

APSE Parks, Grounds & Street Services Advisory Group Meeting

Minutes Wednesday 5 March 2014

Hamilton Town House

1. Welcome

Cllr Norman Hampshire, Chair of the APSE Scotland Parks, Grounds & Street services group thanked all for attending the meeting in Hamilton Town House.

2. Attendance & Apologies

See attached.

3. Minutes for meeting 27 November 2013

The minutes were noted as a true and correct record of the meeting.

4. Matters Arising

It was noted that there was no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting on 27 November 2013.

5. Allotments: The Fife Model – Peter Duncan, Fife Council

Jan Kennedy from APSE provided a short update of why allotments are on the agenda. Peter Duncan's presentation outlined his role as an Allotment Officer where he assists in creating and supporting groups, manages existing plots/sites, identifies and forms new sites and provides horticultural advice. He also provide the group with an update on Fife's existing plots (before and after – 22 FC managed, 4 FC leased and 5 independent sites) through a series of photographs, explained how the Council cleared them up and increased the supply of growing space, reduced waiting lists, improved facilities and generally improved health and wellbeing in Fife.

A group discussion followed with regards to the Community Empowerment (Scotland) Bill and how this could potentially impact on local authority allotments.

6. Delivering Operational Efficiency through Workforce Modernisation – Wallace Turpie, North Ayrshire Council

Wallace Turpie from North Ayrshire Council (NAC) explained how NAC delivered operational efficiency through the modernisation of their Streetscene workforce. They achieved this through a meaningful consultation process that meant modernising role profiles, changing work patterns, offering new training opportunities and career routes, and putting employees through a re-application process for the new roles. To achieve their aims, NAC had to improve employee engagement and communication and provide visible leadership. They achieved a more skilled, flexible workforce, better outcomes for customers, reduced sickness absence while delivering £1.68m in efficiency savings and improving relations with employees.

7. High Hedges (Scotland) Bill – Group Discussion

The group noted that guidance on the High Hedges (Scotland) Act 2013 can be found at: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/0044/00445025.pdf>

For information the link below also provides some information on the various forms etc: https://eplanning.scotland.gov.uk/skin/pdf/High_Hedges_Form.pdf

8. APSE Update – Louise McMillan, APSE

Louise McMillan provided a comprehensive update on the work of the Association. This included an update on the research projects which APSE would be working on over 2014 as well as the recent briefing papers and publications which had been released.

The group were also informed that APSE provided oral evidence to the Cosla commission on the future of local democracy, a follow up from the meeting which APSE had with members of Cosla in December.

Louise also updated the group on APSE Solutions, APSE Training, Performance Networks and the upcoming seminars. In particular the upcoming Fleet, Waste & Grounds seminar taking place in Aviemore on 6/9 May 2014.

9. Date & venue of next meeting

The next meeting of the group will be during the APSE Scottish Fleet, Waste & Grounds seminar, 6-9 May 2014 in Aviemore.

10. AOCB

There was no other competent business raised at the meeting.

Parks, Grounds & Street Services Group

05-Mar-14

Attendee List

Name	Authority	Count
Douglas Allan	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Brian Shand	Aberdeenshire Council	1
Kevin Robertson	Angus Council	1
Gordon Allan	Angus Council	1
Louise McMillan	APSE	1
Garry Lee	APSE	1
Kathy Knox	Clackmannanshire Council	1
Kenny Inglis	Clackmannanshire Council	1
Nick Jackson	Dumfries & Galloway Council	1
David Cullen	East Dunbartonshire Council	1
Douglas Fox	East Lothian Council	1
Andrew Hogarth	East Lothian Council	1
Stuart Pryde	East Lothian Council	1
Cllr Norman Hampshire	East Lothian Council	1
Donnie McManus	East Renfrewshire Council	1
Laurence Christie	East Renfrewshire Council	1
Peter Duncan	Fife Council	1
John Swan	Fife Council	1
Sandy Paterson	Glasgow City Council	1
Thomas McMenamin	Glasgow City Council	1
Drew McWilliams	Glasgow City Council	1
Allan Walker	Inverclyde Council	1
Ian Welsh	Inverclyde Council	1
Justin Venton	Midlothian Council	1
Jim Hay	Midlothian Council	1
Wallace Turpie	North Ayrshire Council	1
Ken Forbes	North Lanarkshire Council	1
Rob Bryce	Perth & Kinross Council	1
Judy Wilkinson	Scottish Allotment & Gardens Society	1
Ian Gray	South Ayrshire Council	1
Nicole Paterson	Stirling Council	1
Colin Mackay	Stirling Council	1
David Lees	West Lothian Council	1

Apologies

Donnie McManus	East Renfrewshire Council
Graeme Cunningham	Clackmannanshire Council
Nicola Simpson	Dumfries & Galloway Council
Gareth Barwell	West Lothian Council
John Campbell	Fife Council