

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
18 November 1996

Arran, 18 November 1996 - At a meeting of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee of North Ayrshire Council at 11.30 a.m.

Present

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

In Attendance

D Anderson, Head of Cultural and Community Services, I Frame and M Smyth, Area Community Development Officers (Community and Recreational Services); C Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); R Lee, Assistant Principal Account (Financial Services); F Thwaites, Acting Area Housing Manager (Housing); G McLeod, Assistant Local Officer, J Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Chair

Mr Sillars in the Chair.

Apologies for Absence

Richard Wilkinson

1. Minutes Confirmed

The minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 7 October 1996, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Skelmorlie: Community Consultation Meeting

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the responses received from the various Directorates of the Council to the issues raised at the Skelmorlie Community Consultation Meeting held in Skelmorlie on 19 August 1996.

Although Strathclyde Police have indicated that there is no evidence of speeding taking place in Skelmorlie's Castle Road, they will continue to monitor the position. The double parking which takes place in the vicinity of Skelmorlie Primary School for very short periods is not considered to be a problem and the Head Teacher of the school has now agreed to allow vehicles setting down/uplifting schoolchildren to turn within the school grounds.

After discussion, the Committee agreed (a) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services (i) takes steps to address the drainage problems at Skelmorlie football pitch within his Directorate's overall strategy, and (ii) pursue the request for provision of a scenic map in Skelmorlie in consultation with other appropriate agencies; (b) that a copy of the report on the Community Consultation Meeting be forwarded to the representatives from the various groups/organisations who attended the meeting, for their interest; and (c) otherwise to note the position meantime.

3. Fairlie: Community Consultation Meeting

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the issues raised at the Fairlie Community Consultation Meeting with local groups/organisations held on 14 November 1996.

The Committee agreed (a) that the appropriate Directorates of the Council be requested to

investigate the various issues raised by the groups/organisations who attended the meeting and report; and (b) that arrangements be made for a further Community Consultation Meeting with local groups/organisations to be held in West Kilbride on a date to be agreed by the local member.

4. Largs: Viking Festival

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the Largs Viking Festival, remitted by the Community and Recreational Services Committee on 5 November 1996 for consideration. Details were also provided on the proposed outline programme for the 1997 Viking Festival.

The Largs Viking Festival has been staged in Largs on an annual basis at the end of August/beginning of September since 1980. Initially the Festival was run by a voluntary committee comprising representatives of the local community but by the early 1990s membership of the voluntary committee had fallen significantly. In 1994 the running of the Festival was fully taken over by the former Cunninghame District Council and funding was increased. At that time it was intended to continue to work with the voluntary committee and if possible to expand local community involvement in the running of the Festival. Due to lack of numbers however, the voluntary committee has recently been unable to assist in the organisation of the Festival and the Council's Community and Recreational Services Committee has formally requested that the North Coast and Arran Area Committee consider taking over full responsibility for the management of this event and to ensure that the local community involvement is reinstated.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services confirmed that the Area Committee would incur no financial liability and that the Community and Recreational Services Directorate would be responsible for the provision of funding. Some additional funding support has in the past also been provided through the Largs Common Good. He provided details of suggested proposals for the future running of the Festival.

The Committee expressed the view that it would be appropriate for the Area Committee to take over the responsibility for the future running of the Festival but that further consultation and discussion will require to be undertaken regarding the overall implications of this proposal. The Chair confirmed that Councillor Richard Wilkinson had by written submission expressed the same view and had also suggested that further consultation would be appropriate prior to any action being taken in this regard.

After a full discussion the Committee agreed (a) in principle, to take over full responsibility for the running of the Viking Festival on an annual basis; (b) to note the proposed outline programme for 1997; and (c) that the Director of Community and Recreational Services, after consultation with the Chair of the Area Committee, submit a further report to the next meeting on the options available for the management of future Festivals and the implications of each option.

5. Community Safety

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the progress of the Community Safety Working Group together with proposals for promoting Community Safety both in the North Coast and Arran area and North Ayrshire wide and the disbursement of the Community Safety Challenge Budget.

The Committee agreed to recommend to the Corporate Strategy Committee (a) that Police representation at all Area Committees be continued; (b) that Community Development grant applications dealing with Community Safety issues continue to be given a degree of priority; (c) that Community Safety becomes a standing item on the agenda of all Area Committees to allow a programme of reports to be submitted from services and organisations addressing safety issues; (d) that the Community Safety Centre (formerly Safe Strathclyde) be invited to submit a report making proposals for the establishment of a Community Safety Task Group on a North Ayrshire Council wide area level to promote Community Safety issues within North Ayrshire; and (e) that the recommendations in respect of the Community Safety Challenge Budget applications as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report be approved.

6. Largs: Naming of New Private Housing Development by RDK Construction Limited at Trigoni

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the provision of a street name for the new private housing development at Trigoni, Largs.

The Committee agreed that the street be named "Trigoni Court" as recommended by Councillor Richard Wilkinson, the local member.

7. Control of Dog Fouling in Public Places

Submitted report by the Chief Executive confirming proposals for dealing with the problem of dog fouling in public places including details of available funding.

On 22 October 1996 the Corporate Strategy Committee considered a report on the control of dog fouling in public places and it was decided:-

(a) that the £18,000 presently allocated to the Infrastructure and Environment Services budget be transferred to the Corporate Strategy Committee budget for disbursement;

(b) that a Working Party comprising officers from appropriate directorates be established to assist in the provision of a service to address dog fouling problems;

(c) to remit to Area Committees to determine their priorities; and

(d) that regular progress reports be submitted to the Area Committees on the measures taken.

The Chair confirmed that Councillor Richard Wilkinson by written submission, requested that consideration be given to the provision of a dog bin on the grassed area at the John Street end of 1-9 Hill Street, Largs. Councillor McLardy suggested that it might be appropriate to consider the introduction of a painting/poster competition for primary schools.

The Committee agreed to (a) to refer Mr Wilkinson's request and any future requests/complaints relating to dog fouling matters within the Committee's area to the Officer's Working Group for appropriate action; (b) that the Officers' Working Group be requested to consider the possible introduction of a painting/poster competition for primary schools with 'dog fouling' as the theme; and (c) otherwise to note the terms of the report.

8. Monitoring Reports

(a) Monitoring Statistics

Submitted report by the Director of Housing Services on the performance in the North Coast and Arran area of allocations, homelessness and voids.

Councillor Wilkinson by written submission, referred to a recent case of homelessness which he considered to be inappropriate.

The Committee agreed (a) to refer the matter raised by Councillor Wilkinson to the Director of Housing Services requesting clarification; and (b) otherwise to note the position.

(b) Vikingar

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the levels of use and activities held within the Vikingar Centre.

Noted.

(c) Analysis of Grants Paid to 14 October 1996

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the various categories of grants paid to 14 October 1996.

Concern had been expressed by North Ayrshire Sports Council over the level of funding allocated in the budget for the current financial year in respect of grants relating to the Isle of Arran. The Sports Council have requested that this allocation be increased in the future.

The Committee agreed (a) that the view expressed by the North Ayrshire Sports Council be taken into account when the criteria for the allocation of grant funding for Arran is being reviewed for the next financial year; and (b) otherwise to note the position.

9. Kilmory Village Hall: Grant Application

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on alternative sources of funding in relation to the grant application for Kilmory Village Hall which was continued by the Committee on 7 October 1996.

The Committee agreed (a) to make a contribution of £400 (10% of estimated costs) to the village hall heating fund which will assist in attracting other funding; and (b) that the group be advised to continue to liaise with the local Area Community Development Officer with a view to identifying alternative funding through the Scottish Halls Investment Programme, the Scottish Rural Partnership Fund and other potential funding agencies.

10. Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on requests received for financial assistance in respect of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee.

(a) Community Grants

(i) Isle of Arran Community Council

An application was received from the Isle of Arran Community Council requesting assistance with travelling expenses incurred as a result of attending meetings.

The Committee agreed (a) to award £400 to the Isle of Arran Community Council towards the cost of travelling expenses; and (b) to recommend to the Corporate Strategy Committee to review Community Council allocations for 1997/98 accordingly.

(ii) Feis Arainn

The Committee agreed (a) to award Feis Arainn £200; (b) that £100 of in-kind support from the Community and Recreational Services Directorate also be given; and (c) that the Community and Recreational Services Directorate also subsidise the organisation with administrative/clerical support to the value of £100, towards the Feis in Arran High School.

(iii) Lamlash Playgroup

The Committee agreed to award Lamlash Playgroup £200 towards the cost of equipment.

(iv) Lochranza Village Hall

The Committee agreed to award Lochranza Village Hall £200 towards furnishings and fittings.

(v) Cumbrae Community Council

Cumbrae Community Council have requested financial assistance of £1,500 towards providing Christmas lights for Millport. The group have also requested a further £1,500 from Millport Common Good Fund for the same project.

After a full discussion, the Committee agreed, in conjunction with Item 11 below, (a) in principle to support the project; (b) subject to receipt of satisfactory information in relation to erection, installation maintenance and storage of the proposed ornamental lights in accordance with the required Health and Safety standards to continue consideration of the application to the next financial year; and (c) that the group be advised to contact the Principal Engineer, Roads Section, Planning Roads and Environment and liaise with both the Local Officer for Cumbrae and the Area Community Development Officer for the North Coast in that regard.

(vi) Pirnmill Mini Youth Club

The Committee agreed to award £150 to the Pirnmill Mini Youth Club towards running costs.

(b) Sports, Arts and Leisure Grants

(i) Arran Paragliding Club

The Committee agreed (a) subject to the receipt of an audited statement of the organisation's accounts, a certificate of balance of account from the organisation's bank and an expanded Constitution, to award Arran Paragliding Club £300 towards equipment, and (b) that the group be advised to consult with the local Area Community Development Officer in relation to the aforementioned conditions.

The Committee further agreed that the Director of Community and Recreational Services in his next review of the Grants Scheme consider whether it is desirable in some areas to award grants subject to groups/organisations taking up membership of the Council's Sports and Arts Councils.

(ii) Arran United Boys Club

The Committee agreed (a) subject to receipt of the Club's Constitution and the Club taking out membership of North Ayrshire Sports Council, to award £200 to Arran United Boys Club towards football coaching; and (b) the group be advised to consult with the local Area Community Development Officer in relation to the aforementioned conditions.

(iii) The Rowan Singers/Italian Class

The Committee agreed to refuse the application by the Rowan Singers/Italian Class on the grounds that (a) the eight day visit will include only two concerts and cannot not be classed as a concert tour; and (b) the Club has not made clear the artistic aims of the visit or how the visit will contribute to the artistic development of the Club.

(iv) Arran Highland Dancing Club

The Committee agreed to award £400 to Arran Highland Dancing Club towards the cost of tuition. The Committee further agreed (a) to advise the group that this award must not be viewed as an annual award; (b) that the group be requested to formalise its commitment to equal opportunities by drawing up an Equal Opportunities Policy; and (c) to advise the group that information/assistance in relation to points (a) and (b) is available from the Island's Area Community Development Officer.

11. Millport Common Good: Cumbrae Community Council: Christmas Lighting: Request for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on a request from Cumbrae Community Council for a grant of £1,500 from the Millport Common Good in respect of the provision of Christmas Lighting for Millport. Councillor Wilkinson by written submission, had indicated his support for the application.

In the circumstances, the Committee agreed, in conjunction with the application at Item 10 (a) (v) above, (a) in principle to support the project; (b) subject to receipt of satisfactory information in relation to erection, installation, maintenance and storage of the proposed ornamental lights in accordance with the required Health and Safety standards to continue consideration of the application to the next financial year; and (c) that the group be advised to contact the Principal Engineer, Roads Section, Planning Roads and Environment and liaise with both the Local Officer for Cumbrae and the Area Community Development Officer for the North Coast in that regard.

12. Urgent Item

The Chair agreed that the following item be considered as a matter of urgency.

13. Largs and District Crime Prevention Panel

Submitted report on an invitation from the Largs and District Crime Prevention Panel for a member of the North Coast and Arran Area Committee to represent the Council at future meetings of the Panel.

The Committee agreed to nominate Councillor Margaret Highet as its representative on the Largs and District Crime Prevention Panel.

The meeting ended at 12.50 p.m.