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MINUTES of MEETING of MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE & THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE held in the COMMITTEE ROOM 1, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2014

Present:

Councillor Rory Colville (Chair)

Councillor Robin Currie
Councillor Donald Kelly
Councillor Donald MacMillan
Councillor John Semple

Councillor Anne Horn
Councillor John McAlpine
Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Sandy Taylor

Attending

Cleland Sneddon

Shirley MacLeod
Alison Leask
Neil McKnight

Jack Heggarty
Callum Robertson
Ishabel Bremner

Hugh Blake

Executive Director
Community Services
Area Governance Manager
Autism Argyll
Head Teacher, Tarbert
Academy
P7 Pupil, Tarbert Academy
Roads Performance Manager
Economic Development
Manager
Asset Manager

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair opened the Meeting, then adjourned for 5 minutes to allow Members to arrive from the Lochgilphead Joint Campus visit.

The meeting re-convened at 11.15a.m.

There were no apologies for absence.

The Chair commended the visit to the Lochgilphead Joint Campus and made the suggestion that Members may wish to consider that the reviewing of school reports be undertaken at the school. This would enable them to see at first hand issues arising from the said reports and also to have an overview of any initiatives being undertaken.

Decision

Members agreed that the Area Governance Manager would take forward the suggestion made in regards scheduling future visits to local schools. She would review this suggestion, deliberate the pros and cons and report back to Members.

The Chair advised that Item 12 – MACC Kintyre Recycling would be withdrawn due to the need for further information and would be considered at a future Area Committee meeting.

Matters Arising

Councillor Kelly again raised water issues in Saddell Street and questioned the status of the outstanding update in relation to this issue.

The Area Governance Manager advised that Joanna Peebles, new Scottish Water would be attending the MAKI Community Planning Group meeting on 5 March.

Councillor Currie enquired why Broadband was not an item on the February Area Committee Agenda. The Area Governance Manager replied that the item had been discussed at the January Business meeting and that a Seminar on Broadband issues was being scheduled for Members on 17 March.

Councillor Horn advised that the issues she had previously raised on ACHA maintenance had been resolved.

Councillor McAlpine requested clarity that in regards the provision of pedestrian crossings in Tarbert and Ardrishaig at item 7 of the minute it had been confirmed that one of these projects would be progressed this financial year.

Decision

Members requested that Joanna Peebles be invited to the MAKI Business Day meeting on 5 March to respond to Members questions and noted that ACHA will also be in attendance at this meeting to discuss maintenance issues.

Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of the following:-

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES

(a) MINUTE OF MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE - 4/12/2013

The Minute of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2013 was approved as a true and correct record.

(b) MINUTE OF SPECIAL MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE MEETING - 13/12/2013

The Minute of the previous meeting held on 13 December 2013 was approved as a true and correct record.

(c) MINUTE OF SPECIAL MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS AREA COMMITTEE - 8/1/2014

The Minute of the previous meeting held on 8 January 2014 was approved as a true and correct record.

4. AUTISM ARGYLL

The Committee heard a presentation from Alison Leask, Autism Scotland.

The Chair thanked Alison Leask for her informative presentation and invited Members to ask questions.

The Chair enquired if funding was available for 1:1 tuition in all schools. The Executive Director of Community Services clarified that tuition was dependant on individual needs and prior assessment determined the level of specialist support. He explained that the established procedure was that applications for individual tuition were submitted to Local Authorities and this was dependent on staff availability. The costs for this service provision were considerable and the Executive Director highlighted the additional funding which had been which apportioned for this service.

Members commended the work which had been undertaken by Autism Argyll, and in particular Alison Leask, recognised the extent of the considerable problems they were encountering.

Decision

Members agreed:

1. To note the presentation and update.
2. To note their intent and wishes for regular reports to be brought to future meetings of the Community Services Committee and asked Councillor Philand to progress this in his role as a Policy Lead.

5. SECONDARY SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE AND ATTAINMENT - TARBERT ACADEMY

The Committee heard a presentation and considered a report by the Head Teacher.

Tarbert Academy, including input from Jack Heggarty P7 pupil.

The Chair invited Members to submit questions to the Head Teacher and discussion followed in regards new Benchmarking reports which would be in place for the next year. Members also praised the excellent school leavers destinations results for the school and commended the work and endeavours being undertaken by both pupils and staff.

The Chair thanked both Mr McKnight and Jack Heggarty for their presentation and updates and suggested that Members visit Tarbert Academy in the near future.

Decision

Members agreed to note the presentation and report.

(Reference: Report by Head Teacher dated 5 February 2014, submitted).

6. PUBLIC AND COUNCILLORS QUESTION TIME

The Chair invited questions from Members and the public in attendance at the meeting.

Councillor Kelly outlined the lack of water pressure in Southend and requested that the Committee supported this request for Scottish Water to attend the March Business Day and provide an update in regards water problems in Campbeltown and various Kintyre communities.

Councillor Philand questioned the continuing non-attendance of BEAR at Area Committee meetings to answer Members questions on A83 Trunking issues.

Decision

The Committee agreed:

1. That Joanna Peebles, Scottish Water be asked to attend the March Business Day to respond to Members questions.
2. That the Head of Roads and Amenity Services would be requested to attend the March Business Day to discuss and identify effective communication methods between elected Members, officers of the Council and representatives from BEAR.

7. GM DUNCAN BEQUEST FUND

The Committee gave consideration to a report which outlined the current arrangements for the distribution of the G.M. Duncan bequest and to the recommendations being presented for the future operation of the bequest.

Decision

Members agreed:-

1. To note the report; and
2. To increase the award to £25.00 from 2014 onwards; and
3. To limit access to household in receipt of £100 per week per person or less; and
4. To notify applicants that cross-checking would be undertaken with other outside bodies; and
5. That publicity would be instigated in the Campbeltown area to advise of the changes being made to the Bequest fund scheme; and
6. To write to all appropriate merchants in the Bequest area seeking their agreement to participation in the revised Voucher Scheme.

(Reference: Report by Area Governance Manager, dated 5 February 2014, submitted)

8. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OF MODEL SHIP, MV HESPERSUS, FROM ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL TO OBAN WAR & PEACE MUSEUM

The Committee gave consideration to a report which outlined the case for transferring ownership of the model ship, MV Hesperus, from Argyll and Bute Council to Oban War & Peace Museum and highlighted the connection to Oban and its maritime history of the MV Hesperus.

Decision

Members agreed to the note the report and approve the transfer of ownership of the model ship, MV Hesperus, from Argyll and Bute Council to Oban War & Peace Museum.

(Reference: Report by the Executive Director of Community Services, dated 5 February 2014, submitted).

9. ROADS ISSUES

Members gave consideration to a report providing information on the road maintenance revenue activities being delivered in 2013/14.

Members raised concerns to the following:-

Need for white lining in areas whereby the lining has considerably faded
Levels of salt utilities for winter maintenance
Funding level apportioned towards emergency incidents

The Roads Performance Manager explained the difficulties in obtaining the services of a contractor to undertake the white lining contract. He reported that whilst the winter had not been unduly severe, the weather had been problematic and the salt levels had been utilised by operatives undertaking 'border line' activities.

He confirmed that the funding currently in place for emergency incidents was not sufficient and would be eroded by recent weather incidents.

Decision

Members agreed to note the report.

(Reference: Report by Head of Roads and Amenity Services, dated 14 January 2014, submitted).

10. MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTION PLAN 2013-2018

Members gave consideration to a report detailing the proposed Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Economic Development Action Plan (EDAP) for the period 2013-2018.

Discussion ensued in regards to engagement with local businesses in the development of the plan and establishment of success measures and achievable

aspirations which were realistic and deliverable.

Decision

Members agreed:

1. To approve the structure of the Area EDAP for the 5 year period 2013-2018; and
2. That a further developmental workshop for elected Members would be held to further refine and develop the plan; and.
3. That the Area EDAP would be shared with the full MAKI Community Planning Group, local business community, Mid Argyll Partnership (MAP) and Kintyre Initiative Working Group (KIWG) to enable further consultation in the development and compilation of a smarter and more tailored Plan; and
4. That the amended Plan would come to the MAKI Area Committee in April; for further consideration; and
5. That an invitation would be made to the Kilmartin Museum to make a presentation at a future Area Committee meeting.

(Reference: Report by Economic Development Manager, dated 5 February 2014, submitted).

Councillor Sandy Taylor left the meeting at 1.30p.m.

The Chair ruled, and the Committee agreed, to adjourn the meeting for lunch at 1.30p.m. and reconvene at 1.45p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 1.45p.m.

11. ITEM TRACKER

The Committee gave consideration to the Item Tracker.

Decision

Members agreed:

1. To note the Item Tracker
2. That the following changes be made:
 - a. Inclusion of regular updates on the new Campbeltown Grammar School
 - b. Amend the Economic Development Transformation Project for MAKI – resubmission to April Area Committee

(Reference: Item Tracker, submitted).

12. MID ARGYLL, KINTYRE AND THE ISLANDS MEETING CYCLE

Members gave consideration to a report which outlined the proposed cycle of meetings within the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands area from April 2014 to

April 2015.

Motion

To agree that the Community Centre in Campbeltown be used in the short term for future MAKI Area Committee, Community Planning Group and Business Day meetings.

Moved by Councillor Donald Kelly, seconded by Councillor Rory Colville.

Amendment

To agree that a suitable location be sourced in Campbeltown which adhered to the political management arrangements recently agreed by the Council.

Moved by Councillor John Semple, seconded by Councillor Anne Horn

Decision

The Motion was carried by 5 votes to 2 and the Committee resolved accordingly

Further discussion followed in regards the venue for the June Area Committee and Community Planning Group meetings and the timings of future Winter meetings.

Decision

Members agreed:

1. That the venue for the June Area Committee and Community Planning Group meeting would be Islay; and
2. That a visit by Members to Islay High School would be scheduled to be incorporate into the timetable for the day; and
3. That future Winter meetings held in November, December January and February would convene at 10.30a.m.; and
4. That the venue for the October Area Committee meeting would be Tarbert, and that a visit to Tarbert Academy would be scheduled for the day of the Area Committee meeting.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services, dated 5 February, 2014, submitted).

(COMMENT) THE COMMITTEE RESOLVED IN TERMS OF SECTION 50(A)

The Committee resolved in terms of Section 50(A)(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 to exclude the public for the following item of business on the grounds that it was likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A to the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

13. MACC - KINTYRE RECYCLING

Decision

Members agreed that this report would be withdrawn due to the need for further information and would be considered at a future Council meeting..

14. CLOCK LODGE, LOCHGILPHEAD

Members gave consideration to a report which updated on proposals by the Lochgilphead Phoenix Project to renovate the Clock Lodge.

Decision

Members agreed to the recommendations detailed at 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3 of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services, dated 5 February 2014, submitted).

15. CARRADALE HARBOUR

The Committee gave consideration to a report which updated on the proposals by Network Carradale Ltd and Carradale Harbour Group (CHG) to construct a new slipway at Carradale Harbour.

Decision

Members agreed to the recommendations detailed at 2.1 of the report.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 5 February, 2014, submitted)

16. LAND AT OAKFIELD, TARBERT

The Committee gave consideration to a report seeking Members approval to the disposal of Council owned land at Oakfield, Tarbert to the Argyll Community Housing Association (ACHA).

Decision

Members agreed to the recommendations contained within the report at 2.1 and 2.2 and to the inclusion of an additional recommendation agreed unanimously by the Committee.

(Reference: Report by Executive Director Customer Services, dated 8 January 2014, submitted)

E4 Paragraph 8 The amount of any expenditure proposed to be incurred by the authority under any particular contract for the acquisition of property or the supply of goods or services.

E1, E2, E3 and E4 Paragraph 9 Any terms proposed or to be proposed by or to the authority in the course of negotiations for a contract for the acquisition or disposal of property or the supply of goods or services.

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