

North Ayrshire Council
14 May 1999

Irvine, 14 May 1999 - Minutes of the Statutory Meeting of North Ayrshire Council held in the Council Chambers, Cunninghame House, Irvine on Friday 14 May 1999 at 2.30 p.m.

Present

Thomas Barr, John Bell, Jacqueline Browne, Jack Carson, Gordon Clarkson, Ian Clarkson, Stewart Dewar, John Donn, David Gallagher, Samuel Gooding, Jane Gorman, Elliot Gray, Alan Hill, James Jennings, Margaret McDougall, Elizabeth McLardy, Joseph McKinney, Peter McNamara, Elisabeth Marshall, John Moffat, David Munn, Margaret Munn, Alan Munro, David O'Neill, Robert Rae, John Reid, Robert Reilly, John Sillars, Samuel Taylor and Richard Wilkinson.

In Attendance

B Devine, Chief Executive; G Irving, Corporate Director (Social Services); J Travers, Corporate Director (Educational Services); T. Orr, Corporate Director (Property Services); A Herbert, Assistant Chief Executive (Finance); JM Macfarlane, Assistant Chief Executive (Personnel), J Barrett, Assistant Chief Executive (Information Technology); IT Mackay, Assistant Chief Executive (Legal & Regulatory); B MacDonald, Assistant Chief Executive (Development & Promotion); and G Lawson, Principal Policy Officer (Chief Executive's).

1. Appointment of Chair Person Pro Term

In terms of Paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 2 to the Local Government Etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 the Returning Officer shall act as Chair Person at the first Meeting of a new Council until the completion of the election of a Convener.

Noted.

2. Report of the Returning Officer

Submitted report by the Returning Officer giving formal notice in terms of Rule 43 of the Scottish Local Election Rules 1986 that the following 30 persons had been duly elected to North Ayrshire Council for the term of office ending May 2002, namely:-

Thomas Barr,

John Bell,

Jacqueline Browne,

Jack Carson,

Gordon Clarkson,

Ian Clarkson,
Stewart Dewar,
John Donn,
David Gallagher,
Samuel Gooding,
Jane Gorman,
Elliot Gray,
Alan Hill,
James Jennings,
Margaret McDougall,
Elizabeth McLardy,
Joseph McKinney,
Peter McNamara,
Elisabeth Marshall,
John Moffat,
David Munn,
Margaret Munn,
Alan Munro,
David O'Neill,
Robert Rae,
John Reid,
Robert Reilly,
John Sillars,

Samuel Taylor and

Richard Wilkinson.

Noted.

3. Declaration of Acceptance of Office

In terms of Section 33A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 and Section 31(7) of the Local Government Housing Act 1989, the Elected Members must sign a Declaration of Acceptance of Office before acting in the office of Councillor.

The Returning Officer reported that all Members had signed the Declaration.

Noted.

4. Pecuniary Interests of Members of Local Authorities

The Returning Officer reported that in terms of the Local Authorities (Members' Interests) Regulations 1992 all Members of Local Authorities are required to disclose both direct and indirect pecuniary interests. A form on registrable interests has been issued to each Member who must complete and return the form within one month of the date of the first Meeting.

Noted.

5. Election of Convener

In terms of Section 4(1) of the Local Government Etc. (Scotland) Act 1994 the Council of each Local Government area shall elect a Convener from among the Councillors.

The Returning Officer called for nominations for the office of Convener and Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, moved the appointment of Mr. Samuel Taylor. There being no further nominations, the Council agreed that Mr. Taylor be appointed to the office.

Mr. Taylor then took the Chair and thanked the Members of the Council for his appointment. He advised the Council that an Inaugural Church Service for North Ayrshire Council would be held in St. Brendan's Church, Saltcoats on Sunday 20 June 1999.

Noted.

6. Election of Depute Convener

In terms of Section 4(2) of the Local Government Etc. (Scotland) Act 1994, the Council agreed that a Depute Convener be elected. The Convener then called for nominations and Mr. O'Neill, seconded by Mr. Gallagher, moved the appointment of Mrs. Jane Gorman.

There being no further nominations, the Council agreed that Mrs. Gorman be appointed to the office of Depute Convener.

7. Appointment of Leader and Depute Leader of the Council

The Convener called for nominations for the post of Leader and Depute Leader of the Council.

The Council agreed that Mr. David O'Neill be appointed Leader of the Council and Mr. David

Gallagher Depute Leader.

8. Constitutional Arrangements

The Chief Executive reported that the current "Constitutional Arrangements of North Ayrshire Council", i.e.:-

- (a) Standing Orders relating to Meetings and Proceedings of the Council;
- (b) Standing Orders relating to Contracts;
- (c) Financial Regulations; and
- (d) Scheme of Delegation to Officers

should continue to be applied until any review of these arrangements is carried out. Copies of the documents were tabled at the meeting.

Noted.

9. Statutory Officers

The Council noted the designation of the following Statutory Officers:-

Head of Paid Service - Mr. Bernard Devine

Chief Financial Officer - Mr. Alasdair J. Herbert

Monitoring Officer - Mr. Ian T. Mackay

10. Members' Allowances

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Finance) on the revised basic/attendance allowances for Councillors as directed by the Scottish Office. The new allowance payable to North Ayrshire Council's Members is £5,989 which will continue to be paid monthly until a review of timing of payments is undertaken.

Noted.

11. Appointment to Outside Bodies

The Council agreed to continue consideration of this item to an Adjourned Meeting of the Statutory Meeting of the Council to be held on 20 May 1999.

12. Options for Political Management Structures

The Council agreed to continue consideration of this item to an Adjourned Meeting of the Statutory Meeting of the Council to be held on 20 May 1999.

13. Urgent Item

The Council agreed to consider the following item as a matter of urgency.

Possible Industrial Action - Caledonian MacBrayne Limited

Councillor Sillars reported on the possibility of industrial action being taken by employees of Caledonian MacBrayne Ltd and the effects which such action may have on the islands of Arran and Cumbrae. Similar industrial action in the past had led to economic hardship for the residents of both islands. Councillor Hill expressed similar comments.

The Council agreed to write to the Secretary of State for Scotland on the likely effects of such industrial action and requesting that he take steps to resolve any possible dispute.

The meeting ended at 3.00 p.m.