

MINUTE of MEETING of the WEST LOTHIAN COUNCIL held within Council Chambers, Civic Centre, Livingston, on 18 April 2017.

Present – Provost Tom Kerr (Chair); Depute Provost Dave King, Council Leader John McGinty. Councillors Frank Anderson, Stuart Borrowman, Tony Boyle, William Boyle, Diane Calder, Harry Cartmill, Tom Conn, Alexander Davidson, Robert De Bold, Jim Dickson, Mary Dickson, Jim Dixon, David Dodds, Lawrence Fitzpatrick, Carl John, Peter Johnston, Sarah King, Danny Logue, Greg McCarra, Anne McMillan, Andrew Miller, John Muir, Cathy Muldoon, George Paul, David Tait, Frank Toner, Jim Walker

Apologies – Councillor Janet Campbell

Absent – Councillors Angela Moohan, Barry Robertson

1. ORDER OF BUSINESS, INCLUDING NOTICE OF URGENT BUSINESS AND DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST IN ANY URGENT BUSINESS

The Provost informed the Council that, at the end of the meeting, he would make closing remarks and present gifts to the seven councillors that were not standing for election on 4 May 2017.

2. MINUTES

- (a) The Council approved the minute of meeting of West Lothian Council held on 7 March 2017.
- (b) The Council noted the correspondence arising from previous decisions.
- (c) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 19 December 2016.
- (d) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 20 January 2017.
- (e) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Employee Appeals Committee held on 17 February 2017.
- (f) The Council noted the minute of meeting of the Education (Quality Assurance) Committee held on 31 January 2017.

3. RECORDING AND BROADCASTING COUNCIL MEETINGS - AMENDMENT TO STANDING ORDERS

The Council considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Chief Executive seeking approval to amend Standing Orders to enable the audio recording and broadcasting of meetings of full council.

The report recalled that currently the council's Standing Orders for the Regulation of Meetings stated that no form of audio or visual recording, photography or transmission of the proceedings of any council, committee or sub-committee meeting would be allowed, unless the meeting so agreed.

The Council was informed that, on 22 November 2016, Council Executive instructed officers to investigate the feasibility and cost of broadcasting full council meetings from the start of the new council term in May 2017. Officers reported to PDSP on 17 March 2017, outlining the options explored and their advantages and disadvantages. Following discussions at that meeting, recommendations were made to Council Executive on 28 March and these were unanimously accepted. The recommendations were:-

- To note the information provided about methods and costs of recording and broadcasting council meetings.
- To agree that Option 3 in Appendix 1 should be implemented, whereby meetings of full council taking place in the Council Chambers in the Civic Centre were recorded (audio only) and broadcast over the internet using a commercial service.
- To note that action would be required to procure the service, to ensure that procedures were in place to comply with data protection rules and the council's public sector equality duty and to amend Standing Orders for the Regulation of Meetings
- To instruct officers to proceed with those actions with a view to introduce the service as soon as reasonably practicable after the council elections on 4 May 2017.

Changes to Standing Orders were now required to give effect to the decision of the Council Executive. The proposed changes were shown in the appendix to the work.

Finally, it was noted that work was underway in relation to the other issues noted in the decision of Council Executive, and the new arrangements would be introduced as soon as practicable should the recommendations be approved.

The Council was recommended to:-

1. Amend the council's Standing Orders for the Regulation of Meetings as shown in the appendix to the report.
2. Note that the new arrangements would be introduced as soon as practicable after the elections on 4 May 2017.

Decision

To approve the terms of the report.

4. NOTICE OF MOTION - WEST LoTHIAN PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP - SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL LEADER JOHN MCGINTY

The Council considered a motion submitted by Council Leader John McGinty in the following terms:-

“West Lothian Council notes that West Lothian Prostate Cancer Support Group recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of their establishment as a West Lothian group.

Council recognises the outstanding work of the group and the excellence of the vital services that the West Lothian Prostate Cancer Support Group provides to West Lothian prostate cancer patients and their families.

Council therefore agrees to continue to support the work of the West Lothian Prostate Cancer Support Group, thanks and commends Charlie Hogg and his team on all they do to support prostate cancer patients in West Lothian, and asks the Provost to write to the West Lothian Prostate Cancer Support group to formally congratulate them on the occasion of their 10th anniversary.”

Moved by Councillor John McGinty.

Decision

To unanimously approve the terms of the motion.

5. DOCUMENTS FOR EXECUTION

The Chief Solicitor presented 105 documents for execution.

Decision

That the deeds be executed.

6. NEW BUILD PROGRAMME - QUESTIONS TO SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY EXECUTIVE MEMBER - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

A written question to the Services for the Community Executive Member had been submitted by Councillor Anderson in the following terms:-

Sites	No. of Units
Adelaide Street	6
Community Centre Pumpherston	14

Auldhill Bridgend	5
Glasgow Road, Bathgate	9
West Main Street, Broxburn	18
Philipstoun Bowling Green	5
Redhouse	100
Kirkhill	230
Almond Link Road	20
Lammermuir	44
Eastfield, Fauldhouse	40
Mill Road, Linlithgow	15
Raw Holdings	15
Bathville Cross	18
Mayfield, Armadale	22
Drumshoreland, Pumpherston	86
Appleton Parkway, Eliburn	10
Almondell, Calderwood	36
Wester Inch, Bathgate	86
Deans South	117
Almondvale Stadium	37
Nelson, Park, Armadale	26
Winchburgh CDA	41
Total	1000

Above are listed the New Build programme of the current Tory/Labour administration. Could the Executive member tell us for each site how many of the houses have been built and occupied by tenants. Also are there any sites which have not been started, 5 years after the promise to build 1000 houses.

The Services for the Community Executive Member provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Councillor Anderson indicated that he wished to put supplementary questions as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so and the Executive Member provided verbal answers to the supplementary questions.

Decision

1. To note the written questions put and verbal answers given.
2. To note the supplementary questions put and verbal answers given.

7. RENTS - QUESTIONS TO SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY EXECUTIVE MEMBER - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

A written question to Services for the Community Executive Member had been submitted by Councillor Anderson in the following terms:-

“How many tenants have written to the Executive Member in the past 5

years asking for their rent to be increased? If he has received any requests, could he detail for us the %age increase the tenants requested?"

The Services for the Community Executive Member provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Councillor Anderson intimated that he wished to put a supplementary question as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so and the Executive Councillor provided a verbal answer to the supplementary question.

Decision

1. To note the written questions put and verbal answers given.
2. To note the supplementary question put (which was a repeat of the original written question) and that Councillor Paul would provide Councillor Anderson with a response to the supplementary question outwith the meeting.

8. PV PANELS - QUESTIONS TO SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY EXECUTIVE MEMBER - SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON

A written question to the Services for the Community Executive Member had been submitted by Councillor Anderson in the following terms:-

"How many Council houses, in Blackburn, have PV panels fitted?

On average, in financial terms, how much has each tenant saved since they were installed (assuming 50% usage), and how much has the Council received?

If we had fitted 3000 homes with PV panels in 2013, financially what would have been the savings for those tenants and what would have accrued to the Council (assuming 50% usage)."

The Services for the Community Executive Member provided a verbal answer to the written question.

Councillor Anderson intimated that he wished to put supplementary questions as provided for in Standing Orders. He did so and the Executive Member provided verbal answers to the supplementary questions."

Decision

1. To note the written questions put and verbal answers given.
2. To note the supplementary questions put and verbal answers given.

9. PROVOST'S CLOSING REMARKS

Livingston Football Club

The Provost referred to the recent success of Livingston Football Club. On behalf of the Council, he congratulated Livingston FC on winning Scottish League One and on their promotion to the Scottish Championship.

Retiring Councillors

Councillor Johnston paid tribute to the seven councillors that were not standing for election in May 2017. He thanked each of the councillors for their efforts over the 5 year period and wished them well for the future.

Council Leader John McGinty paid tribute to the seven councillors that were not standing for election in May 2017 and also to former councillors Martyn Day and Isabel Hutton. He thanked the councillors and also thanked the Provost, the Corporate Management Team and council officers for their commitment and co-operation over the 5 year period.

The Provost echoed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Johnston and the Council Leader.