

FC35. NOTICES OF MOTION

Councillor Gow, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald, moved that:-

In order to ensure the proper and timely dispatch of Council business, Council hereby agrees to replace section 31 of the Standing Orders relating to Meetings with the following and that with immediate effect:

31. CLOSE OF BUSINESS

31.1 Meetings of Council will generally start at 10.30a.m. (unless the Provost specifies an earlier or later time) and will last for no longer than 3 hours unless a motion to continue the meeting for a further specified period has been moved, seconded and voted upon without discussion, provided that no meeting will continue beyond 5p.m. on that same day (subject to the terms of section 31.2 below) unless a motion to continue the meeting beyond that time for a further specified period has been moved, seconded and voted upon without discussion.

31.2 If, at 5 p.m. or such later time as Council shall have agreed, business remains on the agenda to be transacted, it shall be dealt with in the following manner:

31.2.1 Any motion or amendment which has been formally moved and seconded will be put to the vote by the Provost.

31.2.2 Any reports or motions then remaining on the agenda will be considered by the Provost in order. It will be available for a motion and amendment to be moved and seconded on each item but without discussion (provided that the Provost may allow discussion on such an item where in his/her view such discussion is necessary for the proper consideration of the item). Each item will then be put to the vote by the Provost. Items not moved and seconded will fall from the agenda.

31.2.3 There will be no right of reply available to the mover of any motion under this Standing Order.

31.3 Nothing in this Standing Order will prejudice the power of the Provost, at his/her discretion, to adjourn temporarily any meeting for a brief period. The time elapsed during any such adjournment will be disregarded for the purpose of calculating the period of 3 hours referred to in Standing Order 31.1 but will not have the effect of extending the 5p.m. closure term specified therein.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved:-

“The notice of motion moved by the Leader of the Council is both demeaning to the Provost and a gross interference in the role of Falkirk’s first citizen.

The motion is also an attack on the ability of opposition groups to be heard and therefore an affront to democracy.

The problem with meetings overrunning has been a matter of poor management from the Administration and the confrontational and immature attitude adopted towards opposition groups and members.”

Council therefore resolves to:-

- Retain the Standing Orders of the Council in their current format as the best means of ensuring balanced debate and equal opportunities as well as demonstrating respect for the Provost of Falkirk Council;
- End the intolerance demonstrated against opposition groups with the petty amendments to opposition motions that often results in amendments being approved that mean the same as the original motion; and
- Open proper dialogue between all groups prior to the finalisation of the Council agenda. This could be achieved with the Provost chairing a meeting of group leaders to investigate areas of agreement and to seek compromise where there is little between the groups. Thus areas of common consensus can be reached and therefore reducing the time spent in chambers by all members.”

In terms of Standing Order 21.4(i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call there being 30 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted.

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

For the Amendment (14) – Councillors Alexander, Carleschi, Coleman, J Constable, H Constable, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, A MacDonald, McNally, Meiklejohn, Oliver, Spears and Thomson.

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the Motion.