

MINUTE of MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on WEDNESDAY 3 MARCH 2010 at 10.30 a.m.

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

CONVENER: Provost Reid.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Fry and Nicol.

ATTENDING: Chief Executive; Directors of Community Services; of Corporate and Neighbourhood Services; of Development Services; of Education Services and of Finance Services; Acting Directors of Law and Administration Services and of Social Work Services; Head of Economic Development, and Committee Services Officer (A Fraser).

DECLARATIONS

OF INTEREST: Councillor McNally declared a financial interest in FC101 as an owner of a local business, and took no part in the discussion and decision in this item.

FC92. ORDER OF BUSINESS

In terms of Standing Order 15.2(i), Provost Reid varied the order of business from that detailed on the agenda for the meeting. The following items have been recorded in the order that they were taken at the meeting.

FC93. URGENT ITEM – APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

Provost Reid advised that, in terms of Standing Order 9.1, he had **AGREED** to accept an urgent item relating to the membership of the COSLA Convention and COSLA Community Well-being and Safety Executive Group having regard to the special circumstances, viz, forthcoming meetings of COSLA and the desirability of ensuring Falkirk Council representation thereat. This item would be considered following the Report on the Appointment to Central Scotland Joint Fire and Rescue Board and to External Organisations.

FC94. PROVOST'S REMARKS

Provost Reid offered congratulations to Corporate and Neighbourhood Services' staff in relation to the following :-

- APSE award for the Best Scottish Building and Housing Council of the Year
- APSE award for Best Scottish Building and Housing Employee Initiative
- Mental Health & Wellbeing Commendation Award

Provost Reid also congratulated staff and pupils for the excellent work and effort during the recent Burns celebrations which had taken place in local schools.

FC95. MINUTES AND INFORMATION BULLETIN

- (a) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 9 December 2009;
- (b) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 13 January 2010;
- (c) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 28 January 2010;
- (d) There was submitted (circulated) and **APPROVED** Minute of Special Meeting of Falkirk Council held on 10 February 2010, subject to the following amendment:

Page 34, Item FC90 paragraph 1 (c) to read:- “showing indicative rent levels for the years 2011/2012.”

- (e) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Volume of Minutes – Volume 5 2009/2010; and
- (f) There was submitted (circulated) and **NOTED** Information Bulletin – Volume 5 2009/2010.

FC96. REGULATION OF DISPLAY OF ELECTION POSTERS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 22 February 2010 by the Director of Development Services (a) advising that local authorities, in addition to their specific duties in terms of election law, are also involved in election preparation in their respective capacities as Roads and Planning authorities particularly in relation to display of election material by or on behalf of candidates and/or the political parties they represent; (b) summarising the relevant parts of both The Town and Country Planning (Control of Advertisements)(Scotland) Regulations 1984 and the Roads (Scotland) Act 1984 which deal with the display of election posters; (c) outlining the options available with regard to the display of election posters on Council properties, and (d) attaching as an Appendix to the Report, a copy of the proposed guidelines for the display of election posters on street furniture.

Councillor C Martin, seconded by Councillor Patrick moved that:-

“Council agrees to amend the guidelines on display of election campaign publicity materials to prohibit display of such material on any Council property, including lighting columns, traffic sign poles and street furniture.”

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

“Council notes with surprise that despite the fact turn out at elections is declining New Labour wish to abolish one of the high profile campaigning tools available to local political parties.

Council believes this is due to the haemorrhaging of active members, as reported in the national press, matched by the decline in electoral fortunes of New Labour, and the refusal of the few remaining activists to work for two discredited MP's at the centre of the expenses scandal.

Council therefore reiterates its commitment to encourage as many people as possible to exercise their democratic right to campaign within the political process and believes that all legitimate means of campaigning be allowed including the display of election posters on lampposts and to adopt the guidelines attached as an Appendix to the Report."

On a division 17 Members voted for the Motion and 13 voted for the Amendment.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to amend the guidelines on display of election campaign publicity materials to prohibit display of such material on any Council property, including lighting columns, traffic sign poles and street furniture.

FC97. AMENDMENT TO POLLING SCHEME – CHANGES TO POLLING PLACES FOR UK PARLIAMENTARY ELECTION 2010

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 15 February 2010 by the Returning Officer (a) advising that Section 18 of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Electoral Administration Act 2006, requires local authorities to keep under review polling districts and polling places; (b) alerting Members to the requirement to review two polling places to be used for the UK Parliamentary Election which will be held in Spring/Summer 2010, and (c) detailing the proposed polling places to be used, namely Tryst Community Centre and Larbert Village Primary School.

NOTED the Report.

AGREED to adjust the polling scheme as detailed within the Report and to publicise the changes, with immediate implementation, for polling places at the UK Parliamentary Election in Spring/Summer 2010.

FC98. APPOINTMENT TO CENTRAL SCOTLAND JOINT FIRE AND RESCUE BOARD AND TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 23 February 2010 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services (a) advising of Councillor C Martin's resignation from Central Scotland Joint Fire and Rescue Board and the COSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group; (b) confirming the appointment of Councillor Mahoney, as Convener of the Economic Development and Strategy Committee, as Falkirk Council's ex-officio representative on the BID Management Group, and (c) seeking appointments to the two bodies namely, Central Scotland Joint Fire and Rescue Board and the COSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group.

NOTED that Councillor Mahoney, as Convener of the Economic Development and Strategy Committee, is Falkirk Council's representative on the BID Management Group.

Central Scotland Joint Fire and Rescue Board

AGREED to appoint Councillor Gow to the Central Scotland Joint Fire and Rescue Board.

COSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group

AGREED to appoint Councillor Mahoney to the COSLA Regeneration and Sustainable Development Executive Group.

FC99. APPOINTMENT TO EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS

There was submitted Report (tabled) dated 2 March 2010 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services (a) advising of Councillor C MacDonald's resignation from the COSLA Convention and Councillor Mahoney's resignation from the COSLA Community Well-being and Safety Executive Group, and (b) seeking appointments to the two bodies.

COSLA Convention

Councillor Nimmo, seconded by Councillor C MacDonald moved that Council appoint Councillor C Martin to the COSLA Convention.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Alexander, seconded by Councillor Kenna moved that Council appoint Councillor Coleman to the COSLA Convention.

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

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

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

Abstention (1) – Provost Reid.

Accordingly, **AGREED** to appoint Councillor C Martin to the COSLA Convention.

COSLA Community Well-being and Safety Executive Group

AGREED to appoint Councillor Blackwood to the COSLA Community Well-being and Safety Executive Group.

Councillor Constable withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business and rejoined the meeting at the conclusion of the item.

FC100. EXECUTION OF DEEDS

There was submitted Report (circulated) dated 15 February 2010 by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services advising of the deeds which had been signed and sealed on behalf of the Council since its last meeting.

NOTED the signing and sealing by the Acting Director of Law and Administration Services of the Deeds as detailed in the Appendix to the Report.

In terms of Standing Order 31.1 it was agreed to continue the meeting beyond the 3 hour limit in order to conclude the business on the agenda.

Councillor McNally withdrew from the meeting during consideration of the following item of business, in accordance with his declaration of business.

FC101. ECONOMIC ACTION PLAN – UPDATE

In terms of the Council's Scheme of Delegation, this item had been called into Council by Councillors Jackson, A MacDonald and Oliver.

There was submitted (circulated) (a) Extract of Minute of Meeting of the Economic Strategy and Development Committee held on 23 February 2010, and (b) Report by the Director of Community Services submitted to the said meeting reporting on the final outcomes of the Action Plan and demonstrating how, with the adoption of the Updated My Future's in Falkirk initiative, its activities will be sustained.

Councillor Mahoney, seconded by Councillor Lemetti, moved the recommendations contained in the Report to the Economic Strategy and Development Committee.

By way of an Amendment and in supplement to the terms of the motion, Councillor Oliver, seconded by Councillor Coleman, moved that:-

“in addition, Committee instructs Officers to prepare an options appraisal to address the lack of progress on the Denny Town Centre Regeneration Project.”

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) – Depute Provost Black, Councillors Blackwood, Buchanan, Goldie, Gow, Lemetti, C MacDonald, Mahoney, C Martin, C R Martin, McLuckie, McNeill, Nimmo, Patrick and Waddell.

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

Accordingly, **AGREED** that the actions be sustained through the review of My Future's In Falkirk and as set out in the update of the Action Plan attached to the Report.

NOTED the progress made in implementing the Action Plan to help address the economic downturn within the Falkirk area.

Provost Reid left the meeting during consideration of the foregoing item of business. In the Convener's absence, Depute Provost Black took the Chair.