

DRAFT**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on MONDAY 2 MARCH 2009 at 10.30 A.M.

PRESENT: Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Alexander, Blackwood, Buchanan, Carleschi, Coleman, H Constable, J Constable, Goldie, Gow, Hughes, Jackson, Kenna, Lemetti, A MacDonald, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Spears, Thomson and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fry and Patrick.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services, of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services and of Finance Services; Acting Head of Planning and Transportation; Transport Planning Co-ordinator (K Collins); Acting Director of Law and Administration Services and Democratic Services Manger (B Pirie).

DECLARATION OF INTEREST:

Councillor McLuckie declared a non-financial interest in item 1(e) as a result of his advisory work with local community organisations but did not consider that this required him to recuse himself from consideration of the item, standing the terms of the Code of Conduct.

FC103. NOTICES OF MOTIONS

(a) Bonnybridge Railway Station

Councillor C Coleman, seconded by Councillor Oliver moved that:-

“Council commends the consultation exercise carried out by local MSP Michael Matheson on the proposed Bonnybridge Railway Station demonstrating that not only is there a demand but the community of Bonnybridge meets Transport Scotland’s criteria.

Falkirk Council is the statutory agency best placed to deliver the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidelines (S.T.A.G. Report) required to move this issue to the next level and hereby instructs officers to commission such and report back to the relevant scrutiny committee the outcome”.

By way of an amendment Councillor C Martin seconded by Councillor A Mahoney moved that:-

“Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Michael Matheson MSP requesting a copy of the completed consultation exercise (including the analysis, report and conclusions) he undertook with the people of Bonnybridge regards a new train station.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to all constituency and list MSP’s seeking that they overturn Transport Scotland’s Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) and urge the Scottish Government to support new railway stations at Bonnybridge and Grangemouth”.

Councillor Spears gave notice of a further amendment.

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

For the Amendment (15) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol and Nimmo.

In terms of Standing Order 19.6 the amended motion, became the substantive motion upon which the further amendment may be moved.

By way of further amendment Councillor Spears seconded by Councillor A MacDonald moved that:-

“Council recognises that Grangemouth being one of the largest centres of population within the Falkirk Council area and that its population has grown since its Railway Station was removed. That Grangemouth needs the reinstatement of this Station and rail link.

Falkirk Council is the statutory agency best placed to deliver the Scottish Transport Appraisal Guidelines (S.T.A.G’s Report) required moving this issue to the next level and hereby instructs Officers to commission such and report back to the relevant scrutiny committee the outcome”.

Council then adjourned for 15 minutes to allow members to consider the terms of the amendment and reconvened with members present as per the sederunt plus Councillor Waddell who joined the meeting at this point.

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 substantive Motion (15) – Provost Reid; Depute Provost Black; Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, CR Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nicol and Nimmo.

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

Abstention (1) – Councillor Waddell

Accordingly, **RESOLVED** in terms of the substantive Motion, namely:-

“Council instructs the Chief Executive to write to Michael Matheson MSP requesting a copy of the completed consultation exercise (including the analysis, report and conclusions) he undertook with the people of Bonnybridge regards a new train station.

Council further instructs the Chief Executive to write to all constituency and list MSP’s seeking that they overturn Transport Scotland’s Strategic Transport Projects Review (STPR) and urge the Scottish Government to support new railway stations at Bonnybridge and Grangemouth”.

(b) Community Sports Clubs

Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor J Constable moved that:-

“Falkirk Council agrees to work with local junior football clubs, Bo’ness United, Camelon and Dunipace Juniors to become Community Sports Clubs.

Council endorses the work already undertaken by Michael Matheson MSP and Councillors Georgie Thomson (Camelon), John Constable (Bo’ness) and John McNally (Dunipace) in the early stages of Community Sports Club status.

Council believes that by, for example, using the £330K budgeted figure for a single council owned synthetic pitch to pump prime the additional grants that are available to Community Sports Clubs the community could achieve the development of not one but three synthetic pitches available for hire.

Council therefore agrees to call for a report to the relevant scrutiny committee on the various ways in which the clubs could be helped once council officials have liaised with each of the clubs, local members and other existing parties involved in the discussion to date”.

By way of an amendment Councillor C Martin seconded by Councillor Lemetti moved that:-

“Council continues to support those local football clubs from across the area to achieve the SFA Quality Club mark, which facilitates football clubs to move towards achieving “community” status.

Council also commends Community Services for their work with all sports clubs, professional or not, and Council looks forward to the 9 area wide synthetic pitches that will be available to the various communities by the summer of 2009 and further believes that the council's decision to develop a network of third generation pitches across the area will augment those 9 area wide synthetic pitches".

In terms of Standing Order 21.4 (i) a vote was taken by way of a roll call, there being 29 Members present, with Members voting as undernoted:-

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

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

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

Councillor Nimmo withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(c) School Crossing Patrols

Councillor J Constable, seconded by Councillor Meiklejohn moved that:-

“Falkirk Council recognises with concern that a number of school crossing patrols across the district are not currently operating because of vacancies and long term sick leave arising from the difficulty of recruiting crossing patrol attendants. Council understands the potential hazards this creates to primary school age children and the significant difficulties it creates for parents and therefore resolves to establish an all-party working group to examine this issue and report back to the appropriate committees with proposals to help address the difficulties in recruitment”.

By way of an amendment Councillor C MacDonald seconded by Councillor McLuckie moved that:-

“Falkirk Council recognizes with concern that a number of school crossing patrols across the district are not currently operating because of vacancies and long term sick leave arising from the difficulties of recruiting Crossing patrol Attendants.

Council understands the potential hazards this creates to primary school children and the significant difficulties it creates for parents and therefore resolves to instruct officers to report back to the relevant scrutiny committees with proposals to help address the difficulties in recruitment”.

On a division 14 Members voted for the Motion and 15 for the Amendment.

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

Councillor J Constable withdrew from the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(d) Denny and Stenhousemuir Police Offices

AGREED to open discussions with Central Scotland Police regarding the soon to be vacant Denny and Stenhousemuir Police Office sites with a view to having social housing built on these sites and that a report will be sent to the relevant scrutiny committee when the discussions have been carried out.

Councillor J Constable rejoined the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(e) Heritage Lottery Funding

Councillor McNally, seconded by Councillor Thomson moved that:-

“Council notes with concern the poor uptake in heritage lottery funding from the Falkirk area especially in the west of the district.

Council commends the efforts of such as the Denny and Dunipace Heritage Society in the campaign to have a Heritage Centre built in the west of the district and pledges support to this group to achieve their ends.

Falkirk district has been synonymous with the industrial revolution and has exported not only iron, coal, paper, agriculture but also people to all parts of the world.

Council agrees to instruct officers to take a lead with all local communities from across the district, including tenants groups, voluntary groups, heritage and historical groups to bid for funding to deliver a variety of sculptures throughout the district commemorating the heritage and history of our various communities.

These sculptures should be placed at strategic entrances to the area with each town and village identifying its own personal theme.

Council further agrees that a progress report will be brought back to the relevant scrutiny committee during the first cycle of meetings after the summer recess on not only what progress has been made but also how this can best be phased to obtain maximum benefit”.

By way of an amendment Councillor Mahoney seconded by Councillor C R Martin moved that:-

“Council welcomes the existing partnership working with the Heritage Lottery Fund to make residents more aware of the Fund – and other funding options for heritage projects.

Council notes the excellent work achieved to date to promote heritage in our communities – including heritage arts projects and the ongoing work being promoted through our Public Arts Strategy, which was adopted in 2007 and is due to run until 2011.

Council welcomes new community approaches to our external funding unit and departments for advice and assistance to help with heritage arts projects in communities across the Council area”.

On a division 14 Members voted for the Motion and 15 for the Amendment.

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