

**ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL**  
**FORMARTINE AREA COMMITTEE**

**THE KIRK CENTRE, STATION ROAD, ELLON, 17 MAY 2016**

**Present:** Councillors I Davidson, A Duncan, J Gifford, A Hendry, P Johnston, R Merson, A Norrie, G Owen, E A Robertson, C Shand and R Thomson.

**Officers:** E Brown (Area Manager, Formartine), C Young (Committee Officer, Formartine), M Ingram (Senior Solicitor, Legal and Governance), L Watson (Engineer, Roads and Landscape Services), M Laing (Structures Engineer, Roads and Landscape Services), G Barclay (Engineer, Roads and Landscape Services), Chief Inspector M Main (Police Scotland) and Inspector J Harrison (Police Scotland).

**PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

No public questions had been received.

**1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS**

Members confirmed that they had no interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

**2. RESOLUTION**

**(a) Equalities**

In making decisions on the following items of business, the Committee **agreed**, in terms of Section 149 of the Equality Act, 2010:-

- (1) to have due regard to the need to:-
  - (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation;
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
  - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, and
- (2) that where an Equality Impact Assessment was provided, to consider its contents and take those into account when reaching its decision.

**3. MINUTE OF MEETING OF 26 APRIL, 2016**

The Committee had before them, and approved as a correct record, the minute of the meeting of 26 April, 2016.

#### **4. POLICE SCOTLAND – PERFORMANCE MONITORING AND OPERATIONAL UPDATE**

There had been circulated a report dated 5 May, 2016 by the Director of Business Services which informed members of Police Scotland performance monitoring information for the period April 2015 to December 2015 that had been shared with the Local Authority Scrutiny Board.

Chief Inspector Main and Inspector Harrison were in attendance and provided the members with an overview of the local Formartine performance monitoring information, comparing the period April 2014 to March 2015 with April 2015 to March 2016.

During discussion, members asked for detail in relation to the vandalism and malicious mischief in the Ellon area; asked how the increase in motor vehicle crime detection rate had been achieved; sought assurance that work was ongoing to reduce anti-social parking across the area, not just at schools (though this was welcomed); asked for more detail about the Trunk Roads Policing group; sought clarification that two witnesses were sufficient to allow Police Scotland to take action against anti-social driving; sought an update on the local staffing levels; sought clarification on whether Police Scotland had any authority over the average speed cameras on the A90, advising that this would be an appropriate time for them to commence; asked why the Gypsy Travellers had not been moved on from the Ellon Community Campus; requested that the members be invited to attend the Driving Ambition event being arranged; sought further detail on the crimes of indecency that had occurred; and asked why there had been a reduction in the number of visits by Police Scotland to licensed premises.

Members expressed disappointment at the length of time Police Scotland had taken to attend incidents on certain occasions, highlighting that this may lead to a reduction in the number of incidents being reported by residents. It was also commented that it was unfortunate that officers following up on matters were often unaware of the background of the case as there appeared to be a lack of continuity. It was further suggested that it would be helpful if Police Scotland could feedback to persons who reported incidents, to update them on the situation.

The members thanked Police Scotland for the Multi-Member Ward Plans that had been circulated but suggested that for future plans it would be helpful if Police Scotland could give communities an opportunity to comment on the plans before they were published. Chief Inspector Main explained that the plans were produced on the basis that there would be ongoing consultation, but agreed to take this into account for future plans.

In response to a query about the old Ellon Academy, and having noted that there had been several incidents of vandalism at the building, the Area Manager updated the members that the proposed demolition of the building was currently going through due process and a report would shortly be considered by Aberdeenshire Council's Policy & Resources Committee. The proposed

timescale for the project, which was part of a three school demolition, was April to December 2016.

Thereafter the Committee:-

- (1) **noted** the performance monitoring information relating to the Aberdeenshire component of the Aberdeenshire and Moray Division of Police Scotland,
- (2) **noted** the performance monitoring information relating to the Formartine component of the Aberdeenshire and Moray Division of Police Scotland, and
- (3) **requested** the Divisional Commander to continue to report to Committee quarterly on performance measures against service objectives.

#### **5. FLOOD MANAGEMENT AND COAST PROTECTION PROGRAMME OF MEASURES 2016/2017**

There had been circulated a report dated 22 April, 2016 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which detailed the proposed Flood Management and Coast Protection Programme of Measures for 2016/2017.

During discussion, the members sought clarification on the works to be carried out in relation to the Newburgh sewer diversion at the Udney Arms Hotel; suggested that it would be helpful for the members to receive feedback on items that were completed and removed from the lists; and asked for further detail of the investigations being carried out at the sports pitches at the Meadows.

Members also raised a number of works required across Formartine that did not feature on the main list or reserve list and, further to a helpful update from the officer present on the areas that he was familiar with, it was requested that there be further investigations to determine whether these works should be added to the reserve list for the Formartine area.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (1) **approved** the Flood Management and Coast Protection Programme of Measures for 2016/2017 as detailed in Appendix A, as it relates to the Formartine Area,
- (2) **approved** the Reserve List of Measures, as detailed in Appendix A, with the opportunity for additional works to be investigated for inclusion for the Formartine area, such as:
  - Oldmeldrum Road, Pitmedden
  - Gourdie Park, Potterton
  - Haughs, Turriff
  - The Den, Turriff

- The Fordoun, Turriff
  - The Ythsie stretch of the B999
  - Blackcraig, Methlick
- (3) **agreed** that schemes could be brought forward from the Reserve List in the order of priority given in the event of slippage, provided that their inclusion did not result in the overall expenditure exceeding the allocated budget sum, and
- (4) **requested** that officers provide an update to members when Formartine works were completed and removed from the lists.

## **6. ROAD BRIDGES ANNUAL WORKS PROGRAMME 2016/2017**

There had been circulated a report dated 29 April, 2016 by the Director of Infrastructure Services which detailed the proposed Road Bridges and Annual Works Programme for 2016/2017.

During discussion, the members sought clarification of what “saddle and refurbish” and “scour repairs” entailed.

Members also asked for an update on whether the underpass on the A947 beside the sports centre at Turriff had been inspected. Officers present confirmed that an inspection had been carried out and that no repair works were required. Members further queried whether there could be an inspection of the footbridges at the Haughs, Turriff, to ensure they did not fall into a poor state of repair.

Thereafter, the Committee:-

- (1) **approved** the Formartine Area Road Bridges Annual Works Programme for 2016/2017, as detailed in Appendix A of the report,
- (2) **delegated** authority to the Head of Roads and Landscape to approve payments to Contractors in accordance with the Civil Engineering Method of Measurement provided any such payment was within 25% of the estimate include in Appendix A to the report, and
- (3) **requested** that the Area Manager liaise with Landscape Services, and any other services as appropriate, to ensure that the footbridges at the Haughs were inspected and maintained as required.

## **7. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 – APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF TEMPORARY PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF OPERATING HOURS FOR FUNFAIR AT GORDON PARK, ELLON AS PART OF ‘ELLON GALA DAY’**

There had been circulated a report dated 21 April, 2016 by the Director of Business Services which asked the Committee to consider a proposed

extension of operating hours for a funfair at Gordon Park, Ellon as part of the Ellon Gala Day.

Following consideration of the information provided, and having noted that no adverse feedback had been received from Police Scotland, the Committee **agreed to grant** an extension to the hours of operation for the funfair, permitting the following operational hours:

Sunday, 5 June 2016: 11:30 – 17:30 hours

#### **8. CIVIC GOVERNMENT (SCOTLAND) ACT 1982 – APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF TEMPORARY PUBLIC ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE – REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF OPERATING HOURS FOR FUNFAIR AT PLEASURE PARK, OLDMELDRUM**

There had been circulated a report dated 21 April, 2016 by the Director of Business Services which asked the Committee to consider a proposed extension of operating hours for a funfair at the Pleasure Park in Oldmeldrum.

After considering the information provided, and having noted that no adverse feedback had been received from Police Scotland, members raised concern about the proposed hours for the Saturday evening as traditionally this event only ran until 23:00, given that the park was within a residential area.

Thereafter, the Committee **agreed to grant** an extension to the hours of operation for the funfair, permitting the following operational hours:

Monday 13 June 2016 to Thursday 16 June 2016: 14:00 – 21:00 hours

Friday 17 June 2016: 14:00 – 22:00 hours

Saturday 18 June 2016: 14:00 – 23:00 hours

#### **9. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET 2016/2017**

With reference to the Minute of Meeting of this Committee of 22 March, 2016 (Item 11), at which the broad allocation of the Area Committee Budget for 2016-17 was agreed, there was circulated a report dated 3 May, 2016 by the Director of Business Service which detailed a request for funding that had been received from the Collieston Offshore Rowing Club.

An application was received which sought funding towards a road trailer and launching trailer for the Collieston Offshore Rowing Club, to enable the club to increase their attendance at regattas and other events in the local area and further afield.

After consideration of the information provided, the Committee **agreed to award £1,725** to the Collieston Offshore Rowing Club.

Members, being supportive of the group and interested in what they were aiming to achieve, **requested** that officers ask the Club to provide feedback on their forthcoming events.

#### **10. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS**

The Committee had before them and **noted** a report by the Formartine Area Manager, updating on matters that had previously been discussed by the Committee but remained to be resolved.