

## Minute of Meeting Council

Date	Time	Venue
Thursday, 16 December 2021	09:30	Teams Meeting,

**Present:** Councillor Jennifer Marion Adam-McGregor, Councillor Alison Ann-Dowling, Councillor Tom Begg, Councillor Derek Bibby, Councillor Bill Binks, Councillor Bill Brown, Councillor Stephen Burns, Councillor Jacqueline Cameron, Provost Lorraine Cameron, Councillor Michelle Campbell, Councillor Carolann Davidson, Councillor Eddie Devine, Councillor Karen Devine-Kennedy, Councillor Andy Doig, Councillor Audrey Doig, Councillor Natalie Don, Councillor Edward Grady, Councillor Neill Graham, Councillor Jim Harte, Councillor John Hood, Councillor Lisa-Marie Hughes, Councillor Scott Kerr, Councillor Alistair Mackay, Councillor James MacLaren, Councillor Kenny MacLaren, Councillor Mags MacLaren, Councillor Eileen McCartin, Councillor Colin McCulloch, Councillor Cathy McEwan, Councillor Marie McGurk, Councillor John McIntyre, Councillor John McNaughtan, Councillor Kevin Montgomery, Councillor Will Mylet, Councillor Iain Nicolson, Councillor Jim Paterson, Councillor Emma Rodden, Councillor Jim Sharkey, Councillor John Shaw, Councillor James Sheridan, Councillor Andy Steel, Councillor Jane Strang

### Chair

Provost L Cameron presided.

### In Attendance

A Russell, Chief Executive; S Quinn, Director of Children's Services; M Crearie, Director of Communities & Housing Services; G McNeil, Director of Environment & Infrastructure; A MacArthur, Acting Director of Finance & Resources; L McIntyre, Head of Policy & Commissioning, L Mahon, Head of Marketing & Communications and A Morrison, Head of Economy & Development Services (all Chief Executive's); T Stewart, Head of Education and J Trainer, Head of Child Care & Criminal Justice (both Children's Services); K Graham, Head of Corporate Governance, M Conaghan, Legal & Democratic Services Manager, D Low, Democratic Services Manager R Devine, E Gray and P Shiach, all Senior Committee Services Officers, J Barron Assistant Committee Services Officer, G Dickie, Partnering & Commissioning Manager, S Milligan, Service Desk/Remote Support Team Leader, D Pole and A Lowe, both End User Technicians (all Finance & Resources); C Lavery, Interim Chief Officer (Renfrewshire Health & Social Care Partnership); and F Naylor, Head of Finance & Corporate Services (Renfrewshire Leisure Limited).

## **Webcasting of Meeting**

The Provost intimated that this meeting of the Council would be webcast live on the Council's website.

## **Welcome**

Prior to the commencement of the meeting the Provost welcomed Alan Russell and Tracy Stewart to their first meeting of Renfrewshire Council since their appointments as Chief Executive and Head of Education respectively.

## **Valedictory**

The Provost also advised that this was the last meeting of the Council Ken Graham would attend before his retirement and took the opportunity to thank him for his professionalism and, specifically the impartial help, support and advice he had provided during his employment with Renfrewshire Council. Other elected members echoed the sentiments expressed by the Provost.

## **Declarations of Interest**

The Head of Corporate Governance made reference to the Revised Councillors' Code of Conduct, effective from 7 December 2021, in particular to section 5 of the Code relating to Declarations of Interest, and the briefing note issued to members providing advice in respect of the consequential implications for members in terms of Item 11 of the agenda - Notice of Motion 3. The advice provided was noted and in this connection the Head of Corporate Governance was requested to seek clarification from the Standards Commission regarding the perceived need for elected members to declare an interest in respect of issues to be considered at meetings which impacted on all or most individuals.

Councillor Begg declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Bibby declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Binks declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Brown declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Davidson declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as her husband was the recipient of a state pension and intimated she would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Devine declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Mackay declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor McCartin declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated she would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor McEwan declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated she would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor McGurk declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as her husband was the recipient of a state pension and intimated she would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

Councillor Sheridan declared an interest in respect of item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 as he was the recipient of a state pension and intimated he would leave the meeting and take no part in any discussion or voting thereon.

## **Order of Business**

In terms of Standing Order 16, the Provost intimated that she proposed to alter the order of business to facilitate the conduct of the meeting by considering item 11 of the agenda – Notice of Motion 3 - as the final item of business.

## **Additional Items**

Councillor Devine intimated that he wished to table an emergency motion which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting and he requested that this be taken as an additional item. Provost Cameron ruled, in terms of Standing Order 14, that as the proposed motion did not meet the criteria which required it to be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, the motion would not be taken up as an additional item of business.

Councillor Graham intimated that he wished to table an emergency motion which had not been included in the notice calling the meeting and he requested that this be taken as an additional item. Provost Cameron ruled, in terms of Standing Order 14, that as the proposed motion did not meet the criteria which required it to be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency, the motion would not be taken up as an additional item of business.

## 1 **Minutes of Meetings of Council, Boards and Panels (attached separately)**

There were submitted the Minutes of the following meetings of the Council, Boards and Panels on the dates specified:

Council, 30 September 2021  
Appointment Board, 6 October 2021  
Special Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board, 22 October 2021  
Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board, 25 October 2021  
Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board, 26 October 2021  
Regulatory Functions Board, 27 October 2021  
Education & Children's Services Policy Board, 28 October 2021  
Infrastructure, Land & Environment Policy Board, 3 November 2021  
Petitions Board, 8 November 2021  
Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board, 10 November 2021  
Regulatory Functions Board, 11 November 2021  
Appointment Board, 12 November 2021  
Audit, Risk & Scrutiny Board, 15 November 2021  
Special Council, 18 November 2021  
Special Regulatory Functions Board, 25 November 2021  
Leadership Board, 2 December 2021  
Special Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board, 7 December 2021  
Special Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board, 10 December 2021

**DECIDED:** That the Minutes be approved.

## 2 **Universal School Meals for All (STUC Women's Committee)**

Under reference to Item 27 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 30 September 2021, there was submitted a report by the Director of Environment & Infrastructure relative to arrangements made to deliver a healthy and nutritious free meal, as part of the expansion of the free school lunch programme, to every child whose family wanted them to have one.

The report stated that during June 2021 the Scottish Government had announced, as part of its programme for government, the expansion of free school lunches to all primary 4 pupils from August 2021, primary 5 pupils from January 2022 and pupils in primaries 6 and 7 and all Additional Support Needs pupils from August 2022. In addition, the Scottish Government had indicated that the roll out of free milk for all primary and ASN school pupils would form part of the school lunch expansion programme. The report outlined the work undertaken locally to deliver the programme of free meal expansion in Renfrewshire. It was noted that implementation of the primary 4 free school lunch offering for all had been undertaken at the start of the school term, in August 2021, and been delivered with minimum alterations to the existing school meals provision, infrastructure and resource capacity. The report indicated that the service was currently preparing for expanding the free school meal offering to all primary 5 pupils, with resource and infrastructure requirements in place to support this expansion. The Scottish Futures Trust, on behalf of the Scottish Government, was reviewing the capital, one-off and ongoing revenue requirements of

each local authority to deliver the expanded school meal provision to all primary and ASN pupils. It was expected that information collected would inform Scottish Government 2022/23 budget setting discussions. The report advised that in Renfrewshire a number of infrastructure investments would be required across the school estate to expand and alter kitchens and servery areas to deliver the full expansion programme. The report also highlighted that recruitment was underway to support the primary 5 expansion in January 2022, with a further programme of recruitment planned during 2022 to support the expansion of the initiative to primaries 6 and 7 and ASN pupils. Updates were provided in respect of the design and development, procurement, transport & logistics and engagement & communication workstreams associated with the project.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That the work undertaken to deliver universal free school meal provision for primary 4 and 5 pupils during academic school year 2021/22 be noted;

(b) That the ongoing work with Scottish Futures Trust, on behalf of the Scottish Government, to gather estimated capital, revenue and one-off costs to support the expansion of free school meal provision for primary 4-7 pupils and ASN schools be noted; and

(c) That it be noted that progress updates would be reported to the Finance, Resources and Customer Services Policy Board.

### **3 General Fund Financial Update**

There was submitted a progress report by the Acting Director of Finance & Resources providing a General Fund financial update.

The report intimated that the Council's financial outlook over the medium term remained subject to increased risk, as the Council supported both community and organisational recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, but that the financial position in the current financial year remained stable and consistent with previous reports. The report also advised that the position, in terms of net additional costs, excluding education recovery costs, expected to be incurred during 2021/22 in relation to Covid-19 was in the region of £9-10 million. In addition, it was highlighted that costs had increased as prevention measures remained in place and the societal impact of the pandemic continued. The forecast included an anticipated impact on net council tax income of around £0.5 million and an estimated loss of £1.3 million for Renfrewshire Leisure (RL). In line with the approach outlined in previous reports, the Council's financial forecast did not include any net unfunded costs incurred by Renfrewshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP). The report noted that costs related to the pandemic incurred in schools and Early Learning Centres were estimated to be £3.3 million while additional children's social care costs were estimated to be £1.3 million. In terms of the Council's core financial position, current forecasts anticipated an underspend of £2 million but this position excluded the anticipated impact of the 2021/22 pay award. In addition, members were reminded that the 2021/22 budget had been set on the basis of an unaddressed deficit of £1.7 million.

The UK Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) had outlined that the inflationary risks which previously were anticipated to be transitory appeared now to be longer lasting and at higher levels, with consequential impacts for the Council in

terms of supplies costs and potential pay costs. The report indicated that the prospects for economic recovery had improved from previous forecasts, with the vaccine roll-out being a key enabler in allowing quicker improvement. UK Government borrowing, while still high in historic terms, was forecast to be lower than previously forecasted which provided the UK Government with some additional capacity for public spending. This capacity was anticipated to be further supplemented by increased tax receipts from measures outlined by the Chancellor during 2021. It was highlighted that these improved forecasts might be short-lived, with economic prospects in terms of lower growth forecasts in the later years of the spending review period and high inflation anticipated. In addition, the CSR had confirmed that the Scottish Government block grant would increase substantially in 2022/23, with only very moderate increases over the remainder of the spending review period. The report noted that although the Scottish Budget had been published on 9 December 2021 detailed breakdown of the local government settlement by Council would not be published until 20 December 2021. The report emphasised that the Scottish budget was subject to a number of pressures and there was no guarantee that the levels of increase for the block grant as a whole would be reflected in the local government settlement. Based broadly on the central planning scenario over 2022/23 – 2024/25 it was anticipated that Renfrewshire Council was likely to be faced with a funding gap of around £26 million prior to any decisions on council tax. It was highlighted that, as previously approved, unallocated reserves had been replenished to £10 million moving into 2021/22. The report stated that the Right for Renfrewshire transformation programme had been heavily disrupted by the capacity of the Council being diverted to support the Covid-19 response and this was expected to remain a significant constraint on the programme during 2022.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That the update provided in the report be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that it was anticipated that the next update would form part of the budget report submitted to Council, based on the announcement of the Scottish Government budget and local government financial settlement on 9 December 2021 and the days thereafter.

#### **4 A Prudential Framework for Capital Finance – Progress Report**

Under reference to Item 3 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 4 March 2021, there was submitted a progress report by the Acting Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Council's prudential indicators for 2021/22.

The report outlined the key objectives of the Prudential Code, detailed the local position, as at 15 October 2021, and intimated that total capital expenditure was £31.009 million, of which £22.179 million related to Non-housing and £8.921 million related to Housing. A review of the updated capital spending plan for 2021/22 suggested that the indicators for the current year required to be revised. Full details of the revisions required were detailed within the report. It was highlighted that indicators for 2022/23 and 2023/24 would be reviewed during March 2022, alongside the budget proposals.

The report also detailed the proposed net decrease of £36.183 million in the planned Non-housing capital expenditure during 2022/23 and the contributing factors; the factors considered in relation to the proposed decrease of £5.726 million in the

planned Housing capital expenditure; outlined proposed revisions to the capital expenditure and capital financing requirement indicators and the indicators for affordability; and also set out the position in relation to external debt indicators and loan fund advances.

**DECIDED:** That the report be noted and the changes to the prudential indicators, as detailed in the report, be approved.

## 5 Governance Arrangements

Under reference to item 6 of the Minute of the meeting of the Council held on 30 September 2021 there was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Finance & Resources relative to proposed arrangements for the next cycle of Board meetings up to and including the next Council meeting on 3 March 2022. The report also provided an update in relation to the appointment of a new Chief Executive for Renfrewshire Council and detailed proposed changes to the membership of the Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board and the Council's representation on outside organisations.

The report outlined proposed arrangements for Board meetings during the next cycle, taking cognisance of the successful use of the hybrid model of conducting Board meetings, the ability to broadcast proceedings live and current Government guidance relating to office-based working. The arrangements detailed in the report aimed to allow the maximum flexibility to enable meetings to take place in the most appropriate and safe way, while taking account of available public health guidance or advice.

The report indicated that Alan Russell had been appointed to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of Renfrewshire Council and that it was proposed that Councillor Kenny MacLaren be appointed to the Council's Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board to replace Councillor Paterson and that Councillor Steel replace Councillor Don as the Council's representative on the West of Scotland Archaeology Services Joint Committee.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That the arrangements for the next cycle of Council and Board meetings, set out in section 4 of the report, including the option to use hybrid meetings involving elected members attending meetings in person in Renfrewshire House should this be consistent with advice and guidance on public health, or to hold the meetings remotely using the Teams platform, be approved;

(b) That it be noted that a further report on the arrangements for future meetings of Council and Boards would be submitted to the next scheduled meeting of the Council to be held on 3 March 2022;

(c) That it be noted that Alan Russell had been appointed to the post of Chief Executive and Head of Paid Service of Renfrewshire Council; and

(d) That the appointment of Councillor Kenny MacLaren to the Council's Communities, Housing & Planning Policy Board to replace Councillor Paterson and Councillor Steel to replace Councillor Don as the Council's representative on the West of Scotland Archaeology Services Joint Committee be approved.

## **6 Timetable of Meetings May to December 2022**

There was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Finance & Resources relative to the proposed timetable of meetings of the Council and its Boards, for the period May to December 2022, a copy of which was appended to the report.

The report advised that the proposed timetable of meetings was based on the Council's current decision-making structure and incorporated recess periods at summer, October and Christmas/New Year. Whilst meetings of the Appeals Board and Local Review Body had been included in the timetable the report intimated that there could be occasions when these meetings were not required and as a result would be cancelled, in consultation with the respective Convener. In addition, it was highlighted that to assist members' diary arrangements, dates of the first meetings of the Licensing Board had been included within the timetable.

### **DECIDED:**

(a) That the timetable of meetings of the Council and its Boards, for the period May to December 2022, including the dates during which there were to be recesses, as detailed in the appendix to the report, be approved;

(b) That a report be submitted to the meeting of the Council scheduled to be held during December 2022 relative to the timetable from January 2023 onwards;

(c) That it be agreed that meetings of the Appeals Panel and Local Review Body, although timetabled, be cancelled if there was no substantive business; and

(d) That it be noted that the timetable of meetings might be subject to change following the Local Government Elections in May 2022.

## **7 Revised Councillors' Code of Conduct**

Under reference to Item 12 of the Minute of the meeting of the Finance, Resources & Customer Services Policy Board held on 3 February 2021 there was submitted a report by the Acting Director of Finance & Resources relative to the Revised Councillors' Code of Conduct.

The report stated that all elected members required to agree to be bound by and comply with the Councillors' Code of Conduct, issued in terms of the Ethical Standards in Public Life etc (Scotland) Act 2000. The aim of the Code was to set out clearly and openly the standards that councillors required to comply with when carrying out their duties. The original Councillors' Code of Conduct had come into force in May 2003 and had been revised during 2010 and 2018.

The Scottish Government had undertaken a review of the Councillor's Code to update it, make it easier to understand and to take cognisance of developments in society such as the increased use of social media. It also proposed to strengthen the Code to



reinforce the importance of behaving in a respectful manner and to make it clear that bullying and harassment were completely unacceptable and should not be tolerated. The aim was to produce a Model Code of Conduct for Members of Boards of Devolved Public Bodies and Councillors that was fit for purpose and would ensure the highest standards of conduct by councillors to maintain and strengthen the trust of those they were elected to serve. The report provided a summary of the main changes proposed between the model Code and that implemented during 2018

It was noted that on 24 November 2021 the Minister for Social Security and Local Government had written to all Council Chief Executives' advising that the Model Councillors' Code of Conduct would become effective on 7 December 2021. The Standards Commission had produced guidance on the Model Code which would be published on the Commission's website and issued to elected members once available. It was highlighted that arrangements would be made to provide members with a briefing session on the Model Code in early 2022.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That the Model Councillors' Code of Conduct be noted; and

(b) That it be noted that a briefing on the Model Code would be provided to elected members in early 2022.

**8     2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies- Consultation on Initial Proposals**

There was submitted a report by the Chief Executive relative to consultation undertaken by the Boundary Commission for Scotland in respect of its Initial Proposals for the 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary constituencies.

The report advised that the Boundary Commission for Scotland had published its Initial Proposals for the 2023 Review of UK Parliamentary constituencies and had invited comment on the proposals by 8 December 2021. It was noted that Renfrewshire would retain responsibility for two constituencies but that both were different in several respects from the existing constituencies. A summary of the main changes proposed was provided. An initial response had been prepared, on behalf of the Council, and submitted in compliance with the stipulated deadline. A copy of this response was appended to the report. It was noted that there would be two further rounds of consultation in relation to the review during 2022.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That the response issued on behalf of the Council to the Boundary Commission for Scotland's 2023 Review of UK Parliament Constituencies - Publication of Initial Proposals, a copy of which was appended to the report, be approved; and

(b) That it be noted that there would be two further consultations on the Review during 2022.

**9     Notice of Motion 1 by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin in the

following terms:

“Council notes the statutory role which Community Councils have in relation to the planning process, and further recognises their wider remit as valuable local forums through which community concerns can be expressed and articulated.

Council therefore believes that Renfrewshire Council's Protocol for the naming of new streets and developments should be amended to include Community Councils as consultees in this process, so that the names of new developments and streets better reflect local history.”

Councillor Andy Doig, seconded by Councillor McCartin then moved the motion.

Councillor Steel, seconded by Councillor McGurk, moved as an amendment that the second paragraph of the motion be deleted and replaced with:

“Renfrewshire Council agrees that its Protocol for the naming of new streets and developments should be amended to include Community Councils and Tenants and Residents Associations (TRA's) as consultees in this process, so that the names of new developments and streets better reflect local history.”

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Andy Doig and McCartin, being the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to accept the amendment to the motion, and the motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That Council notes the statutory role which Community Councils have in relation to the planning process, and further recognises their wider remit as valuable local forums through which community concerns can be expressed and articulated; and

(b) That it be agreed that Renfrewshire Council's Protocol for the naming of new streets and developments should be amended to include Community Councils and Tenants and Residents Associations (TRA's) as consultees in this process, so that the names of new developments and streets better reflect local history.

**10 Notice of Motion 2 by Councillors Sharkey and Devine**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Sharkey and Devine in the following terms:

"Cancellation of By-Election

Council demands to know what the total cost to the public purse has been as a result of first, the calling of, and then the cancellation of the by-election due to be held on the 14th of December."

Councillor Sharkey, seconded by Councillor Devine, then moved the motion.

Having noted that details of costs incurred to date had been issued to elected members via email prior to the meeting and that the final costs would be advised in due course, the motion was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** That Council demands to know what the total cost to the public purse has been as a result of first, the calling of, and then the cancellation of the by-election due to be held on the 14th of December.

**11 Notice of Motion 4 by Councillors Devine-Kennedy and Grady**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Devine-Kennedy and Grady in the following terms:

"Autistic Community Approved Communication Boards

Council commends the work of Peterborough Council in helping its autistic residents and joins with it in the belief that people with autism deserve to be understood and heard, to live in an autism friendly society where they can strive to be the best they can be without hidden or systemic barriers,

Council resolves to install autistic community approved communication boards in all our parks and instructs our officers to bring a report to the next meeting of this Council."

Councillor Devine-Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Grady, then moved the motion.

Councillor Hughes, seconded by Councillor Rodden, moved as an amendment the replacement of the second instance of the word 'autistic' with neurodivergent, that the phrase 'people with autism' be replaced with 'people who are neurodivergent' and that 'autism' be replaced with 'neurodiversity' so that the motion as amended would read

'Council commends the work of Peterborough Council in helping its autistic residents and joins with it in the belief that people who are neurodivergent deserve to be understood and heard, to live in an neurodiversity friendly society where they can strive to be the best they can be without hidden or systemic barriers, Council resolves to install neurodivergent community approved communication boards in all our parks and instructs our officers to bring a report to the next meeting of this Council.'

In terms of Standing Order 27, Councillors Devine-Kennedy and Grady, being the mover and seconder of the motion agreed to accept the amendment to the motion as an addition, and the motion, as amended, was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:** That Council commends the work of Peterborough Council in helping its autistic residents and joins with it in the belief that people who are neurodivergent deserve to be understood and heard, to live in an neurodiversity friendly society where they can strive to be the best they can be without hidden or systemic barriers, Council resolves to install neurodivergent community approved communication boards in all our parks and instructs our officers to bring a report to the next meeting of this Council.

**12 Notice of Motion 5 by Councillors Graham and McIntyre**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors Graham and McIntyre in the following terms:

"Sir David Amess MP

Council is shocked and saddened by the murder of Sir David Amess MP. Elected members from all political parties and none should be able to carry out their duties as elected representatives without fear and intimidation.

Council recognises that we as elected members should be setting an example to be seen to treat our fellow elected members with respect and dignity even in our disagreements.

This council is united in our condemnation of the attacks recently which has led to the deaths of Cllr Andy Pennington, Jo Cox MP and Sir David Amess MP."

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, then moved the motion which was approved unanimously.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That Council is shocked and saddened by the murder of Sir David Amess MP. Elected members from all political parties and none should be able to carry out their duties as elected representatives without fear and intimidation;

(b) That Council recognises that we as elected members should be setting an example to be seen to treat our fellow elected members with respect and dignity even in our disagreements; and

(c) That this Council is united in our condemnation of the attacks recently which has led to the deaths of Cllr Andy Pennington, Jo Cox MP and Sir David Amess MP.

**Sederunt**

Councillors Begg, Bibby, Binks, Brown, Davidson, Devine, Mackay, McCartin, McEwan, McGurk and Sheridan having declared a financial interest in respect of the following item of business left the meeting.

**13 Notices of Motion 3 by Councillors K MacLaren and M MacLaren**

There was submitted a Notice of Motion by Councillors K MacLaren and M MacLaren in the following terms:

"Council condemns the Conservative Government at Westminster for abandoning the Pensions Triple Lock. Council notes that the triple lock guarantees that pensions grow in line with whichever is the highest out of earnings, inflation or 2.5%. This is yet another manifesto promise broken by the Conservative Government and a betrayal of Scotland's pensioners who already receive the lowest state pension compared to our European neighbours.

Council will contact the Prime Minister to call on him to perform another u-turn, reverse his current position and re-instate the Pensions Triple Lock."

Councillor K MacLaren, seconded by Councillor M MacLaren, then moved the motion.

Councillor Graham, seconded by Councillor McIntyre, moved as an amendment that “The earnings element of the Triple Lock has been suspended for the 2022-2023 financial year.

Distortions to wages during the coronavirus crisis mean pensioners would have received a rise of as much as 8% in their pension. An increase of this size caused by a statistical anomaly as we recover from a global pandemic would be unaffordable and unfair to the wider public.

Pensions will still increase by the higher of inflation, (current inflation rate 5.1%) or 2.5% for the year. The earnings link for the triple lock will be restored the following year”.

On the roll being called, the following members voted for the amendment: Councillors Graham, Kerr, J MacLaren, McIntyre and Strang.

The following members voted for the motion: Councillors Adam-McGregor, Burns, J Cameron, Provost Cameron, Campbell, Devine-Kennedy, Andy Doig, Audrey Doig, Don, Dowling, Grady, Harte, Hood, Hughes, K MacLaren, M MacLaren, McCulloch, McNaughtan, Montgomery, Nicolson, Mylet, Paterson, Rodden, Sharkey, Shaw and Steel.

5 members having voted for the amendment and 26 members having voted for the motion, the motion was accordingly declared carried.

**DECIDED:**

(a) That Council condemns the Conservative Government at Westminster for abandoning the Pensions Triple Lock. Council notes that the triple lock guarantees that pensions grow in line with whichever is the highest out of earnings, inflation or 2.5%. This is yet another manifesto promise broken by the Conservative Government and a betrayal of Scotland’s pensioners who already receive the lowest state pension compared to our European neighbours; and

(b) That Council contact the Prime Minister to call on him to perform another u-turn, reverse his current position and re-instate the Pensions Triple Lock.