

North Coast and Arran Area Committee
23 June 1997

Largs, 23 June 1997 - 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

C. Hamilton, Area Services Manager (Social Work); D. Anderson, Head of Cultural and Community Services; M. Smyth, Area Community Development Officer (Community and Recreational Services); J. Leckie, Head of Education Service (Education); R. Lee, Assistant Principal Accountant (Financial Services); J. Bannatyne, Administration Officer and C. Graham, Assistant Administration Officer (Chief Executive).

Also In Attendance

Chief Inspector C. Harper, Strathclyde Police; Ann Conning, Ayrshire Careers Partnership; M. Riley, ROSPA; and T. Barr, Strathclyde Fire Service.

Chair

Mr. Sillars in the Chair.

1. Minutes Confirmed

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Committee held on 12 May 1997, copies of which had previously been circulated, were confirmed.

2. Largs: Main Street: Bus Stop

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 12 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Planning, Roads and Environment on the progress of investigations into the bus stop arrangements at 64-70 Main Street, Largs.

The ongoing use of the bus stop at 64-70 Main Street, Largs as a terminus by certain bus services continues to cause problems of parking and pollution in the town. These problems have persisted because agreements reached with the operators to revise their routings and transfer the terminus to Charles Street have not been honoured. Accordingly this remains a source of complaints from businesses in Main Street. The options of removing or relocating the bus stop are not considered appropriate because they would involve taking away a much needed facility in the town and merely transfer the problems elsewhere.

The powers of Strathclyde Passenger Transport in this matter are mainly consultative, not regulatory, and the relevant legislation does not allow SPT to refer the matter to the Traffic Commissioners. It is however, open to the Council as the local Roads Authority to approach the Traffic Commissioners with a view to having conditions attached to the operators' licences to control or restrict the arrangements at a specific location. As a result of further acquisitions by one of the bus companies concerned, it is anticipated that there will be a rationalisation of services which is likely to lead to a resolution of the present problem.

The report therefore recommended that further discussions be held between SPT, the Roads Authority and the remaining operators before any formal action is taken. It was suggested that if these discussions did not prove successful the Council could then make direct representation to the Traffic Commissioners. In the longer term, the general provision of bus stops in the town centre will be considered as part of the Traffic Management Scheme to be undertaken by the Council.

Having expressed concern over the failure to resolve this problem over a long period of time and notwithstanding the terms of the report, the Committee agreed that the matter should now be referred to the Traffic Commissioners without further discussion with a view to having conditions attached to the operators' licences to control or restrict the arrangements for use of the bus stop at 64-70 Main Street, Largs.

3. West Kilbride Beach: Seamill/Portencross: Toilet Facilities

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 12 May 1997.)

The Director of Commercial Services has investigated a request to provide toilet facilities at (a) the North Shore south of Seamill, (b) Hyndman Road, Seamill and (c) the car park area at Portencross.

The original facilities at the North Shore were demolished some years ago and this site is not considered suitable for a replacement since it could not be connected to the main sewer. The toilet at Hyndman Road, Seamill, was also demolished a number of years ago because coastal erosion had made the building unsafe and it was not rebuilt because insurance cover could not be secured. The Director of Commercial Services has indicated however that there are merits in locating a small portable toilet facility in the Hyndman Road area subject to planning consent being obtained and a suitable sewer connection being located. The Council would also require to purchase land in the area to accommodate such a unit. Similarly, the car park area at Portencross could accommodate a portable toilet facility subject to planning consent being obtained and to a suitable sewer connection being located.

The Committee agreed to instruct the Director of Commercial Services to contact West of Scotland Water to clarify the position regarding the availability of suitable sewer connections at the Hyndman Road and Portencross locations and report to a future meeting.

4. West Kilbride: Community Consultation Meeting

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 27 March 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on responses received by Directorates to the issues raised at the West Kilbride Community Consultation meeting with groups/organisations held on 20 March 1997.

In relation to the maintenance/provision of public benches in West Kilbride, the Head of Cultural and Community Services confirmed that investigations are continuing and undertook to advise the Members of the outcome.

After discussion the Committee agreed that a copy of the report be forwarded to the representatives from the various groups/organisations who were invited to attend the meeting for their interest.

5. Arran: Community Consultation Meeting

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the issues raised at the Arran Community Consultation meeting with local groups/organisations held on 19 June 1997.

The Committee agreed (a) that the appropriate Directorates of the Council be requested to investigate these issues and report; (b) that arrangements be made for a further Community

Consultation meeting to be held in Largs on a date to be agreed by the Chair in consultation with the Local Members; and (c) that the meeting be held in Largs Academy Lecture Theatre.

6. Largs: Viking Festival 1997

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 12 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the Viking Festival Advisory Forum meeting held on 19 May 1997.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services confirmed that the Battle and Fireworks event is to be retained at the Pencil site this year and that a detailed evaluation of the activities will be presented to the Committee this autumn. He also indicated that the responses to invitations to individuals within the voluntary sector to participate in the Festival Advisory Forum had been disappointing. Efforts will however continue to increase representation and the position will then be reviewed later in the year.

Noted.

7. Community Safety

(a) Challenge Budget 1997/98

Submitted report by the Chief Executive regarding the Community Safety Challenge Budget 1997/98.

The Corporate Strategy Committee has agreed a Community Safety Challenge Budget of £12,000 for 1997/98 and Area Committees have been invited to discuss suitable initiatives with relevant local organisations and submit proposals to the Corporate Strategy Committee for consideration on 21 October 1997 under the 1997/98 budget.

The Committee (i) noted the success of the Community Safety Challenge Budget in 1996/97; and (ii) agreed to invite local organisations, including schools, to submit proposals for Community Safety Initiatives against this year's Challenge Budget; and

(b) Community Safety Initiative

Submitted interim report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services regarding community Safety Initiatives.

Following the approval of the Corporate Strategy Committee of a grant of £800 for a Community Safety Conference for the North Coast under the Community Safety Challenge Budget for 1996/97, it was agreed to proceed with a Community Safety Seminar on 25 March 1997 at Vikingar, Largs and to conduct Community Safety Needs Assessments on the islands of Arran and Cumbrae. In accordance with a proposal by the Area Community Development Officers for the North Coast and Arran area a Community Safety Seminar Steering Committee chaired by Councillor John Sillars was set up. Details of its composition and aims were given in the report. Approximately ninety-five people attended the Seminar which was addressed by speakers from Strathclyde Police, Ayrshire and Arran Health Board and Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and participants were able to attend workshops and visit the 'Community Safety Marketplace' which offered a range of information from sixteen organisations.

The Community Safety Seminar Steering Committee is currently finalising a full report on the Seminar which will include two community needs assessments from the islands of Arran and Cumbrae.

The Committee agreed that a final report on the Community Safety Initiative be submitted to the next meeting of the Area Committee prior to its publication.

8. Dog Fouling

(Previous Minute Reference: North Coast and Arran Area Committee 12 May 1997.)

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on (a) the Strathclyde Police/Dog Warden Initiative; and (b) a dog owner advice leaflet.

A special joint initiative was undertaken during Environment Week '97 involving the Council's Dog Warden and a Police Officer in visits to each of the five pilot scheme areas to check the use of dog bins, to distribute dog tidy bags and to give advice to the owners of shop premises and members of the public generally on matters relating to dog fouling. Given the success of this initiative the Council, in response to a request from Strathclyde Police, has agreed to extend the joint initiative for a further period of up to six months commencing 16 June 1997. The Dog Warden will work with Police Officers on two half days per week and a review will be undertaken after that period or earlier if requested by either party. In the meantime, all complaints relating to dog fouling matters will continue to be passed to the Commercial Services Directorate, Strathclyde Police and the Dog Warden for appropriate action.

During Environment Week, 2000 special dog owner advice leaflets were printed in-house and circulated during the joint initiative. The Officers Working Group set up to address dog fouling problems now recommends that similar leaflets be delivered to every household within North Ayrshire which would require the provision of approximately 65,000 and total costs in the region of £2,000.

The Committee agreed to authorise the printing of the dog owners advice leaflet.

9. Largs: Common Good: Applications for Financial Assistance 1997/98

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position regarding applications received for funding from the Largs Common Good for the 1997/98 financial year.

The Committee on 12 May 1997 agreed to defer consideration of these applications pending the outcome of a meeting to be held on 15 May 1997 involving the five Members of the Area Committee, the Director of Financial Services and other appropriate Officers to discuss various matters relating to the Largs Common Good. Recommendations were made on the applications for grant which would normally have been submitted to the Area Committee for approval but given that the circumstances in each case called for immediate payment, the Chair had already approved grants on the basis of the recommendations made by the meeting on 15 May 1997. These were as follows:-

(a) Largs Viking Festival,

The Chair agreed to award the Largs Viking Festival £7,700;

(b) Largs Illuminations Committee

The Chair agreed to award the Largs Illuminations Committee £3,500;

(c) Largs Brisbane Queen Festival

The Chair agreed to award the Largs Brisbane Queen Festival £1,450;

(d) Largs and District Round Table

The Chair agreed to award the Largs and District Round Table £1,000; and

(e) Largs Community Council

The Chair agreed to refuse the application from Largs Community Council.

The Committee agreed (i) to homologate these decisions of the Chair (ii) that a full review of the future disbursement of monies from the Largs Common Good Fund be undertaken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Directors of Financial Services and Community and Recreational Services and (iii) that a report be submitted before the end of the current financial year.

10. Millport Common Good

(a) Applications for Financial Assistance 1997/98

Submitted report by the Chief Executive on the current position regarding applications received for funding from the Millport Common Good for the 1997/98 financial year.

Applications to the Millport Common Good fund had also been deferred pending the outcome of the meeting of the Member/Officer Working Group on 15 May 1997.

On the basis of their recommendation, the Chair had approved an award of £2,500 to the Cumbrae Youth Project to allow immediate implementation.

The Committee agreed (i) to homologate the Chair's decision to approve this applications for funding for 1997/98; (ii) that a full review of the future disbursement of monies from the Millport Common Good Fund be undertaken by the Chief Executive in consultation with the Directors of Financial Services and Community and Recreational Services; and (iii) that a report be submitted before the end of the current financial year; and

(b) Application for Financial Assistance from Millport Festival Association

Submitted report on an application received from the Millport Festival Association for financial assistance towards the Millport Country and Western Festival to be held between 1-4 August 1997.

This application was received after the Member/Officer Group meeting had agreed to recommend an award of £1,000 towards the Millport Country and Western Festival to Millport Promotions and Trading Limited (subject to the receipt of documentation satisfying the Council that the organisation has cleared any outstanding deficits accrued from previous years) and after this decision had been approved by the Chair and as a consequence of the fact that Millport Promotions and Trading Limited had ceased trading and could no longer meet the conditions on which the grant had been awarded.

Millport Festival Association has assumed responsibility for the Festival and in addition to its application to the Council it is also seeking funding of £5,000 from Argyll and the Isles Enterprise (the outcome of which is still awaited) and funding of £1,500 from the Community Development Grants Scheme which is to be considered at this meeting under a later item dealing with other applications to the Scheme. The Director of Financial Services and the Legal Services Manager had indicated a number of concerns in relation to this application. The local Member however confirmed that the Association has made substantial efforts to reduce costs and effect savings and indicated a marquee would not be provided at this year's Festival thereby eliminating the substantial costs associated with a Public Entertainment Licence. The Area Community Development Officer also reported that she has already raised the concerns in question with the Association, that a constitution is to be produced, that the programme is to be trimmed significantly and that assistance and support would be provided by the Festival Events Officer and the Entertainments Officer.

After full discussion, the Committee agreed to remit with powers to the Chair in consultation with the local Member to approve the application by Millport Festival Association in the sum of £1,000 subject to (i) their being satisfied that all matters relating to the concerns expressed by the Chief Officers of the Council have been addressed, and (ii) any appropriate conditions.

11. Monitoring Reports

(a) Area Committee Statistics

Submitted report by the Director of Education on attendance, running costs and leaver destinations in relation to schools serving pupils from within the North Coast and Arran area.

The Committee agreed (i) to receive such reports on an annual basis; and (ii) otherwise to note the content of the report; and

(b) Community Development Grants Scheme: Analysis of Grants Paid to 6 June 1997

Submitted report by the Chief Executive detailing the grants paid to 6 June 1997.

Noted.

12. Community Development Grants Scheme: Requests for Financial Assistance

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for grants to voluntary organisations.

(a) Largs Cine and Video Club

The Committee agreed to award the Largs Cine and Video Club £179.97;

(b) Millport Festival Association

The Committee agreed to remit with powers to the Chair in consultation with the local Member to approve the application in the sum of £1,500 subject to (i) their being satisfied that all matters relating to the concerns expressed by the Chief Officers of the Council have been satisfactorily addressed, and (ii) any appropriate conditions;

(c) Skelmorlie Playgroup

The Committee agreed to award Skelmorlie Playgroup £310.00;

(d) Largs Netball Club

The Committee agreed to award Largs Netball Club £100;

(e) Cunninghame North District Cub Scouts (Seeonee Pack)

The Committee agreed to award the Cunninghame North District Cub Scouts £60;

(f) Lamlash Friday Club

The Committee agreed to award the Lamlash Friday Club £180;

(g) APACHE (Arran Pensioners Covering Hobbies and Education)

The Committee agreed to award APACHE £255;

(h) Corrie and Sannox Village Committee

The Committee agreed to award the Corrie and Sannox Village Committee £400;

(i) Arran Highland Dancers

The Committee agreed to award the Arran Highland Dancers £400; and

(j) Corrie Capers

The Committee agreed to award Corrie Capers £200.

13. Playscheme Applications 1997

Submitted report by the Director of Community and Recreational Services on the undernoted applications for Playscheme grants 1997 as recommended under the Playscheme formula:-

(a) Largs Churches Holiday Club

The Committee agreed to award the Largs Churches Holiday £100;

(b) Fairlie Summer Scheme (Quarriers)

The Committee agreed to the use of travel passes by Fairlie Summer Scheme;

(c) Teen Time Playscheme

The Committee agreed to remit with powers to the Chair in consultation with the local Member to approve the application in the sum of £390, subject to their being satisfied that all matters relating to the concerns expressed by the Chief Officers of the Council have been satisfactorily addressed;

(d) Overton Church Holiday Club

The Committee agreed to award Overton Church Holiday Club £243.00; and

(e) West Kilbride Out of School Care

The Committee agreed to award West Kilbride Out of School Care £460.00.

The Meeting ended at 11.50 a.m.