

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Gannochy Suite, Dewar's Centre, Glover Street, Perth on Wednesday 25 March 2015 at 11.00am.

Present: Councillors H Anderson (substitute for B Ellis), J Flynn (substitute for C Gillies), A Grant, M Williamson, M Barnacle, R Brock, G Laing, M Lyle, E Maclachlan, M Roberts, W Robertson, H Stewart (substitute for D Melloy) and A Younger.

In Attendance: J Valentine, Executive Director (Environment); A Clegg, W Greig, C Leishman, B Reekie, B Renton, R Smith and W Young (all the Environment Service; C Flynn, C Irons and L Potter (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors B Ellis, C Gillies and D Melloy.

Councillor A Grant, Convener, Presiding.

198. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES/SUBSTITUTES

The Convener welcomed all those present to the meeting. Apologies and substitutes were noted as above.

199. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made in terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

200. MINUTE

The minute of meeting of the Environment Committee of 21 January 2015 (Arts 23-33) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

201. PERTH CREMATORIUM REFURBISHMENT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/147) outlining the main drivers behind the refurbishment of Perth Crematorium along with the benefits that will accrue from this work.

Resolved:

The full upgrade of the Perth crematorium, to take place during Summer 2017, as detailed in Report 15/147 be approved.

202. VALEDICTORY

The Convener referred to the retiral of Richard Smith, Senior Bereavement Services Officer, Environment Services. The Convener acknowledged the service given by Richard who had always dealt with matters sympathetically at the Crematorium and wished him a long and happy retirement.

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The Convener welcomed William Greig as Richard's successor.

Richard thanked Councillors and colleagues for their help and good humour over the years and wished the Council all the best in the future.

203. LITTER ACTION PLAN

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/148) proposing the adoption of the 2015-2020 Perth and Kinross Council Litter Action Plan.

Resolved:

The 2015-2020 Perth and Kinross Council Litter Action Plan as detailed in Appendix 1 of Report 15/148 be approved.

204. ACTIONS TO PROMOTE THE RED SQUIRREL POPULATION ON COUNCIL LAND

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (15/149) outlining the outcome of the surveys undertaken to assess the populations of red and grey squirrels on Council managed land and recommending actions to promote and increase the red squirrel population in specific locations.

Motion – Councillors W Robertson and M Lyle

The report be deferred to a future meeting of the Environment Committee to allow for further information and a programme to be provided on Option (a) given in report 15/149, the appointment of a Pest Control Contractor and also Option (b), engaging volunteers.

- Amendment – Councillors A Grant and M Williamson
- (i) The continued monitoring of squirrel populations on Council land through volunteers as detailed in Option D of Report 15/149 be approved.
 - (ii) Management of the habitats to encourage red squirrels to colonise them naturally, and discourage grey squirrels by reducing the extent of their preferred habitats through the Forest Plan be approved.
 - (iii) A consultation exercise with local Community Councils and 'Friends of Parks' group in the event that a decision was made in future to control grey squirrels be undertaken.

In terms of Standing Order 44, a roll call vote was taken.

Six members voted for the Amendment as follows:

H Anderson, A Grant, G Laing, E Maclachlan, M Williamson and A Younger.

Seven members voted for the Motion as follows:

M Barnacle, R Brock, J Flynn, M Lyle, M Roberts, W Robertson and H Stewart.

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Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

205. SOCIAL ENTERPRISE WESTBANK – FIRST YEAR REVIEW

There was submitted a joint report by the Executive Director (Environment) and the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) (15/150) (1) detailing the progress made in establishing a social enterprise at Westbank, Perth, as a partnership between Perth and Kinross Council and the Shaw Trust; (2) reviewing the achievements made in the first year of the Enterprise's operation; and (3) outlining the future plans for activities at the site.

Resolved:

- (i) The progress made in year 1, both in the establishments and subsequent delivery at the Westbank Enterprises' social enterprise as detailed in Report 15/150 be noted.
- (ii) Future actions proposed in Section 3 of Report 15/150 be approved.
- (iii) The extension to 31 December 2016 of the Public Social Partnership, subject to Westbank Enterprises having the necessary finances in place, be approved.

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