

Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee  
9 June 2011

**STEVENSON, 9 June 2011** - At a Meeting of the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 2.00 p.m.

**Present**

Anthony Gurney, Margie Currie, William Gibson, John Hunter, Peter McNamara, Ronnie McNicol and Alan Munro.

**In Attendance**

K. MacDonald, Finance Manager and C. Forsyth, Assistant Transportation Manager (Finance and Infrastructure); J. McHarg, Assistant Manager (Community Services) (Education and Skills); J. Cumming, Project Officer (Economic Development), G. Hamilton, Festivals and Events Officer and M. Anderson, Committee Services Officer (Chief Executive's Service).

**Also In Attendance**

Station Commanders Mark Gallacher and Derek Davidson (Strathclyde Fire and Rescue); and Inspector B. Skimming (Strathclyde Police).

**Chair**

Councillor Gurney in the chair.

**1. Chair's Remarks**

The Chair referred to the recent retirement on health grounds of Councillor David Munn and, on behalf of the Area Committee as a whole, acknowledged Councillor Munn's long and valuable contribution both to the Council and to the community he served.

**2. Declarations of Interest**

**2.1 Advice to Elected Members**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the requirements of Standing Orders and Section 5 of the Code of Conduct for Councillors in relation to declarations of interest.

In a recent report by the Standards Commissioner for Scotland, the Commissioner recommended that:-

- all Elected Members be made aware of the provisions of Section 5 of the Code of Conduct, including specifically paragraph 5.15, in relation to declarations of interest;
- that Elected Members receive training on how properly to make declarations of interest, including the need to state the nature of the interest; and

- Committee Chairs and officers with responsibility for the conduct of Council or committee meetings should ensure adherence to the proper mode and content of declarations of interest.

Standing Order 16 provides that if any Member of the Council has a financial or non-financial interest in any contract or any other matter as defined by Section 5 of the Councillors' Code Conduct, and is present at any meeting at which that matter is to be considered, he or she must, as soon as practicable after the meeting starts, disclose that he or she has an interest and, importantly, state the nature of this interest. Section 5 of the Code, which was appended to the report, sets out the rules in relation to declarations of interest.

To facilitate such declarations, a heading "Declarations of Interest", routinely appears as the first item on agendas for all meetings of the Council and its Committees. The report provided information on the future arrangements for the Committee Chairs when dealing with the Declarations of Interest item on the agenda, the Commissioner's suggested wording for Members declaring an interest in an agenda item and induction training for Elected Members following next year's local government elections.

Noted.

## **2.2 Declarations of Interest**

In terms of Standing Order 16, Councillor McNamara, as a member of the Friends of Holm Plantation, declared an indirect financial interest in Agenda Item 7 (Community Benefit Fund: Applications for Grant Aid), and took no part in the determination thereof. Councillor Gurney, as an acquaintance of the individual applicant, declared an indirect financial interest in Agenda Item 8 (Community Development Grants Scheme and Local Youth Action Fund 2011/12: Applications for Financial Assistance) and vacated the Chair for that item of business. Councillor McNicol assumed the Chair during consideration of the Local Youth Action Fund application from Rachel Adel Ferrie.

## **3. Minutes**

The Minutes of the previous meetings of the Committee held on 17 March and 13 April 2011 were signed in accordance with Paragraph 7 (1) of Schedule 7 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

## **4. Strathclyde Police**

Inspector Skimming provided information on the following:-

- 8 arrests in connection with a recent spate of house-breakings, and the continuing pattern of overnight break-ins of domestic properties, garden sheds and garages;
- technical difficulties associated with responding to Members' request for a temporary CCTV camera to be sited to the rear of Montgomerie Street, Ardrossan and the deployment, in the meantime, of the mobile CCTV unit to this area;
- the Force's most recent performance summary, showing violent crime in North Ayrshire down by 26%, with a detection rate of 70.4% (higher than the Force average of 63.7%);
- the continuing focus on common assaults as one of the top 2 priorities for the Police in this area;
- local action plans to tackle speeding and driver behaviour, initially in the Burns Avenue, Saltcoats and South Beach areas, but rotating around the whole 3 Towns and Arran area;
- a roadside initiative planned jointly between the Police, the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) and Trading Standards for June and July 2011;
- 6 planned weekends of action in Wards 4 and 5 to target youth disorder, drinking and violence, commencing in July and August 2011; and
- significant policing activities associated with forthcoming Orange Walks, the Ardrossan Highland Games, the 2-day Saltcoats Rocks Gala event and Brodick Highland Games.

Members discussed the following issues:-

- parking offences and access difficulties associated with a large commercial vehicle being left on the roadside opposite the cemetery on Sorbie Road, Ardrossan;
- the disruption to local traders caused by Orange Walks through town centres and the practicality of seeking to combine multiple parades on the same day into a single event;
- the continuing high incidence of domestic violence and strategies to address this issue;
- the wider issue of serious violence in domestic properties and its connection with the availability of inexpensive alcohol from supermarkets and other retailers; and
- the recurrence of a previously reported issue relating to parking on 'school keep clear' lines outside Winton Primary School;

Noted.

## **5. Strathclyde Fire and Rescue**

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire and Rescue on activity from 5 March to 27 May 2011.

Station Commanders Davidson and Gallacher provided further information on the following:-

- joint working with the Police to tackle malicious false alarms originating from O'Connor Court, Saltcoats;
- recent grass fires near Sandylands Holiday Park, Saltcoats, and plans to tackle the wider issue of secondary fires;
- the circumstances behind recent fire casualties;
- the significant and concerning delay experienced in arranging for the Council to remove debris from the rear of flatted accommodation at Sydney Street, Saltcoats;
- the success of joint working between the Fire and Rescue Service, Police, Auchenharvie Academy and a local business operator in tackling a series of wheelie-bin fires near the Evolution Skatepark;
- the promotion of Home Fire Safety Visits through work with local large businesses and an invitation to local Members to help promote the service; and
- action to address false alarms and equipment faults in local premises, including Auchenharvie Academy.

Members discussed the following issues:-

- the relatively highly proportion of incidents associated with the Ardrossan, Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston area in the context of North Ayrshire as a whole; and
- wheelie-bin fires in the Boglemart Street area of Stevenston, possibly exacerbated by householders having to put their bins out for collection the evening before they are due to be emptied.

Station Commander Davidson undertook to share with Members his briefing paper on the issue of debris at Sydney Street, Saltcoats.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Committee Services Officer seek further information on the delay experienced in having debris removed from the rear of flatted accommodation at Sydney Street, Saltcoats; and (b) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

## **6. Saltcoats: Jack's Road Bus Stop**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) which provided an update following the relocation of the bus stop at Jack's Road, Saltcoats.

At the meeting of the Area Committee held on 25 November 2011, Members expressed concern that the bus stop opposite St. Matthew's Academy, Jack's Road, Saltcoats was not visible due to overgrown trees and the absence of appropriate road markings. Members also noted that there was a bus stop on the opposite side of the road at the same location, which could cause congestion. The Area Committee agreed that the Head of Infrastructure & Design investigate this matter and report on the outcome.

Congestion at the stop on Jack's Road near to the car park entrance to the Corran Inn was caused by parents picking up children from the nearby school and, in the evening, patrons of the Corran Inn parking adjacent to the bus stop and preventing the bus from accessing the kerb. In the event of a bus using the stop on the opposite side of the road at the same time, the carriageway was effectively blocked.

Extensive discussions took place with Strathclyde Partnership for Transport and it was decided to move the bus stop location around the corner and onto High Road. This work was carried out shortly thereafter and the action taken appears to have resolved the problem.

Noted.

## **7. Ardrossan: Princes Street Bus Stop**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the outcome of discussions with other parties in relation to the bus stop at Princes Street, Ardrossan.

At the meeting of the Area Committee held on 25 November 2011, Members were advised that, in an effort to ease congestion at this location, shuttle bus services had been instructed to stop further back in the vicinity of Bute Place if a service 11 coach was already parked at the bus stop and to move into the bus stop once this coach has left, with driver changeover activities for the shuttle service then taking place before the next service 11 coach arrived. Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company had, however, written to Stagecoach objecting to the new solution, as the buses were stopping in front of the newly refurbished Jack Miller building. In addition, Members noted that illegally parked cars at this location were adding to the congestion problems and Strathclyde Police had been requested to carry out enforcement action in this area.

At its meeting on 25 November 2011, the Area Committee agreed the Head of Infrastructure & Design (a) continue to monitor the situation and enter into further discussions with Strathclyde, Police, SPT and Irvine Bay Urban Regeneration Company to try to resolve this issue; and (b) report back to a future meeting on the outcome of discussions.

Discussions have taken place with Stagecoach, the operator using this stop, to determine bus stop usage. Stagecoach was asked to review its management of this stop and agreed to hold back services (near to the Jack White Building) to allow the stop to clear, thus maintaining use of the stop by a maximum of two vehicles at a time. Infrastructure and Design will continue to work with both SPT and Stagecoach to manage the use of all bus stops in order to alleviate problems relating to traffic flow throughout North Ayrshire.

The Assistant Transportation Manager (Finance and Infrastructure) referred to a typographical error at paragraph 2.2 of the report, advising that the mention of the "Jack White building" should read "Jack Miller building".

Members then discussed the following, more general, roads-related matters:-

- measures to inform local Elected Members of planned road closures, in the light of the recent closure at Guthrie Road, Saltcoats, about which Members had not been made aware;
- a significant pot-hole associated with the new development off Guthrie Road, Saltcoats; and
- the possibility of solar-powered 30mph signs being put in place on Kilwinning Road, Stevenston, between Morrisons and the Ardeer filling station, in addition to road markings reminding drivers of the speed limit in operation.

The Committee agreed (a) that the Assistant Transportation Manager (Finance and Infrastructure) provide a further report to a future meeting of the Area Committee on the outcome of further monitoring of the operation of buses on Princes Street, Ardrossan; (b) that the Assistant Transportation Manager investigate the various roads matters raised by Members during discussion and report back to a future meeting of the Area Committee; and (c) otherwise, to note the content of the report.

## **8. Community Benefit Fund: Applications for Grant Aid**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on applications for financial assistance received in respect of the Community Benefit Fund.

The Committee agreed to make the following awards:-

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Ardrossan Sea Cadets	£4,824.00
Friends of Holm Plantation	£1,056.00, to be split evenly
between the funding allocation to the Ardrossan and Saltcoats areas	
Tuesday Club	£300.00
Mayfield Primary School	£4,000.00
Hayocks Rainbows	£500.00
5th Stevenston Brownies	£500.00
Argyle Quilters Group	£2,000.00, subject to the
	submission of outstanding
	financial monitoring for an earlier
	award from the Community
	Development Grant Scheme

## **9. Community Development Grants Scheme 2011/12: Applications for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Education and Skills) on applications for financial assistance under the Council's Community Development Grants Scheme.

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

### **Community Development Grant Awards**

#### **Organisation**

#### **Award**

Retirement Yoga Group	£1,200.00
Ardrossan Whitlees Community Association	£1,150.00, subject to the submission of outstanding financial monitoring for an earlier Community Development Grant award
Brodict Improvement Committee	£1,000.00
Feis Arainn	£1,400.00, on condition that the funding in question is returned should the event as a whole not take place
Saltcoats Gala Committee	£1,435.00, subject to the submission of outstanding financial monitoring for an earlier Community Development Grant award
Arran Junior Sailing Club	£300.00
Ardrossan Winton Community Sports Club	£300.00
Ardrossan Youth Foundation	£2,000.00, on condition that the funding in question is returned should the project as a whole not proceed

### **Local Youth Action Fund Awards**

#### **Organisation**

#### **Award**

Rachel Adel Ferrie	£122.40
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and (b) that it be remitted to the Assistant Manager (Community Services), in consultation with the Chair, to make an award of up to £1,800 to Youth for Lourdes, pending clarification of the number of participants from the 3 Towns and Arran.

## **10. Ardrossan Common Good Fund: Draft Accounts**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the draft revenue account in respect of Ardrossan Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2011 and proposing a budget for 2011/12, including the level of grant funding for 2011/12.

In 2010/11, the Ardrossan Common Good Fund was overspent by £355. The only source of income to the fund is from interest on balances and this dropped to £554 for 2010/11 following a reduction in interest received through a general fall in interest rates as a result of the economic recession.

Grants amounting to £820 were distributed during the year and these detailed in the appendix to the report. The only other expenditure was a charge for administration. The year-end balance on the revenue account now stands at £44,687. The capital balance remains unchanged at £32,210 giving an overall fund balance of £76,897. It is not anticipated that interest rates will change dramatically in 2011/12 and it is currently envisaged that a similar level of income will be received. It is, therefore, recommended the budget is approved to include a level of disbursement of £420.

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

- the administration charge which had been applied and how this had been calculated;
- the poor level of interest achieved and the potential for accessing better rates of interest;
- overspending on the fund in 2010/11 on the basis of advice from Finance and Infrastructure;
- mechanisms to avoid overspends in the future; and
- the source of, and background to, the Fund's capital account balance.

The Committee agreed (a) to note the estimated financial position for the Ardrossan Common Good Fund to 31 March 2011; (b) to approve a budget for disbursement of £420 in 2011/12; and (c) that the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) (i) provide an update report to a future meeting of the Area Committee in the event of further information arising to suggest that the agreed budget for disbursement is likely to result in an overspend on the Fund and (ii) circulate to Members of the Area Committee details of the source of, and background to, the Fund's capital account balance.



## **11. Saltcoats Common Good Fund: Draft Accounts**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the draft revenue account in respect of Saltcoats Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2011 and proposing a budget for 2011/12, including the level of grant funding for 2011/12.

In 2010/11, the Saltcoats Common Good Fund was overspent by £91. The main source of income to the fund is from interest on balances and this dropped to £122 for 2010/11 following a reduction in interest received through a general fall in interest rates as a result of the economic recession.

The TV relays royalties lease is currently being re-negotiated by Infrastructure and Design Services and the new income figure is unknown at this time. The budget for 2011/12 has been reduced slightly from the 2010/11 actual pending further information.

Grants amounting to £900 were distributed during the year, as detailed in the appendix to the report. The year-end balance on the revenue account now stands at £17,447. There is no capital balance. It is not anticipated that interest rates will change dramatically in 2011/12 and it is currently envisaged that a similar level of income will be received. It is recommended the budget is approved that includes a level of disbursement of £740.

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

- the 10% charge for the management of capital;
- the allocation deducted for bad debt provision; and
- the level of funding available for disbursement from the Saltcoats Common Good Fund, compared with the Ardrossan Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the estimated financial position for the Saltcoats Common Good Fund to 31 March 2011; (b) approve a budget for disbursement of £740 in 2011/12; and (c) that the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) provide an update report to a future meeting of the Area Committee in the event of further information arising to suggest that the agreed budget for disbursement is likely to result in an overspend on the Fund

## **12. Stevenston Common Good Fund**

### **12.1 Draft Accounts**

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) on the draft revenue account in respect of Stevenston Common Good Fund for the year to 31 March 2011 and proposing a budget for 2011/12, including the level of grant funding for 2011/12.

In 2010/11, the Fund was underspent by £8,028, partly as a result of additional income (£2,430) from the book "In the shadow of the Dynamite". Other income to the fund (loans fund interest) fell due to a reduction in interest received as a result of the economic recession.

The budget for grants was set at £13,500, but grants distributed amounted to £9,537 giving an underspend of around £4,000. Details of the grants distributed were set out in the appendix to the report. The year end balance on the revenue account stands at £132,968. The capital balance remains unchanged at £15,000, giving an overall fund balance of £147,968. It is not anticipated that interest rates will change dramatically in 2011/12 and it is currently envisaged that a similar level of income will be received. It is recommended the budget is approved that includes a level of disbursement of £12,000.

The Committee agreed to (a) note the estimated financial position for the Stevenston Common Good Fund to 31 March 2011; (b) approve a budget for disbursement of £12,000 in 2011/12; and (c) that the Corporate Director (Finance and Infrastructure) provide an update report to a future meeting of the Area Committee in the event of further information arising to suggest that the agreed budget for disbursement is likely to result in an overspend on the Fund

### **12.2 Application for Financial Assistance**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on an application for financial assistance from Stevenston Common Good Fund.

The Committee agreed to make an award of £500 to Craig Boyce on the basis that the applicant is an ambassador for the Stevenston area and will encourage the wider community to see what can be achieved through being healthy, disciplined and positive.

## **13. Corporate Grants to Elderly Groups**

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the distribution of corporate grants for elderly groups within the Committee's area in 2011/12.

At its meeting on 12 October 2010, the Executive of North Ayrshire Council agreed the disbursement of the Corporate Policy Grants budget for 2011/12, awarding an allocation of £69,533 for disbursement to elderly groups. Of this, the sum of £19,122 has been allocated for disbursement by the Ardrossan and Arran, Saltcoats and Stevenston Area Committee.

Traditionally, grants are paid to elderly groups to fund social events, such as summer outings and Christmas lunches. From 2009/10, it was agreed awards can also be used to support other activities for the benefit of the elderly population in the area, including running costs of centres. The budgets allocated to each Area Committee are distributed (in two instalments) to a number of identified groups in each area. Appendix 1 to the report set out the allocations by Area Committee, and provided a breakdown of how funding might be allocated to groups in the Kilwinning area based on previous practice.

Members discussed the allocation of funding based on 2006 statistics on the percentage of the population of pensionable age, and requested that, if possible, more up-to-date statistics be used in the future.

The Committee agreed to (a) make the following allocations from the 2011/12 budget:-

#### **Elderly Grants**

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Award</b>
Age Concern Arran Branch	£3,404.00
Age Concern Stevenston	£4,460.00
Ardrossan Old People's Welfare Committee	£4,661.00
Saltcoats Old People's Welfare Committee	£6,597.00

and (b) request that more up-to-date statistics be used in future to allocate funding to the various Area Committees.

#### **14. Date and Venue of Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the Area Committee will be held on Thursday 18 August 2011 at 2.00 p.m. in the Ardeer Neighbourhood Centre.

#### **15. Future Agenda Items**

The Committee agreed that any items for consideration at the next meeting of the Area Committee should be submitted to M. Anderson or D. McCaw.

## **16. Urgent Item**

The Chair agreed that the undernoted items be considered as a matter of urgency due to the timing of the event in question.

### **16.1 Tall Ships Update**

Members of the Area Committee discussed the Arran Maritime Festival arranged for the 6-10 July 2011 around the anticipated visit to Lamlash Bay of one or more vessels participating in the forthcoming Tall Ships event.

At its meeting on 17 March 2011, the Area Committee awarded a Community Development grant of £1,187.51 to Arran Yacht Club towards the cost of some elements of the festival event. However, whilst some arrangements are now in place, Arran Yacht Club reports that further funding is required to support outstanding elements, including "goodie bags" for visiting ships, professional musicians, a marquee, posters and banners, and subsidised transport to allow crews to visit local attractions. The group also described the use of the facilities at Arran Outdoor Resource Centre as "almost essential" to the event.

Members discussed the following:-

- their overall support for the event and the opportunity to showcase Arran as a leisure destination;
- support in principle for a further application for Community Development Grant funding to meet the cost of the elements of the festival cited above, with the exception of "goodie bags" and subsidised transport, which should not be met from grant funding;
- the continued possibility of a small civil reception hosted by the Provost; and
- the significant loss of revenue to the Arran Outdoor Education Resource Centre in the event of it being set aside for the event.

The Committee agreed (a) that it be remitted to the Assistant Manager (Community Services) (Education and Skills), in consultation with the Chair, to make a further Community Development Grant award in the order of £3,000 to Arran Yacht Club, subject to the submission of an application and satisfactory assessment; and (b) to recommend to the Executive that consideration be given to putting in place the necessary financial arrangements to allow Arran Outdoor Education Resource Centre to be made available for the Arran Maritime Festival at no cost to the group.

The Meeting ended at 4.10 p.m.