

FALKIRK COUNCIL

MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2009 at 2.00 PM.

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, McLuckie, McNally, McNeill, Meiklejohn, Nicol, Nimmo, Oliver, Patrick, Spears, Thomson and Waddell.

CONVENER: Provost Reid

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fry and CR Martin.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community, Corporate and Neighbourhood Services, of Finance Services, of Development Services and of Education Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration Services; Head of School Improvement and Committee Services Officer (H Oliver).

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS: Councillor Nicol declared a non-financial interest in Item 1 as a family member was an owner of a local business in the Grangemouth Town Centre, and took no part in the discussion and decision in either item.

In accordance with his declaration of interest relating to the following item of business, Councillor Nicol withdrew from the meeting and took no part in the discussion or decision.

FC1. MOTIONS**(a) Town Centre Restoration**

Councillor A MacDonald, seconded by Councillor Oliver moved that:-

“Council welcomes the announcement from the Scottish Government to establish a fund of £60m for the restoration of town centres.

Council calls on officers to bring forward reports on how this authority may bid for our share of these national resources for the floundering town centre regeneration programmes in such as Bo’ness, Denny, Grangemouth and the east end of Falkirk.

Council also seeks clarification as to which other communities, such as Bonnybridge, Bainsford and Banknock may also qualify for financial support from this welcome government initiative”.

Following discussion and with the consent of the Provost and Councillor Oliver as seconder, in accordance with Standing Order 19.7, Councillor A MacDonald altered his motion to read:-

“Council welcomes the announcement from the Scottish Government to establish a fund of £60m for the restoration of town centres.

Council calls on officers to bring forward reports on how this authority may bid for our share of these national resources for the town centre regeneration programmes in such as Bo’ness, Denny, Grangemouth and the east end of Falkirk.

Council also seeks clarification as to which other communities may also qualify for financial support from this welcome government initiative”.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to:-

- (1) Welcome the announcement from the Scottish Government to establish a fund of £60m for the restoration of town centres;
- (2) Call on officers to bring forward reports on how this authority may bid for our share of these national resources for the town centre regeneration programmes in such as Bo’ness, Denny, Grangemouth and the east end of Falkirk, and
- (3) Seek clarification as to which other communities may also qualify for financial support from this welcome government initiative.

Councillor Nicol re-entered the meeting following consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(b) Royal Mail - Privatisation

AGREED to support the stance taken by the Communications Workers Trade Unions in opposing the part privatisation of the Royal Mail Service.

AGREED with the Trade Unions, that this is the first step towards the full privatisation of the postal service and would lead to a diminution of the levels of service as well as cost increase to rural communities.

(c) Education in Secondary Schools

Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Hughes moved that:-

“Council notes with concern the news that S3 pupils at St Mungo’s High School are not to be offered a Standard Grade course in History.

Council further notes that S3 pupils in Graeme High are no longer being offered Standard Grade Courses in Accounting either.

Council agrees to the following:-

1. ensure that all core subjects are offered to pupils in all schools;
2. immediately reinstate subjects removed from the syllabus for consideration by pupils;
3. ensure courses that are important in preparing better access to higher professional or vocational education, such as Accounting, continue to be offered to pupils on an inter-school or college link basis when it is not practical to offer them in an individual school; and
4. any deviation of this or change to the subjects and courses available are in future agreed by Members of the Education Committee in open chamber”.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Waddell, seconded by Councillor Patrick moved that:-

“Council recognises and supports the work undertaken by the Scottish Government in partnership with the teaching profession and supports the proposals for implementation contained in their document entitled “Curriculum for Excellence – Building the Curriculum 3” - published in June 2008. All secondary schools are now in preparation for delivering Curriculum for Excellence in S1 for 2010 which will involve substantial changes to teaching, preparation for new national qualifications and the way subject areas are delivered. Council is urged unreservedly to support all our Head Teachers and their management teams in implementing Curriculum for Excellence.”

On a division, 12 Members voted for the Motion and 16 for the Amendment.

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

Councillors H and J Constable left the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business.

(d) Disabled Parking

Councillor Meiklejohn, seconded by Councillor Coleman moved that:-

“Council notes with concern the failure to complete an audit of disabled parking available to blue badge holders as a condition of the recent changes in legislation on such matters.

Council therefore agrees to instruct officers to prepare an audit and report back to committee on the additional protections offered to disabled car users as a result of this exercise and changes to legislation”.

NOTED:-

- (1) the terms of Motion.

- (2) that the Disabled Persons' Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 comes into force on 1 October 2009 and places new duties on local authorities to promote the proper use of parking places designated for use only by disabled persons' vehicles, and
- (3) that work is underway to ensure that the Council meets its duties in terms of the Act.

AGREED that a progress report on actions taken to ensure that the Council meets its obligations in terms of the Disabled Person's Parking Places (Scotland) Act 2009 be submitted to the next meeting of the Environment and Committee Safety Committee to be held on 12 May 2009.