

# **SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL**

Minute of Special Meeting of Perth and Kinross Council held virtually via Microsoft Teams on Wednesday 20 May 2020 at 9.30am.

Present: Provost D Melloy, Councillors C Ahern, H Anderson, A Bailey, K Baird, M Barnacle, P Barrett, B Brawn, A Coates, H Coates, S Donaldson, E Drysdale, J Duff, A Forbes, D Illingworth, I James, A Jarvis, G Laing, M Lyle, R McCall, S McCole, X McDade, T McEwan, A Parrott, B Pover, C Purves, J Rebbeck, C Reid, W Robertson, L Simpson, C Stewart, R Watters, M Williamson and W Wilson.

In Attendance: K Reid, Chief Executive; S Devlin, Executive Director (Education and Children's Services); B Renton, Executive Director (Housing and Environment); G Paterson, Chief Officer/Director – Integrated Health and Social Care; K McNamara, Depute Director (Housing and Environment); J Pepper, Depute Director (Education and Children's Services); L Simpson, S Hendry, S Mackenzie, K Donaldson, F Robertson, A Brown and A Taylor (all Corporate and Democratic Services); C Wright and S Watt (IT).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors F Sarwar and C Shiers.

## **1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES**

The Provost welcomed everyone to the first virtual meeting of Perth and Kinross Council and apologies were noted as above.

The Provost confirmed that the meeting was taking place virtually due to the physical distancing regulations in place as part of the current COVID-19 pandemic.

## **2. TRIBUTE TO THE LATE COUNCILLOR BOB BAND**

The Provost referred to the sad news of the passing of the late Councillor Bob Band who had died in March 2020 following a long battle with Cancer. The Provost paid tribute to his hard work and dedication since being elected as a member in 2007, and also in his various roles as a Convener, Vice-Convener and Depute Provost. The Provost confirmed that there would be a memorial service at the appropriate point in the future for all members to pay their tributes.

## **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

## **4. OPERATIONAL UPDATE ON COUNCIL RESPONSE TO CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**

There was a verbal update by the Chief Executive, Gold Commander and senior officers providing an operational update on the Council's response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, including a summary of various workstreams and initiatives set up as part of the response. The Chief Executive praised all Council staff for their hard work and commitment since the outbreak of the virus, and

referred to the Gold, Silver and Bronze command structure that had been set up, as well as the weekly elected member sounding board meetings that had been set up as part of emergency powers.

There followed a number of questions and comments from members, along with responses from officers.

## **5. DECISION MAKING AND COMMUNICATION ARRANGEMENTS**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive (20/91) briefing the Council on the current decision-making structure and elected member engagement in response to Coronavirus (COVID-19), as well as outlining arrangements for continued decision-making during the response, recovery and renewal periods.

### **Resolved:**

The proposals outlined in section 3.4 of Report 20/91 be approved, along with the following additional resolutions:

- A return to additional committee meetings taking place as soon as practically possible;
- The use of Hybrid Emergency Powers to be explored if appropriate;
- The use of physical distancing for face to face meetings to continue to be investigated for use at the earliest appropriate opportunity;
- Further work to take place on resolving any issues in relation to virtual meetings of the Planning and Development Management Committee and Local Review Body;
- A review of emergency powers to take place, if possible, at the end of July 2020.

## **6. APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES**

### **(i) Planning and Development Management Committee**

#### **Resolved:**

Councillor M Williamson to be appointed to the vacant position on the Planning and Development Management Committee.

*THERE FOLLOWED A RECESS AND THE MEETING RECONVENED AT 12.15PM.*

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

### **P1. DISPOSAL OF FORMER COUNCIL OFFICES AT 1-5 HIGH STREET**

The Head of Planning and Development, Perth and Kinross Council provided members with a confidential briefing on the disposal of the former council offices at 1-5 High Street.

#### **Resolved:**

A report to be submitted to the Council meeting on 24 June 2020 for further consideration.

**P2. FINANCIAL UPDATE – PRESENTATION**

It was agreed that this item be deferred to a further Special Meeting of the Council to take place within ten working days.

**P3. RECOVERY AND RENEWAL – PRESENTATION**

It was agreed that this item be deferred to a further Special Meeting of the Council to take place within ten working days.

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