

**MINUTES of SPECIAL MEETING of ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL held in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, KILMORY, LOCHGILPHEAD on THURSDAY, 21 FEBRUARY 2019**

**Present:** Councillor Len Scoullar (Chair)

Councillor Jim Anderson	Councillor Roderick McCuish
Councillor John Armour	Councillor Yvonne McNeilly
Councillor Gordon Blair	Councillor Barbara Morgan
Councillor Rory Colville	Councillor Ellen Morton
Councillor Robin Currie	Councillor Aileen Morton
Councillor Mary-Jean Devon	Councillor Gary Mulvaney
Councillor Lorna Douglas	Councillor Iain Paterson
Councillor Jim Findlay	Councillor Alastair Redman
Councillor George Freeman	Councillor Alan Reid
Councillor Audrey Forrest	Councillor Elaine Robertson
Councillor Bobby Good	Councillor Richard Trail
Councillor Kieron Green	Councillor Sandy Taylor
Councillor Anne Horn	Councillor Douglas Philand
Councillor Donald Kelly	Councillor Andrew Vennard
Councillor Donald MacMillan	Councillor Jean Moffat
Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor	Councillor Jim Lynch
Councillor David Kinniburgh	Councillor Graham Archibald Hardie

**Attending:** Cleland Sneddon, Chief Executive  
Douglas Hendry, Executive Director of Customer Services  
Anne Paterson, Head of Education  
Louise Connor, Head of Education  
Pippa Milne, Executive Director of Development and Infrastructure  
Charles Reppke, Head of Governance and Law  
Kirsty Flanagan, Head of Strategic Finance  
Joanna MacDonald, Chief Officer, Health and Social Care Partnership

Prior to the start of the meeting the Provost announced that he was delighted to welcome Councillor Sir Jamie McGrigor back after his recent illness and wished him well.

The Provost received a petition from Councillor Jim Findlay by the organisers, Bute Community Council and Isobel Strong; Standing up for Bute. The petition had been signed by 1790 people and is a representation against, inter alia, the removal of the Bute name of the official Council Strapline, the non inclusion of Bute in the Live Argyll Leisure Trust.

The Provost congratulated Councillor Donnie MacMillan who had been awarded the British Empire Medal in this year's New Year's Honours List for services to local government. Donnie has served Argyll and Bute as a local Councillor for nearly 35 years through challenging times for local government.

The Provost also congratulated Council employee Alick Livingstone who had been awarded the British Empire Medal in this year's New Year's Honours List for services

and dedication to HM Coastguard. Alick has served with the coastguard for 42 years and is due to retire from the Council's street cleansing department this year.

### **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was intimated from Councillor Julie McKenzie.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

Councillor Mulvaney declared a non-financial interest in Item 5 (Standards Commission Hearing) as he was named in the Commission report. He left the room prior to the discussion of this item and took no part in the decision.

Councillor A Morton also advised of an indirect interest in Item 3 (Review of Polling Districts/Places) which she regarded as insignificant in respect of the item.

### **3. REVIEW OF POLLING DISTRICTS / POLLING PLACES 2018/20**

The Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 required Argyll and Bute Council to undertake a review, between the dates of 1 October 2018 and 31 January 2020, of polling districts and polling places within the Argyll and Bute UK Parliamentary Constituency for the purposes of UK Parliamentary, Scottish Parliamentary and Local Government elections. The Council considered the revised scheme of polling districts and polling places as outlined in the Appendices to the report.

#### **Decision**

- a) Noted that polling districts and polling places will continue to be reviewed on an on-going basis by the Returning Officer to whom authority has already been delegated to make alterations in response to changing circumstances;
- b) Noted that under the provisions of the Electoral Registration and Administration Act 2013 a further formal review of polling districts and polling places will require to be carried out by the end of January 2025 and on a 5 yearly basis thereafter;
- c) Approved the scheme of polling districts and polling places detailed in Appendix 1;
- d) Noted the representations received during the consultation period detailed in Appendix 2 together with the Returning Officer comments thereon.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 14 January 2019, submitted)

### **4. REVIEW OF SECTION 43[A] OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (S) ACT 1997 SCHEME OF DELEGATIONS**

The Council considered a recommendation by the Planning, Protective Services and Licensing Committee with regard to reviewing the current Scheme with no changes to that which currently operates. Consent has been approved by the Scottish Ministers to the Council adopting the scheme as recommended by the PPSL Committee.

#### **Decision**

The Council agreed to renew the current Scheme with no changes to that which currently operates which will come into force from 23 April 2019.

(Ref: Recommendation by the PPSL Committee of 21 February 2019 and report to that Committee, submitted)

**5. ETHICAL STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE (SCOTLAND) ACT 2000 - STANDARDS COMMISSION HEARING**

The Council considered a report from the Standards Commission for Scotland in regard to a decision of the Hearing Panel of the Commission following a hearing on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2019, which found a contravention of the Councillors Code of Conduct by, and imposed a censure on, Councillor Gary Mulvaney.

**Decision**

The Council noted the detail of the Commission's report, further noted that Councillor Mulvaney had not sought to appeal the Panel's decision or the sanction imposed, and agreed that no further action be taken by the Council.

(Ref: Report by Executive Director of Customer Services dated 31 January 2019, submitted)

**E1 6. COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF ABSENCE**

This item was withdrawn.