

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of the PROVOST'S PANEL held in ROOM 25, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on FRIDAY 14 MAY 2004 at 9.00 am

Present:-

Provost Colin O'BRIEN (in the Chair)

Councillor John PATERSON

Councillor Gerry POWER

In Attendance:-

Alec Brown, Estates Surveyor, Corporate Services

Bob Jack, Director of Corporate Services

Brian Richardson, Accountant, Corporate Services

John Risk, Head of Customer Services, Corporate Services

Sheila McLean, Trainee Committee Officer, Corporate Services (Clerk)

Apologies:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Depute Provost Margaret Brisley and Councillor Ann Dickson.

PV12 URGENT BUSINESS

The Provost agreed that an item "Freedom of the City - Squadron 43" be considered as a matter of urgency due to the timescales involved.

PV13 MINUTES

The Minutes of Meeting of the Provost's Panel held on 18 March 2004 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The Panel agreed to approve the Minutes of Meeting of the Provost's Panel held on 18 March 2004 as a correct record of proceedings.

PV14 FREEDOM OF THE CITY - SQUADRON 43

At its meeting on 2 September 2003, the Panel had considered a number of candidates for the award of 'Freeman of the Burgh' and had agreed that further investigations be undertaken into actions required in presenting a proposal to Council to confer the Freedom of the City to Squadron 43 in view of the Squadron's long standing relationship with the area.

A report by the Director of Corporate Services provided further information on the proposals surrounding the formal awarding of the Freedom of the City and sought Members' comments on the proposals and approval to finalise arrangements.

It was suggested that a special meeting of Stirling Council be held on 21 August 2004 to approve the necessary resolution granting Freedom of the City to RAF Squadron 43, followed by a number of celebratory events.

Although the final costs of the events would depend on the nature of the activities agreed upon, it was likely that costs would be in the region of £1,000 to £3,000.

Decision

The Panel agreed:-

- (1) to recommend to a Special Meeting of Stirling Council to be convened on 21 August 2004 that a resolution to confer 'Freedom of the City' status on RAF Squadron 43 be approved;
- (2) to authorise officers to take such further action as was necessary to finalise arrangements for the Special Meeting of Stirling Council and the complimentary arrangements for the associated celebrations.

(Reference:- Report by Director of Corporate Services of 12 May 2004, tabled).

PV15 CITIZENSHIP CEREMONIES

A report by the Director of Corporate Services advised the Panel of the requirement for adults applying for British nationality to attend a ceremony and make a citizenship oath and pledge in the presence of a District Registrar, with effect from 1 January 2004. It was estimated that around 30 applications for citizenship might be received in the Stirling Council area each year.

On 12 February 2004, the Community Committee had agreed that the Provost or Depute Provost attend each ceremony and had delegated the task of agreeing a detailed format for the ceremonies to the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Provost, Depute Provost and, where possible, the Provost's Panel, following receipt of Home Office Guidance on 4 March 2004.

The Civic Meeting had subsequently agreed the Council's approach in holding the ceremonies and full details were provided in the submitted report. Dates for the ceremonies had been set in May, August, November and February and a progress report would be submitted to the Community Committee after two ceremonies had taken place.

Decision

The Panel agreed the approach to be taken by Stirling Council to Citizenship Ceremonies to welcome immigrants to the area as UK citizens, as detailed in the submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services.

(Reference: Report by Director of Corporate Services, undated, submitted).

The Panel resolved under Section 50A(4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involved the disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 8 & 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973.

PV16 DISPOSAL OF 24 KING STREET, STIRLING

On 18 March 2004, the Provost's Panel had noted the withdrawal of an offer to purchase the property at 24 King Street, Stirling and had given authority for the property to be re-marketed.

A report by the Director of Corporate Services advised the Panel of offers received following the closing date of 28 April 2004 and sought authority to dispose of the property.

Decision

The Panel agreed:-

- (1) to accept the highest offer for the sale of the property at 24 King Street, Stirling as detailed in the submitted report by the Director of Corporate Services;
- (2) that, if the sale was not concluded within a reasonable timescale to be determined by Corporate Asset Management, that officers explore the next three highest offers listed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report and that, if the sale could still not be concluded, to report back to a future meeting of the Provost's Panel.

(Reference: Report by Director of Corporate Services of 29 April 2004, submitted).

The Provost declared the Meeting closed at 9.50 am.