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THE FIFE COUNCIL - SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE – REMOTE MEETING

25th November, 2020.

9.30 a.m. – 11.10 a.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Alice McGarry (Convener), David Barratt, Bobby Clelland, Dave Dempsey, Sharon Green-Wilson, Mino Manekshaw, Tony Orton, Kate Stewart and Andrew Verrecchia.

ATTENDING: Stuart MacArthur, Team Manager and Joan Gallo, Senior Criminal Justice Assistant, Criminal Justice Service, Education and Children's Services; Claire Mackinlay, Housing Manager, Housing Services; Martin McGroarty, Lead Professional (Minerals), Economy, Planning and Employability Services; Alastair Mutch, Community Manager (South and West Fife), Mandy MacEwan, Team Manager (Community Development), Lisa Hemphill, Local Development Officer, Mike Payne, Community Education Worker, Corrine McGinley, Community Education Worker and Jo Ross, Community Education Worker, Communities and Neighbourhoods Service; and Michelle McDermott, Committee Officer, Legal and Democratic Services.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Mr. Stephen Ritchie, Ministry of Defence (Defence Infrastructure Organisation) (for para. 253 only).

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Dave Coleman.

240. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Kate Stewart declared an interest at para. 257 – South and West Fife Community Development (CD) Partnership Update March – November 2020 – being the Chair of the Valleyfield Community Club.

241. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of the South and West Fife Area Committee meeting of 7th October, 2020.

Decision

The Committee agreed to approve the minute subject to noting that at para. 228 - Radiation Monitoring at Dalgety Bay - a representative of the MoD/DIO had not received an invitation to attend the meeting on 7th October, 2020 hence the reason why there was no representative in attendance. The Convener had therefore extended an invitation to Mr. Ritchie from the MoD to attend Committee today to provide an update on the position at Dalgety Bay.

Mr. Stephen Ritchie advised that every effort had been made to work with their partners to begin the removal of radiological contamination at Dalgety Bay during the summer but, regrettably, the application for the necessary licence to SEPA was delayed. Mr. Ritchie advised that this had now been resolved and the MoD were now pleased to confirm the licence applications had commenced. It was also noted that work was now expected to commence in April, 2021, the next available opportunity/

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opportunity to ensure there was no disturbance to wintering birds which was in line with Scottish Natural Heritage Guidelines. Mr. Ritchie voiced his regret at the previous delay to commence works but reiterated that the MoD remained committed to working with all partners to complete their planned remediation activities.

Following questions by members regarding the delay over the SEPA licence, Mr. Ritchie advised that information on this issue had been communicated to Fife Council on 23rd July, 2020.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) agreed to approve the minute; and
- (2) thanked Mr. Ritchie for his update on the position with regard to the radiation monitoring works at Dalgety Bay.

Councillor Mino Manekshaw joined the meeting during consideration of the above item.

242 CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICE - COMMUNITY PAYBACK: UNPAID WORK SCHEME

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Service (Education and Children's Services) updating members on developments within Fife Council's Criminal Justice Social Work Service in relation to the work of the Community Payback Unpaid Work Team in the South and West Fife Area.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) agreed that further reports on the Unpaid Work Scheme by the Criminal Justice Social Work Service would be brought back to this Committee on an annual basis.

243. AREA HOUSING PLAN UPDATE

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Housing Services updating members on progress in delivering service priorities and performance information for the financial year 2019/20 where figures were available at an Area level, noting that the production of a new Housing Area Plan had been delayed due to Covid-19. A revised Plan for 2021/23 would be presented to Committee once there had been an opportunity to consult on future priorities for the South and West Fife Area.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report;
- (2)/

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- (2) noted the expenditure for the HRA Locality Managed Budget for 2019/20 as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report; and
- (3) wished to express their appreciation to all the staff in Housing Services for their efforts and hard work during this period.

244. **BLAIR HOUSE AND COMRIE BING - UPDATE REPORT**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning providing members with an update on progress towards the restoration of two significant sites left derelict as a legacy of coal mining, namely, the abandoned opencast coal site at Blair House, Oakley and the reclamation of the Comrie Bing on the site of the former Comrie Colliery.

A video presentation was also provided to members showing the work undertaken at the three abandoned opencast coal sites at Blair House, Muir Dean and St. Ninians.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) thanked officers within Legal and Democratic Services and the Planning Service for all their work and efforts in progressing the restoration of these two sites over the years.

245. **SOUTH AND WEST FIFE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (CD) PARTNERSHIP UPDATE MARCH - NOVEMBER, 2020**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service advising members of the work of the South and West Fife Area Community Development (CD) Team and partners between March and November, 2020 and, in particular, the response to the Covid-19 pandemic and the support provided to communities.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the contents of the report; and
- (2) thanked all the staff within the Community Development Team for their efforts during the pandemic and also to the local community and volunteers who had provided assistance throughout this period.

246. **SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN - PLAN4SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA**

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service seeking approval of the Plan4South and West Fife Area and updating members on the progress of the Plan.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the efforts of officers to actively develop projects under the agreed Plan4Fife Themes; and
- (2) agreed to continue to support the Plan4South and West Fife as it adapted and changed to focus on Recovery and Reform.

Councillor Sharon Green-Wilson left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

247. SETTLEMENT TRUST - ANNUAL UPDATE ON EXPENDITURE AND FUNDS HELD 2019/20

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities and Neighbourhoods Service advising members on the expenditure position relating to the Settlement Trusts in the area. The report also provided a Fife-wide statement of funds held in both capital and revenue accounts as at April, 2020.

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the expenditure statement for the financial year 2019/20 detailed in Appendix 1 of the report;
- (2) the funds available at the year-end relating to amounts held as interest, in revenue accounts and as capital;
- (3) the detail of the projects supported by the disbursement of the funds as detailed in section 2.0 of the report; and
- (4) the acceptable uses for the funding as detailed in Appendix 2 of the report.

248. SOUTH AND WEST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME 2021

Decision

The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme which would be further updated as appropriate.

249. NOTICE OF MOTION

In terms of Standing Order No. 8.1(1), the following Notice of Motion was submitted:-

Councillor Tony Orton, seconded by Councillor Dave Dempsey, moved that:-

"The Committee notes that, historically, there have been many reports on flooding issues in S&WF that have been 'noted' but have not led to any effective outcome.

Consequently, /

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Consequently, the current resolution of flooding issues in South & West Fife is intricately linked to the completion of the 'Integrated Catchment Study'. Therefore, the Committee asks Officers to identify who are the key officials involved in the completion of the Integrated Catchment Study and to invite those officials to attend the earliest possible meeting of the Committee to update members on its progress."

Decision

The motion was unanimously agreed.
