

ANGUS COUNCIL

MINUTE of Special MEETING of **ANGUS COUNCIL** held in the Town and County Hall, Forfar on Wednesday 24 April 2008 at 4.45pm.

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, GLENNIS MIDDLETON, BILL 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, SANDY WEST, SHEENA WELSH and JOHN WHYTE.

Provost RUTH LESLIE MELVILLE, in the Chair.

1. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

All members, except Councillors Ellis, King and Glennis Middleton, declared that they had received emails in connection with the proposed closure of Eassie Primary School. All members indicated that they had offered no comment on the content of the emails and therefore proposed to take part in the discussion and voting on the Report by the Director of Education.

2. DEPUTATIONS – EASSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL PARENT COUNCIL

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 Dorstan and Mr B Patullo, Chairman and member respectively of the School Parent Council, addressed the meeting and asked members to consider fuller details of the situation before proceeding to consultation on a formal proposal to close Eassie Primary School as recommended in [Report No 391/08](#) by the Director of Education. The deputation repeated points they had made to the Education Committee meeting held immediately prior to this meeting.

Following questions, the members of the deputation were thanked for their attendance and withdrew to the public benches.

3. EASSIE PRIMARY SCHOOL

With reference to Article 9 of the minute of meeting of the Education Committee held earlier this day, there was submitted [Report No 391/08](#) by the Director of Education drawing attention to the nature of the school accommodation in Eassie Primary School and asking the Council to undertake a formal consultation with parents on the possibility of closing the school.

The Head of Law and Administration reported that the Education Committee had rejected the recommendations in the Director's Report by eleven votes to eight (with one member abstaining), in favour of taking no action on the issue and recommending that the Council should not proceed to formal consultation on a proposal to close Eassie Primary School.

Councillor Gaul, seconded by Councillor Welsh, moved that the Council approves the recommendation by the Education Committee.

AS AN AMENDMENT, COUNCILLOR NIELD, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR THOMSON, MOVED THAT THE COUNCIL APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF REPORT NO 391/08 AND ACCORDINGLY RESOLVE:-

- (I) TO AUTHORISE A FORMAL CONSULTATION EXERCISE ON A PROPOSAL 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;

- (II) TO INSTRUCT THAT THE OUTCOMES OF THE CONSULTATION EXERCISE SHOULD BE REPORTED BACK TO THE NEXT ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL ON 5 JUNE 2008.

On a vote being taken, members voted:-

For the motion:

Councillors Ellis, Evans, Gaul, King, Bill Middleton, Glennis Middleton, Morrison, Murray, Oswald, Palmer, Spink, Valentine, Welsh and West (14).

For the amendment:

Councillors Leslie Melville, Murphy, Andrews, Brown, Fairweather, Lumgair, Mackintosh, May, Millar, Myles, Nield, Rymer, Salmond, Thomson and Whyte (15).

The amendment was declared carried and the Council resolved accordingly.