

FC87. BIRKHILL CLAY MINE

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 21 February 2011 by the Director of Community Services (a) detailing safety issues regarding the mine buildings at Birkhill Clay Mine and reporting on a decision taken not to open the mine on 1 April 2011 for the 2011 operating season; (b) advising of proposals to demolish the derelict mine building, and (c) highlighting further issues with regard to site access, the underground conditions and to staffing arrangements.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved the recommendations as detailed in the Report.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Constable, seconded by Councillor Ritchie moved that Council:-

- (1) notes the decision not to open Birkhill Clay Mine on 1 April 2011 due to the significant risks to staff and to authorised and unauthorised visitors and installs a projected opening date of 1 July 2011 to permit a report by the Health and Safety Executive to be sought and obtained;
- (2) agrees the demolition of the derelict mine buildings, to be funded from the Community Services' Revenue Budget, and
- (3) agrees to consider a report by the Health and Safety Executive as soon as it is available.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i), a vote was taken by roll call, there being 28 Members present with voting as undernoted:-

For the Motion (15) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Fry, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol and Waddell.

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

Accordingly **NOTED** the decision not to open Birkhill Clay Mine on 1 April 2011 due to the significant risks to staff, authorised and unauthorised visitors.

AGREED to:-

- (1) the demolition of the derelict mine buildings to be funded from Community Services' revenue budget, and
- (2) receive a further report when complete information is available with recommendations regarding the site's future at a later date.