

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Gannochy Suite, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 21 January 2015 at 10.00am.

Present: Councillors A Grant, M Williamson, R Brock, D Cuthbert (substituting for M Barnacle), B Ellis, C Gillies, G Laing, M Lyle, E Maclachlan, D Melloy, M Roberts, W Robertson and A Younger.

In Attendance: J Valentine, Executive Director (Environment); C Bachell, R Brough, A Clegg, P Dickson, N McGill, K McNamara, C McQueen, B Reekie, A Strang and W Young (all the Environment Service); C Irons, S Hendry, H Rheinallt and R Mackie (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillor M Barnacle

Councillor A Grant, Convener, Presiding.

23. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. An apology and substitute was noted as above.

24. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, Councillors D Cuthbert and B Ellis declared a non-financial interest in Article 33 in respect of the Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust, report number 15/19.

25. MINUTE

The minute of meeting of the Environment Committee of 12 November 2014 (Arts 741-748) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

It was also noted that in terms of Article 744, the site visit to Oakbank Road, Blairgowrie would be arranged for mid-May following investigation of legal issues.

26. MINUTES OF MEETINGS OF EXECUTIVE SUB-COMMITTEE

The minutes of meetings of the Executive Sub-Committee of the Environment Committee of 5 March 2014; 21 May 2014 and 18 June 2014 were submitted and noted.

27. PERTH AND KINROSS COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP – COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT GROUP

There were submitted and noted the minutes of the Community Safety and Environment Group of 15 August 2014 and a special meeting of 2 October 2014 together with an update report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/13) on the work of the Community Safety and Environment Group.

28. NORTH INCH GOLF COURSE MARKET DEVELOPMENT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/14) outlining the marketing development initiatives planned for the North Inch Golf Course.

Resolved:

- (i) The revised and new North Inch Golf Course Season Tickets and green fee options for the 2015/16 season as outlined in report 15/14 be approved.
- (ii) A report be submitted in twelve month's time to the committee to update members on the success of the market development.

29. POLICY ON MASS INTENTIONAL BALLOON AND CHINESE/SKY LANTERN RELEASES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/15) on the hazards posed by the mass intentional release of helium filled latex balloons and Chinese/sky lanterns and the growing evidence of the damage they cause.

Resolved:

A policy of prohibiting intentional balloon and lantern releases on Council owned land and property by staff undertaking council business and at events endorsed or supported by the Council, including those on non-council land be adopted.

30. THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/16) on proposals for a joint public consultation in co-operation with SEPA, Scottish Water and other local authorities and a proposed short list of measures to manage flood risk in Perth, Scone, Almondbank and Coupar Angus.

Resolved:

- (i) Progress on the flood risk management planning process set out by the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 be noted.
- (ii) The approval of characterisation reports and initial objectives for Perth, Scone, Almondbank and Coupar Angus by officers in accordance with the approval of the Environment Committee on 20 November 2013 be noted.
- (iii) The short list of measures for Perth, Scone, Almondbank and Coupar Angus as detailed in appendix A to report 15/16 be approved.
- (iv) The proposed arrangements for the phased public consultation in December 2014 and March 2015 be noted.

31. THE FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 2009 – ASSESSMENT OF WATER BODIES

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/17) providing an update on arrangements for assessments of water bodies and detailing the proposed frequencies for the committee's approval.

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Resolved:

The frequency of watercourse inspections as detailed in Appendix B to report 15/17 be approved.

32. PERTH AND KINROSS FOREST PLAN 2015 – 2035

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/18) on the Council's Forest Plan for 2015 to 2035.

A presentation on the Forest Plan was given by R Brough, Tree and Woodland Policy Officer, Community Greenspace Team.

Resolved:

- (i) The Perth and Kinross Forest Plan for 2015 – 2035 be approved.
- (ii) The presentation be issued to all Councillors.

IT WAS AGREED THAT THE PUBLIC AND PRESS BE EXCLUDED DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FOLLOWING ITEM IN ORDER TO AVOID THE DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION WHICH WAS EXEMPT IN TERMS OF SCHEDULE 7A TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT, 1973

33. PERTH AND KINROSS COUNTRYSIDE TRUST – UPDATE ON PROGRESS SINCE JUNE 2014

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/19) updating members on progress made by Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust over the last six months in delivering the Service Level Agreement for 2014/15 and dealing with financial, staffing and governance issues.

Resolved:

- (i) The achievements of Perth and Kinross Countryside Trust so far, in relation to the approved Service Level Agreement with the Trust for 2014/15, be noted.
- (ii) The progress made by the Countryside Trust in achieving the outcomes set out as part of the Service Level Agreement be noted.
- (iii) The Council continue to work with the Countryside Trust to ensure the management, governance and strategic improvements required to put it back on a sustainable footing are undertaken.
- (iv) A report covering the full year 2014/15 Service Level Agreement and the proposals for 2015/16 be submitted to a future meeting of this committee.

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