

2021 NEFAC 167

THE FIFE COUNCIL - NORTH EAST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE- REMOTE MEETING

3rd March, 2021

9.30 a.m. – 12.50 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillors Donald Lothian (Convener), Tim Brett, John Docherty, Andy Heer, Linda Holt, Jane Ann Liston, David MacDiarmid, Karen Marjoram, Tony Miklinski, Dominic Nolan, Bill Porteous, Jonny Tepp, Brian Thomson and Ann Verner.

ATTENDING: Janice Laird, Community Manager (North East Fife) ; Sheena Watson, Team Manager (Community Development), Communities & Neighbourhoods; Neil Watson, Lead Consultant (Roads & Lighting Asset Management), Lesley Craig, Lead Consultant, Traffic Management, Frances Ratcliffe, Lead Consultant, Bridges & Structures, Stuart Goodfellow, Technician Engineer, Traffic Management (North Fife), Roads & Transportation Services; Stuart MacArthur, Team Manager, Joan Gallo, Senior Social Work Assistant; Children & Families and Criminal Justice Services; David Thomson, Customer Experience Lead Officer, Customer & Online Services; Fiona McKay, Divisional General Manager (Interim), John Cooper, Service Manager, Residential & Day Services and Fieldwork East, Older People's Services; Vivienne McBride, Change Manager, East Division, Older People's Services, Health & Social Care; Paul Short, Service Manager, Housing, Health & Social Care & Older Persons, Gordon Binnie, Housing Manager, Area Housing Management, Housing Services; and Elizabeth Mair, Committee Officer, Legal & Democratic Services.

ALSO ATTENDING: Councillor Ross Vettrano, Convener, Environment & Protective Services Sub-Committee (for para. 314 only) and Derek Watson, Quaestor & Factor, St Andrews University (for para. 315 only).

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Councillor Bill Connor

312. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Andy Heer declared an interest in Para. 319 - Application to Howe of Fife Local Community Planning Budget - as a member of the Steering Committee for Dunbog Hall Sports Field.

313. MINUTE

The Committee considered the minute of meeting of the North East Fife Area Committee of 20th January 2021.

Decision

The committee agreed to approve the minute.

At this stage, the Convener intimated that he had agreed to take the following item out of agenda order to accommodate an attendee who had another meeting.

314./

314. COMPLAINTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

With reference to discussion at the previous meeting members requested information on measures being taken to mitigate the number of complaints received relating to the refuse collection service, including failure to collect refuse bins and the take out and return service. Cllr Ross Vettrano, Convener of the Environment and Protective Services Sub-Committee, advised that most instances of non-collection of bins took place where the bins were not put out for collection or where refuse collection vehicles were unable to access areas due to irresponsible parking. He advised that a new software facility was being implemented in the next month which would video the route of refuse collection vehicles and this would enable officers to investigate the exact position following any future complaints. The system would also map every property with a take out and return service which would reduce the number of these missed. In addition, the system would enable photographs to be taken of cars blocking access with subsequent identification of and contact with the owners. In response to a question regarding the current system for booking of visits to household recycling centres, Councillor Vettrano advised that this was enabling an efficient use of the facilities and had significantly reduced illegal dumping of commercial waste, previously costing the Council over £1.5m per year. Persons having difficulty in making bookings on-line should contact the Council's call centre.

Decision

The Sub-Committee noted:-

- (1) the information given; and
- (2) that a briefing note providing details on the implementation of the new refuse collection software would be circulated to members.

315. PRESENTATION - ST ANDREWS UNIVERSITY UPDATE

Derek Watson, Quaestor and Factor, St Andrews University, gave a presentation providing an overview of the work of the University, with particular reference to the difficulties and impact on activity in the past year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Issues included loss of income and delays to projects and research. However, initiatives had been developed to mitigate the effect of these issues and a number of developments were proceeding, including progress on the Eden Mill project, which would provide jobs and benefits for the future.

Decision

The committee noted the information provided and thanked Mr Watson for his interesting and informative presentation.

316. AREA ROADS PROGRAMME 2021/22

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment detailing the projects which were proposed for approval for the Area Roads Programme in the North East Fife Area Committee area for delivery in the 2021-22 financial year.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) approved the report and Appendices 1-3;
- (2) delegated authority to the Head of Assets, Transportation & Environment to manage the lists of Category 1 and 2 projects in line with the available resources/funding as the programme developed, in consultation with the Area Convener;
- (3) noted Appendices 4 and 5; and
- (4) agreed that future reports contain more detailed information on road condition.

The meeting adjourned at 11.08 a.m. and reconvened at 11.15 a.m.

317. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM ST MONANS COMMON GOOD FUND

The Committee considered an application from the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods in respect of an application received from St. Monans Charitable Fund for funding from the St. Monans Common Good Fund of £109,000 to create a new multi-accessible play park at Hope Place.

Motion

Councillor Porteous, seconded by Councillor Docherty, moved that the application be approved as recommended in the report.

Amendment

Councillor Holt, seconded by Councillor Lothian, moved that the application be approved subject to the amount granted being limited to £90,000, 50% of the total costs.

Roll Call

For the Motion - 10 votes

Councillors Brett, Docherty, Heer, Liston, MacDiarmid, Miklinski, Marjoram, Porteous, Thomson and Verner.

For the Amendment - 4 votes

Councillors Holt, Lothian, Nolan and Tepp.

Having received a majority of votes, the motion was accordingly carried.

Decision

The Committee approved a contribution of £109,000 from the St. Monans Common Good Fund to St Monans Charitable Fund to create a new multi-accessible play park at Hope Place.

318. APPLICATION FOR FUNDING FROM CUPAR LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods seeking funding of £13,645 from Cupar Local Community Planning Budget to add the name of a WW2 soldier to Cupar War Memorial.

Decision

The Committee approved funding of £13,645 from the Local Community Planning Budget for the purpose of adding the name of a WW2 soldier to Cupar War Memorial.

Prior to consideration of this item, Councillor Heer, having declared an interest, left the meeting at this stage.

319. APPLICATION TO HOWE OF FIFE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLANNING BUDGET

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods in respect of an application from Dunbog Community Hall for £9000 from the Local Community Planning Budget to help fund a maintenance plan for Dunbog Community Park.

Decision

The Committee approved an award of £9000 from the Local Community Planning Budget to Dunbog Community Hall Management Committee towards the costs of a maintenance plan for Dunbog Community Park.

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

320. UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT OF NORTHEDEN HOUSE, CUPAR

The Committee considered a joint report by the Director of Health & Social Care and the Head of Housing Services providing an update on the replacement for Northeden House care home on the site of the Dalgairn Centre in Bank Street, Cupar.

Decision

The Committee noted the update provided.

321. NORTH EAST FIFE LOCAL COMMUNITY PLAN 2019-2022 PROGRESS REPORT

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Communities & Neighbourhoods providing an update on progress towards the Areas of Focus in the North East Fife Local Community Plan approved by Committee in May 2019.

Decision

The Committee agreed to:-

- (1) note the progress made to address the priorities of the North East Fife Local Community Plan and identify areas for improvement;
- (2)/

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- (2) note the impact of the Covid pandemic on communities in North East Fife and the actions taken to mitigate these impacts and to help protect the most vulnerable in their communities;
- (3) support continuing work to achieve the outcomes of the Local Community Plan;
- (4) seek regular updates from the People and Place Local Leadership Teams;
- (5) recognise the importance of the development and maintenance of cycle and pedestrian paths and that this was reflected adequately in the Council's forward planning; and
- (6) recognise and reiterate the importance of superfast broadband for every house.

Councillors Miklinski and Thomson left the meeting during consideration of the above item.

322. CRIMINAL JUSTICE SOCIAL WORK SERVICE - COMMUNITY PAYBACK: UNPAID WORK SCHEME

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Education & Children's Services (Children & Families & Criminal Justice Services) providing an update on developments within Fife Council Criminal Justice Social Work Service in relation to the work of the Community Payback Unpaid Work Team in the Area Committee wards between April 2019 and March 2020.

Decision

The Committee:-

- (1) noted the information contained in the report; and
- (2) agreed that further reports on the Unpaid Work Scheme by the Criminal Justice Social Work Service be brought to the North East Fife Area Committee on an annual basis.

Councillor Miklinski rejoined the meeting and Councillor Holt left the meeting during consideration of the above report.

323. PROPERTY TRANSACTIONS

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Assets, Transportation and Environment advising of action taken using the list of officer Powers in relation to property transactions.

Decision

The Committee noted the report.

324. NORTH EAST FIFE AREA COMMITTEE FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the Forward Work Programme for the North East Fife Area Committee.

Decision/

Decision

The Committee noted:-

- (1) the current Forward Work Programme which would be updated as appropriate; and
- (2) that a report on Rewilding would be submitted to a future meeting.

325. VALEDICTORY – JANICE LAIRD

At the conclusion of the meeting the Convener advised that Janice Laird, Community Manager, was attending her last meeting of the Committee prior to retirement. Members expressed their great appreciation of the work carried out by Janice over the years and wished her well for the future.
