

North Ayrshire Council
24 October 2011

IRVINE, 24 October 2011 - At a Special Meeting of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Pat McPhee, Ian Clarkson, Robert Barr, Tom Barr, Matthew Brown, Margie Currie, Anthea Dickson, John Ferguson, Alex Gallagher, William Gibson, Tony Gurney, Jean Highgate, Alan Hill, John Hunter, Ruby Kirkwood, Margaret McDougall, Elizabeth McLardy, Peter McNamara, Ronnie McNicol, John Moffat, Jim Montgomerie, Alan Munro, David O'Neill and John Reid.

In Attendance

E. Murray, Chief Executive; I. T. Mackay, Solicitor to the Council, R. Forrest, Planning Services Manager, J. Miller, Chief Development Management Officer, A. Craig, Senior Solicitor (Litigation) (Corporate Services); and M. McKeown, Committee Services Manager (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

M. Claydon, M. Miller, T. Hammond and K. Carruthers (APL); I Conroy, Dr. A. Hills, A. Botting and C. Vannan (SEPA); Dr. J. Riddell and R. Holmes (Fairlie Community Council); T. Cowen and M. Kelly (CONCH); A. Smith, Z. Clelland and R. Dixon (RSPB/WWF) and M. Shepherd, F. Mason and F. Lees (SNH).

Chair

Provost McPhee in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

John Bell, Andrew Chamberlain, Elisabeth Marshall, Robert Rae and Joan Sturgeon.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest by Elected members in terms of Standing Order 16.

2. Proposed Multi-Fuel Power Station at Hunterston

The Scottish Government, Energy Consents and Deployment Unit (ECDU) are consulting on an application by Ayrshire Power Limited under Section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for consent to construct a power station at Hunterston.

The Council received an update on the application at its meeting held on 7 September 2011 and agreed proposals to hear from the applicant and other interested parties, prior to the Council agreeing its response to the consultation at a special meeting to be held on 9 November 2011.

The applicant, together with representatives from Fairlie Community Council, Communities Opposed to New Coal at Hunterston (CONCH), the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds/World Wildlife Fund, the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) and Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), were in attendance.

Each party was given the opportunity to address the Council on their respective positions with regard to the application. The applicants spoke in support of the application, with Fairlie Community Council, CONCH and RSPB/WWF summarising their opposition to the application. SEPA and SNH spoke in terms of their responses to the Scottish Government. Elected Members asked questions, and received responses, in respect of the information presented by each party.

At the conclusion of the meeting the Chief Executive advised that Members would have an opportunity to seek clarification of points raised by the parties at an Elected Members Seminar on Wednesday 26 October prior to a report being brought to the special meeting of the Council on 9 November for determination.

Noted.

The Meeting ended at 1.30 p.m.