

Garnock Valley Area Committee
1 April 1997

Dalry, 1 April 1997 - At a Meeting of the Garnock Valley Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

Robert Reilly, Thomas Dickie, James Jennings, Thomas Morris and George Steven.

In Attendance

A Weir, Parks and Horticultural Services Manager; A Pettigrew, Young People's Services Development Officer; J McKinlay, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J Ferguson, Assistant Principal Estates Officer (Legal Services); W Telford, Accountant (Financial Services); F D Roger, Service Development Organiser; K MacGregor, Senior Community Worker (Social Work); J Fulton, Senior Environmental Health Officer, (Environment Section); L Scott, Supervising Engineer (Roads Maintenance) (Planning, Roads and Environment); J Bannatyne, Administration Officer; and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Sergeant W Robertson and Constable R Smith (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Mr Reilly in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 18 February 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Roads Management and Maintenance Revenue Budget Programme

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the proposed programme of works for the management and maintenance of all public roads in North Ayrshire for 1997/98 as approved by the Infrastructure and Environment Services Committee.

The report gave details of the criteria used to draw up the revenue maintenance programme together with details of the type of work to be carried out within the programme at the various locations within the Garnock Valley area. It was made clear that a degree of amendment could be considered for some of the schemes in the later stages of the programme and members were requested to raise any points of concern with the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment.

The Committee agreed to approve the proposed programme of works for the year 1997/98 as submitted.

3. Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 18 February 1997.)

Mr MacGregor, Senior Community Worker, Social Work, reported that the investigation undertaken throughout the Garnock Valley area in terms of the provision of advice and information to individuals has now been completed.

A total of 191 people were surveyed covering a total household population of 488 and including 4 main groupings of clientele:-

- (a) 55 years plus to elderly;
- (b) Mothers and toddlers, including lone parents;
- (c) Disability groups; and
- (d) Unemployed and income support claimants.

Copies of the final report will be made available to members.

Mr MacGregor indicated that all costs relating to the study have now been incurred and a final financial statement will be forthcoming in terms of the normal procedures under the Community Grants Scheme Conditions of Grant. From the £1,500 awarded, the sum of £1,120 has been expended and the balance of £380 returned to the Committee.

The Committee agreed (i) that the Three Towns Unemployed Workers Centre consider how to progress the information obtained and report; and (ii) that the final report on the study be considered at the next meeting.

4. Community Grants Expenditure Analysis 1996/97

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the various categories of grants paid during the financial year 1996/97 and advising of a remaining balance of £380.

An analysis of the purposes for which grants had been awarded indicated that the most common purpose was the purchase of equipment, followed by general running costs and special events. The Committee awarded a total of 34 grants from its budget of £14,736 to playschemes, galas and festivals and voluntary and community organisations.

The Voluntary Playschemes budget proved unevenly spread relative to the demand across Area Committees. In order to address this imbalance the Playscheme budget for 1997/98 will be held within the central Corporate Strategy budget.

Noted.

5. Community Development Grants Budget for Area Committees 1997/98

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Community Development Grants budget for Area Committees 1997/98.

The Community Development Grants budgets for Area Committees, totalling £73,947 for the financial year 1997/98 were approved by the Corporate Strategy Committee at its meeting on 4 March 1997. The Garnock Valley Area Committee budget for the forthcoming year amounts to £11,742 and will cover Community Grants, Sport, Art, Festivals and Galas.

Noted.

6. Requests for Financial Assistance: Community Grants Scheme

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the undernoted applications for grants to voluntary organisations.

(a) Janefield M A P Club

The Committee agreed to award the Janefield M A P Club £250.

(b) Dalry Art Club

The Committee agreed to award Dalry Art Club £75.

(c) Dalry Youth Drop-In (Steering Committee)

The Committee agreed to award the Dalry Youth Drop-In (Steering Committee) £1,000.

(d) Kilbirnie Youth Drop-In (Steering Committee)

The Committee agreed to award the Kilbirnie Youth Drop-In (Steering Committee) £998.

(e) Garnock Valley Ensemble

The Committee agreed to award the Garnock Valley Ensemble £400 on condition that the organisation affiliate to North Ayrshire Arts Council.

(f) Barrmill Tenants and Residents Association

The Committee agreed to award Barrmill Tenants and Residents Association £250.

The Committee further agreed (i) that the applications considered at **(a)** and **(b)** above be awarded from the remaining 1996/97 balance of £380; and (ii) that organisations awarded grant aid through the Area Committee be asked to participate

in events in North Ayrshire as deemed appropriate.

7. Easter Playschemes 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on allocations to Easter Playschemes 1997 under the formula for awarding grants.

Within the Garnock Valley area the Chair previously agreed to award Women's Aid, Kilbirnie and the Garnock Valley Lunch Club £195.51 and £102.90 respectively, funded from an underspend within the Playscheme Support budget during the 1996/97 financial year.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to homologate the decision by the Chair; and (b) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services submit a report to the next meeting regarding (i) the criteria for funding of the Women's Aid and Garnock Valley Lunch Club Playschemes; and (ii) arrangements for promoting voluntary playscheme activity within the Garnock Valley.

8. Kilbirnie: Central Avenue/Garden City: Petitions For/Against 'No Ball Games' Signs

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 7 January 1997.)

Councillor Steven declared an interest in this item and took no part in the discussion.

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on representations received for/against the prohibition of ball games and seeking confirmation of action to be taken to progress the matter.

The Committee had previously been advised that a petition containing 143 signatures had been received from local residents in the Garden City area of Kilbirnie protesting against the Council's ban on ball games on grassed land in that area and that a counter petition by 23 residents had also been received requesting that the ban remain in force. Meetings have since been held with representatives of both parties to discuss the issue.

The Committee agreed (a) that the matter be referred to the Community and Recreational Services Committee to enable consideration to be given to the introduction of a policy on the use of open space; and (b) that the ban on ball games remain in force meantime.

9. Membership of Kilbirnie Loch Management Group

Submitted report by the Chief Executive advising of a decision by the Community and Recreational Services Committee to (a) terminate its membership of the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group and (b) recommending that it would be more appropriate for the Garnock Valley Area Committee to undertake responsibility for the management of the activities on the loch and that it appoint two representatives to the Group.

The Council was represented on the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group by Councillors George Steven and Robert Reilly through the Community and Recreational Services Committee. Although the Management Group, comprising representatives of the Council, Scottish Enterprise and the clubs which use the Loch has not met for some time, the Loch continues to be used for sporting and leisure pursuits.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to nominate Robert Reilly and George Steven, or their substitutes, to represent the Council on the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group; (b) to appoint Robert Reilly as Chair of the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group; (c) that Scottish Enterprise be advised of the position; and (d) to make arrangements to hold an early meeting of the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group and report.

10. Kilbirnie Loch: Blue/Green Algae/Walkway Maintenance

(Previous Minute Reference: Garnock Valley Area Committee 18 February 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on (a) the response from Scottish Enterprise on the future funding of the treatment of blue/green algae at Kilbirnie Loch; and (b) the future of the boardwalk at the Lochshore car park.

In both 1994 and 1995, Scottish Enterprise, owners of the Kilbirnie Loch financed an experimental project to combat the growth of blue/green algae. In the first year, costs were in excess of £5,000, reducing to £1,600 in the second year.

Monitoring of the loch was also undertaken by the then Clyde River Purification Board (now the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA)) and continues to be financed by Scottish Enterprise.

No further treatment was carried out on the algae. The monitoring process in 1996 showed that blue/green algae was present in the loch but not to the "scum" level, the point at which warning notices would require to be issued. However, Scottish Enterprise have indicated that no further treatment will be undertaken by them and that any such treatment should be the responsibility of the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group. Costs to re-introduce the treatment to curtail the growth of blue/green algae are currently estimated at £3,500.

The boardwalk has been repeatedly damaged, both by storms and vandalism and

instructions have been issued and steps taken to ensure public access is denied. No funding has been identified to repair the structure and costs to repair are currently estimated to be in excess of £2,000.

The Committee agreed (a) that the concerns and issues raised in relation to the blue/green algae be discussed at the first meeting of the Kilbirnie Loch Management Group; and (b) that the group be requested to consider options for restoration of the boardwalk and to liaise with the Community and Recreational Services Directorate in that regard.

11. Dalry: Naming of Street off Bridgend Road

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of a street name off Bridgend Road in Dalry.

The Committee agreed that the street be named Bridgend Lane as recommended by Councillor Thomas Morris, the local member.

Arising from this the Committee expressed concern that certain developers, on occasion, market a development by using a street name which may not have been approved by the Council. This can lead to confusion amongst potential purchasers. The responsibility for the assignation of street names is vested in the Council in terms the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

After discussion, the Committee agreed that the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment attempt to ensure that developers only use street names approved by the Council.

12. Monitoring Reports

(a) North Ayrshire Council: Industrial Estate Factories

Submitted report by the Legal Services Manager regarding the letting/availability of factories on Council Industrial Estates.

The Committee was advised that all units, as detailed in the appendices to the report are now under offer and that discussion with the Chairs of the five Area Committees will take place on 15 April to discuss submission of future reports.

Noted.

(b) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Investigation of Noise Complaints April-December 1996

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the investigation of noise complaints within the Garnock Valley area during April to December 1996. The Environment Section has received 153 complaints in total (28 within the Garnock Valley) during the period April to December 1996. One Hundred and Forty Eight of these complaints were established and 77% responded to within

two working days.

Noted.

(c) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Dog Warden Service for the Months April-December 1996

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment advising of the Dog Warden Service for the months April to December 1996 including the numbers of stray dogs uplifted and dealt with by the Dog Warden.

Within the Garnock Valley, of the 34 dogs uplifted, 4 were returned to their owners, 1 had been rehoused, 9 reclaimed and 20 had been humanely destroyed.

Noted.

(d) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Pest Control Service April-December 1996

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment advising of the Environment Section's delivery of the pest control service.

In November 1996 the Council adopted a service delivery plan, designed to ensure that all members of the public receive an efficient, professional and effective service. All requests for treatment are recorded, documented and dealt with in compliance with the performance indicator requirements of the Accounts Commission in terms of the Local Government Act 1992. The service provided by the Council exceeds the standard required for performance indicators by a national benchmark standard. During the period April to December 1996 a total of 2,052 pest control treatments were carried out.

Noted.

(e) Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate: Food Safety and Health and Safety April-December 1996

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on service delivery in relation to Food Safety and Health and Safety within the Environment Section during the period 1 April to 31 December 1996. A total of 314 food hygiene inspections were undertaken within the Garnock Valley during the relevant period.

The Council is the enforcing authority in relation to the enforcement of Food Safety and Health and Safety legislation in certain categories of premises, including manufacturers, retailers, offices, restaurants and other caterers.

Noted.

13. Community Safety

(a) Strathclyde Police: Crime Statistics

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on crime statistics within the Garnock Valley provided by Strathclyde Police.

The year to date reported crime figures are 1,366 representing an 18% fall on the same period last year.

Noted.

14. Future Meetings of Area Committee: Alternative Venue

The Clerk reported on the accommodation for future meetings in Dalry.

Noted.

15. Urgent Items

The Chair agreed that the following item be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

16. Youth Drop-In Facilities in the Garnock Valley: Environmental Projects

The Young People's Services Development Worker advised that the Drop-Ins in Beith, Dalry and Kilbirnie will identify an environmental project local to each area for submission to the BP Grizzly Challenge Competition for 1997. This competition is organised by British Petroleum who make annual awards to youth groups involved in environmental projects.

Constable Smith indicated that Strathclyde Police would be grateful to acquire any surplus leisure/computer equipment from the Council or other sources, which could be used by the Drop-in Centres.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that Strathclyde Police be advised of any available surplus equipment for use in the Drop-in Centres; (b) that a further report on progress be submitted in due course; and (c) to note the position meantime.

The meeting ended at 11.55 p.m.