

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
12 May 1997

Arran, 12 May 1997 - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee at 11.00 a.m.

Present

John Sillars, Margaret Highet, Elizabeth McLardy, Robert Rae and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

D Anderson, Head of Cultural and Community Services; I Frame and M Smyth, Area Community Development Officers (Community and Recreational Services); R Lee, Assistant Principal Accountant (Financial Services); A Osborne, Corporate Policy Officer, A McLeod, Assistant Local Officer, J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Superintendent J Young, Inspector M Scally and Sergeant J Weir (Strathclyde Police).

Chair

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 27 March 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Largs: Viking Festival 1997

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 17 February 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the progress made in the organisation of the 1997 Viking Festival along with a copy of the Minutes of the Meeting of the Festival Advisory Forum held on 1 April 1997.

This year's Festival Programme, now well advanced, will include some new elements and some alterations to parts of the Festival, details of which were given in the report. The existing Festival components have been under review and the Battle/Fireworks event in particular has been closely scrutinised given its previous success in attracting spectators (8,000-10,000 people). Consideration is being given as to whether the Pencil is the most suitable site for the event and whether it or any other site would allow added features to be introduced. Consideration is also being given as to the possibility of a site being developed to accommodate new events and open air concerts. In future concerts may require to be limited in terms of the safety and management of the site.

Steps are being taken to ascertain the impact which the size of the event has on the town of Largs in terms of parking, congestion, public transport etc. Appropriate

consultations have been undertaken and the projected budget for the 1997 Festival has been revised to allow for additional expenditure on a number of safety issues including the provision of additional tower lights, stewards, toilets, etc. It is proposed to continue to stage the Battle/Fireworks

event at the Pencil this year, to monitor the position carefully and re-assess the staging of the event in the future. The total cost of staging this event last year amounted to £32,000.

After discussion the Committee agreed (a) to note (i) the additions to this year's Festival Programme; and (ii) the Minutes of the Viking Festival Forum meeting held on 1 April 1997; and (b) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services submit a report on a post-Festival assessment of the use of the site at the Pencil to a future meeting

3. Millport: DA (Development Association) Hall

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services regarding a Public Entertainment Licence in respect of the DA Hall, Millport.

The DA Hall which is now operated by the Community and Recreational Services Directorate is located within the grounds of Garrison House. The hall was formerly part of a hospital complex on the site and is currently used by a range of local groups on Cumbrae. A Public Entertainment Licence is required to enable the normal range of activities to be undertaken in the hall each year. The Environmental Health Section of the Planning, Roads and Environment Directorate has identified a number of issues which require to be addressed prior to the granting of a Public Entertainment Licence for the current year. The works required have been instructed by the Director of Community and Recreational Services and will require to be inspected prior to the approval of the Licence.

Noted.

4. Largs: Main Street: Bus Parking

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 27 March 1997.)

The Clerk reported that Strathclyde Passenger Transport have, to date, been unable to resolve the bus parking problems at Main Street, Largs. Further complaints have been received from shops adjacent to the bus stop at Main Street, Largs regarding buses stopping over. It is anticipated that the Council will receive a request from Strathclyde Passenger Transport for assistance in resolving the problems and a further report on the matter will be submitted to the next meeting of the Committee on 23 June 1997.

Noted.

5. Largs: Promenade: Cycling and Skateboarding Zone: Proposed Scheme

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 27 March 1997.)

The Committee on 27 March 1997 approved in principle, the proposed Cycling/Skateboarding Scheme for Largs promenade and agreed that a site meeting be held involving the three local members for Largs and representatives of the Roads Division. The site visit took place on 24 April 1997 with Inspector Scally of Strathclyde Police also in attendance. After discussion and clarification of the details of the Scheme it was agreed that the work should be implemented as soon as possible. It was also recommended that the Scheme be initially reviewed after one year with a full review after two years. The cost of the works will be funded from the Roads Section's 1997/98 revenue budget.

Councillor Wilkinson, while accepting the need for the Scheme to be reviewed, expressed concern over safety issues relating to members of the public using the promenade.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that a report on an initial review of the Scheme be submitted to the Committee on 6 October 1997; (b) that the timescale for the carrying out of a full review thereafter be determined at the October meeting; and (c) otherwise to note the position

meantime.

6. West Kilbride Beach: Seamill/Portencross: Toilet Facilities

Mrs McLardy advised the Committee of her concern over the lack of the provision of public toilets at the North Shore south of Seamill and in the vicinity of the car park area at Portencross. She stated that a number of years ago a public toilet at the North Shore had been demolished and a public toilet at the foot of Hyndman Road had been damaged by storms. Neither toilet facility has been replaced.

The Committee agreed that the Director of Commercial Services be requested to investigate the possibility of the provision of public toilets at the areas identified and report.

7. Arran: Community Consultation Meeting

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 27 March 1997.)

The Chair advised the Committee that it is proposed that arrangements be made to hold the next Community Consultation Meeting with local groups/organisations on Arran in June 1997. The date, venue and time of the meeting have yet to be decided.

The Committee agreed to remit to the Chair in consultation with the appropriate officers to make the necessary arrangements.

8. West Kilbride: New Library: Provision of Handrail

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 27 March 1997.)

The Clerk referred to the request by Mrs McLardy at the previous meeting for the provision of a handrail at the stepped path between Ritchie Street and Halfway Street, West

Kilbride and confirmed that the installation of the handrail had now been completed. Mrs McLardy expressed her thanks for the prompt action taken to deal with this matter.

Noted.

9. Dog Fouling

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 17 February 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress made in establishing the five pilot project areas selected to combat dog fouling, the circulation of posters and the distribution of dog tidy bags.

The Clerk confirmed that the installation of the dog bins in the five pilot areas previously agreed is progressing and that as part of the Environment Week activities, dog fouling posters have been circulated to all libraries and local offices throughout North Ayrshire. Dog tidy bags have been provided at these locations free of charge. A Responsible Dog Owner leaflet has also been produced for initial distribution at these outlets during Environment Week and will be circulated throughout North Ayrshire thereafter. All dog fouling complaints received continue to be dealt with by arranging for the Commercial Services Directorate. Special arrangements have been made during Environment Week from 12 to 16 May for visits to be made to the five pilot scheme areas by the Dog Warden accompanied by a Police Officer who will, where possible, check the use of any existing dog bins, distribute leaflets and dog tidy bags and speak to the owners of premises and members of the public on dog fouling matters.

Approximately £18,000 has been made available for dog fouling measures in 1997/98 and given the need for disposal arrangements at an annual cost of £10,000, this leaves approximately

£1600 per Area Committee. Recommendations on the use of this budget in the current year will not be made until the pilot projects can be completed and assessed. It is hoped that Environment Week will secure considerable media interest and raise the profile of the Council's message that dog fouling in public places causes offence and that owners should act responsibly by cleaning up where this occurs.

The Committee agreed (a) to authorise officers, in consultation with the Chair, to purchase signs relating to dog fouling for display in school playgrounds; and (b) otherwise to note the progress meantime.

10. Largs: Common Good

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 27 March 1997.)

Submitted reports on:-

- (a) Availability of Funding 1997/98;
- (b) Applications for Financial Assistance 1997/98; and
- (c) Application for Financial Assistance: Largs Community Council: Bunting for Largs.

The Chair advised the Committee that the Director of Financial Services had requested an opportunity to meet with the members of the Committee to discuss proposals relating to the management of the Largs Common Good Fund, prior to determining any applications received for financial assistance from the fund.

The Committee agreed (i) to continue consideration of the above matters meantime; and (ii) that a Special Meeting be held on 15 May 1997 in Cunninghame House, Irvine at 1.00 p.m. between the five members of the Area Committee, the Director of Financial Services and other appropriate officers, to discuss matters relating to the Largs Common Good.

11. Millport Common Good

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for Financial Assistance 1997/98.

The Chair advised the Committee that the Director of Financial Services had requested an opportunity to meet with the members of the Committee to discuss proposals relating to the Millport Common Good Fund, prior to determining any applications received for financial assistance from the fund.

The Committee agreed (i) to continue consideration of the above matters meantime; and (ii) that a Special Meeting be held on 15 May 1997 in Cunninghame House, Irvine at 1.00 p.m. between the five members of the Area Committee, the Director of Financial Services and other appropriate officers, to discuss matters relating to the Millport Common Good.

12. Monitoring Reports

(a) Review of Monitoring Reports 1996/97

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the issues arising from a review of the 1996/97 Monitoring Reports giving details of proposals for their improvement.

A detailed list was provided of the individual Monitoring Reports which have been submitted to Area Committees for consideration to date. The processes for identifying, preparing and presenting Monitoring Reports was considered at a Special Meeting of the five Chairs of the Area Committees held on 15 April. It was further accepted that the reports had generally suffered from a lack of

appropriate benchmarks to put the actual results into context. Potential benchmarks might include service targets/plans/standards agreed by Directors, actual results for previous time periods (enabling trends to be detected) and national standards. Officers should develop appropriate reporting formats which will encourage the use of appropriate benchmarking information and when presenting reports to meetings, should be further encouraged to highlight and comment only on those performance measures which are significantly different from the benchmark measurements. Since members of the general public have a right of access to monitoring reports, the reports should continue to be submitted to Area Committees for their consideration.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the progress and developing value of the Monitoring Reports during 1996/97; and (b) to approve the proposals for more relevant and concise Monitoring Reports in the terms indicated in the report.

(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 3 April 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the grants paid to 3 April 1997.

Noted.

13. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

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

(i) Arran Folk Festival Society

The Committee agreed to award the Arran Folk Festival Society £600 on condition that the Society acknowledges North Ayrshire Council and the North Ayrshire Arts Council on all publicity.

(ii) Arran Jazz and Blues Festival

The Committee agreed to award the Arran Jazz and Blues Festival £300 subject to receipt of satisfactory audited accounts. The Committee further agreed that the Festival affiliate to North Ayrshire Arts Council.

(iii) Feis Arainn

The Committee agreed to award Feis Arainn £600.

(iv) The Rowan Singers

The Committee agreed to award the Rowan Singers £200.

(v) Brodick Highland Games Athletics Club

The Committee agreed to award the Brodick Highland Games Athletics Club £150.

(vi) Brisbane Queen Festival

The Committee agreed to award the Brisbane Queen Festival £500.

(vii) Bambi Pre School Playgroup

The Committee agreed to award the Bambi Pre-School Playgroup £100.

(viii) West Kilbride Village Gala Group

The Committee agreed to award the West Kilbride Village Gala Group £500.

14. Community Safety

(a) Policing on Arran

Superintendent Young of Strathclyde Police reported that given the environment on Arran as compared to the mainland, a unique approach is required to ensure that the best service possible in Policing terms is provided.

There are normally five resident officers on the island and Strathclyde Police are continually seeking ways to utilise the resources to best effect. A senior officer provides administrative support to Arran and there is also some relief provision available. The services of specialist officers are also utilised in respect of traffic, drugs, hill search and rescue etc. when required and officers can also be mobilised from Argyll, Ayr and Glasgow to undertake searches, if necessary.

During the summer months when approximately 250,000 people visit Arran, additional officers are based on the island to ensure an adequate level of provision. Reference was also made to the valuable contribution which is made by Special Constables.

Strathclyde Police are continually reviewing their resources and consider that policing on Arran is adequate and will continue to provide the highest standards of policing possible.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 12.20 p.m.