

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 7 September 2011 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant, K Baird, L Caddell, I Campbell, C Gillies, T Gray, W Lumsden (substituting for Councillor B Ellis), M Lyle, H McDonald, P Mulheron, L Simpson, and A Younger.

In Attendance: K McNamara, A Clegg, B Clough, R Smith, A Godfrey, B Renton, P Dickson and J Pritchard (all the Environment Service); C Flynn and P Frazer (both Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors B Ellis and D Scott.

Councillor A Grant, Convener, Presiding.

491. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C Gillies declared a non-financial interest in Art. 494, in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

492. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee of 8 June 2011 (Arts 324-337) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

493. RATIONALISATION OF PLAY AREA PROVISION IN PERTH AND KINROSS (ART. 332)

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (11/442) outlining a proposal to reduce the over provision of play areas in parts of Perth and Kinross to ensure consistency in play area provision and to assist other play areas to be maintained to the required standard.

Motion (Councillor A Grant and P Mulheron) moved that the proposal outlined in Report 11/442 be approved.

- (i) The closure of 19 equipped play areas, as set out in Appendix 1 to Report 11/442, currently provided and maintained by the Council be approved.**
- (ii) It be noted that consultation with local members had informed the selected sites.**
- (iii) The remaining 151 play areas to meet the Play Strategy Standards, be maintained.**

Amendment (Councillors I Campbell and K Baird) – The proposal to close the 19 Play Areas be rejected and the budget for maintenance costs be reinstated.

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Amendment – 5 votes

Motion – 7 votes

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

A Motion by Councillor C Gillies that the recommendations in Report 11/442 be refused failed to secure a Secunder and the Motion accordingly fell.

494. DRAFT PERTH LADE MANAGEMENT PLAN 2011-2031

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (11/443): (1) outlining the Draft Perth Lade Management Plan 2011 – 2031; (2) setting out relevant Council duties together with a future programme of maintenance and improvements; and (3) recommending that public consultation be carried out prior to being submitted to Committee for approval.

Resolved:

- (i) The Draft Perth Lade Management Plan 2011-2031 be approved for public consultation.
- (ii) Following public consultation the finalised Perth Lade Management Plan 2011-2031 be submitted for approval by the Committee.

495. ALMONDBANK FLOOD PROTECTION SCHEME

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (11/444) providing an update on the progress of the Almondbank Flood Protection Scheme and recommending that the scheme be published under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress on, and revisions to, the proposed Almondbank Flood Protection Scheme be noted.
- (ii) It be noted that the revised scheme was put to public consultation in June and July 2011 and received general approval.
- (iii) The Scheme be published under the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009.
- (iv) Subject to the scheme being confirmed under the 2009 Act, and funding being clarified, it be agreed that the consultants be re-engaged to progress the detailed design.
- (v) It be agreed that officers explore with Scottish Government, the future funding arrangements for Flood Protection Schemes.

496. CONSIDERATION OF CHANGES TO THE DELIVERY OF BEREAVEMENT SERVICES

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (11/445): outlining (1) a number of options for the future of the management and operation of Perth Crematorium; (2) a recommendation that Services be retained in-house; and (3) recommended changes to the way Bereavement Services are delivered to increase efficiency.

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Motion (Councillors I Campbell and K Baird) – The recommendations in Report 11/445 be accepted with the exception of (iii) in relation to the environmental levy on which a decision be deferred until more information on budgets was available.

Amendment (Councillor A Grant and A Younger):

- (i) Management and operation of Perth Crematorium remain with the Council.
- (ii) A spend to save business case be prepared for approval by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee to provide funding for the introduction of mercury abatement and the replacement and cyclical maintenance of the cremators at the Crematorium into the foreseeable future.
- (iii) An environment levy in the region of £100 per cremation, the exact amount of which to be determined by the Council at its budget meeting in February 2012, be introduced from 1 April 2012 to fund the above works.
- (iv) The Crematorium no longer be open on Saturday mornings.
- (v) From 1 November 2011, coffin or casket internments be no longer offered on Saturday mornings.
- (vi) A review be undertaken over the next 12 months of the way the garden is managed, developed and presented and memorials are sold.
- (vii) Request that the Depute Director (Environment) investigate options for volunteers to open the Crematorium on Saturday mornings and submit a report to a future Committee.

Amendment – 8 votes

Motion – 4 votes

Resolved:

In accordance with the Amendment.

497. COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT CHALLENGE FUND

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (11/446): (1) introducing the Council's new Community Environment Challenge Fund which, subject to Committee approval, would be open to communities across Perth and Kinross to apply for this year; and (2) setting out the criteria and process for awarding grants from the fund and the timescales for the money to be spent.

Resolved:

The scope, criteria and process for managing a new Community Environment Challenge Fund, as set out in Report 11/446, be agreed.

498. PERTH AND KINROSS OUTDOOR ACCESS FORUM

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (11/447): (1) summarising the activities and progress to date of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor

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Access Forum; (2) recommending the appointment of two new members; and (3) reappointment of members to be retained.

Resolved:

- (i) The appointment of two new members W Lindsay and R Payne, representing the Landowner/Manager Group and the Recreation Group, and reappointment of one existing member, N Cole, representing the Community Group, to the Forum for a period of three years, as recommended in Appendix 1 to Report 11/447, be confirmed.
- (ii) All other members to be retained in their appointment for at least a further year as detailed in Appendix 2 to Report 11/447, be confirmed.
- (iii) The Executive Director (Environment) be given delegated powers to fill any casual vacancy arising in this period through recruitment by Forum members, as detailed within the Terms of Reference (7.5) approved by Committee on 3 June 2009.
- (iv) The activities and progress of the Perth and Kinross Outdoor Access Forum from June 2010 to date be noted.
- (v) The change in representative from Scottish Natural Heritage within the Agencies and Other Bodies category, as shown in Appendix 3 to Report 11/447, be noted.

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