

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
7 December 1998

Largs, 7 December 1998 - At a Meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 10.30 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

J. Houston, Housing Divisional Manager, L. Scott, Supervising Engineer and J. Lockhart, Area Cleansing/Grounds Maintenance Officer (Property Services); J. Rankin, Arts and Cultural Services Manager and F. McKinnon, Amenity Services Officer (Educational Services); H. Hunter, Senior Accountant, Financial Services; and J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Inspector W. Ross (Strathclyde Police); and T. Barr, Community Fire Officer (Strathclyde Fire Brigade).

Chair

Mr. Sillars in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 October 1998, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Monitoring Reports

(a) Housing Services as at 31 October 1998

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) giving details of performance indicators in relation to voids, allocations, housing benefits, rent arrears and repairs completions in the North Coast and Arran area.

Noted.

(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 3 November 1998

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on Community Development Grants paid to 3 November 1998 in respect of the North Coast and Arran area, including details of the balance of funding remaining.

Noted.

3. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on requests for financial assistance.

(a) West Kilbride Horticultural Society

The Committee agreed to award the West Kilbride Horticultural Society £200.

(b) Direct Action by Youth

The Committee agreed to award Direct Action by Youth £200.

(c) Shiskine Playgroup & Toddlers

The Committee agreed to award the Shiskine Playgroup & Toddlers £200.

The Committee unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders to enable the following grant to be reconsidered:-

(d) Dalriada Celtic Heritage Trust

The Committee on 26 October 1998 agreed to approve a grant of £500 to the Dalriada Celtic Heritage Trust, payment of which was deferred pending the outcome of other applications for funding. A request has recently been received from the Trust for an increase in the level of grant to assist in securing match funding for an Information and Resource Centre in Brodick.

The Committee agreed to increase the original grant by £250 (total grant £750).

4. Cumbrae: Millport: Garrison House

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress to date of the proposals for the restoration of Garrison House, Millport, Isle of Cumbrae.

The Garrison House Development Steering Group have appointed Jura Consultants, Economic and Financial Analysts, Edinburgh to undertake a comprehensive pre-investment appraisal study of proposals for Garrison House originally submitted by Gray Marshall and Associates and the Strathclyde building Preservation Trust. The costs of the pre-investment appraisal amount to approximately £5,000 to be shared equally by Argyll and the Islands Enterprise and the Council. Extensive consultation on the proposals will be undertaken and it is anticipated that the consultants will present their final report at the end of January 1999.

The Committee agreed (a) to participate in the consultation process; and (b) to consider a progress report at a future meeting.

5. Largs Viking Festival

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) advising that a number of matters previously raised by the Committee in relation to the Largs Viking Festival have been the subject of discussions within sub-groups of the Viking Festival Advisory Forum. The suggestions put forward by these sub-groups, together with all other relevant comments for the Area Committee, will be fully considered at the next Advisory Forum meeting on 7 December 1998 and a relevant report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee.

Noted.

6. Arran: Brodick: Tennis Courts

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the current arrangements for the maintenance of the Brodick Tennis Courts including details of various options available for future development.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) to continue consideration of this matter to allow the Chair, along with appropriate Officers, to visit the Brodick site; (b) that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) report to the next meeting on (i) the provision of tennis facilities within the North Coast area, particularly in Fairlie and West Kilbride; and (ii) alternative sources of funding for the provision of tennis facilities including the National Playing Fields Association; and (iii) the possibility of establishing a partnership with the Arran Sports Association for future provision of tennis facilities at Brodick.

7. Largs: Douglas Park Nursery: Use of Largs Tennis Pavilion

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the outcome of an investigation into financial difficulties experienced by the Douglas Park Nursery resulting from increased charges in respect of the rent of the Largs Tennis Pavilion.

To alleviate the financial difficulties in the short term, a reduction in the proposed rental charges to the nursery was agreed as a matter of urgency. An assurance has now been given that in advance of the process to establish seasonal licence holders for the next financial year, appropriate safeguards and conditions will be introduced to protect the interests of a range of users of such facilities which will ensure that there is no repetition of this particular problem.

The Committee welcomed the proposals and noted the position.

A request had been received from the 'Between the Sheets' Curling Club to have the Tennis Courts at Douglas Park, Largs frozen over for curling usage. The Committee further agreed to request that the Corporate Director (Educational Services) investigate and advise the Club of the position.

8. Support for Festivals in North Ayrshire

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Educational Services) on the support provided by the Council's Festivals and Events Officer for festivals held within North Ayrshire in relation to the site/venue, site management, programme, grant assistance and advice on fund-raising and sponsorship.

Noted.

9. Isle of Arran: Roads Issues

Submitted report by the Corporate Director (Property Services) on the progress made in addressing roads issues on Arran with regard to a review of the present condition of the roads, the costing of remedial works, the upkeep of ditches and traffic management and lorry routing.

The Committee agreed that a progress report be submitted to the next meeting.

10. Street Naming: Arran: Brodick: Junction of West Mayish Road and Shore Road: New Private Housing Development by CU Developments

Submitted report by the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotional Services) on the provision of a street name for a new private housing development at the junction of West Mayish Road and Shore Road, Brodick, Isle of Arran.

The Committee agreed that the street within the development be named "Cora Linn Court" in accordance with the recommendation of the Local Member.

11. Largs Harbour: Old Fish Quay

Concern was expressed over the untidy condition of the Old Fish Quay at Largs Harbour.

The Committee agreed that the Assistant Chief Executive (Development and Promotional Services) be requested to take up the matter with the owners and report to the next meeting.

12. Community Safety

(a) Community Safety Challenge Fund

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing a decision taken by the Area Committee Chairs on 19 November 1998 to provide fluorescent armbands and stickers to every school pupil in Primaries 1, 2, and 3 in North Ayrshire. A total of 5,500 armbands and stickers will be provided at a cost of £5,060 allocated from the Community Safety Challenge Fund.

The Committee agreed to homologate the decision of the Area Committee Chairs to allocate £5,060 from the Community Safety Challenge Fund for the provision of armbands and stickers as outlined in the report.

(b) Fire Statistics

Submitted report by Strathclyde Fire Brigade detailing fire statistics within the North Coast and Arran area for the period 1 October to 31 October 1998.

Noted.

The meeting ended at 11.45 a.m.