

156
Minute of Special Meeting of the Town Council of the Royal Burgh of Dornoch held in the Council Chambers, Carnegie Building, Dornoch on Wednesday, 19th February, 1975 at 7.30 p.m.

SEDERUNT

Provost H. Clunie
Senior Bailie J.A.T. Seatter
Junior Bailie E.K.C. Currie
Councillor G.A. Mackenzie
Councillor D. Macpherson
Councillor W.M. Wickham

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr. G.F. Trowbridge - Town Clerk

CHAIRMAN

Provost H. Clunie

ABSENT

Dean of Guild W.J.A. Davidson (Apology intimated)
Hon. Treasurer E.K. Cartwright { do. }
Councillor W.W. Stewart-Fitzroy { do. }

NOTICE

Notice calling meeting was held as read.

BUSINESS ARISING

LOCAL GOVERNMENT
RE-ORGANISATION

Provost H. Clunie reported that he had convened the special meeting to consider a suggestion by him that a letter be sent to the Convenor of the Highland Regional Council regarding the location of certain offices in Sutherland.

After discussion the TOWN COUNCIL RESOLVED that a letter be sent under the Provost's signature and in the following terms:

Rev'd. M.J. Nicolson, O.B.E., J.P.,
Free Church Manse,
Muir-of-Ord,
Ross-shire

Dear Convenor,

Due to illness, I have only recently become aware of the intentions of Sutherland District Authority to remove the Planning functions from Dornoch to Golspie.

While it may be rather late in the day to try to re-open this situation, I feel obliged as Provost of the Burgh of Dornoch to put forward the viewpoint of my Council and of members of the public who have expressed concern, over the declared intentions of the District Authority as published in the local press.

In my own view and in the view of a surprising large cross-section of the public of the area, I deplore the potential fragmentation of local government which will take place if the planning function is divorced from other technical services by a distance of eleven miles. This makes a nonsense of the 'one-door' approach which is stressed as one of the reasons for re-organising local government. The reduction in the quality of service to the public cannot be over-emphasised and there will almost certainly be an additional cost in travelling expenses and new building construction in Golspie which will have to come from the ratepayers - for what, in my opinion, cannot but be a less efficient service.

I have discussed this situation with Mr. McMillan, the present/
