

**THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – REMOTE MEETING**

2nd December, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 11.50 a.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillors Jim Leishman (Convener), David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, David Barratt, John Beare, Tim Brett, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Bobby Clelland, Dave Coleman, Bill Connor, Altany Craik, Neil Crooks, Colin Davidson, Dave Dempsey, John Docherty, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, David Graham, Mick Green, Sharon Green-Wilson, Gary Guichan, Garry Haldane, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Andy Heer, Zoe Hisbent, Margaret Kennedy, Gordon Langlands, Helen Law, Kathleen Leslie, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Mary Lockhart, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Mino Manekshaw, Karen Marjoram, Alice McGarry, Lea McLelland, Tony Miklinski, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Tony Orton, Ross Paterson, Bill Porteous, Graham Ritchie, David Ross, Fay Sinclair, Kate Stewart, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Brian Thomson, Ann Verner, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker, Darren Watt, Richard Watt and Jan Wincott.

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE:** Councillors Ian Cameron, Julie Ford, Linda Holt, David J Ross and Andrew Verrecchia.

**258. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were submitted in terms of Standing Order 7.1.

**259. CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN**

The Council considered the Civic Business Bulletin, a copy of which is appended as Appendix 1 to the minute.

The Provost highlighted that Bryan Beveridge Butchers had recently received a Scotland's High Street Hero Award. This prestigious award was for Bryan's immense efforts to keep the supply lines open for the communities of Dunfermline and outlying areas during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Members were provided with a verbal update on the impact of the recent storm in Fife and the current Covid situation with a reminder to all on Covid safety.

**Decision**

The Council noted the Civic Business Bulletin and the updates provided.

**260. MINUTE**

The/

## 2021 FC 295

The Provost, seconded by Councillor Beare, moved that the minute of the meeting of Fife Council of 23rd September, 2021 be approved.

### **Decision**

The Council approved the minute.

## **261. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB COMMITTEES**

Minutes of the undernoted Committees and Sub-Committees, as contained in the volume of minutes, were submitted for accuracy:- alignment needs fixed

- (1) Central and West Planning Committee of 29th September and 27th October, 2021.
- (2) North East Planning Committee of 22nd September and 20th October, 2021.
- (3) Fife Planning Review Body of 27th September, 2021.
- (4) Regulation and Licensing Committee of 17th August and 21st September, 2021.
- (5) Policy and Coordination Committee of 16th September and 4th November, 2021.
- (6) Environment, Finance and Communities Scrutiny Committee of 2nd November, 2021.
- (7) Education and Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of 14th September, 2021.
- (8) Standards and Audit Committee of 7th October, 2021.
- (9) Superannuation Fund and Pensions Committee of 28th September, 2021.
- (10) Glenrothes Area Committee of 6th October, 2021.
- (11) Levenmouth Area Committee of 22nd September, 2021.
- (12) City of Dunfermline Area Committee of 5th October, 2021.
- (13) Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 5th October, 2021.
- (14) South and West Fife Area Committee of 6th October, 2021.
- (15) Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 6th October, 2021.
- (16) North East Fife Area Committee of 29th September, 2021.

### **Decision**

The Council noted the minutes.

## **262. CO-LEADERS' REPORT**

The Council considered a report by the Co-Leaders on a number of strategic issues. The Co-Leaders provided updates on a number of issues in response to questions from members.

### **Decision**

The Council noted the report.

## **263. QUESTION TIME**

In terms of Standing Order 1.7, the questions put by members to the meeting, the written/

written answers and supplementary questions, are contained in Appendix 2 to the minute.

**264. APPOINTMENT TO PARTNER ORGANISATION - ST ANDREWS LINKS TRUST MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

The Council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which asked members to appoint a non-elected member representative to the St Andrews Links Trust Management Committee for a period of 4 years and to re-appoint the Provost to the St Andrews Links Trust up to the Local Government elections in May, 2022.

**Decision**

The Council agreed:-

- (1) to appoint Jim Lindsay for a second term as a non-elected member representative on the St Andrews Links Trust Management Committee; and
- (2) to re-appoint the Provost on the St Andrews Links Trust up to the Local Government elections in May, 2022.

**265. REVIEW OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS**

The Council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which provided members with an update on the work that had been carried out to pilot hybrid Committee meetings and details of the viewing figures of livestreamed Committee meetings.

**Decision**

The Council:-

- (1) noted the content of the report including the viewing figures for the livestreamed meetings set out in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) agreed that the piloting process for hybrid meetings continue; and
- (3) agreed to continue the delegation agreed in September, 2021 to the Chief Executive and Group Leaders to review and, if necessary, alter the format of hybrid Council and Committee meetings to reflect changes to public health considerations and to accommodate members of the public attending meetings; and to the Head of Legal and Democratic Services to make any consequential administrative amendments to the Governance Scheme necessary to implement the decisions taken in accordance with this paragraph.

**266. NOTICE OF MOTIONS**

The Council considered a report by the Head of Legal and Democratic Services which required the Council to consider motions submitted in terms of Standing Order 8.1.

The/

## 2021 FC 297

The Provost advised members that the mover of Motion 2 had withdrawn their motion and this would not be considered.

The Provost also advised that in terms of Standing Order 8.1(2) he had agreed to allow an urgent motion in relation to the Scottish Government's Health and Wellbeing Census.

### **Motion 1**

Councillor Calder, seconded by Councillor Brett, moved as follows:-

H Bar Markings on Roads

“Council notes that H Bar markings (white lines) are used to indicate areas where people should not park or block with their cars.

Council also notes that in recent years there has been a lower use of these lines and also at times the lines that do exist have not necessarily been repainted, leading to concerns from some residents.

Council believes that Fife residents should have a clear policy on these lines that they can both view and refer to.

Council calls for Transportation to bring a paper to the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub Committee detailing what work is currently done on H Bars and also giving councillors options for a formal policy to be made to determine the use of H Bars.”

### **Amendment**

Councillor Craik, seconded by Councillor Beare, moved as follows:-

“Council notes that H bar markings are sometimes used to advise road users of safety issues on our roads and junctions.

H bar markings are currently an advisory measure and may form part of the Transport Act provisions going forward.

Council calls for Transportation Services to bring a report to the Economy, Tourism, Strategic Planning and Transportation Sub-Committee on the pavement parking provisions in the Transport Act and the impacts on lining policy that this may bring.”

### **Roll Call**

**For the Motion** – 17 votes

Councillors Tim Brett, James Calder, Dave Coleman, Dave Dempsey, Andy Heer, Margaret Kennedy, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Mino Manekshaw, Tony Miklinski, Tony Orton, Bill Porteous, Graham Ritchie, Jonny Tepp, Darren Watt and Richard Watt.

### **For/**

**For the Amendment** – 47 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, David Barratt, John Beare, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Bobby Clelland, Altany Craik, Neil Crooks, Colin Davidson, John Docherty, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, David Graham, Mick Green, Sharon Green-Wilson, Gary Guichan, Garry Haldane, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Zoe Hisbent, Gordon Langlands, Helen Law, Jim Leishman, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Mary Lockhart, David MacDiarmid, Karen Marjoram, Lea McLelland, Alice McGarry, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Ross Paterson, David Ross, Fay Sinclair, Kate Stewart, Alistair Suttie, Brian Thomson, Ann Verner, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

**Decision**

The amendment was accordingly carried.

**Motion 2**

Withdrawn by mover with the agreement of the Provost.

**Motion 3**

Councillor Calder, seconded by Councillor Liston, moved as follows:-

Seasonal Workers Pilot Scheme (SWP)

“Council supports the call from the National Farmers Union Scotland for an urgent review of the Seasonal Workers Scheme and that the Home Office should be asked to expand the scheme from 30,000 visas a year to 60,000 next year to avoid a labour crisis on farms in 2022.

This would address an ongoing worker shortage on fruit and vegetable farms in Fife.

Council asks the Co leaders to write to the Home Secretary Priti Patel to request her to urgently review the situation and consider the above proposal as planting decisions are being made now for next season.”

**Amendment**

Councillor Heer, seconded by Councillor Ritchie, moved as follows:-

Seasonal Workers Pilot Scheme (SWP):

Append - “Council also asks the co-leaders to write to Mairi Gougeon MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and Islands, to ask what steps are being taken to reduce the precarious dependence of Scottish agriculture on an unsustainable and unreliable source of cheap labour from outside the United Kingdom”.

**Roll Call**

**For/**

**For the Motion** – 52 votes

Councillors David Alexander, Lesley Backhouse, Alistair Bain, David Barratt, John Beare, Tim Brett, James Calder, Ken Caldwell, Alistair Cameron, Alex Campbell, Rod Cavanagh, Bobby Clelland, Altany Craik, Neil Crooks, Colin Davidson, John Docherty, Linda Erskine, Ian Ferguson, Derek Glen, David Graham, Sharon Green-Wilson, Gary Guichan, Garry Haldane, Jean Hall Muir, Judy Hamilton, Zoe Hisbent, Gordon Langlands, Helen Law, Jim Leishman, Rosemary Liewald, Carol Lindsay, Jane Ann Liston, Mary Lockhart, Donald Lothian, David MacDiarmid, Karen Marjoram, Lea McLelland, Alice McGarry, Derek Noble, John O'Brien, Ross Paterson, Bill Porteous, David Ross, Fay Sinclair, Kate Stewart, Alistair Suttie, Jonny Tepp, Brian Thomson, Ann Verner, Ross Vettraino, Craig Walker and Jan Wincott.

**For the Amendment** – 10 votes

Councillors Dave Coleman, Dave Dempsey, Mick Green, Andy Heer, Kathleen Leslie, Mino Manekshaw, Tony Miklinski, Tony Orton, Graham Ritchie and Darren Watt.

**Decision**

The motion was accordingly carried.

*Councillor Kennedy left the meeting during the above item.*

**Motion 4**

Councillor Dempsey, seconded by Councillor Heer, moved as follows:-

“Council notes that Environmental Health officers have been given new powers of inspection and entry in relation to the enforcement of the vaccine passport policy and related criminal offences for non-compliance. Council agrees that this additional workload is stretching an under resourced team even further. This additional work is also likely to impact on the team’s ability to carry out other compliance work, including food safety and other functions. The Environment, Finance and Communities Scrutiny Committee received a report in August on this issue including a commitment to review staffing. Council notes that the Committee will receive an update on the staffing review at its next meeting in February and agrees that the report to the Committee in February should also include an analysis of the impact of these new powers on the team’s ability to deliver its other statutory responsibilities.”

**Decision**

The motion was agreed unanimously.

**Urgent Motion**

Councillor Leslie, seconded by Councillor Dempsey, moved as follows:-

“Council:-

- a) notes the proposed Scottish Government Health & Wellbeing Survey
- b)/

## 2021 FC 300

- b) notes the controversial and inappropriate nature of some of the questions therein
- c) notes that at least one other council has declined to use this survey on the grounds that other pre-existing surveys render it unnecessary
- d) agrees to postpone Fife Council's participation in the survey until the Education and Children Services Sub-Committee can consider a report on the survey covering the following matters:-
  - 1) why this survey is necessary in Fife
  - 2) what questions will be asked of which year groups in schools
  - 3) who will see any data collected
  - 4) what use will be made of that data
  - 5) what data protection measures will be in place"

### **Decision**

The Council agreed the motion unanimously.

### **267. BUSINESS BROUGHT FORWARD BY THE PROVOST AS A MATTER OF URGENCY**

It was noted that there was no business to be brought forward under this item.