

**MINUTES OF THE NINTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY 11 MAY 2006 AT 6.30 p.m.
IN THE WILLIAMS ROOM**

ACTION

Present : As per Sederunt Sheets

Apologies : Julia Braun, Gary Butterly, Mairi Kellock, Beth Khan,
Gavin Lee, Jamie McHale, Shona Morrison,
Henk van Klaveren

**1 MINUTES OF THE EIGHTH STATUTORY MEETING OF COUNCIL
20 April 2006 – Factual Corrections**

None.

2 MATTERS ARISING

2.1 Masterpoint Internet Service (Refer 2.1)

M Davies reported that the information received from the Accommodation Office in relation to the current agreement with Masterpoint indicates that the agreement was taken out in 2004 for 10 years. It was suggested trying to obtain a copy of the full contract under the Freedom of Information Act. In the meantime the Executive will discuss this and e-mail Council with their ideas. Anyone with any other suggestions should contact M Davies.

EXEC

2.2 Undergraduate Studies Committee (Refer 2.2)

K Borrowdale informed Council that the Philosophy Department has decided not to remove the compulsory unit as part of their 3-year degree. There is still a problem with funding and the reduction in teaching hours.

2.3 Exam Papers (Refer 2.3)

M Davies is still waiting for a response from the Clerk of Senate regarding University policy on returning exam papers to students.

2.4 Council Meeting Guidelines for the Chair (Refer 2.4)

A MacDonald submitted a paper to Council. S Tomlinson stated that due to this being a constitutional amendment it would have to lie on the table until the 10th Statutory Meeting.

2.5 Exam Timetable (Refer 2.5)

M Davies is confident that, in future, exams will be held before Christmas. As soon as the SRC has received confirmation, Council will be notified.

2.6 Museums & Art Galleries Committee (Refer 2.11)

K Binnie's report was not available.

2.7 Mass E-Mails (Refer 2.13)

S Morrison will produce guidelines on e-mail circulation. S Tomlinson will speak to the Postmaster regarding mass e-mails being received by students. S Skinner also pointed out that e-mails being received regarding

SM/ST

property rental are not from licensed landlords.

ACTION

2.8 AUT Action (Refer 2.14)

On the Agenda.

2.9 By-Election (Refer 3.4.2)

S Morrison had circulated the information to members.

2.10 Student Retention Group (Refer 6.1.1)

A Roberts apologised that he had been unable to attend the meeting. He had submitted his apologies to the Convenor. Once he receives the Committee papers he will pass them to the President of the QM Union.

AR

2.11 Faculty of Arts Meeting (Refer 6.2.1)

K Borrowdale had spoken to the Advice Centre about removing 'N' from the exam transcripts and had sent a briefing paper to M Davies. M Davies will circulate this to Council, together with a note from the Senior Advice, Policy & Training Officer. K Borrowdale will also speak to the new Arts Convenor about it.

MD/KB

2.12 Traffic Proposals (Refer 13.1)

The response to the City Council in connection with the proposed traffic changes on Kelvin Way was e-mailed to Council and displayed on the website. S Tomlinson will now e-mail a copy of their reply to Council members. It would appear that the proposed traffic changes have fallen in part (although it is still proposed to put pay parking bays on Kelvin Way). As soon as she has confirmation about this she will let Council know.

ST

2.13 Outside Notice boards (Refer 13.2)

S Tomlinson had managed to locate the key for the notice boards. Today's Agenda and motions, as well as adverts of the SRC's services were now displayed in it.

Minutes adopted by Council.

3 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS' REPORTS

VP COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

(Copy of report circulated to Council)

Anyone with any questions on S Morrison's report was advised to e-mail them to her.

4 VP EDUCATION REPORT

(Copy of report circulated to Council)

4.1 Update on Senate – AUT Action

M Davies reported that he is continuing to receive complaints and questions from students about the events that are still arising as a result of the AUT action. As agreed at the last meeting of Council M Davies composed an open letter and distributed it to Senate. At Senate members tried to pass a motion that in the event that issues are not resolved before

the Graduation period then all power will be handed over to the Principal. The student Senate members opposed this motion as this could have resulted in students being awarded unclassified degrees and classification allocated once the dispute is resolved. After lengthy debate at the Senate Meeting it was decided to suspend any changes and call an emergency meeting of Senate at a later date if so required.

ACTION

Council discussed the situation further and it was agreed to write to the AUT and UCEA pressing for them to reach an agreement as soon as possible. S Skinner asked if it was likely that exam results would be available by the 23 June, as stated in an e-mail sent by the Principal. M Davies was concerned by this statement because if this didn't transpire it could cause severe difficulties. S Tomlinson informed Council that she and M Davies had produced a press release statement updating everyone on the situation. This will be sent to Advisers and departments and displayed on the website.

ST/MD

4.2 Academic Writing Skills

Council noted that the University is considering putting together a compulsory one hour course in the post-orientation week which allows the University to assess a student's ability in academic writing. If the student falls below a certain level they will be given an 8-week, 1 hour a week course that will help them improve their academic writing skill. The final details have yet to be confirmed.

The following comments/questions were raised:

- There is a basic IT competence class so why not a guide on how to write essays?
- Sixth year studies courses in Scotland are starting to slip so this is a very positive step forward, engaging with students from the beginning.
- It will help international students who are not familiar with the style of writing.
- Will it include Scientific reports?
- Will it be available to all departments?
- Would the University be prepared to fund it quite substantially?

M Davies reported that financial implications had not been discussed but S Tomlinson pointed out that some of the Effective Learning Unit's funding was not always spent so there could possibly be some scope for expansion in that whole area.

The other questions raised will be followed up and a response available at the next meeting of Council.

EXEC

S Campbell expressed his concern at the stress this could put some students under. He is currently piloting staff for a new grammar scheme and he feels it is important to show there is a difference.

4.3 Council e-mails

M Davies referred to an e-mail circulated recently to Council stating the address currently used would be changed. He informed Council that the new e-mail address is now: owa.gla.ac.uk/exchange/

4.4 Questions or Comments for VP Education

None.

**5 VP i/c WELFARE & EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES REPORT
(Copy of report circulated to Council)**

5.1 Council Dinner

S Tomlinson was delighted all who had attended the Dinner enjoyed themselves. She conveyed her thanks to N Jennings and S Morrison for organising the evening.

5.2 SRC Discount Card

These are being distributed around campus and in the Halls and will be handed out during Freshers' Week. S Tomlinson asked Council members to pick up a card at the end of the meeting.

5.3 Campus Safety

Due to some safety concerns on campus recently, where a student was mugged, a safety update has been placed on the SRC and Union websites. It will also be placed on the student pages of gla.ac.uk. Some members highlighted other incidents that they had heard of and M Davies encouraged them to ask the person involved to report it to the Police immediately. It was noted that attack alarms are available from the Advice Centre and the QM Union shop and S Tomlinson will speak to the Police about receiving more. She reassured everyone that more Police surveillance was around campus to try and resolve this problem. She confirmed the safety promotion event held during Freshers' Week would be arranged again this year.

ST

5.4 Aldwych Campaign "Letter to Tony"

S Tomlinson circulated a paper on the current "Letter to Tony" campaign which has been organised by the Aldwych Group. The giant letter is being transported through the 19 student Unions and will then be presented to Downing Street in the summer. In conjunction with this, pledge cards have been printed and all the student unions are collecting 30,000 of them. S Tomlinson asked Council members to assist in getting pledge cards signed during next week between 12 and 2 p.m. outside the Library.

It was suggested that the letter be sent to Jack McConnell. S Tomlinson confirmed she would like to mirror the campaign and send it to the Scottish Parliament so anyone with any ideas should let her know. S Skinner suggested that any future campaigns should be arranged at a more appropriate time of year taking into account the Scottish aspect because he believes the Scottish Parliament should be accountable also.

5.5 Freshers' Week

Discussions are ongoing. Applications for Freshers' Helpers are now open and the information is on the website. M Wilson informed Council helpers T-shirts will be blue.

5.6 Questions or Comments for VP Welfare & Equal Opportunities

None

6 CONVENORS, OFFICERS' & ASSESSOR'S REPORTS**6.1 Kat Borrowdale, Arts Convenor****6.1.1 Undergraduate Committee Meeting**

K Borrowdale had attended this meeting and there was a presentation on Personal Development Plans and the Arts Faculty has just about agreed to take part in it. She has asked that a student representative be involved in any further work.

6.1.2 Questions or Comments for the Arts Convenor

None.

6.2 Duncan MacKenzie, Environmental Officer**6.2.1**

D MacKenzie had met with the Travel and Transport Co-ordinator and a Glasgow School of Art student who had recently run a 'bike library' to discuss the possibilities of establishing such a 'bike library' at this University. He had also spoken to the Associate Director of Library Services who did not see any great practical obstacles to using the library card system to authenticate access to the 'bike library'.

6.2.2 Amenities Committee Meeting

The Disability Service is in the process of trying to resolve the problem of using the recently purchased mobility scooters for students. S Campbell reported because there are too many hills on campus the scooters cannot be used until a risk assessment is carried out. A proper location for them has also to be found. S Campbell informed Council that the Clerk of Senate is forming a Working Group to deal with this and S Campbell will update the Exec on any developments.

6.2.3 Questions or Comments for the Environmental Officer

None.

6.3 Struan Campbell, Students with Disabilities Officer**6.3.1 Pink Forms**

S Campbell informed Council that under the Disability Equality Group a Focus Group will be looking at changing the pink forms and the purpose of them. One of the problems is confidentiality and the different levels of

confidentiality within it. The recommendations from the Focus Group should be available next term.

ACTION

6.3.2 Questions or Comments for Students with Disabilities Officer
None

7 COURT ASSESSOR’S REPORT
(Copy of report circulated to Council)

7.1 Sustainability

S Tomlinson copied the SRC’s Sustainability motion and Sustainability Committee to the Secretary of Court, the Principal and Court members. During the Court meeting sustainability was discussed as a priority for the Health, Safety and Environment Committee and Estates & Buildings. S Tomlinson will follow up on the motion that was sent to people and find out what they have implemented.

ST

7.2 Restructuring of Court Committees

Council noted that Court had presented a briefing discussion paper on restructuring arrangements for Committees and Court. Due to the lack of time at the meeting this had not been discussed in any length so S Tomlinson has contacted the Secretary of Court and asked for further discussions. As soon as she has additional information she will let Council know.

8 MOTION: NO PLATFORM POLICY

S Tomlinson left the Chair. M Davies took the Chair.

The following motion proposed by S Tomlinson and seconded by S Morrison was submitted which read:

This SRC Notes:

1. Campuses are often targets for groups seeking to recruit new members as well as to spread their beliefs.
2. Certain groups’ beliefs and actions may be contrary to the SRC Equal Opportunities Policy.

This SRC Believes:

1. That the SRC should be at the forefront of the campaign to combat prejudice and bigotry.
2. That by complementing the Equal Opportunities Policy with a No Platform Policy, we can reinforce our commitment to fighting for Equal Opportunities for all.
3. That we must balance freedom of expression with protection from groups who would seek to use that freedom of expression to oppress others.
4. That a No Platform Policy safeguards the students from being subjected to bigotry and hatred.

This SRC Resolves:

1. Not to allow any person who can be shown to have advocated or expressed, or is known to be likely to advocate or express, conduct, attitudes or views which will contravene the SRC Equal Opportunity Policy to have any involvement with SRC Events of Functions.

2. That the President and Permanent Secretary will ensure that the above is applied as far as is legally possible since the presence of such individuals could lead to disorder and endanger the safety of students.
3. That no Council Member shall share a platform with any known racists, or those of any other view contravening the Equal Opportunities Policy at any SRC event; or any other event in their capacity as an Officer.
4. That Council be strongly urged to discipline any SRC office bearer found to be in breach of this policy through a motion of censure or a vote of no confidence.
5. That the Permanent Secretary, on behalf of the President will maintain a list of recognised groups that are banned by this policy.
6. To empower and require the President to work to resolve potential or actual conflicts between Societies that could exacerbate tensions between students along the lines of race, religion, nationality or ethnicity, such as tensions erupting in relation to international conflicts.
7. To mandate the Clubs and Societies Officer to liaise with the relevant Societies to ensure that events organised by them reflect the SRC's commitment to tolerance and understanding (e.g. no offensive or inflammatory speakers or publicity).
8. To request that all clubs and societies consult with the SRC at the early stages of event planning where they suspect there is a potential breach of this policy or the equal opportunities policy.
9. To require all Societies to notify the Clubs and Societies Officer or President in the planning stages of any activity that would potentially cause or exacerbate tension between students along the lines of race, religion, nationality or ethnicity.
10. To publicize this policy to all, and to encourage the University to adopt a similar policy.

ACTION

S Tomlinson spoke on the motion. A Roberts proposed a direct negative. A MacDonald proposed the motion lie on the table until the next meeting. It was agreed that a Working Group be formed to modify the motion and present it at the next meeting. Council agreed. The Working Group will consist of: S Tomlinson, K Borrowdale, S Campbell, S Skinner, E Parker, A Roberts and D MacKenzie. It was also decided that the first meeting of the Working Group would agree which direction they plan to take the motion and send it to the Clubs & Societies that will be affected.

WGROUP

9 MOTION: TO ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABILITY GROUP

The following motion proposed by D MacKenzie and seconded by K Borrowdale was submitted which read:

Motion to establish a Sustainability Group
and to determine the collective duty of the SRC in relation to sustainability

This SRC notes:

1. That the post of Environmental Officer has not been included in the Constitution which enters into effect on 1 July 2006.

This SRC believes:

Objectives of the SRC (Constitution paragraph 3)

1. That "the general interests of students" referred to in sub-paragraph 3.1 of the Constitution which enters into effect on 1 July 2006 includes their interest in the protection of the environment;
2. That the state of the local and global environments affects the wealth and health of students referred to in sub-paragraph 3.3 of the said Constitution;
3. That "heritage" referred to in sub-paragraph 3.4 of the said Constitution includes our

natural heritage, that is to say, the natural environment; and that advancing this heritage includes advancing students' knowledge and understanding of it.

ACTION

This SRC resolves as follows:

Duty and establishment of Sustainability Group

1. It shall therefore be the collective duty of the SRC to promote sustainable development;
2. In order to give effect to this duty and these objectives, a committee shall formally be established, which shall be known as the SRC Sustainability Group ("the Group");

Aim, function and activities

3. The aim and function of the Group shall be to decide on and organise, on a university-wide basis, and (as appropriate) in co-operation with other interested parties, activities promoting sustainable development, whether their focus is university-based, local, national or international;
4. The Group's activities may include, but shall not be limited to, campaigns, fundraising and events; and the purpose of the activities may include, but shall not be limited to, education, charity, nature conservation and political campaigning;
5. The Group shall endeavour to engage with interest groups which may have views about the activities which the Group should pursue, or which may share common aims with the Group;
6. The Group shall, in pursuit of its aims, liaise with SRC Council and Executive Officers and, as necessary, decide on motions to be proposed at meetings of the Council or Executive;
7. The Group's activities shall not be limited to those specified in this resolution;

Membership and Convenor

8. Membership of the Group shall be open to any student of the University, and to any member of SRC Council;
9. The following shall be *ex officio* members of the Group:
 - a) the SRC President;
 - b) the SRC Vice-President (Student Support), or whichever Executive Officer has responsibility for promoting sustainable development;
 - c) the SRC Charities Officer;
 - d) any member of SRC Council whose role, in the opinion of the President after discussion with Council, relates significantly to sustainability;
10. Individual students may join the Group as representatives of Unions, clubs, societies and student support groups;
11. The Group shall, at least once in each academic session, elect a Convenor, who need not be a member of SRC Council, and who shall be responsible for organising and facilitating the Group's meetings;
12. The Convenor shall be permitted to speak and act on the Group's behalf;

Invitations and publicity

13. The SRC shall, within eight weeks of the start of each academic session, send invitations to join the Group to each member of the SRC Council, to Presidents and/or appropriate committees of each Union, and to each club, society, and student support group (SSG) which is affiliated to the SRC; and the SRC may also send such invitations at any time and to any student or group of students, and shall send such an invitation to any newly affiliated club, society, or SSG;

ACTION

14. The invitations shall ask their recipients to promote the Group among the constituency, electors or contacts of each SRC Council member, or among the membership of each Union, club, society, or SSG;
15. The SRC shall publicise the Group (including, as appropriate, its achievements and plans) in ways including, but not limited to, the following:
 - a) in the SRC Guide and in material sent to new students before they arrive;
 - b) by establishing a section on its web site in which information shall be posted including, but not limited to, proceedings, decisions, and activities of, and (as appropriate) correspondence sent and received by or on behalf of, the Group;
 - c) by sending bulletins about its work at least once in each semester –
 - to the Group’s members, and
 - to any affiliated clubs, societies, and SSGs, and any other formal or informal group of students, which, in the Convenor’s opinion after consultation with the Group, share sufficient common ground with the Group and have not opted out in the current academic session, and
 - to any other such group or any student which has requested to receive them;

Meetings

16. It shall be the responsibility of the Convenor, whom failing the Vice-President (Student Support), President or Permanent Secretary in that order, to call meetings of the Group;
17. Meetings shall be held on a regular basis and at least every four weeks during each semester, and may also be held outside of semesters;
18. The Group may invite any person to attend its meetings if their attendance would promote its aims;

Responsibility for implementation and entry into force

19. Responsibility for ensuring that this resolution is implemented shall lie ultimately with the Vice-President (Student Support), whom failing the President or Permanent Secretary in that order;
20. This entire resolution shall enter into force immediately.

D MacKenzie spoke on the motion. The following amendments were proposed:

Under Meetings, point 17, after ‘regular basis’

Delete: “and at least every four weeks during each semester, and may also be held outside of semesters”

Insert “during each semester, at least four times per academic year”.

Delete all references to: “Permanent Secretary”.

Under membership, point 8, insert: The quorum of the Group shall be seven”.

No direct negative. Motion passed.

Motion now reads:

Motion to establish a Sustainability Group

and to determine the collective duty of the SRC in relation to sustainability

ACTION

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3. That “heritage” referred to in sub-paragraph 3.4 of the said Constitution includes our natural heritage, that is to say, the natural environment; and that advancing this heritage includes advancing students’ knowledge and understanding of it.

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2. In order to give effect to this duty and these objectives, a committee shall formally be established, which shall be known as the SRC Sustainability Group (“the Group”);

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3. The aim and function of the Group shall be to decide on and organise, on a university-wide basis, and (as appropriate) in co-operation with other interested parties, activities promoting sustainable development, whether their focus is university-based, local, national or international;
4. The Group’s activities may include, but shall not be limited to, campaigns, fundraising and events; and the purpose of the activities may include, but shall not be limited to, education, charity, nature conservation and political campaigning;
5. The Group shall endeavour to engage with interest groups which may have views about the activities which the Group should pursue, or which may share common aims with the Group;
6. The Group shall, in pursuit of its aims, liaise with SRC Council and Executive Officers and, as necessary, decide on motions to be proposed at meetings of the Council or Executive;
7. The Group’s activities shall not be limited to those specified in this resolution;

Membership and Convenor

8. Membership of the Group shall be open to any student of the University, and to any member of SRC Council. The quorum of the Group shall be seven.
9. The following shall be *ex officio* members of the Group:
 - a) the SRC President;
 - b) the SRC Vice-President (Student Support), or whichever Executive Officer has responsibility for promoting sustainable development;
 - c) the SRC Charities Officer;
 - d) any member of SRC Council whose role, in the opinion of the President after discussion with Council, relates significantly to sustainability;

10. Individual students may join the Group as representatives of Unions, clubs, societies and student support groups;
11. The Group shall, at least once in each academic session, elect a Convenor, who need not be a member of SRC Council, and who shall be responsible for organising and facilitating the Group's meetings;
12. The Convenor shall be permitted to speak and act on the Group's behalf;

Invitations and publicity

13. The SRC shall, within eight weeks of the start of each academic session, send invitations to join the Group to each member of the SRC Council, to Presidents and/or appropriate committees of each Union, and to each club, society, and student support group (SSG) which is affiliated to the SRC; and the SRC may also send such invitations at any time and to any student or group of students, and shall send such an invitation to any newly affiliated club, society, or SSG;
14. The invitations shall ask their recipients to promote the Group among the constituency, electors or contacts of each SRC Council member, or among the membership of each Union, club, society, or SSG;
15. The SRC shall publicise the Group (including, as appropriate, its achievements and plans) in ways including, but not limited to, the following:
 - e) in the SRC Guide and in material sent to new students before they arrive;
 - f) by establishing a section on its web site in which information shall be posted including, but not limited to, proceedings, decisions, and activities of, and (as appropriate) correspondence sent and received by or on behalf of, the Group;
 - g) by sending bulletins about its work at least once in each semester –
 - to the Group's members, and
 - to any affiliated clubs, societies, and SSGs, and any other formal or informal group of students, which, in the Convenor's opinion after consultation with the Group, share sufficient common ground with the Group and have not opted out in the current academic session, and
 - to any other such group or any student which has requested to receive them;

Meetings

16. It shall be the responsibility of the Convenor, whom failing the Vice-President (Student Support) or President in that order, to call meetings of the Group;
17. Meetings shall be held on a regular basis during each semester, at least four times per academic year;
18. The Group may invite any person to attend its meetings if their attendance would promote its aims;

Responsibility for implementation and entry into force

19. Responsibility for ensuring that this resolution is implemented shall lie ultimately with the Vice-President (Student Support), whom failing the President in that order;
20. This entire resolution shall enter into force immediately.

10 AUT ACTION

S Skinner referred to an article in the Evening Times about exams being cancelled due to the strike and asked if it is likely to happen here. M Davies confirmed there are no suggestions that this will happen and that the Principal had stated that the exams are proceeding according to timetable. M Davies will contact the Principal regarding the e-mail that was

MD

circulated to students from him, regarding exam results. S Tomlinson suggested that anyone with any questions regarding graduations should be directed to the Clerk of Senate. S Varwell pointed out that the Clerk of Senate had confirmed in an e-mail that there would be no change to the graduation dates. S Varwell will arrange to circulate the e-mail to Council.

ACTION

sv

11 MINUTES OF THE CLUBS & SOCIETIES COMMITTEE MEETING 8 February 2006 – Factual Corrections and Matters Arising

11.1 Claims for Alcohol (Refer 8)

Questions were asked whether or not Clubs & Societies could claim expenses for alcohol for events, as according to the minutes they could. B Hay stated that alcohol had been discussed but was refused. B Hay will investigate.

BH

12 AOCB

12.1 The Advice Centre Six Month Statistical Report September 2005 to March 2006

A copy of the report was circulated to everyone for information.

12.2 Last Meeting

As this was A MacDonald's last meeting after nearly 6 years on Council he wished everyone all the best for the future. He hopes his recommended addendum to Schedule 7 of the Constitution will be followed through. Council expressed their thanks to Andrew with a round of applause.

12.3 SRC Scholarship Committee

The following members volunteered to serve on this Committee:

Anders Roberts
Kat Borrowdale

12.4 Welfare & Equal Opportunities Committee Meeting

This will take place on Monday, 22 May at 5 p.m. in the Upper Executive Office.

12.5 Clubs & Societies Committee Meeting

This will take place on Monday, 5 June at 4 p.m. in the Upper Executive Office.

12.6 Aldwych Pledge Cards

M Davies reminded Council help was required in getting pledge cards signed next week outside the Library between 12 and 2 p.m.

12.7 SRC Discount Cards

M Davies reminded Council to pick up some discount cards and distribute them around campus.

12.8 Bank Charges

B Hay informed Council the Sunday Herald is writing a follow up story on bank charges issues and would like to do a human interest story. If anyone knows anyone who has recovered bank charges they should contact B Hay as soon as possible.

ACTION

12.9 Class Rep Training

An e-mail had been circulated about this. B Hay explained that in conjunction with SPARQS, students are being recruited and trained to deliver class rep training throughout the West of Scotland. Although the closing date has passed B Hay has spoken to SPARQS and they will accept late applications. Details are on the SPARQS website.

12.10 Changeover Event

It is hoped this will take place during the second last week of June. The new Executive Officers' should give their availability to B Hay as soon as possible. Executive training will also be arranged over the summer, based on last year's evaluation. Council members are welcome to attend too.

12.11 SID

M Davies informed Council he has been appointed Manager of the Student Information Desk over the summer. The fact that SID is closed over this period would suggest that he's unlikely to be busy!

12.12 Thanks

Council wished to minute their thanks to the 'remainder' of this year's Executive Committee.

Meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.