

**MINUTES of MEETING of MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE & THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE held in
the COUNCIL CHAMBERS, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD, PA31 8RT
on WEDNESDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2010**

Present: Councillor Donald MacMillan (Chair)

Councillor Rory Colville
Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Anne Horn
Councillor John Semple

Councillor Donald Kelly
Councillor Alison Hay
Councillor Douglas Philand

Alison Younger
Tony Lambert
Julian Green
Hugh Blake
Fergus Murray
Adrian Jackson-Stark
Inspector Neil Wallace
Sgt Cammy Rae

Argyll and Bute Council
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Strathclyde Police
Strathclyde Police

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were intimated from Chief Inspector Baillie and Garry Fraser.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING - 3 NOVEMBER 2010

The Minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 November were approved as a true record.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

As Chair of the Mid Argyll Youth Project, which was referred to within the report at Item 11, Councillor Douglas Philand declared a non-financial interest in relation to Workshop, Manse Brae, Lochgilphead. He left the room and took no part in the discussion which is dealt with at Item 11 of this Minute.

4. PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME

A member of the public was in attendance at the meeting who had a question relating to the South Kintyre Landscape Capacity Study. He queried the description within the report of land at High Ugadale (SK18). In his opinion, the characteristics of the orange area did not distinguish it from the adjacent red area.

Fergus Murray replied that any inaccuracies within the report would be addressed by the specialist consultant who had undertaken the work and arranged to meet with the member of the public following the meeting to discuss in more detail.

Councillor Kelly raised a further question concerning the proposal by the Health Board and the CHP for a methadone clinic to be opened in Campbeltown.

Inspector Wallace advised Members that Strathclyde Police would support this programme. Statistics in the MAKI area were not indicative that drug taking led to a significant increase in local crime levels.

Action: Alison Younger would liaise with the local Health Board on this issue with a view to an item being taken to the forthcoming LACPG on 12 January 2011.

Councillor Kelly enquired if the effects of the Service Review would be known at local levels. Alison Younger replied that the forthcoming meeting on 6 December would outline Service Review proposals to Members. These could potentially be discussed at the MAKI Area Committee meeting scheduled for 2 February 2011. However, it was noted that the final budget papers would likely not have been issued at this point for the Council Budget meeting scheduled for 11 February 2011.

Action: The Chair advised that a letter would be sent from the Area Committee to the Council Leader asking that the area implications of budget proposals would be clearly communicated to Members.

Councillor Kelly raised a question on behalf of Southend Parent Council asking which Members were in support of the retention of Southend Primary School. Councillors Semple, Horn, Philand and Kelly all noted their support for the retention of the school. The Chair noted that he wished to await the full report from the scheduled consultation exercise before reaching a final view. This would ensure proper consideration would be given to all schools.

5. SCOTTISH AMBULANCE SERVICE - UPDATE ON STRATEGIC PLAN

Garry Fraser had intimated his apologies and a written report was read by Alison Younger to update Members.

1. The new ambulance station refurbishment had been carried out in Campbeltown.
2. There had been a reduction of on call in Campbeltown station which now provides a live shift during the night 3 nights out of seven. Previously the night shift was on call.
3. There had been an introduction of a helicopter night landing site on Luing with similar night sights coming on line to the islands of Lismore, Coll, Colonsay, Jura and Gigha.

Councillor Kelly noted that the new shift pattern in Campbeltown had been very well received by staff and the community.

6. FORMAL AGREEMENT OF MEETING DATES FOR 2011

Members considered the proposed dates for both Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Area Committee and the Local Area Community Planning Group meetings for 2011.

Decision:

The Committee agreed on the dates for 2011.

In regards to the meeting to be held in June, Members agreed that the venue for

this would be Islay. The October meeting would be held on Gigha.

7. APPLICATION OF THE LANDSCAPE CAPACITY STUDIES REPORT ON PLANNING APPLICATIONS

The Committee considered a report detailing the impact of the Landscape Capacity Studies (LCS) on Planning Applications within the MAKI area.

Discussion followed in regards to a capacity threshold in certain areas. Adrian Jackson-Stark reported that there would be a review in 5 years time and the LCS could be changed to reflect this. The LCS was a tool to allow future development which was vitally important in the provision of rural housing. Queries were raised on a number of individual cases. Adrian stated that the local planning team made decisions based on general policy frameworks. However, these were dependent on local individual circumstances and he was not in a position to comment directly on them.

Fergus Murray advised Members that the Head of Planning would be issuing a procedural note in the New Year to guide Members on planning issues relating to the application of Landscape Capacity Studies.

Decision:

The Committee agreed to note the impact the LCS has had upon planning applications with the MAKI area.

(Ref: A report by Fergus Murray, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

8. ROADS ISSUES

The Committee considered a report updating on outstanding roads-related issues in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands.

Councillor Hay relayed a complaint regarding the lack of gritting at Kilmichael Glen. Julian reported that the gritting should now have been undertaken. Councillor Hay requested that a listing detailing the road gritting priorities be sent to Community Councils.

Action: Julian Green to provide this list to Community Councils.

Julian advised Members of the forthcoming delivery of 2 jet patchers. These would be integrated into the Asset Management Plan for Roads. He detailed how he envisaged they would contribute to road maintenance, and, as such, would be preventative. They would be mainly utilised in repairing smaller potholes on weaker, more rural roads. There would be a general programme of maintenance, however this would be flexible.

Councillor Kelly expressed concerns regarding the level of workmanship on the Campbeltown Infrastructure Improvements. Julian stated that he was aware of issues on the road and was involved in discussion with the contractor to ensure

remedial work was undertaken and minimise the liability for Argyll and Bute Council.

Discussion continued regarding local traders concerns in Campbeltown on the proposed Scottish Water works in Main Street. This could have a detrimental impact on traders if shoppers were deterred by the road closure. Julian agreed to check on this. Further concerns were raised on the timber haulage trucks passing through Tarbert village. Julian stated that they could not veto the trucks driving through Tarbert from South Kintyre. However, if the trucks were coming from the Kilberry area making a detour through Tarbert, he could address this.

Councillor MacMillan congratulated Julian and the workforce on behalf of the Area Committee in keeping the roads clear in the recent severe weather conditions.

Decision:

The Committee agreed to note the report.

(Ref: A report by Julian Green, Technical Officer, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

9. SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND IN SERVICE DAYS 2011/2012

The Committee considered a report which the Executive had agreed the framework of on 23 September 2010.

Decision:

- 1.1 Members agreed to endorse the final patterns of school holidays and in service days for all schools in Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands as outlined in Appendices 1 to 4.
- 1.2 Members agreed that the details of school holidays and in service days for 2011/2011 should now be circulated to schools and relevant organisations.

(Ref: A report by Carol Walker, Head of Pre-School and Primary Education, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

10. DISBURSEMENT OF TESCO PLANNING GAIN FUNDS

The Committee considered a report detailing the use of the Developer Contribution funds received in respect of the proposed new Campbeltown Tesco development, and to determine an appropriate mechanism to disburse the funds to support the continuing viability and vitality of Campbeltown Town Centre.

Decision:

Members agreed to the following recommendations:

- 1.1 Confirm the use of the Developer Contributions receipt
- 1.2 Grants delegated powers to the Campbeltown CHORD Board to

authorise expenditure associated with the above fund to help maintain the viability and vitality of Campbeltown Town Centre, having fully consulted the local town centre traders and taken their views into account when determining funding support for particular projects.

(Ref: A report by Fergus Murray, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

Having declared an interest in the next item, Councillor Philand left the room and took no part in the discussion.

11. WORKSHOP, MANSE BRAE. LOCHGILPHEAD

The Committee considered a report advising of an approach made to the Council to acquire the former school meals building at 30D Manse Brae, Lochgilphead.

Members raised concerns on the amount of property, owned by Argyll and Bute, lying dormant. They requested that this Item be discussed at the MAKI Area Committee meeting scheduled for February 2011

Decision:

Members agreed to the recommendation detailed at paragraph 2.1 within the paper. They further requested that Estates prepare a report for the February Committee detailing the current surplus property within the MAKI area, and other property owned by the Council where an interest to purchase may have been expressed.

(Ref: A report by Hugh Blake, Senior Estates Surveyor, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

Councillor Philand rejoined the meeting.

12. GROUND ADJACENT TO TORRAN HOUSE, FORD - PROPOSED SALE TO PETER DAVIES

The Committee considered a report advising of a request to purchase the half solum of the Allt Garbh burn, in addition to the original ground previously agreed for sale at Torran Mhor, Ford.

Decision:

Members agreed the recommendation within the report.

(Ref: A report by Jennifer Crawford, Estates Surveyor, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

13. RNLI, PORT ASKAIG PIER

The Committee considered a request from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution

(RNLI) to build a new accommodation building on Port Askaig Pier so the RNLI may remove from the current accommodation building located to the far side of the Port Askaig Hotel.

Discussion followed among Members on the status of parking for visitors to the RNLI and the proposed relocation of the fuel tank onto the pier.

Decision:

Members agreed that

- 1.1 Estates would liaise with Operational Services to ascertain parking facilities for RNLI staff and visitors.
- 1.2 Estates would ascertain the proposed location for the new fuel tank on Port Askaig pier.
- 1.3 A decision would be delegated to the Chair, Vice-Chair and the local Members upon clarification of the above.

(Ref: A report by Hugh Blake, Senior Estates Surveyor, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

14. LAND AT ST CLAIR ROAD, ARDRISHAIG

The Committee considered a report advising Members of an expression of interest in respect of an area of Council owned ground at St. Clair Road, Ardrishaig.

Decision:

Members agreed to continue this Item to the next Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands meeting to held in February 2011.

(Ref: A report by Roy Alexander, Estates Surveyor, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).

15. CAMPBELTOWN AND DISTRICT JUVENILE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION - LEASE OF PITCH

The Committee considered a report advising Members of a request from Campbeltown & Juvenile District Football Association for a long term lease of the eastern football pitch at the Meadows in Campbeltown on the basis of a nominal rental.

Decision:

Members agreed to authorise the Executive Director of Customer Services to negotiate and conclude suitable terms and conditions with the Campbeltown & Juvenile District Football Association in respect of a lease for a period of up to 20 years on the basis of a nominal rental.

(Ref: A report by Roy Alexander, Estates Surveyor, dated 1 December 2010, submitted).