

**FALKIRK COUNCIL**

**MINUTE of SPECIAL MEETING of FALKIRK COUNCIL held in the MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, FALKIRK on TUESDAY 22 FEBRUARY 2011 at 3.30 P.M.**

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

**CONVENER:** Provost Reid.

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Fry and Gow.

**ATTENDING:** Chief Executive, Director of Development Services; Acting Director of Law and Administration; Acting Head of Planning and Transportation; Legal Services Manager (C Moodie) and Democratic Services Manager.

**DECLARATIONS** None.  
**OF INTEREST:**

**FC76. MOTION**

Councillor Buchanan seconded by Councillor Lemetti moved as follows:

“To give Councillor David Alexander the opportunity to explain statements allegedly made by him in the Falkirk Herald, dated Thursday 20 January 2011.

These statements attacked the integrity of the planning process and the personal honesty of all members of the Committee.

The statements have caused distress and anger amongst members of the Committee. These allegations have seriously damaged all members of the Committee individually and collectively and have brought Falkirk Council’s planning process into disrepute.

Councillor Alexander is called upon to fully retract and apologise for those allegations which impugn the personal integrity of members.”

The Provost then invited Councillor Alexander to respond to the motion and indicated his intention to adjourn the meeting thereafter for a short period to enable members to consider that response before reconvening, at which point Councillor Buchanan would be invited to complete his motion.

Councillor Alexander then set out his position with regard to the statements attributed to him in the Falkirk Herald dated 20 January 2011 following which Council adjourned at 3.55 pm for 30 minutes, reconvening at 4.25 pm with all members present as per the sederunt.

In accordance with the procedure set out by the Provost, Councillor Buchanan, seconded by Councillor Lemetti, then completed his motion in the following terms:-

“Having heard from Councillor Alexander and not being satisfied with his explanation, Council agrees to continue the matter to a future meeting when it will take whatever action it deems necessary”.

By way of amendment, Councillor Coleman, seconded by Councillor Kenna, moved that:-

“Having heard the debate this afternoon Council agrees that Councillor Alexander has no case to answer.

Council is given notice that a motion will be brought forward at the first opportunity to remove Councillor Buchanan from the position of Convener of the Planning Committee.

Council also agrees to the following recommendations:-

1. officers bring forward a programme of training for members of the Planning Committee with particular attention focussed on the role of the Convener and Depute Convener.
2. the adoption of a policy that officers should be present with members in any face to face meeting with developers. A full document to be brought to Council as soon as possible on how this would work in practice.

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

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

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

Abstention (1) – Provost Reid.

Accordingly, **AGREED** in terms of the motion.