

STIRLING COUNCIL

MINUTES of MEETING of the PROVOST'S PANEL held in the WALLACE ROOM, OLD VIEWFORTH, STIRLING on TUESDAY 23 MAY 2006 at 12 Noon.

Present:

Provost Colin O'Brien (in the Chair)

Depute Provost Margaret Brisley
Councillor Ann Dickson

Councillor John Paterson
Councillor Gerry Power

In Attendance:

Keith Brown, Civic Officer, Corporate Services
Fiona Fulton, Communications Officer, Corporate Services
Bob Jack, Director of Corporate Services
David Mackay, Accounting Team Leader, Corporate Services
Sheila McLean, Committee Officer, Corporate Services (Clerk)

PV51 MINUTES

The Minutes of Meeting of the Provost's Panel held on 22 February 2006 were submitted for approval.

Decision

The Panel agreed to approve the Minutes of Meeting of the Provost's Panel held on 22 February 2006 as a correct record of proceedings.

PV52 STIRLING COMMON GOOD FUND – FINANCIAL UPDATE

A report by the Director of Corporate Services provided an update on the Stirling Common Good Fund outturn figures for 2005/06 and the projected outturn for 2006/07.

In 2005/06, the Fund had outturned with a deficit of £22,568. It was noted that the main reason for this had been the additional costs involved with the sale of 24 King Street as previously reported to the Panel.

The property had now been sold with a sale price of £710,000. After deduction of legal fees and outlays, a sum of £702,935.51 had been deposited to the Council's Loans Fund with an estimated investment income of £32,335 for the year to March 2007.

Following previous discussions by the Panel, tenders had been invited for the annual maintenance of window boxes. As no tenders had been returned, the work would be undertaken by the Council's Grounds Maintenance STO and anticipated costs of £5,000 were included in the projection for 2006/07.

Further details of ongoing expenditure were provided. Investigations were taking place to clarify the ownership of the clock at Allan Park and any liability by the Council for its maintenance. Problems with plumbing were being experienced at the fountain at this location, where maintenance was funded under a joint arrangement between the Fund and the Council's Environment Services.

It was noted that forthcoming works to the rear of the Municipal Buildings, which included the provision of scaffolding, would help to facilitate cleaning of the stained glass windows. To enable this to proceed without delay, it was proposed that it be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Provost, to authorise works to commence upon receipt of acceptable costs.

Decision

The Panel agreed:-

- (1) to note the outturn position for 2005/06 of a deficit of £22,568 for the year;
- (2) to note the balance on the Fund at the 2005/06 year end of £62,488;
- (3) to note the projected outturn position for 2006/07 which estimated a surplus of £42,547 for the year;
- (4) to note the estimated balance on the Fund at the 2006/07 year end of be £105,035 as detailed in Appendix 1 to the submitted report;
- (5) that it be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services, in consultation with the Provost, to authorise works to clean the stained glass windows at the Municipal Buildings, Stirling, upon receipt of acceptable costs.

(Reference: Report by Director of Corporate Services of 12 May 2005, submitted).

PV53 FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF STIRLING

In 2005, Stirling Council held a successful event to award the first ever 'Freedom of the City' (formerly Freedom of the Burgh) to RAF Squadron 43 in light of the Squadron's historic association with Stirling.

A report by the Director of Corporate Services invited the Panel to consider how Stirling Council could take forward the issuing of the honour and sought approval to commence a consultation process between the political groups to seek views on future awards of the Freedom of the City in Stirling and receive suggestions as to potential beneficiaries.

The Panel discussed steps being taken by other Councils and noted a growing trend for civic authorities to confer such honours on groups and individuals who had brought credit to their areas.

Under the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the conferring of the Freedom of the City (formerly Burgh) was the greatest honour that the Council could confer on an individual or other body. In doing so, the Council must approve a resolution by a vote in which not less than two thirds of Members present and voting had voted in favour.

The Act stipulated that nominees had to be 'persons of distinction or persons who (*had*) rendered eminent service to the City' and a roll must be kept of those admitted as honorary freemen. The Council and its predecessors had previously awarded the Freedom of the Burgh to HM the Queen, HM the Queen Mother, the Argyll and Sutherland Highlands and in 2005 the Freedom of the City to RAF Squadron 43.

Members of the Panel stressed that the Provost's Awards provided a route for rewarding local individuals who had made a contribution to the area and it was agreed that any award for the Freedom of the City should be preserved as an exceptional event.

Decision

The Panel agreed that a consultation process be undertaken with the political groups in order to seek views on the awarding of the Freedom of the City of Stirling and potential beneficiaries.

(Reference: Report by Director of Corporate Services of 8 May 2006, submitted).

The Provost declared the Meeting closed at 12.30 pm