

ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Minute of Meeting of the Environment Committee held in the Council Chambers, Fourth Floor, Council Building, 2 High Street, Perth on Wednesday 7 November 2012 at 11.00am.

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

In Attendance: Councillors I Campbell and B Vaughan; J Valentine, Executive Director (Environment); A Clegg, F Crofts, K McNamara, B Reekie, B Renton, A Thomson and R Thomson (all the Environment Service); L Whiteford, G Taylor and P Frazer (all Chief Executive's Service).

Apologies for Absence: Councillors R Brock and W Robertson.

Councillor A Grant, Convener, Presiding.

550. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In terms of the Councillors' Code of Conduct Councillor B Ellis declared a non-financial interest in Art. 553 The Environment Service Six Monthly BMIP Exception Report, in relation to his membership of the Tay Landscape Partnership Steering Group.

551. MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of meeting of the Environment Committee of 22 August 2012 (Arts. 514 – 515) was submitted, approved as a correct record and authorised for signature.

552. DEPUTATIONS

In terms of Standing Orders 53 and 59 respectively, the Committee agreed to requests received from Councillor Campbell, one of the elected members representing Ward 4 Highland, and Mr Victor Clements representing Aberfeldy Community Council, to address the Committee on the Review of Aberfeldy Caravan Park (Art. 555).

In terms of Standing Order 19, the Committee agreed to vary the order of business to hear from Mr Clements and from Councillor Campbell immediately prior to Art. 555.

553. THE ENVIRONMENT SERVICE SIX MONTHLY BMIP PERFORMANCE EXCEPTION REPORT

There was submitted a report by the Executive Director (Environment) (12/499) reviewing the performance of The Environment Service against its Business

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Management and Improvement Plan (BMIP) for the period 1 April 2012 to 30 September 2012.

Resolved:

Following consideration, and having noted that Report 12/499 had been considered by the Community Safety Committee at its meeting held earlier today, and would be considered by the Enterprise and Infrastructure Committee on 7 November 2012, the Scrutiny Committee on 21 November, approved the contents of The Environment Service Six Monthly BMIP Exception Report as detailed in Appendix 1 to Report 12/499, and as pertaining to this Committee's area of responsibility.

554. BIODIVERSITY IMPROVEMENTS TO PARKS AND OPEN SPACES

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (12/515) (1) outlining the result of trial changes to the maintenance of grass in selected parks and open spaces with the objective of improving biodiversity; (2) reviewing the outcome of the 2010 and 2011 meadow trials; (3) recommending that the long grass areas should be returned to amenity grass, except where wildflower meadows have been created by sowing wildflower meadow seed mixes; and (4) that further alternative methods of improving biodiversity in parks be introduced where there is no additional resource requirement.

Resolved:

- (i) The improvements to biodiversity as a result of changes to grass management, the methods used and cost involved in undertaking the trials, be noted.
- (ii) The return of all long grass areas to a two weekly amenity grass cutting regime within parks and open spaces, except where wildflower meadows have been created by sowing wildflower meadow seed mixes or those managed by the community, be agreed.
- (iii) The assessment of alternative methods of improving biodiversity in parks and open spaces and, where practicable, the implementation of these within available resources, be agreed.
- (iv) The submission of a further report to the Committee, detailing the outcome of the 3 yearly trials, be agreed.

555. REVIEW OF ABERFELDY CARAVAN PARK

Mr V Clements, representing Aberfeldy Community Council and Councillor I Campbell, representing Ward 4, addressed the Committee, and, following their respective representations, withdrew to the public benches.

There was submitted a report by the Depute Director (Environment) (12/516) (1) outlining the potential options open to the Council with regard to Aberfeldy Caravan Park; (2) recommending that the site for lease be advertised; and (3) that the Council put in place arrangements for the Park's disposal, through a lease, by referring the matter to the Head of Planning and Regeneration.

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COUNCILLOR L SIMPSON LEFT THE MEETING DURING DISCUSSION OF THIS ITEM.

Motion – (Councillors A Grant and B Ellis)

It be agreed

- (i) to advertise the Aberfeldy Caravan Park for lease on the open market.**
- (ii) to refer the matter to the Head of Planning and Regeneration to make the necessary arrangements for advertising the property.**
- (iii) if a suitable lease cannot be arranged, management of the site should remain with the Council.**

Amendment – (Councillors C Gillies and D Cuthbert)

- (i) Defer consideration of proposals on the future of Aberfeldy Caravan Park to allow for further consultation.**

Amendment – 3 Votes

Motion – 9 Votes

Resolved:

In accordance with the Motion.

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