

# MORAY COUNCIL

## Minute of Special Meeting of the Moray Council

Wednesday, 04 October 2023

Council Chambers, Council Office, High Street, Elgin, IV30 1BX

### **PRESENT**

Councillor Peter Bloomfield, Councillor Neil Cameron, Councillor Tracy Colyer, Councillor Theresa Coull, Councillor John Cowe, Councillor John Divers, Councillor Amber Dunbar, Councillor Jérémie Fernandes, Councillor Donald Gatt, Councillor David Gordon, Councillor Juli Harris, Councillor Sandy Keith, Councillor Scott Lawrence, Councillor Graham Leadbitter, Councillor Marc Macrae, Councillor Paul McBain, Councillor Neil McLennan, Councillor Shona Morrison, Councillor Bridget Mustard, Councillor Kathleen Robertson, Councillor Derek Ross, Councillor John Stuart, Councillor Draeyk Van Der Horn, Councillor Sonya Warren

### **APOLOGIES**

Councillor James Allan, Councillor Ben Williams

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance), Head of Governance, Strategy and Performance, Head of Environmental and Commercial Services, Democratic Services Manager and Caroline O'Connor, Committee Services Officer.

#### **1. Chair**

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Kathleen Robertson.

#### **2. Declaration of Member's Interests**

In terms of Standing Order 21 and 23 and the Councillors' Code of Conduct, there were no declarations from Group Leaders or Spokespersons in regard to any prior decisions taken on how Members will vote on any item on the agenda or any declarations of Member's interests in respect of any item on the agenda.

#### **3. Clarification on Point of Order from Moray Council on 27 September 2023**

Councillor Robertson stated that she wanted to address a point of order raised at the last meeting of Moray Council under Question Time regarding the suspected use of the word 'teacher' in response to her instructions about raising points of accuracy prior to the minute being agreed. She understood Councillor Macrae who, at the time, believed he heard the word at the meeting, was able to view the webcast once it was available later that day. To be clear on review of the webcast, Councillor McLennan did not say 'teacher' and was not disrespectful to the Chair. Councillor Robertson understood that a full apology had been sent by Councillor Macrae to Councillor McLennan that day. However, as the statement was made in the public, she thought it important to recognise that no disrespect was made by Councillor McLennan and that he had

received a full apology as well as this public recognition of the error on Councillor Macrae's part and she now considered the matter dealt with.

#### **4. Cloddach Bridge**

The meeting had before it a report by the Depute Chief Executive (Economy, Environment and Finance) informing the Council of the findings of the Pre-feasibility Study undertaken on the potential repair of Cloddach Bridge.

Councillor Robertson in thanking Members for attending the special meeting, moved to defer the report until the next meeting of Moray Council on 25 October 2023 as she felt that the Council making a decision at this meeting would not be fair on the Heldon Community Council who were awaiting the outcome of the current round of funding from Fred Olsen Renewables Rothes 1 Fund as referred to in the report. The consideration of applications would take place on 17 October 2023. She further added that herself and Councillor Mustard had met with the Community Council the previous evening and the Community Council requested in the strongest terms a short extension be given. Councillor Robertson also confirmed she had written to both the UK and Scottish governments requesting the full funding or match funding respectively and was awaiting replies.

This was seconded by Councillor Gatt.

The Head of Environmental and Commercial Services advised that by delaying the decision on the report the extension given on the funding would reduce Officer time to complete the Full Business Case (FBC) from 26 weeks to 23 weeks and although that may not appear to be a long deferral, this could leave risks remaining about accuracy of information in the FBC prepared to that point or lead to abortive spend if an FBC could not be completed. She further stated that in order to complete the FBC prioritisation would need to be given over work already programmed.

Councillor Stuart sought clarification on whether information could be provided, should the report be deferred to 25 October, in the report on the programmed works which would be affected if the decision was to progress with the FBC as he felt this would enable Members to make a more informed decision.

The Head of Environmental and Commercial Services confirmed that this information could be included should the report be deferred.

Following further consideration the Council agreed to defer the report until the next meeting of Moray Council on 25 October 2023 when a final decision would be made.