

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee
17 September 2015

IRVINE, 17 September 2015 - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

Present

John Bruce, Willie Gibson, Tony Gurney, John Hunter, Ronnie McNicol and Peter McNamara.

In Attendance

S. Quinn, Head of Service (Schools), F. Hopkins and L. Morris, Senior Managers, J. Hughes, Head Teacher, Stanley Primary School and Early Years Class and D. Lambert, Depute Head Teacher, Arran High School and Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class (Education and Youth Employment); J. McHarg, Senior Manager (Participation and Empowerment), B. Anderson, Performance/Grants Officer and D. Whyte, External Funding Officer (Economy and Communities); S. Walker, Technician (Place); P. Barrett, Finance Officer (Treasury and Cash); and D. McCaw, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

Also In Attendance

Sergeant L. Gray and PCs P. Adamson and K. McPhee (Police Scotland); and Station Manager L. Elliot (Scottish Fire and Rescue Service).

Chair

Councillor Bruce in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Jim Montgomerie and Alan Munro.

1. Chair's Remarks

The Chair, in terms of Standing Order 9.3, agreed to vary the order of business to allow consideration of Agenda Item 5 Education Scotland Report: Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class to take place immediately after Agenda Item 4 Community Planning Partnership Partners: North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 11 June 2015.

2. Declarations of Interest

In terms of Standing Order 10 and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, Councillor McNamara, as a volunteer with the Group, declared an indirect financial interest in Agenda Item 9 (Community Development Grants Scheme Award and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance) in relation to the grant applications by Ardrossan Music Experience.

3. Minutes

The accuracy of the Minutes of (i) the ordinary meeting of the Committee held on 25 June 2015; and (ii) the special meeting of the Committee held on 11 August 2015 was confirmed and the Minutes signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, subject to the amendment to item 2.1 in the Minute of the meeting held on 25 June 2015 that North Ayrshire Council Roads Section, and not Police Scotland, would report at the next meeting on parking issues in Windmill Street and Hamilton Street, Saltcoats.

4. Community Planning Partnership Partners: North Ayrshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board: Minutes of Meeting held on 11 June 2015

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Minutes of the Community Planning Partnership Board held on 11 June 2015.

Noted.

5. Education Scotland Report: Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment) and received a verbal update by the Depute Head Teacher, Arran High School and Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class on the Education Scotland Report in respect of Lamlash Primary School and Early Years Class.

The inspection, undertaken in April 2015, covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages. Key strengths and 4 areas for improvement were detailed in the report. The verbal update by the Depute Head Teacher provided more detail in relation to the evaluations received by the school.

Members asked questions, and received clarification, on the following:-

- the number of pupils currently attending the primary school; and
- the positive areas for improvement which are being progressed.

The Committee (a) asked that the Depute Head Teacher pass on its congratulations to the staff at the school; and (b) noted (i) the steps taken to address how the school can continue to improve; and (ii) that in terms of follow-through, HMIE will make no further visits.

6. Community Planning Partnership Partners

6.1 Police Scotland

Sergeant Gray circulated a report on recent crime and offences, community policing actions and initiatives, directed patrol plans and public events in the Committee's area for the period 1 June to 7 September 2015.

Members asked questions and were provided with information in relation to:-

- taxis collecting children at Ardrossan Academy which are parking on the double yellow and wavy lines at the school;
- the enforcement of parking restrictions at Primary Schools and on whether this could be extended to include Secondary Schools as part of the ongoing action plan;
- the request that the Roads Section reinstate the yellow road marking at schools;
- whether drugs and alcohol featured heavily in the incidents report to the Committee; and
- the reduction in Police Station opening hours and lack of adverse impact on the community.

Members praised Police Scotland for their excellent service across the North Ayrshire area.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Head of Service (Schools) contact those taxi companies collecting children at Ardrossan Academy, who park on double yellow and wavy lines, to advise that they are contravening parking restrictions at the school; (b) that the Head of Service (Physical Environment) progress the reinstatement of the yellow road markings at schools as a matter of urgency; and (c) otherwise to note the report.

6.2 Scottish Fire and Rescue Service

Station Manager Elliot circulated a report on activity within the Kilwinning area during the period 1 July to 31 August 2015, including fires of note, special services and community safety.

Noted.

7. Education Scotland Reports: Stanley Primary School and Early Years Class

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Education and Youth Employment), and received a presentation by the Head Teacher, on the Education Scotland Report in respect of Stanley Primary School and Early Years Class.

The inspection, undertaken in March 2015, covered key aspects of the work of the school at all stages. Key strengths and 3 areas for improvement were detailed in the report. The presentation by the Head Teacher provided more detail in relation to the evaluations received by the school.

The Committee (a) asked that the Head Teacher pass on its congratulations to the staff at the school; and (b) noted (i) the steps taken to address how the school can continue to improve; and (ii) that in terms of follow-through, HMIE will make no further visits.

8. Road Maintenance Programme 2015/16

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Place) on the Structural Roads and Street Lighting Maintenance Programme for 2015/16. The report set out the approach taken to determining the asset maintenance programme for roads and street lighting and highlighted at Appendices 3a and 3b the 2015/16 maintenance programme.

Members asked questions and were provided with further information in relation to:-

- methods to encourage private non adopted road owners to carry out improvements to the condition of road surfaces; and
- progress with parking issues in the Dockhead Street area of Saltcoats.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Executive Director (Place) (i) contact the Chief Executive of KA Leisure to request that progress be made regarding maintenance works to improve the condition of Auchenharvie Road leading down to the Golf Club; and (ii) that an update on parking issues in the Dockhead Street area of Saltcoats be forwarded to the Clerk for onward transmission to Members; and (b) otherwise to note the report.

9. Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund: Applications for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on applications received in respect of the Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund.

The Committee agreed (a) to make the following awards:-

Community Development Grant Scheme

Organisation	Award
Ardrossan Old Age Pensioners Club	£ 500
Ardrossan Music Experience	£1,400
Input	£2,000

Local Youth Action Fund

Organisation	Award
Ardrossan Music Experience	£1,750

and (b) to remit to the Senior Manager (Participation and Empowerment) to (i) carry out an assessment of the sound system currently available within the Ardrossan Civic Centre; and (ii) determine the cost of purchase and installation of a new system.

10. Community Benefit Fund Applications for Grant Aid

Submitted report by the Executive Director (Economy and Communities) on the applications received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

Organisation	Award
Stevenston Christmas Lights	£4,194.74
Saltcoats Community Action Group	£4,194.74
RSPB Ardeer Quarry Wetland Project	Group to be advised to re-apply to the Stevenston Common Good Fund
Saving Saint Brides Chapel Group, Arran	£1,609.64

11. Stevenston Common Good Fund: Application for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received in respect of the Stevenston Common Good Fund for 2015/16.

The Committee agreed to award £1,000 to the International Historical, Cultural and Geographical Group towards the costs associated with the International Burns Festival 2016 on the basis that events will be open to local residents and attract visitors to the local area.

12. North Ayrshire Council (Ardrossan) Charitable Trust

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application received in respect of the North Ayrshire Council (Ardrossan Charitable Trust).

The Finance Officer advised the Committee of proposals for consideration in relation to depleting the capital balances of the dormant charitable trusts and on additional applications which would be forthcoming to the Ardrossan and Saltcoats Trust Funds in that regard.

There was discussion on the need to contact the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) if the capital amount is reduced significantly to the extent that the Trust will be wound up.

The Committee agreed (a) to defer consideration of the application from Ardrossan Music Experience; and (b) that the Finance Officer seek advice from OSCR regarding the implications of (i) not utilising the revenue from the Charitable Trust; and (ii) the dissolution of the Trust and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

The meeting ended at 3.45 p.m.