

**SOUTH AYRSHIRE COUNCIL (SPECIAL).**

Minutes of a special meeting in County Buildings, Wellington Square, Ayr,  
on 1 September 2020 at 10.00 a.m.

Present: Councillors Helen Moonie (Provost), Laura Brennan-Whitefield, Siobhian Brown, Iain Campbell, Ian Cavana, Alec Clark, Peter Convery, Ian Davis, Julie Dettbarn, Martin Dowe, Ian Fitzsimmons, Peter Henderson, Hugh Hunter, Mary Kilpatrick, Derek McCabe, Brian McGinley, Bob Pollock, Philip Saxton, Arthur Spurling and Margaret Toner.

Present Councillors Andy Campbell, Douglas Campbell, Ian Cochrane, Chris Cullen,  
Remotely: William Grant, Lee Lyons and Craig Mackay.

Apology: Councillor Brian Connolly.

Attending: E. Howat, Chief Executive; C. Caves, Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services;  
D. Gillies, Director – Place, J. Nicol, Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards; and J. McClure, Committee Services Lead Officer.

Attending

Remotely: D. Hutchison, Depute Chief Executive and Director – People.

**1. Provost.**

The Provost

- (1) welcomed everyone to the meeting;
- (2) intimated that an apology had been received from Councillor Brian Connolly;
- (3) confirmed that today's meeting was not open to the press and public, which was permissible under the COVID-19 legislation; and
- (4) outlined the procedures for conducting this meeting, including that all votes would be undertaken by means of a roll call for those Members attending remotely.

**2. Sederunt.**

The Chief Executive called the Sederunt for the meeting.

**3. Declarations of Interest.**

Having confirmed that no Member present in County Hall required to declare an interest, the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services then called the roll for those Members attending remotely and confirmed that there were no declarations of interest by Members of the Council in terms of Council Standing Order No. 17 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

#### 4. **Standing Orders Relating to Meetings.**

There was submitted a [report](#) (issued) of 25 August 2020 by the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services seeking approval to amend the Standing Orders Relating to Meetings following review.

Following a concern raised by a Member on the reasons for this amendment to the Standing Orders, the Leader advised that this amendment was to address an anomaly within the Standing Orders and would ensure that future vacancies on Panels could be filled timeously.

The Council

**Decided:** to approve the revised Standing Orders Relating to Meetings (extract contained in Appendix 1) with immediate effect.

#### 5. **Appointments to Panels.**

There was submitted a [report](#) of 25 August 2020 by the Head of Legal, HR and Regulatory Services seeking approval to make alterations to the list of Panels.

The Council

**Decided:** to appoint Councillor Douglas Campbell to the vacant position on the Audit and Governance Panel.

#### 6. **Modified Proposed Replacement South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (MPLDP2).**

There was submitted a [report](#) of 25 August 2020 by the Director – Place advising of the outcome of the recently conducted public consultation exercise undertaken in respect of the modifications agreed by the Council to the Proposed Replacement South Ayrshire Local Development Plan (PLDP2); recommending how to address the representations received; and outlining the next steps in the process towards adoption of the Plan.

The Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards provided an update to Council on the present position and outlined the main modifications to the Proposed Local Development Plan 2.

Comments were made by Members in relation to:-

- (1) the additional flexibility now provided within this document which was welcomed;
- (2) the need for a resolution for the Corton site and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that she was engaging with the land owner and other services and was working to move this matter forward;
- (3) the continuing developments in Monkton and the need for public consultation on these developments and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that whilst planning applications had been received for Monkton, the Council had sought to protect the existing settlements, where appropriate; and that the results of all public consultations undertaken as part of the planning process had been taken into consideration;

- (4) the problems with heavy traffic and flooding in Monkton and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that this would be picked up in the transport assessments associated with any future development proposals;
- (5) concerns that opportunities had been missed throughout the process to boost the economy in rural areas;
- (6) the affordable housing identified for AH2 - Westwood Avenue and the risk of over-developing the area and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that this Council-owned site could provide 25 units, however, as the site was in Council ownership, the appropriateness of its future use could be kept under consideration;
- (7) whether the results of the public consultation on Westwood Avenue would be passed to the Reporter for consideration and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that details of all unresolved objections would be submitted to the Scottish Ministers, along with the Council's response to these; and
- (8) whether the issues raised by SEPA on the MPLDP2 would result in another notifiable change and subsequent delays and the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards advised that she expected that a resolution would be found and that the Service would continue to liaise with SEPA on this.

The Members present in County Hall approved the recommendations in the report but, due to a technical issue, the Members who had joined the meeting remotely were unable to vote and an adjournment was called to resolve these matters.

#### **Adjournment of Meeting.**

The time being 10.45 a.m., the Council adjourned due to external connectivity issues.

#### **Resumption of Meeting.**

Having resolved the connectivity issues, the Council resumed at 11.20 a.m.

Following the adjournment, the Members who had joined the meeting remotely were able to vote and the Council, having commended the Service Lead – Planning and Building Standards and her staff for the work undertaken on this matter,

#### **Decided:**

- (a) to agree to make *no* further notifiable modifications to MPLDP2;
- (b) to note the representations received to MPLDP2 and the associated Addendum to the Report of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (ER Addendum) and agree to submit them to the Scottish Government's Directorate of Planning and Environmental Appeals (DPEA), together with the Council's responses thereto (as set out in [Appendix 1](#) to this report), as part of the evidence base for detailed submissions on unresolved issues, which would be the subject of the formal Examination of the Plan;
- (c) to grant delegated powers to the Director - Place to make any non-notifiable changes to MPLDP2 and the ER Addendum, prior to submission for Examination, to rectify any drafting, graphical or technical errors;

- (d) to agree to submit to the DPEA, all representations received to the original Proposed Plan (PLDP2) and Environmental Report (ER), together with the Council's agreed responses thereto (Appendices 2 and 4 of the report to Council of 24 March, 2020), as part of the evidence base for detailed submissions on unresolved issues, which would be the subject of the formal Examination of the Plan;
- (e) to agree to submit to the DPEA, for Examination, MPLDP2, PLDP2 and all associated documents;
- (f) to agree that MPLDP2 was a material consideration in determining planning applications, with the weight accorded to it increasing as it progressed through the statutory process towards adoption; and
- (g) to request officers to report the outcome of the Examination process, and its implications for the adoption of a replacement local development plan, to the Council, when known.

## 7. **Notice of Motion.**

- (a) A Notice of Motion having been submitted in accordance with Council Standing Order No. 18, Councillor Peter Henderson, seconded by Councillor Brian McGinley, moved:-

“Resettlement of asylum seekers from the Aegean Islands.

Council notes the aims of ‘Europe Must Act’, a movement calling for the decongestion of refugee camps in the Greek Aegean Islands and a humane migration policy in Europe.

Although this issue has disappeared from UK news since 2015, the situation for people living in the Greek island camps is now worse than ever. Basic human rights are being denied, including access to shelter, education and drinking water. People are trapped in the Aegean Islands as a result of an inhumane European migration policy.

A campaign is calling on councils across Europe to make a pledge for the immediate resettlement of asylum seekers from the Aegean hotspot camps. Cities across Europe have already pledged hundreds of places but much more needs to be done.

Scotland and South Ayrshire is justifiably proud of its record in resettling refugees of the Syrian conflict. However, Refugee Resettlement is a reserved matter, so all decisions ultimately sit with the Home Office and we ask that Council require the Home Office to take a humane and welcoming approach to the resettlement of these refugees on the Aegean Islands.

We therefore ask Council to support this campaign by asking the Chief Executive to write to the Home Office, asking the UK government and UNHCR to support the decongestion of the Aegean Island camps and allow UK councils to take inhabitants of these camps as an immediate emergency measure under the new UK Resettlement Scheme.”

A full debate took place regarding the terms of the Motion and the Council

**Decided:** unanimously, to agree the terms of the Motion.

**Councillors Mary Kilpatrick, Lee Lyons and Bob Pollock left the meeting during consideration of the following item:-**

- (b) A Notice of Motion having been submitted in accordance with Council Standing Order No. 18, Councillor Ian Davis, seconded by Councillor Hugh Hunter, moved:-

“This Council asks the Finance and ICT Service to prepare a feasibility report into the livestreaming and/or video recording of public elements of South Ayrshire Council meetings, and publication of such videos on the Council website. The report should set out the technical options available and their financial consequences to the Council, so a paper can be brought back for a decision to be taken by full Council **no later than 31 March 2021** as to whether or not to progress with any identified options.”

The Mover, with the agreement of the Seconder, amended the Motion to include the wording outlined in bold above.

By way of an Amendment, Councillor Mackay, seconded by Councillor Clark, moved:-

“The Council notes the need for accountability and scrutiny by the public of our business and decisions; that along with other local authorities this has been impacted by COVID-19 and our inability to have physical meetings with the public and press in attendance.

Council recognises that, despite exclusion of the public remaining permissible under COVID-19 legislation, work has been done by ICT in recent weeks on how audio and/or video access can be granted to Council meetings for the public and press and, once testing is complete, ICT are requested to present a report to the next Council meeting setting out the detail of the process, associated costs and security for implementing audio and/or video access to Council meetings.”

A full debate took place regarding the terms of the Motion and the Amendment.

A Council Member requested a roll call vote and the Head of Regulatory Services then took the vote by calling the roll as follows:-

Helen Moonie	Amendment
William Grant	Amendment
Laura Brennan-Whitefield	Amendment
Siobhian Brown	Amendment
Andy Campbell	Amendment
Douglas Campbell	Amendment
Iain Campbell	Motion
Ian Cavana	Amendment
Alec Clark	Amendment
Ian Cochrane	Amendment
Peter Convery	Motion
Chris Cullen	Amendment
Ian Davis	Motion
Julie Dettbarn	Amendment
Martin Dowey	Motion
Ian Fitzsimmons	Motion
Peter Henderson	Amendment
Hugh Hunter	Motion

Craig Mackay	Amendment
Derek McCabe	Motion
Brian McGinley	Amendment
Philip Saxton	Amendment
Arthur Spurling	Motion
Margaret Toner	Motion

Fifteen Members voted for the Amendment and nine for the Motion and the Amendment, was subsequently carried and the Council, having commended the Service Lead – ICT Operations, ICT Strategy & Delivery and his staff for their work delivering Council meetings,

**Decided:** to approve the Amendment as follows:-

“The Council notes the need for accountability and scrutiny by the public of our business and decisions; that along with other local authorities this has been impacted by COVID-19 and our inability to have physical meetings with the public and press in attendance.

Council recognises that, despite exclusion of the public remaining permissible under COVID-19 legislation, work has been done by ICT in recent weeks on how audio and/or video access can be granted to Council meetings for the public and press and, once testing is complete, ICT are requested to present a report to the next Council meeting setting out the detail of the process, associated costs and security for implementing audio and/or video access to Council meetings.”

**8. Formal Question.**

The Council noted that no formal questions had been submitted.

The meeting ended at 12.30 p.m.