

SOUTH LANARKSHIRE COUNCIL

Minutes of special meeting held in Committee Room 1, Council Offices, Almada Street, Hamilton on 7 September 2011

Chair:

Provost Russell Clearie

Councillors Present:

Alex Allison, John Anderson, David Baillie, Eileen Baxendale, Walter Brogan, Archie Buchanan, Jackie Burns, John Cairney, Andy Carmichael, Pam Clearie, Peter Craig, Maureen Devlin, Hugh Dunsmuir, Douglas Edwards, Beith Forrest (Depute), Bev Gauld, Tommy Gilligan, Ian Gray, Jim Handibode, Bill Holman, Graeme Horne, Bobby Lawson, Eileen Logan, Brian McCaig, Brian McKenna, Denis McKenna, Davie McLachlan, John McNamee, Mary McNeill, Anne Maggs, James Malloy, Archie Manson, Danny Meikle, Alice Marie Mitchell, Henry Mitchell, John Murray, Patrick Ross-Taylor, Alan Scott, Graham Scott, David Shearer, Mary Smith, Hamish Stewart, George Sutherland, Chris Thompson, Richard Tullett, Jim Wardhaugh, Sheena Wardhaugh, David Watson

Councillors' Apologies:

Graeme Campbell, Gordon Clark, Gerry Convery, Jim Docherty, Barry Douglas, Allan Falconer, Lynn Filshie, Anne Higgins, Joe Lowe, Edward McAvoy, Clare McColl, Lesley McDonald, Jim McGuigan, Alex McInnes, Jean McKeown, Graham Simpson, Bert Thomson, Pat Watters

Attending:

Community Resources

N Anderson, Executive Director; S Kelly, Head of Facilities, Fleet and Grounds Services

Education Resources

L Forde, Executive Director

Enterprise Resources

C McDowall, Executive Director

Finance and Corporate Resources

P Manning, Executive Director; R Lake, Head of Administration Services

Social Work Resources

H Stevenson, Executive Director

Provost's Opening Remarks

The Provost, on behalf of the members of the Council, congratulated Paul Manning on his appointment to the post of Executive Director (Finance and Corporate Resources).

1 Declaration of Interests

No interests were declared.

2 Designation of Burial Ground - Lanark and Carnwath

A report dated 24 August 2011 by the Executive Director (Community Resources) was submitted advising that, in terms of Section 9 of the Burial Grounds (Scotland) Act 1855, the Chief Executive had received a requisition signed by Councillors Gauld and McNeill to convene a special meeting of the Council for the purpose of determining whether one or more burial grounds should be provided within the areas of Lanark and Carnwath in the area of South Lanarkshire.

In terms of the 1855 Act, the Council had a statutory responsibility to ensure that there was suitable cemetery capacity in its area. Particular capacity issues had been identified at both Lanark and Carnwath Cemeteries where it was estimated that all available lairs would be used within 1½ years and 1 year respectively.

An assessment of potential sites had been made and the following 2 sites had been identified as suitable to enable the Council to meet its statutory responsibility:-

- ◆ an area of ground at Springbank Farm, Lanark as detailed on the plan attached as Appendix 1 to the report
- ◆ an area of ground adjacent to the existing Carnwath Cemetery as detailed on the plan attached as Appendix 2 to the report

It was, therefore, proposed that the areas be designated as burial ground and that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, if appropriate, be authorised to conclude all matters on terms which were in the best interests of the Council.

Capacity issues had also been identified at Strathaven and Larkhall Cemeteries and work was ongoing to allow the Council to meet its statutory responsibility at those locations. Further reports in relation to those 2 areas would be submitted at the appropriate time.

The Council decided:

- (1) that the areas of ground at Springbank Farm, Lanark and adjacent to the existing Carnwath Cemetery, as detailed on the plans attached as appendices to the report, be designated as burial ground; and
- (2) that the Executive Director (Enterprise Resources), in consultation with the Head of Legal Services, if appropriate, be authorised to conclude all matters on terms which were in the best interests of the Council.

[Reference: Minutes of 28 May 2009 (Paragraph 2); Minutes of Finance and Information Technology Resources Committee of 29 March 2011 (Paragraph 7) and Minutes of Planning Committee of 21 June 2011 (Paragraph 17)]