

# ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of Special MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Thursday 5 June 2008 at 5.30 pm.

**Present:** Provost RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE MBE, Depute Provost PETER MURPHY, Councillors ALISON ANDREWS, COLIN BROWN, FRANK ELLIS, MAIRI EVANS, DAVID FAIRWEATHER, IAIN GAUL, ALEX KING, DAVID LUMGAIR, IAN MACKINTOSH, DAVID MAY, BILL MIDDLETON, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, JIM MILLAR, DONALD MORRISON, ROB MURRAY, ROBERT MYLES, PETER NIELD, HELEN OSWALD, RALPH PALMER, JOHN RYMER, MARK SALMOND, ROBERT SPINK, MARGARET THOMSON, PAUL VALENTINE, SHEENA WELSH, SANDY WEST and JOHN WHYTE.

Provost RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE, in the Chair.

## 1. APOLOGIES

There were no apologies intimated.

## 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Council noted that all members had received e-mails and other correspondence in connection with the proposed closure of Eassie Primary School. All members indicated that they proposed to take part in the discussion and voting on the Report by the Director of Education.

## 3. DEPUTATIONS

The Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 12, to hear a deputation from Eassie Primary School Parent Council on the subject of the future of Eassie Primary School.

On behalf of the deputation, Mr G Durston and Mr B Pattullo, Chairman and member respectively of the Eassie Primary School Parent Council, addressed the meeting and repeated points they had made to the Education Committee meeting held immediately prior to this meeting.

There being no questions to Mr Durston or Mr Pattullo, the members of the deputation were thanked for their attendance and withdrew to the public benches.

## 4. EASSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 6 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee held earlier this day, and to Article 3 of the minute of the special meeting of the Council of 24 April 2008, there was submitted [Report No 551/08](#) by the Director of Education providing an account of the consultation exercise recently undertaken on the proposal that Eassie Primary School should close.

The Report outlined the arguments in favour of the closure of Eassie Primary School and the arguments against closure. Two options were set out for consideration, namely:

### Option 1

Adopt the proposal on which formal consultation had recently been undertaken, namely that Eassie Primary School should close, with pupils transferring to Newtyle Primary School, and the delineated area of Eassie Primary School should merge with the delineated area of Newtyle Primary School, to form the new delineated area of the merged school.

### Option 2

Resolve that Eassie Primary School should remain open, that the provision of PE for pupils there should be kept under review in the context of plans to construct a new village hall, and that the building's fitness for purpose generally should continue to be considered within the context of keeping the school estate under review.

The Head of Law and Administration reported that the Education Committee had approved Option 2 in Report No 551/08 by 12 votes to 8, against an amendment that there be added to Option 2 a request that a further report detailing the works necessary to bring Eassie Primary School up to full standard along with indicative costings and proposals for funding of the necessary works be brought back to the Education Committee in time to be considered for inclusion in the Capital Plan as part of the upcoming 2009/2010 budget setting process.

COUNCILLOR NIELD, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON, MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVES THE RECOMMENDATION BY THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

As an amendment, Councillor Gaul, seconded by Councillor Welsh, moved that the Council approves the unsuccessful amendment moved by himself in the Education Committee.

On a vote being taken, members voted (Councillor Oswald having left the meeting at this point):-

For the motion:

Provost Leslie Melville, Councillors Murphy, Andrews, Brown, Fairweather, Lumgair, Mackintosh, May, Millar, Myles, Nield, Rymer, Salmond, Spink, Thomson and Whyte (16).

For the amendment:

Councillors Ellis, Evans, Gaul, King, Bill Middleton, Glennis Middleton, Morrison, Murray, Palmer, Valentine, Welsh and West (12).

The motion was declared carried and the Council resolved accordingly.