

ABERDEENSHIRE COUNCIL

KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE

KINCARDINE AND MEARN'S AREA COMMITTEE SKYPE MEETING ONLY (RECORDING TO BE MADE AVAILABLE TO GENERAL PUBLIC), TUESDAY 8 JUNE 2021

Present: W Agnew (Chair), I Mollison (Vice-Chair), A Bews, G Carr, S Dickinson, A Evison, Provost W Howatson, J Hutchison, C Pike, D Robertson, S Wallace, L Wilson.

Officers: Bruce Stewart (Area Manager, Kincardine and Mearns), Emma Storey (Area Committee Officer, Kincardine and Mearns), Lauren Cowie (Principal Solicitor, Legal and People), Daniel Greig (Engagement and Consultation Officer), Diane Henderson (Area Project Officer).

1. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

The Chair asked Members if they had any interests to declare in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct and the following declarations were intimated:

Councillor Evison- Item 6, having been a member on the Social Renewal Advisory Board however the report referenced within the draft policy was written by an independent group so having applied the objective test would remain and take part.

Councillor Dickinson – Item 7, by virtue of having a connection to one of the signatories on the Community Asset Transfer application through his previous membership at Fetteresso Church, however having applied the objective test had no interest to declare.

2. STATEMENT ON 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; and
 - (c) foster good relations between those who share a protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

- (2) 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 KINCARDINE AND MEARNS AREA COMMITTEE OF 18 MAY 2021

The Committee had before them and **approved** as a correct record the Minute of Meeting of the Committee of 18 May 2021 subject to the following amendment to include in the declaration of interest from Councillor Pike that he was also a nominated tree champion.

4. STATEMENT OF OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

A report by the Interim Director of Infrastructure Services had been circulated presenting the outstanding business for Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee as of 18 May 2021.

The Committee **noted** the updates provided for the items on the Statement of Outstanding Business.

5. AREA COMMITTEE BUDGET

A report was issued by the Director of Infrastructure Services as an application had been submitted for funding from the Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee Budget, from Laurencekirk Primary School for £1,300.00.

The Area Manager introduced the report and outlined the application and welcomed any questions. The Committee **agreed** to approve the grant from the Area Committee Budget for Laurencekirk Primary School for £1,300.00.

6. DRAFT ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATION POLICY 2021

A report by the Director of Business Services had been circulated to Members providing the Committee with an update on the progress to date with developing an Engagement and Participation Policy for Aberdeenshire and asking Members for comments on the draft Policy.

The Engagement and Consultation Officer introduced the report and welcomed any questions. The Committee fully discussed the report and **agreed** to

1. Note the development of guidance to support implementation of the Engagement and Participation Policy and
2. Provided the following comments in regard to the draft Engagement and Participation Policy to Business Service Committee as follows;

- The Committee welcomed the report and the opportunity to provide comments to be considered by the Business Service Committee,
- The Committee suggested that working with the community must be key,
- The Committee suggested that the policy should acknowledge and reflect the pre-stage of engagement,
- The Committee suggested that post Covid we have an opportunity to be part of a different way of working and this should be reflected in the policy rather than focusing on how we have done something.
- The Committee suggested the inclusion of Locality Planning within the policy,
- The Committee suggested amendments to the language used within the policy to help build confidence and trust within the community, for example rather than where appropriate, always appropriate,
- The Committee commented on the Equality Impact Assessment that people get involved if there will be a benefit or an outcome, and
- The Committee commented on the need for a change in the culture of the organisation, to help build trust and confidence we should look at response times to correspondence and how we feedback to communities.

7. ASSET TRANSFER – FORMER COMMUNITY CENTRE, 148/152 HIGH STREET, LAURENCEKIRK, AB30 1XL

A report by the Director of Infrastructure Services was circulated to members seeking approval of the Committee to transfer the former Community Centre in Laurencekirk to Catalyst Community Regeneration Company.

The Area Manager outlined the report and welcomed any queries. Members queried the statutory process with reference to the notices issued and the consultation period. Members heard that notices had been placed according to the legalisation at the site and further notices around Laurencekirk Community and in the local Post Office. The application and supporting documents were also made publicly available on the Council website. Members fully discussed the application and the consultation period.

Members **agreed** to defer the report to invite a representative from the Catalyst Community to a subsequent Kincardine and Mearns Area Committee. Members requested further clarification with regards to what is meant by “the ethos of the church” as stated on the application form, that Services offered are inclusive to everyone, and suggested Road Officers look at parking provision at the site and provide assurances.

**8. LISTED BUILDING CONSENT APPEAL, FOR LBA-110-2017,
PLANNING REF: APP/2020/1658**

The Committee had before them, and **noted**, a Listed Building Consent Appeal, dated 7 May 2021, informing them of the decision to dismiss the appeal and refuse listed building consent in accordance with the Appointed Officer's decision at South Manse, Cameron Street, Stonehaven AB39 2HE.

Councillor Presiding over meeting

Print Name

Signature

Date

DRAFT