



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Official Report

CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (LEITH LINKS AND SURPLUS FIRE FUND) BILL COMMITTEE

Thursday 31 October 2013

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CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL (LEITH LINKS AND SURPLUS FIRE FUND) BILL COMMITTEE

1st Meeting 2013, Session 4

CONVENER

*John Lamont (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Con)

DEPUTY CONVENER

*Sandra White (Glasgow Kelvin) (SNP)

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (SNP)

*Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Lab)

*attended

CLERK TO THE COMMITTEE

Claire Menzies Smith

LOCATION

Committee Room 5

Scottish Parliament

City of Edinburgh Council (Leith Links and Surplus Fire Fund) Bill Committee

Thursday 31 October 2013

[Sandra White opened the meeting at 10:30]

Interests and Impartiality

Sandra White (Glasgow Kelvin) (SNP): Good morning, everyone. Under standing orders, I will, as the oldest committee member—I am told that this is a very young committee—chair the meeting for the first few agenda items.

I welcome everyone to the first meeting of the City of Edinburgh Council (Leith Links and Surplus Fire Fund) Bill Committee. I remind all present that mobile phones and BlackBerrys should be turned off completely, as they interfere with the sound system even when they are switched to silent. No apologies have been received; we are all present and correct.

The first agenda item is the declaration of interests and impartiality. In accordance with section 3 of the “Code of Conduct for Members of the Scottish Parliament”, I invite members to declare any interests relevant to the committee’s remit and remind them that declarations should be brief, but sufficiently detailed to make clear to listeners the nature of the interests. I duly declare that I have no relevant registrable interests.

Also, in accordance with rule 9A.5.4A of standing orders, I declare that I will act impartially and will base decisions solely on the evidence and information provided to the committee.

I invite other members to make their declarations.

John Lamont (Ettrick, Roxburgh and Berwickshire) (Con): I have nothing to declare that is not disclosed in my entry in the register of interests. I similarly agree to act impartially.

Anne McTaggart (Glasgow) (Lab): I have nothing to declare—nothing in my entry in the register of interests is relevant to the committee’s work.

Sandra White: I ask Anne McTaggart to declare that she will act impartially and base decisions solely on the evidence and information provided to the committee.

Anne McTaggart: I will act impartially and base decisions solely on the evidence and information that is brought before the committee.

Bruce Crawford (Stirling) (SNP): I have nothing to declare either. I, too, will act impartially throughout the committee’s work.

Convener

10:32

Sandra White: Item two on the agenda is the choice of a convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish Conservative and Unionist Party are eligible for nomination as the convener of the committee and I am pleased to announce that John Lamont is the Conservative Party's nominee for the post.

John Lamont was chosen as convener.

Sandra White: I congratulate John Lamont on his appointment and hand the chair over to him for the remainder of the proceedings.

Deputy Convener

10:32

The Convener (John Lamont): I thank Sandra White for so ably chairing the first part of the meeting. I am also grateful for my colleagues' support of my nomination as chair.

Under agenda item three we will choose a deputy convener. The Parliament has agreed that only members of the Scottish National Party are eligible for nomination as deputy convener of the committee and I understand that Sandra White is the SNP's nominee for the position.

Sandra White was chosen as deputy convener.

The Convener: I congratulate Sandra White on her appointment. I look forward to working with her and other committee members.

Decision on Taking Business in Private

10:33

The Convener: Agenda item four is to decide whether to take in private item 6, which is consideration of the committee's approach to the bill. Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

Witness Expenses

10:34

John Lamont: Under agenda item five I seek the committee's agreement to delegate to me as convener responsibility for arranging payment by the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body of expenses incurred by witnesses. Is that agreed?

Members *indicated agreement.*

John Lamont: That concludes the public part of our meeting.

10:34

Meeting continued in private until 10:49.

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