

PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Minute of Meeting of Perth and Kinross Council held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 26 September 2007 at 2.00pm.

Present: Provost J Hulbert, Councillors W Wilson, K Baird, R Band, M Barnacle, P Barrett, L Caddell, I Campbell, J Coburn, A Cowan, B Ellis, J Flynn, A Gaunt, C Gillies, A Grant, E Grant, G Hayton, A Jack, J Law, W Lumsden, K Lyall, E Maclachlan, A MacLellan, H McDonald, D Melloy, I Miller, S Miller, P Mulheron, M Roberts, C Shiers, L Simpson, A Stewart, H Stewart, B Vaughan, A Wylie and A Younger.

Also Attending: B Malone (Chief Executive); J Irons (Depute Chief Executive); G Taylor, T Yule and J Dickson (all Chief Executive's); G Stevenson (Executive Director – Corporate Services); D Montgomery (Interim Executive Director (Education & Children's Services); G Fogg (Corporate Services) and E Scott (The Environment Service).

Provost Hulbert, Presiding

Prior to the commencement of business Provost Hulbert reported on the Beautiful Scotland 2007 awards and advised that Perth had won the Large Town Trophy; Scotlandwell had won the Lady Jane Grosvenor Wee Village Trophy; Pitlochry, the Horticultural Award; Comrie, the Permanent Landscaping Award; Scotlandwell, the CIWM Scottish Centre Cleanliness Award; Perth and Kinross Council won the ISPAL Scotland Trophy; Comrie, the Scottish Natural Heritage Biodiversity Award and Blackford, the Most Improved Village. On behalf of the Council he congratulated all those involved.

599. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillor L Simpson declared a financial interest in Art. 600.

THE PROVOST RULED THAT IN HIS OPINION THE FOLLOWING ITEM SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS A MATTER OF URGENCY IN TERMS OF SECTION 50(B) (4) (b) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1973 DUE TO THE TIMESCALES INVOLVED.

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON WITHDREW FROM THE CHAMBERS AT THIS POINT.

600. WITHDRAWAL OF POSTAL COLLECTIONS BY ROYAL MAIL ON SUNDAYS AND BANK HOLIDAYS

The Council considered an emergency motion by Councillors I Miller and G Hayton on the subject of the proposal by Royal Mail to withdraw postal collections on Sundays and bank holidays with effect from 28 October 2007.

Resolved:

- (1) This Council deplores the withdrawing of postal collections by Royal Mail on Sundays and bank holidays with effect from 28 October 2007. This move has been agreed by Postcomm, the Postal Services Regulator established by the UK Government and is another example of the Government's attempts to undermine the quality of postal services throughout the country. This has been carried out without due consultation or proper information to users.

The reduction in service is likely to have a serious impact throughout Perth and Kinross but particularly in rural areas.

- (2) This Council write to Postcomm and the Prime Minister, MPs and MSPs to register our deep concern at this situation.

COUNCILLOR SIMPSON REJOINED THE MEETING AT THIS POINT.

601. NOTICE OF MOTION IN TERMS OF STANDING ORDER 26

“Choosing Scotland’s Future: A National Conversation”

In terms of Standing Order 26, the Council considered the following Motion by Councillors A Stewart and A MacLellan on the subject of the publication by the Scottish Government of the document “Choosing Scotland’s Future: A National Conversation”.

Resolved:

- (1) Perth and Kinross Council notes that the SNP minority government in the Scottish Parliament published a White Paper entitled “Choosing Scotland’s Future: A National Conversation” on 14 August 2007 which is designed to examine Scotland’s constitutional options and to further the SNP’s central objective of breaking up the United Kingdom.
- (2) Given that there is no mandate for breaking up the United Kingdom within the Scottish Parliament, we believe that the large sums of taxpayers’ money which are involved in publishing and promoting this White Paper would be much better spent on public services many of which would be of direct benefit to the people of Perth and Kinross.

Note: Members of the Scottish National Party present, being Provost J Hulbert, Councillors R Band, J Coburn, B Ellis, A Grant, E Grant, J Law, W Lumsden, K Lyall, E Maclachlan, I Miller, S Miller, P Mulheron and A Younger, asked that their dissent be recorded in terms of Standing Order 46.

602. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 27 June 2007 (Arts. 412-421) and Special Council Meeting of 23 August 2007 (Arts. 499-500) were submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

603. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

Minutes of Committees from 14 June 2007 to 12 September 2007

The decisions recorded in Arts. 358-411, 422-498 and 501-557, copies of which had been circulated to all members of the Council, were submitted and approved.

604. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

(i) Perth and Kinross Licensing Board

Resolved:

Councillors A Younger replace Councillor K Lyall and Councillor G Hayton replace Councillor M Barnacle on the Perth and Kinross Licensing Board.

(ii) Standards and Scrutiny Committee

Resolved:

Councillor W Lumsden replace Councillor A Younger on the Standards and Scrutiny Committee.

(iii) Housing and Health Committee

Resolved:

Councillor J Coburn replace Councillor W Lumsden on the Housing and Health Committee.

