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GEN.PURPOSES1996M

Motherwell, 5 June 1996 at 2 pm.

A Meeting of the GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

PRESENT

Councillor Craig, Convener; Councillor Combe, Vice-Convener; Councillors Barrie, Chadha, Cox, Gray, Holloway, Leitch, Logue, McKendrick, J. McKenna, J. Martin, Murphy, Ross, Selfridge, and Wilson.

CHAIR

Councillor Craig (Convener) presided.

IN ATTENDANCE

The Director of Administration, Head of Central Services and Head of Legal Services.

APOLOGIES

Councillors E. Burns, H. McGuigan and Russell.

SCOTTISH OFFICE HOME DEPARTMENT CONSULTATION PAPER
ON THE SUNDAY AFTERNOON OPENING OF LICENSED BINGO
CLUBS AND CASINOS IN SCOTLAND

1. There was submitted a report dated 2 May 1996 by the Head of Legal Services advising (1) that the Scottish Office Home Department had issued a Consultation Paper on the Sunday afternoon opening of licensed bingo clubs and casinos in Scotland; (2) that the circular reprised an earlier circular on the same topic issued in 1994, and (3) that in view of the terms of the Consultation, enquiries of the merging authorities had been made as to any responses which had been issued on the earlier occasion and a similar response had been issued on behalf of North Lanarkshire Council.

Decided:

- (1) that the action taken on behalf of the Council, broadly supporting the position earlier advanced by the merging authorities and indicating general opposition to the proposal to permit bingo clubs and casinos in Scotland opening on Sunday afternoons on the grounds that this would lead to further erosion of family life be homologated, and
- (2) that otherwise, the terms of the report by the Head of Legal Services be noted.

SCOTTISH CIRCUS ACTION NETWORK

2. There was submitted a report dated 9 May 1996 by the Head of Legal Services advising (1) that the Council had received a request from Scottish Circus Network seeking support in their campaign to end the use of animals in circuses; (2) that each of the District Authorities had resolved that the holding of a circus required application for a Public Entertainment Licence, and (3) of considerations of which account should be taken in considering this request.

Decided: that the terms of the report by the Head of Legal Services be noted and that Scottish Circus Network be advised of the limited capacity of the Council as licensing authority to accommodate the request.

PUBLIC CHARITABLE COLLECTIONS

3. With reference to paragraph 18 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 6 March 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 8 May 1996 by the Head of Legal Services summarising the main statutory provisions appropriate to Public Charitable Collections contained in Section 119 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Decided:

(1) that the statutory framework applicable to public charitable collections be noted, and
(2) that the grant of delegated authority to the Director of Administration to process applications for consent to hold public charitable collections and otherwise authorise the reporting of consents so issued to the Licensing Sub-Committee, be re-affirmed.

NEW DISTRICT COURT AND CIVIC HALLS, CUMBERNAULD -
OPENING CEREMONY

4. There was submitted a report dated 16 May 1996 by the Director of Administration advising (1) that Mowlem (Scotland) Limited had

June indicated that construction work on the new District Court and Civic Halls, Cumbernauld was expected to be complete by 21 1996 and that the premises would be ready for occupation two weeks later, and (2) that the interest of the Committee was particularly in relation to the new District Court.

Decided: that the matter be referred to the Civic Functions Group to make arrangements for a formal opening ceremony by the Provost.

LEGAL SERVICES ESTABLISHMENT

5. With reference to paragraph 3 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 January 1996 there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 20 May 1996 by the Head of Legal Services proposing an interim review of administrative and clerical posts of the Legal Services division.

Decided:

- terms
- (1) that the Legal Services establishment be approved in terms of the report by the Head of Legal Services, and
 - (2) that the report be referred to the Personnel Committee.

PLANNING AID FOR SCOTLAND - TRAINING ON PLANNING MATTERS FOR COMMUNITY COUNCILS - SEMINAR

6. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Planning and Development Committee held on 6 March 1996 there was submitted a report dated 20 May 1996 by the Director of Administration advising (1) that from April 1996 Community Councils have had a statutory right to be consulted on applications received for planning permission, and (2) that an offer had been planning from "Planning Aid for Scotland" to provide training on legislation and practice for Community Councils in the North Lanarkshire area.

Decided: that the Council sponsor a training seminar for Community Councils on planning matters at an anticipated cost of \$400.

EXERCISE OF THE LICENSING FUNCTION

7. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of this

Committee held on 6 March 1996, there was submitted a report (docketed) dated 10 May 1996 by the Head of Legal Services regarding procedures for considering applications to grant or renew licences under the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982.

Decided: that consideration of the matter be continued for a further report clarifying the term 'minor offences' be brought forward for consideration.

TAXI OPERATOR'S AND DRIVER'S LICENCES WITHIN THE FORMER STRATHKELVIN DISTRICT AREA

8. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 15 May 1996 by the Head of Legal Services advising (1) that, in regard to the licensing of taxi operators and drivers in limited situations neither East Dunbartonshire Council nor North Lanarkshire Council could grant renewal of a Taxi Driver's Licence to cover the whole of the operating area for which the relevant vehicle had been licensed, and (2) that owner/drivers would be required to submit separate applications forms and fees to both authorities for processing separately.

Decided: that approval be granted to officers to make formal arrangements with East Dunbartonshire Council to act as processing authority for owner/drivers applications for renewal of their licence, in those limited situations outlined by the Head of Legal Services in his report.

COPYRIGHT LICENCE - USE OF HMSO COURT FORMS

9. There was submitted a report (docketed) 21 May 1996 by the Head of Legal Services advising (1) that Her Majesty's Stationery Office (HMSO) had intimated that local authorities required a copyright licence to electronically reproduce court forms, and (2) a draft Minute of Agreement had been received from HMSO whereby the Council would be granted rights for 5 years, to load a number of HMSO forms onto their software package for printing.

Decided: that the Council conclude a Minute of Agreement with HMSO as proposed in the report by the Head of Legal Services.

GENERAL PURPOSES LICENSING SUB-COMMITTEE

10. The Minute of the meeting of the General Purposes Licensing
Sub-Committee held on 23 May 1996 was submitted.

Decided: that the Minute of the meeting of the General
Purposes Licensing Sub-Committee held on
23 May 1996 be approved and noted.

MEMBERS' LOUNGE

11. There was submitted a report dated 19 May 1996 by the Director
of Administration in regard to the proposed establishment of a
Members' Lounge facility on the fifth floor of the Civic
Centre,
Motherwell.

Decided: that the establishment of a Members' Lounge facility
on the fifth floor of the Civic Centre, Motherwell
as a
the
direct replacement for the existing coffee room in
Committee corridor on the first floor, be approved.

MEMBERS' SERVICES

12. With reference to paragraph 11 of the Minute of the meeting of
this Committee held on 24 April 1996, there was submitted a
report (docketed) dated 29 May 1996 by the Director of
Administration regarding the provision of computer equipment
to
serve elected members.

Decided: that the matter be referred to the Policy and
Resources
Committee for consideration.

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATE TO NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
COUNCILLORS

13. With reference to paragraph 4 of the Minute of the meeting of
this
Committee held on 11 October 1995, there was submitted a
report dated 21 May 1996 by the Director of Administration
(1) advising that the Council had become corporate members of
the National Association of Councillors, and (2) proposing the
nomination of a Member to participate on the National General
Management Committee.

Thereafter the Director of Administration reported orally that
(1)
a letter dated 24 May 1996 had been received from the National

Executive Association of Councillors advising that Members on the Committee appointed by the former Monklands and Motherwell District Councils had been invited to attend an Executive Committee meeting on 3 June 1996, and (2) that one Member from each of the former authorities invited, had attended the Executive Committee meeting.

Decided:

- (1) that consideration of the nomination of a Member to participate on the National General Management Committee be continued for a further report, and
- (2) that the attendance at the Executive Committee meeting by one Member from each of the former Monklands and Motherwell District Councils be homologated.

REGISTRATION AREA BOUNDARIES

14. There was submitted a report (docketed) dated 29 May 1996 by the Director of Administration advising (1) that South Lanarkshire Council had indicated an intention to seek the approval of the Registrar General for Scotland to alter the boundaries of registration areas to match those of South Lanarkshire Council, and (2) that South Lanarkshire Council had sought the Council's views on the proposal that the areas of Bothwell and Uddingston, which are presently included in the Bellshill registration district but which lie within South Lanarkshire, be served by registration offices within the control of that Council with effect from 1 January 1997.

Decided: that South Lanarkshire Council be advised that North Lanarkshire Council were willing to continue to provide a registration service for the whole of the current Bellshill registration area.

CIVIC CENTRE, MOTHERWELL: ALTERATIONS

15. With reference to paragraph 2 of the Minute of the meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on 12 December 1995, there was submitted a report dated 29 May 1996 by the Director of Administration outlining proposals with regard to the south lift at the Civic Centre, Motherwell.

Decided: that consideration of the matter be remitted to the Policy and Resources Committee.

APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

(1) ASSISTANCE TO EXCHANGE GROUPS UNDERTAKING TOWN
TWINNING VISITS

16. With reference to paragraph 10 of the Minute of the meeting of this Committee held on 24 April 1996, there was submitted a report dated 28 May 1996 by the Director of Administration (1) advising that a request had been received from Monklands Twinning Association - Campi Bisenzio, for financial support towards a return exchange visit to Italy, to be undertaken by a party of seventeen youths and four adults, and (2) requesting that for visits by exchange groups to established twin towns overseas, a level of assistance be established.

Decided:

- (1) that the Council contribute a per capita grant of \$60 to Monklands Twinning Association -Campi Bisenzio, for an exchange visit to Italy by a party of seventeen youths and four adults, and
- (2) that the level of financial assistance to be provided for visits by exchange groups to established twin towns overseas, be agreed at \$60 per capita.

(2) FORTH AND CLYDE CANAL SOCIETY

17. There was submitted a letter dated 22 April 1996 from the Forth and Clyde Canal Society seeking an annual grant of \$1250 towards the upkeep of the 36 seater cruiser, Gipsy Princess.

Decided: that consideration of the matter be continued.

SCOTTISH CONSUMER COUNCIL

18. There was submitted a letter dated 23 April 1996 from the Scottish Consumer Council inviting the Council to purchase a table for 10 person at their 21st Birthday Dinner Celebrations to be held on 13 September 1996.

Decided: that no action be taken.

CIVIC FUNCTIONS GROUP

19. The Minute of the meeting of the Civic Functions Group held on 22 May 1996 was submitted.

Decided:

- its
- (1) that consideration of paragraph 1 of the Minute of the meeting held on 22 May 1996 be referred back to the Civic Functions Group for further consideration as to accuracy, and
 - (2) that, otherwise, the Minute of the meeting be approved.

TOWN TWINNING

(1) STADT GRIMMA, GERMANY

20. With reference to paragraph 7 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 16 May 1996 when the matter of the invitation which had been received from the Burgermeister of Stadt Grimma, Germany to attend 25th Twinning Anniversary celebrations with Bron in October 1996 was remitted to the Committee for further consideration, the Committee resumed consideration of the invitation.

Decided: that the invitation be declined.

(2) MONKLANDS/ST DENIS, PARIS, TWINNING ASSOCIATION

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21. There was submitted a report dated 29 May 1996 by the Director of Administration advising that a request had been received from the Monklands/St Denis Twinning Association for support for a group from St Denis who intended to visit North Lanarkshire between 29 June and 11 July 1996.

Decided:

- for
- (1) that the sum of \$600 be granted to assist the visiting group from St Denis and a civic reception be provided them and the host families;
 - (2) that it be noted that the level of assistance provided on this occasion set no precedent for other visiting groups, and
 - (3) that a report on proposals for assistance to visiting

groups

be brought forward for consideration.

CONFERENCE - LAW AND ORDER IN THE COMMUNITY

22. There was submitted an invitation from the National
Association of Councillors to be represented at a study course entitled
'Law and Order in the Community' to be held in Torquay from 21 to
23 June 1996.

Decided: that the Council be represented at the study course
by one Member.