as at 31 March 2011 and the revenue budget implications.

PR93. REVIEW OF TAXI FARE SCALES AND OTHER CHARGES

With reference to the Minute of the Meeting of the Environment and Community Safety Committee held on 25 October 2011 (Paragraph ECS22 refers) there was submitted Report (circulated) dated 7 February 2012 by the Chief Governance Officer (a) referring to the 2 proposals submitted by the Taxi Trade (via the Taxi Forum) that the running mile charge is increased by 6% and that there be a flat 20p increase in the flag fall rate; (b) advising that the Members of the Environment and Community Safety Committee unanimously agreed the proposals; (c) informing that following advertisement of the proposals, as required by statute, no responses were received, and (d) seeking approval to implement the draft fares scale, as detailed in the appendix attached to the Report.