Environment & Regeneration Committee

Thursday 14 August 2014 at 3pm

Present: Provost Moran, Councillors Ahlfeld, Clocherty, Dorrian, Brooks (for Grieve), Jones, MacLeod, McCormick, Nelson and Rebecchi (for Shepherd).

Chair: Councillor McCormick presided.

In attendance: Mr J Kerr (for Head of Legal & Property Services), Mr W Rennie (for Head of Environmental & Commercial Services), Mr M Burrows (Environmental & Commercial Services) and Corporate Communications Manager.

The following paragraphs are submitted for information only, having been dealt with under the powers delegated to the Committee.

472 Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

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Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillor McCabe, Councillor Grieve, with Councillor Brooks substituting, and Councillor Shepherd, with Councillor Rebecchi substituting.

No declarations of interest were intimated.

473 Proposed Parks Management Rules – Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982

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There was submitted a report by the Acting Corporate Director Environment, Regeneration & Resources, further to the statutory consultation process undertaken in terms of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 (the Act) on proposed Parks Management Rules (the Proposed Parks Rules), (1) requesting that the Committee adopt the rules of procedure (Rules of Procedure) for the purposes of the public hearing, (2) advising, in relation to the Proposed Parks Rules, of the discussions between Council Officers and those who have, as part of that consultation, objected to the Proposed Parks Rules (the Objectors) and (3) making proposals to facilitate the effective, fair and proper hearing by the Committee of those Objectors who have not withdrawn their objections (the Remaining Objectors) in order that the Committee can consider these objections (the Remaining Objections) and come to a formal recommendation on adoption of the Proposed Parks Rules.

The Committee decided:-

- (1) that the Rules of Procedure as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report be approved;
- (2) that the terms of Appendices 4 and 5 in relation to the Remaining Objections be considered and noted:
- (3) that the terms of Appendix 3 which (a) details the alterations to the Proposed Parks Rules (as originally published) which Officers have now recommended in light of objections made and (b) summarises the objections made and subsequent correspondence with the particular Objectors which have resulted in objections being withdrawn be noted:
- (4) that it be agreed to allow the Remaining Objectors who had not withdrawn their objections an opportunity to be heard in accordance with the Rules of Procedure.

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In this regard, the Committee heard the only Objector present, Mr George McNeil, (Person 2 as detailed in Appendix 5 to the report) in relation to his objection. The Committee also heard Mr Rennie in support of the Proposed Parks Rules.

The Committee then adjourned to private session to consider the objection made by Mr McNeil and the objections submitted by the other Remaining Objectors in turn.

Following consideration of all of the Remaining Objections, the Committee returned to public session and the Objector, Mr McNeil, and the Officers of Environmental & Commercial Services were re-admitted to the meeting.

The Committee, having considered and having had regard to the Remaining Objections and the oral representations made by the Objector, Mr McNeil, and by the Officers at the meeting further decided:

- (5) that the Remaining Objections be dismissed and that the Proposed Parks Rules as detailed in Appendix 2 be approved and referred to the next meeting of the Inverclyde Council recommending that it approve formally the Proposed Parks Rules and authorise Officers to make formally Rules in accordance with the statutory procedure, all in accordance with the Rules of Procedure; and
- (6) that delegated authority be granted to the Head of Legal & Property Services to make minor spelling and grammatical corrections and minor changes to the Proposed Parks Rules in the interests of consistency of terminology.