

APSE Scotland Parks, Grounds and Streets Advisory Group

Minutes - 30th August 2017

National Mining Museum, Newtongrange

1. Welcome from Chair of the Advisory Group

Norman Hampshire from East Lothian Council welcomed the group to the National Mining Museum and thanked those in attendance.

2. Attendance and Apologies

See attached.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (1 March 2017)

Those at the meeting agreed that the minutes were a true and accurate record.

4. Matters arising

Stuart Pryde informed the group that we had received contact from Humza Yousaf MSP in regards to the issue of litter maintenance on trunk roads, and that Transport Scotland have been asked to meet with APSE. Garry Lee has made contact with Transport Scotland, and will arrange a meeting with the advisory group's small working group in due course.

5. Community Empowerment Act Part 9 Allotments plus Q&A

Robin MacLean from Scottish Government attended to give an overview of Part 9 of the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 on Allotments. Robin began by giving an overview of the sections of the 2015/16 Programme for Government that related to allotments stating that "growing your own food, including on an allotment or community growing space is an important part of Scotland's aim to become a Good Food Nation. For that reason we included in the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act provisions which bring allotments legislation up-to-date and enables communities to take over assets and buy land for Grow Your Own Food initiatives". The Act provides a legal framework that will promote and encourage community empowerment and participation, by creating new rights for community bodies and placing new duties on public authorities.

Part 9 updates and simplifies allotments legislation, by bringing it together in a single instrument. It introduces 6 new duties on local authorities to increase transparency on the actions taken by local authorities to provide allotments in their area and limit waiting times for an allotment.

It provides a clear definition of an allotment, shows that requests to lease an allotment are not treated as granted if the allotment is smaller than 250msq unless a smaller size is requested and agreed, provides a duty to take reasonable steps to provide allotments and to keep waiting lists at less than half the number of allotments the local authority has. It also

provides a duty to prepare and review a Food Growing Strategy replacing plans for allotment provision which are currently set out in a LAs Open Space Strategy.

Questions were asked about compensation for the loss of crops, how to manage waiting lists, availability of land and of ruling out pieces of land that wouldn't provide value for money to the Council through economies of scale.

6. Member feedback on any other managers' forums / focus group

Scottish Bereavement Benchmarking Group – there are ongoing discussions about the Coffin Handling Charter and the need to apply a Scotland wide standard to coffin handling. East Ayrshire also took the lead on funeral poverty and introduced a range of low cost packages which were well received by residents.

LEAMS Forum – attendees were reminded that the next meeting of this forum was due next week.

Commercialisation advisory group – the Chair requested an update on APSE Scotland's Commercialisation advisory group meetings.

7. Litter Action Plans discussion

There was also a short discussion around Litter Action Plans that was carried over into the Litter Managers Network meeting in the afternoon.

8. Recent network queries and discussions

There was a discussion on a recent network query on Muslim burials, with various local authorities sharing their knowledge and arrangements.

9. APSE update

Garry Lee provided an update on the current work of the Association, including the latest briefings, the recent APSE Scotland publication 'Doing local politics in Scotland', the APSE/ITN 'Redefining Neighbourhoods' programme, recent advocacy work, network queries, deadlines for Performance Networks data returns, upcoming APSE Energy and APSE Training events in Scotland, the work of APSE Solutions and upcoming Scottish and National seminars.

10. Date and venue for next meeting

1st November 2017 at Musselburgh Racecourse, East Lothian

11. AOCB

Attendee List

| Name | Authority |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|
| Garry Lee | APSE |
| Lesley Forrest | Aberdeenshire Council |
| Susanne Austin | Angus Council |
| Richie Strachan | Angus Council |
| Kevin Robertson | Angus Council |
| Gordon Allan | Angus Council |
| Gillian Wilson | Clackmannanshire Council |
| Nicola Simpson | Dumfries & Galloway Council |
| Karen Brownlie | Dumfries & Galloway Council |
| Sandy Boyd | Dundee City Council |
| Sally McConville | Dundee City Council |
| Gordon Crockett | East Ayrshire Council |
| Brian Jones | East Ayrshire Council |
| Thomas McMenamin | East Dunbartonshire Council |
| Cllr Norman Hampshire | East Lothian Council |
| Stuart Pryde | East Lothian Council |
| Andrew Hogarth | East Lothian Council |
| Douglas Fox | East Lothian Council |
| Franca Cianni | Falkirk Council |
| Graham Downs | Falkirk Council |
| Sandy Paterson | Glasgow City Council |
| Ken Harris | Glasgow City Council |
| Allan Walker | Inverclyde |
| Justin Venton | Midlothian Council |
| Sarah Archer | North Ayrshire Council |
| Helen Miller | North Ayrshire Council |
| Ian Kinghorn | North Ayrshire Council |
| Martin Gorman | North Ayrshire Council |
| Cllr Michael McPake | North Lanarkshire Council |
| Colin Cameron | North Lanarkshire Council |
| John Whittaker | North Lanarkshire Council |
| Mark Findlay | North Lanarkshire Council |
| Daren Silcock | Scottish Borders Council |
| Jason Hedley | Scottish Borders Council |
| Robin MacLean | Scottish Government |
| Mira Bogicevic | South Ayrshire Council |
| David Crighton | Stirling Council |
| Craig Gardner | Stirling Council |
| Colin Mackay | Stirling Council |
| Steve McDermott | The Highland Council |

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| Andy Johnston | West Lothian Council |
| David Lees | West Lothian Council |

Apologies

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| Karen Reeves | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Murray Black | City of Edinburgh Council |
| Elaine Downie | Fife Council |
| Davie Cullen | West Lothian Council |