

APPEALS PANEL.

Minutes of meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,
on 11th September 2013 at 10.00 a.m.

- Present: Councillors Ian Cavana (Chair), John Allan and Ann Galbraith.
- Apologies: Councillors Brian Connolly, Sandra Goldie and John Hampton.
- Attending: W. Carlaw, Legal and Democratic Manager; and D. Knight, Democratic Services Administrator.

1. Declarations of Interest.

There were no declarations of interest by Members of the Panel in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

2. Exclusion of Press and Public.

The Panel resolved, in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, that the press and public be excluded for the following item of business on the agenda, on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information in terms of paragraph 6 of Part 1 of Schedule 7(A) of the Act.

3. Discretionary Rates Relief Appeal.

There were submitted (issued to members only) a summary of the case, correspondence and relevant papers in respect of an application appealing against this Council's withdrawal of discretionary rates relief in respect of a Golf Club.

The parties to the appeal were the appellants, their representatives being Mr. A. Sleight, Levy & McRae, Solicitors and the Council's representatives were Mr. B. Divers, Counsel, Mrs. M. Platt, Solicitor and Ms. M. Coombes, Revenues Officer.

The Appeals Panel heard both parties fully on the appeal against the withdrawal of discretionary rates relief in respect of the Golf Club.

After questions from Members, both parties had the opportunity to sum up and then withdrew from the meeting.

Decided:

- (a) having heard and considered carefully all the documents and evidence presented, to unanimously agree that the grounds of appeal from the Golf Club had not been substantiated and, therefore, the appeal was not upheld; and
- (b) to instruct the Legal and Democratic Manager to write to Levy and McRae advising them of the Appeals Panel's decision within five working days.

Thereafter, both parties were re-admitted to the meeting and advised of the Panel's decision.

The hearing ended at 11.45 a.m.