

GENERAL PURPOSES – 17 May 2006

Motherwell, 17 May 2006 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Holloway, Convener; Councillor Saunders, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barrie, Burrows, Chadha, Curley, Devine, Gormill, Higgins, Homer, Irvine, McAuley, McKenna, J. Martin, Shields and Wallace.

CHAIR

Councillor Holloway (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Administration; Head of Central Services; Head of Legal Services, and Senior Accountant, Department of Finance.

APOLOGIES

Provost Connelly and Councillors Cefferty and Love.

MINUTES OF SUB-COMMITTEE

(1) GENERAL PURPOSES (LICENSING) SUB-COMMITTEE

1. There were submitted the Minutes of the meetings and special meetings of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 2, 24 and 30 March and 27 April 2006.

Decided: that the Minutes of the meetings and special meetings of the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee held on 2, 24 and 30 March and 27 April 2006 be approved and noted.

(2) CIVIC FUNCTIONS GROUP

2. There was submitted the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 3 May 2006.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 3 May 2006 be approved and noted.

GENERAL DEBTORS BAD WRITE-OFF 2003/2004

3. There was submitted a report dated 9 May 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) presenting a summary of outstanding debtor accounts which were deemed uncollectable following all attempts at recovery; (2) advising that an analysis of the outstanding balances due to the Department of Administration had been conducted and that the sum of £416.63 had been identified as uncollectable, and (3) indicating that the Director of Finance, under delegated powers, had written off certain balances which represented the whole of the aforementioned sum.

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Decided: that it be noted that the Director of Finance, under delegated powers, had written off the total outstanding debtor accounts for the Department of Administration which were deemed uncollectable in the sum of £416.63.

2005/2006 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT - DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION (EXCLUDING PERSONNEL) - 1 APRIL 2005 TO 31 MARCH 2006 (PROVISIONAL OUTTURN)

4. There was submitted a report dated 2 May 2006 by the Director of Administration detailing, for the period from 1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 providing? provisional outturn and income against the estimates contained in the 2005/2006 budget for the Central Services Division, including separate details in respect of the registration of births, deaths and marriages and for the Legal Services Division of the Department of Administration.

Decided: that the report be noted.

CIVIC CENTRE - EXTERNAL WORKS - PODIUM/COURTYARD

5. With reference to paragraph 5 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 26 October 2005, when it was reported that the contract with Ashleigh Limited had been extended, there was submitted a report dated 8 May 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of the additional works required to the remaining three stairways leading to the Civic Centre podium/courtyard; (2) seeking homologation for action taken, after consultation with the Convener, to instruct the contractor to undertake additional works to one of those stairways namely, the stairway leading from the shop area to the car park, and (3) providing details thereon.

Decided:

- (1) that the additional works required to the two remaining stairways leading to the Civic Centre podium/ courtyard be noted;
- (2) that the action taken, after consultation with the Convener, to instruct the contractor to undertake additional works to the stairways leading from the shop area to the car park be homologated, and
- (3) that a further report be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

REGISTRATION - APPROVAL OF PLACES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES

6. With reference to paragraph 8 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 8 March 2006, when the Committee (1) noted the consultation by the Registrar General for Scotland regarding the possibility of amending the Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Marriage (Approval of Places) Regulations to remove current provision for the inspection and approval of places outwith Registration Offices for civil marriages, and (2) agreed that the Registrar General be advised that North Lanarkshire Council, having regard to the need for these safeguards, did not support those proposals, there was submitted a report dated 9 May 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that correspondence had now been received from the Registrar General indicating that, in light of the responses received to the consultation, proposals to amend the provisions of the Marriage (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Marriage (Approval of Places) Regulations had now been abandoned and that the current arrangements would prevail.

Decided: that the report be noted.

REGISTRATION SERVICE CHRYSTON/MOODIESBURN

7. With reference to paragraph 6 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 11 January 2006, when it was agreed that the Chryston Registration Office located at Lindsaybeg Road, Chryston be relocated to premises associated with Moodiesburn First Stop Shop, there was submitted a report dated 9 May 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that the premises formerly occupied by the Registration Service at Lindsaybeg Road, Chryston were no longer required for the purposes of the Department of Administration, and (2) proposing that the Committee declare these premises surplus to requirements and remit the matter, accordingly, to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee.

Decided:

- (1) that the transfer of the Registration Service from the premises at Lindsaybeg Road, Chryston to premises associated with the First Stop Shop at Moodiesburn be noted;
- (2) that the premises at Lindsaybeg Road, Chryston be declared surplus to the requirements of the Department of Administration, and
- (3) that the matter be remitted to the Policy and Resources (Property) Sub-Committee for consideration.

MONKLAND GLEN COMMUNITY COUNCIL - PROPOSAL TO AMEND BOUNDARY

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 14 April 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of a request received from Monkland Glen Community Council to amend the Community Council Boundary between Monkland Glen and Calderbank Community Councils; (2) indicating that the reason for the request was that, for a number of years, Monkland Glen Community Council have maintained and treated the portion of land in question and it had only recently come to their attention that the land was not within that Community Council boundary; (3) further advising that in terms of statutory requirements, comments were sought over an eight week consultation period, to include also, the Local Member, and no objection to the proposals were received, and (4) recommending that the Committee approve the adjustment of the boundary between Monkland Glen Community Council and Calderbank Community Council.

Decided: that it be agreed that the boundary between Monkland Glen Community Council and Calderbank Community Council be adjusted as contained within the report.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION (SCOTLAND) ACT 2002

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 27 April 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) informing of the activity and service delivery following the first year of operation of the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002, which came into force on 1 January 2005; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) summarising the performance and the trends of Freedom of Information requests received by the Council; (4) concluding, *inter alia*, that the volume of requests for information under the Act had been higher than anticipated and, with the resources available to discharge the obligations of the Corporate Freedom of Information role, it had not been possible to respond within the 20 working day period to a number of the requests received.

Decided:

- (1) that the Director of Administration be authorised to develop proposals for additional resources to assist in the discharge of the Freedom of Information legislation, and submit a further report to a future meeting of this Committee, and
 - (2) that, otherwise, the Committee note the report.
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PUBLIC PROCESSIONS - POLICE, PUBLIC ORDER AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE (SCOTLAND) BILL

10. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 11 January 2006, when it was noted that further reports be submitted on developments with regard to the Police, Public Order and Criminal Justice (Scotland) Bill, there was submitted a report dated 9 May 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of further developments with regard to Parliamentary consideration of the provisions of the Bill in relation to public processions and of developments with regard to production of statutory guidance; (2) detailing the background relative thereto; (3) indicating that the Stage 3 Debate on the Bill would take place on 20 May, and (4) setting out the implications for the Council should the Bill be enacted.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted meantime.

ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2005/06 - EXCEPTIONS REPORT

11. There was submitted a report dated 8 May 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) updating on actions contained within the Administration Service Improvement Plan 2005/06 outstanding as at 31 March 2006, and (2) providing details thereon.

Decided: that the position be noted.

REMOVAL OF PUBLIC CALL BOXES - OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS (OFCOM) REVIEW OF THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE OBLIGATIONS

12. There was submitted a report dated 26 April 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of the publication of a Guide, by the office of Communications (OFCOM) regarding their consultation in respect of the removal of public call boxes, and (2) providing details thereon.

Decided: that the contents of the report be noted.

TOWN TWINNING - KILSYTH TOWN TWINNING ASSOCIATION

13. There was submitted a report dated 26 April 2006 by the Director of Administration (1) advising of action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in awarding assistance in terms of Council policy to Kilsyth Town Twinning Association in respect of a twinning visit from Meulan, France from 24 to 28 May 2006, and (2) seeking homologation in this regard.

Decided: that the action taken, after consultation with the Convener, in awarding assistance in terms of Council policy to Kilsyth Town Twinning Association in respect of a twinning visit from Meulan, France from 24 to 28 May 2006 be homologated.

TWINNING - SCHWEINFURT UNTERFRANKENSCHAU

14. With reference to paragraph 12 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 11 January 2006 when it was noted that the Municipality of Schweinfurt had invited the Council to participate in the Biennial Unterfrankenschau to be held in Schweinfurt, Germany in October 2006, there was submitted a report dated 25 April 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that correspondence had been received from the Schweinfurt Twinning Association (1) indicating that this year, again, they were willing to participate in the Unterfrankenschau, and (2) seeking financial assistance to enable them to do so.

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Decided: that it be agreed to award the Schweinfurt Twinning Association a grant of not exceeding £2,500 to support participation in the Schweinfurt Unterfrankenschau during October 2006.

CONFERENCES

15. There was submitted a report dated 10 May 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that one invitation had been received in respect of member attendance at conferences, and seeking that consideration be given to the invitation.

Decided: that attendance at the following conference be agreed:-

Conference	Venue	Date	Attendance
Women Networking with Purpose	Glasgow	16-18 June 2006	Councillor Irvine Councillor Morris

The Convener being of the view that the following item of business was of an urgent nature authorised its consideration to enable the Council to progress the item timeously.

PETITION - PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE

16. There was submitted a report dated 12 May 2006 by the Director of Administration advising that a Petition, which has been supported by the local Member, containing 12 signatures had been received from the residents of Castle Street, Chapelhall regarding the operation of a Fun Fare close to their houses.

Decided: that consideration of the Petition regarding the operation of a Fun Fare be remitted to the General Purposes (Licensing) Sub-Committee.