# South Ayrshire Provost Iain Campbell resigns amid council chaos and toxic infighting



A meeting of the South Ayrshire Council descended into chaos on Thursday morning, culminating in the resignation of Provost Iain Campbell following a tumultuous vote to remove depute leader, Bob Pollock. This debacle, held at the County Buildings in Ayr, exemplifies the sorry state of local governance under the new Labour administration, which seems increasingly detached from the electorate's needs.

During the tense proceedings, an appalling remark was inadvertently broadcast over the public address system, setting the tone for a meeting already fraught with discontent. Witnesses reported that a voice was clearly heard mocking an individual with a crude derogation, leaving attendees in disbelief. While the council haphazardly moved forward with the vote—resulting in Pollock's narrow ousting by a vote of 14-13—it's evident that the current leadership is fostering an environment of toxicity and division rather than unity.

Provost Campbell, in his subsequent resignation announcement, encapsulated the larger malaise afflicting local governance, stating, “I have had the misfortune to work amongst some despicable people in this place.” His comments on the rampant backstabbing and egotism among council members reveal a disturbing culture that prioritizes ambition over public service. “I didn't sign up for this; I got into this to serve the people of South Ayrshire,” he lamented. This stark admission serves as a poignant reminder that the current political class, under Labour’s stewardship, seems more interested in internal power struggles than addressing the genuine issues faced by the constituents.

As calls for accountability grow louder, questions now linger over the council's conduct during this fraught encounter—and more broadly, the effectiveness of the policies being pursued by these newly entrenched leaders. Amidst a backdrop of disarray under Labour’s watch, the emerging political voices advocating for common-sense governance and a return to genuine accountability are more vital than ever.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)

## References

* <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ayrshire/conservatives-take-control-south-ayrshire-27006958> - This article reports on the Conservative Party's unexpected assumption of control over South Ayrshire Council, with Councillor Martin Dowey elected as leader and Councillor Iain Campbell as Provost, following Labour's abstention during the vote.
* <https://www.ayradvertiser.com/news/23333555.south-ayrshire-provost-criticised-councillors-extended-leave/> - This piece discusses criticism directed at Provost Iain Campbell for his prolonged absence from council meetings due to a family bereavement, highlighting tensions within the council.
* <https://www.readertts.com/article/page/dailyrecord/ayrshire/war-words-south-ayrshire-council-34302872> - This article details a contentious council meeting where Councillor Philip Saxton was removed from his position as chair of a scrutiny panel, leading to accusations of reduced democratic principles within the council.
* <https://www.south-ayrshire.gov.uk/provost> - This official page provides information about Provost Iain Campbell, including his role and contact details, underscoring his position within the council.
* <https://news.net-zeroclub.co.uk/2024/08/20/south-ayrshire-council-changes-cabinet-portfolios/> - This article reports on the appointment of Councillor Bob Pollock as the new depute leader of South Ayrshire Council, marking a significant change in the council’s cabinet structure.
* <https://www.thenational.scot/news/23369730.south-ayrshire-council-leaders-slammed-budget-cuts/> - This piece criticizes the Conservative administration's budget cuts, with SNP leader Peter Henderson accusing the council leaders of lacking vision and relying on officials for decision-making.
* <https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/ayrshire/south-ayrshire-council-microphone-slur-35154250> - Please view link - unable to able to access data