

THE FIFE COUNCIL - FIFE COUNCIL – REMOTE MEETING

20th May, 2021

10.00 a.m. – 1.00 p.m.

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

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillors Judy Hamilton, Graham Ritchie and Richard Watt.

Councillor Vettraino apologised to members if anything he had said at the Policy and Co-ordination Committee on 13th May, 2021 had caused offence.

230. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Coleman declared an interest in paragraph 236 below - Notice of Motions (Motion 1) - as he was a Council appointed Director on the board of Fife Resource Solutions and advised that he would leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillors Wincott and Barratt both declared an interest in paragraph 236 below - Notice of Motions (Motion 1) - as they were Council appointed Directors on the board of Fife Resource Solutions, however, they considered this was a specific exclusion and advised they would remain in the meeting during consideration of this item.

231. CIVIC BUSINESS BULLETIN

There was no information to be noted in the Civic Business Bulletin for this meeting.

232. MINUTES

The/

2021 FC 268

The Provost, seconded by Councillor Beare, moved that the minutes of the Fife Council meeting of 11th March, 2021 be approved.

Decision

The minutes were approved.

233. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES AND SUB-COMMITTEES

The minutes of the undernoted Committees and Sub-Committees, as contained in the volume of minutes, were submitted for accuracy:-

- (1) North East Planning Committee of 10th March and 7th April, 2021.
- (2) Central and West Planning Committee of 17th March and 14th April, 2021.
- (3) Policy and Coordination Committee of 4th March and 1st April, 2021.
- (4) Environment, Finance and Communities Scrutiny Committee of 4th April, 2021.
- (5) Education, Children's Services, Health and Social Care Scrutiny Committee of 30th March, 2021.
- (6) City of Dunfermline Area Committee of 2nd March and 27th April, 2021.
- (7) Kirkcaldy Area Committee of 2nd March and 27th April, 2021.
- (8) North East Fife Area Committee of 3rd March and 21st April, 2021.
- (9) South and West Fife Area Committee of 3rd March and 21st April, 2021.
- (10) Cowdenbeath Area Committee of 10th March and 28th April, 2021.
- (11) Glenrothes Area Committee of 24th March, 2021.
- (12) Levenmouth Area Committee of 24th March, 2021.
- (13) Common Good and Trust Investments Sub-Committee of 29th April, 2021.
- (14) Superannuation Fund and Pensions Committee of 9th March, 2021.
- (15) Health and Social Care Integration Joint Board of 26th March, 2021.

Decision

The minutes were noted.

234. CO-LEADERS' REPORT

The Council considered a report by the Co-Leaders on a number of strategic issues/

issues. The Co-Leaders provided updates on a number of issues in response to questions from members.

Decision

The Council noted the report.

235. QUESTION TIME

In terms of Standing Order 1.7, the questions put by members to the meeting, the written answers and supplementary questions, are contained in Appendix 1 to the minutes.

Councillors Kennedy and Suttie joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

236. 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.

Councillor Coleman left the meeting prior to consideration of the following item, having earlier declared an interest.

Motion 1

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

“Council:

- Notes that the public access booking system still remains in place at the various public-access recycling centres within Fife
- Notes the increased prevalence of fly-tipping and associated antisocial behaviour throughout Fife
- Notes the recent changes that require the public to provide personal information as part of a registration process, which is a pre-requisite for engaging with the aforesaid booking system
- Considers that a combination of things, such as the time delay that any booking system must necessarily introduce, together with the reluctance of some to 'unnecessarily' divulge personal information, may be a significant contributory factors in the surge in fly-tipping
- Considers that the conditions now, are materially different to those that first led to the introduction of the booking system for the management of demand for domestic waste recycling
- Asks officers to conduct a review with a view to either simplifying or, better still, totally removing the booking system for access to our recycling centres”

Amendment 1

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

Keep/

2021 FC 270

Keep the first 5 bullet points

“Change final bullet point to:

Ask officers to conduct a review with a report to the Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee which includes full detail of the difference in tonnage of items dropped off at recycling centres from quarter 1 of 2019 to quarter 1 of 2021, measures to allow people to bring items to recycling centre through active travel, simplifying the booking system in a way which ensures service resilience and a plan for removal of the booking system measures as soon as deemed safely possible.”

Amendment 2

Councillor Vettraino, seconded by Councillor David Ross, moved as follows:-

“Council notes that Officers, in consultation with the users of the Recycling Centres, are already reviewing the Booking System and all of the other measures that are currently in place relative to the use of the Centres and are preparing a comprehensive Report, which will be considered in June by a Special meeting of the Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee.”

Roll Call

For the Motion – 11 votes

Councillors Dave Dempsey, Gavin Ellis, Mick Green, Andy Heer, Linda Holt, Kathleen Leslie, Mino Manekshaw, Tony Miklinski, Dominic Nolan, David J Ross and Darren Watt.

For Amendment 1 – 7 votes

Councillors Tim Brett, James Calder, Margaret Kennedy, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Bill Porteous and Jonny Tepp.

For Amendment 2 – 46 votes

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

Decision

As there was a clear majority, Amendment 2 was accordingly carried.

Councillor/

2021 FC 271

Councillor Coleman rejoined the meeting following consideration of the above item.

The meeting adjourned at 12.10 p.m. and reconvened at 12.20 p.m.

Motion 2

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

“Council congratulates Perth and Kinross Council on their plans for a new primary school in Perth that will be constructed to Passivhaus Standard energy efficiency as this will be the first school in Scotland to be built to this standard. Council asks that a report should come to the Assets and Corporate Services Sub Committee on the costs and benefits of building schools and other public buildings to this standard so that consideration can be given to new buildings in Fife being built in this way.”

Amendment

Councillor Barratt, seconded by Councillor Guichan, moved as follows:-

“Council congratulates Perth and Kinross Council on their plans for a new primary school in Perth that will be constructed to Passivhaus Standard energy efficiency as this will be the first school in Scotland to be built to this standard. Council also notes that it is proposed the replacement of Woodmill HS and St Columbas RC HS being built as part of the proposed Dunfermline Learning Campus should be built to a Passivhaus standard as part of Fife Council's commitment to tackling climate change. Council asks that a members' workshop be organised involving members of the Assets and Corporate Services and other Sub-Committees on the costs and benefits of building other schools and other public buildings to this standard so that consideration can be given to new buildings in Fife being built in this way.”

The mover of the motion agreed to accept the amendment.

Decision

The amendment was agreed unanimously.

Motion 3

Councillor David Ross, seconded by Councillor Smart, moved as follows:-

Local Government Pay Claim

“Council endorses the views expressed by COSLA in relation to the SJC pay claim and notes:

1. The extraordinary lengths local government staff have gone to in order to maintain services and support individuals and communities over the course of the pandemic and expresses our appreciation of their continuing efforts;

2./

2021 FC 272

2. The erosion of pay levels within local government over the past 13 years;
3. Our disappointment that the Cabinet Secretary for Finance twice declined the formal request to meet with COSLA Leaders to discuss funding of an enhanced pay offer to local government staff;
4. That based on the current local government settlement, councils across Scotland have indicated that an enhanced pay offer is unaffordable and would lead to cuts in services and jobs;
5. The concerns raised by the SJC local government trade unions, their rejection of the current pay offer and the urgency of a meeting with Scottish Government to discuss the funding of an enhanced offer.

Council resolves:

6. To write to the Scottish Government supporting COSLA's request for additional baselined funding from Scottish Government to match the 4% offer to health staff (£168m) and non-recurring funding to make a £500 recognition payment to local government staff who have not received such a payment (£84m)."

Decision

The motion was agreed unanimously.

Councillor Grant joined the meeting during consideration of the above motion.

Motion 4

Councillor David Ross, seconded by Councillor Noble, moved as follows:-

The Edinburgh Declaration on Biodiversity

"In line with the Council's declaration of a climate emergency, Council believes that the global loss of biodiversity is a critical challenge linked inextricably to climate change. With their focus on place, local authorities play a critical role in helping deliver the actions required to address climate change and biodiversity loss.

Council notes that local authorities are therefore being invited to sign the Edinburgh Declaration before the next international summit for biodiversity COP 15 taking place in October. The Edinburgh Declaration is a statement calling on national governments to adopt an ambitious post-2020 global biodiversity framework that includes devolved and local governments.

The declaration has been signed by the Scottish Government, COSLA and a range of other local authorities and bodies.

Council/

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Council resolves to become a signatory to the Edinburgh Declaration for subnational governments, cities and local authorities on the post-2020 global biodiversity framework and note this decision to both Scottish Government and COSLA.”

Links:

[Edinburgh Declaration on post-2020 global biodiversity framework - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/Edinburgh-Declaration-on-post-2020-global-biodiversity-framework)

[The Edinburgh Process for Subnational and Local Governments on the Development of the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/The-Edinburgh-Process-for-Subnational-and-Local-Governments-on-the-Development-of-the-Post-2020-Global-Biodiversity-Framework)

Amendment

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

“Add the following:-

Requests that a report on current biodiversity in Fife together with an action plan on how the Framework will be implemented and on how impact will be measured and evaluated in Fife should come to a meeting of the Environment and Protective Services Sub-committee within the next 6 months.”

Roll Call

For the Motion – 48 votes

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

For the Amendment – 17 votes

Councillors Tim Brett, James Calder, Dave Coleman, Dave Dempsey, Gavin Ellis, Mick Green, Andy Heer, Kathleen Leslie, Jane Ann Liston, Donald Lothian, Mino Manekshaw, Tony Miklinski, Dominic Nolan, Tony Orton, David J Ross, Jonny Tepp and Darren Watt.

Decision

The motion was accordingly carried.

237. **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.