

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Central Services Committee meeting held, in committee, in the Function Suite, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Monday, 13 June 2005, at 7.30 pm.

- PRESENT:-** Councillor Mrs M Chambers (in the chair)
- ALDERMEN:** J Norris
Mrs G Rice (Deputy Mayor ex officio)
- COUNCILLORS:** J Beattie
Ms J Bunting
C Hall
T Jeffers (Mayor ex officio)
Miss R Hughes MBE (Vice Chairman)
G Robinson
J Spratt
- APOLOGIES:-** Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors Mrs J Cochrane and M Long
- IN ATTENDANCE:-** Director of Administration & Community Services,
Administration Manager and Members' Services Officer

CS/2005/03: OPENING OF THE MEETING

The Chairperson, Councillor Mrs Chambers, and the Director of Administration & Community Services welcomed new Councillors to the Committee. The Director opened the meeting by giving a brief overview of her department, together with the functional and managerial responsibilities.

Noted.

CS/2005/04: CONGRATULATIONS

On behalf of the Committee, the Director of Administration & Community Services offered congratulations to Alderman Norris on his award of an MBE for longstanding services to local government.

Noted.

CS/2005/05: MINUTES OF THE CIVIC SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14 MARCH 2005

Councillor Hall thanked the Administration Manager and all staff involved in the preparations for the service of dedication and celebrations to mark the 60th anniversary of the ending of the second world war.

Noted.

CS/2005/06: MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 14 MARCH 2005

Noted.

CIVIC SERVICES MATTERS

REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

CS/2005/07: CIVIC RECEPTION FOR MALCOLM BRODIE MBE

The Administration Manager reminded Members that in December 2004 a proposal had been made by Alderman Peter Robinson that 'in light of the recent UEFA award presented to Dr Malcolm Brodie for his unequalled service to sports journalism, and the fact that he resides in Castlereagh Borough, the Council should hold a presentation to honour his long-standing service in this field' (minute 2005/74 refers). She reported that Dr Brodie had subsequently been contacted and confirmed that he would be delighted to accept the Council's honour, but had asked that his civic reception be organised after 8 September 2005, due to prior commitments.

The Administration Manager asked the Committee how they wished the civic event to be progressed, and it was suggested that a working group be set up, consisting of the Mayor, the Chairperson of the Central Services Committee, Alderman Peter Robinson and appropriate Officers.

Members entered into discussion, and it was agreed that Dr Brodie's service to sports journalism was second to none, and that the Council's decision to honour him was fitting and timely. Councillor Beattie stated that he felt that Dr Brodie himself should have some input into the format of the civic event and therefore felt that this decision should be left to the working group. Councillor Bunting stated that it was her understanding that the event should take the form of a Freedom of the Borough ceremony, but concurred with Councillor Beattie.

RESOLVED: That a working group be convened to progress the civic reception for Malcolm Brodie MBE, and that the Mayor, Chairperson of the Central Services Committee, Alderman Peter Robinson, Dr Brodie and relevant Officers be invited to attend.

CS/2005/08: SERVICE OF DEDICATION – FORMER LISNABREENY AMERICAN MILITARY CEMETERY

The Administration Manager reported that the service on Sunday, 8 May 2005, had been well attended and she had received several letters of thanks, which she had attached for Members' attention.

The Vice Chairperson, Councillor Mrs Rice, extended her thanks to everybody involved.

Noted.

CS/2005/09: OFFICIAL OPENING OF GOLF CLUB

The Administration Manager informed the Committee that the official opening of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Course had been set for Friday, 24 June 2005, at 12.15 pm. She stated that invitations had been sent out to guests to attend the official opening, which would take the following format:

- Drinks reception
- Welcome by the Mayor
- Speech by David Jones, course architect
- Speech by Alderman Peter Robinson, President of the golf club
- Dedication and unveiling of the plaque by the Mayor
- Buffet lunch

The Manager informed Members that the cost of the event from the Civic budget would be approximately £2,500, and she sought the Committee's approval for the expenditure in this respect.

After some discussion, Members

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to approve the sum of £2,500 from the Civic budget to cover the cost of the official opening of Castlereagh Hills Golf Course.

CS/2005/10: VISIT BY MAYOR WHITE

The Administration Manager appraised Members of a recent unofficial visit to the Borough by the Mayor of Kent and his wife. She informed Members that the newly elected Mayor of Castlereagh had kindly provided an informal dinner for the Whites at short notice, and in the course of conversation, Mayor White had informed those present that he would be standing down from office in December. He had also extended an invitation to Members of Castlereagh Borough Council to attend his retirement dinner.

Members felt that, in principle, the Council should be represented in view of the Sister City relationship established over the years, and the part Mayor White played in bringing this to fruition.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that no budget had been provided in the 2005-2006 Estimates for Sister Cities, and therefore, if the Mayor were to attend, approval should be sought from Council.

A discussion ensued, following which it was

RESOLVED: That Officers make contact with Mayor White's office to establish the exact dates of the retirement dinner, and that costings be obtained for travel and accommodation. A report on the above findings should then be brought to the September meeting of the Committee for consideration.

CS/2005/11: CHRISTMAS TREES

The Administration Manager had previously reported that trees had been inspected in Ballysallagh Forest, and three trees had been earmarked. She now confirmed that another inspection with regard to the trees' suitability would be taking place in the near future, and the Manager sought Members' approval to proceed as in previous years, in that an inter-departmental working group would be established, with the Mayor and Chairperson of the Central Services Committee in attendance.

The Administration Manager also reminded Members that in 2004 the Christmas tree supplied to Carryduff Shopping Centre had been rejected by the Centre Management and relocated in Lough Moss Centre. Therefore the Manager sought Members' opinions as to where the tree should be placed in 2005. Councillor Bunting stated that her preference would be to place the tree at Lough Moss Centre, given the problems experienced with Carryduff Shopping Centre.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That

- (a) The Committee's preference would be to place the Christmas tree at Lough Moss Centre instead of Carryduff Shopping Centre.
- (b) An inter-departmental working group be established, consisting of the Mayor, the Chairperson and relevant Officers, to begin preparations for the 2005 Christmas tree lighting ceremonies.

CS/2005/12: ULSTER AVIATION SOCIETY

The Administration Manager circulated a letter she had received from the Ulster Aviation Society, thanking the Council for the donation of £500. For the benefit of new Members, she explained that the Society housed the Council's Jet Provost aircraft. For this reason she asked that the Committee give consideration to contributing the sum of £500 on an annual basis, in order to assist with the cost of maintaining the aircraft.

Members discussed the proposal, and it was

RESOLVED: That a contribution of £500 should be made annually to assist with the housing and maintenance of the Council's Jet Provost aircraft.

CS/2005/13: BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR

The Administration Manager tabled correspondence received regarding the bicentenary of the Battle of Trafalgar. She advised Members that all local Councils throughout the UK were being invited to host an event to mark the occasion, and she sought Members' views as to whether this Council should also host an event.

Councillor Spratt stated that it was his understanding that North Down Borough Council was holding a large event to mark the occasion and felt that this should be supported by all.

The Director of Administration & Community Services drew Members' attention to the letter received, which suggested organising church services for the farming community, and she therefore asked Members to consider organising a church service and invite Members of the various services to attend. Councillor Spratt concurred with the Director and suggested that Gransha Presbyterian Church would make a suitable venue.

Members also considered the possibility of organising a community grant scheme to mark the Battle of Trafalgar, possibly offering ten groups a total of £100 each for celebrations in this respect.

The Committee considered the Manager's proposal. Councillor Spratt suggested to hold one big event in conjunction with the RAF and members of the Army and the Navy being invited to take part. Members concurred, and it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Spratt make initial contact with Reverend Mark Brown, Rector of Gransha Presbyterian Church, to ascertain if he would be willing to conduct a Service of Remembrance on Sunday, 23 October 2005, to mark the 200th anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES

CS/2005/14: COMMUNITY SERVICES SUMMER SCHEME

The Director of Administration & Community Services referred to two outstanding matters in the recommendations for the 2005 Community Services summer scheme, namely transport to out-of-centre locations and the venues for Braniel and Newtownbreda:

- (a) Transport
As in previous years, Translink is the only company able to provide enough vehicles, and they have quoted the sum of £58 per vehicle per day for the 2005 summer scheme. It is estimated that the Council will require 13 buses per day for 13 days, therefore the cost would amount to £9,802.
- (b) Venues
For this year's summer scheme location in Newtownbreda Officers have successfully negotiated Newtownbreda Primary School. Braniel Methodist Church has been determined as the venue for Braniel, at a cost of £400 for the three-week duration of the scheme.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That

- (a) Council be recommended to appoint Translink to provide transport for the 2005 summer scheme at a cost of £9,902, which includes 13 buses per day for 13 days.
- (b) Council be recommended to approve Newtownbreda Primary School and Braniel Methodist Church as the venues for the 2005 summer scheme in those areas, at a cost of £400 for the three-week period.

CS/2005/15: BUILDING SUSTAINABLE PROSPERITY (BSP)

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that funding from the European Structural Funding, Measure 3:3 had been secured, in the total sum of £128,120 until March 2007, for the purpose of employing a capacity building officer and an administration support worker. It is estimated that the capacity building officer will be in place by September 2005. The Director outlined the details of the post of capacity building officer for Members' benefit:

- To establish a sustainable community network, foreseen as Castlereagh Community Association, to provide an umbrella organisation for the community groups of Castlereagh.
- To develop the one-stop-shop concept in order to centralise resources and advice to groups and community associations.
- To set up a resource centre and library to provide screens, projectors, etc on loan to community groups.
- To establish a network association to take the lead and work towards sustainability.

The Chairperson expressed her thanks to all Officers involved in securing this funding.

Noted.

CS/2005/16: LOCAL COMMUNITY FUND TULLYCARNET 2005-2006

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that funding in the sum of £3 million had been received as part of the Local Community Fund for 2005-2006 from the Department for Social Development, Voluntary and Community Unit.

Out of this sum, Tullycarnet will receive £69,260, to be spent by 31 March 2006. It is hoped that the money will enable this community to develop skills with which to achieve social and economic inclusion.

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that both Councillor Drysdale and Councillor White had regularly attended meetings during the previous Council term to review and assess the community group's funding proposals, therefore the Director requested permission for them to attend the final meeting of the panel, due to be convened in the coming weeks, in order that the grant process could be finalised.

Members concurred, and it was

RESOLVED: That Councillor Drysdale and Councillor White be advised to attend the final panel meeting to consider Tullycarnet Community Group's funding proposal.

CS/2005/17: REQUEST FROM SOUTH-EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD RE FUNDING FOR TORBANK SUMMER SCHEME

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that a letter had been received from SEE&LB, requesting financial assistance for the Summer Activity Scheme for pupils with severe and complex learning difficulties. The Director advised that no provision had been made in the Estimates and that a similar request had been refused in 2004-2005.

In the previous year the Council had approached Torbank, suggesting that their summer scheme be made available to all disabled children in the area, so that it would be a Borough-wide scheme. This request had been refused. Councillor Beattie stated, therefore, that, as Torbank's Summer Activity Scheme would only be open its pupils, funding would be the responsibility of the SEE&LB.

The Committee agreed with Councillor Beattie, although some Members expressed concern at the Council's refusal to support the Summer Activity Scheme at Torbank. The Director of Administration & Community Services agreed to write to the Principal at Torbank Special School, advising him of the Committee's decision and the reason for refusing the request for funding.

After some further discussion, Members

RESOLVED: That the request made by Torbank Special School for funding for the school's Summer Activity Scheme be rejected, and that the Director of Administration & Community Services write to the Principal, advising him of the Council's decision and the reason for the refusal.

CS/2005/18: REQUEST FROM CLONDUFF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Director of Administration & Community Services circulated a letter from Alderman Robinson on behalf of Clonduff Community Association. The Association requested the installation of the internet and Sky Television in the community centre. However, the Director felt that a precedent would be set to have these facilities installed in other centres. It would also be impossible to control the use of the internet, as the centre was not staffed.

Members considered the request, and there were concerns in respect of the points raised by the Director, therefore it was

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to refuse the request from Clonduff Community Association in respect of the installation of the internet and Sky Television.

ARTS MATTERS

CS/2005/19: ARTS FUNDING

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that Castlereagh Arts had been awarded a grant of £30,003 from the Arts Council for the next three-year programme. The grant would be paid in three annual instalments of £10,000 for the sole purpose of assisting with the artistic costs incurred by annual festivals and would be dependant on the continuation of the current financial partnership between the Arts Council of Northern Ireland and Castlereagh Borough Council.

The Director also reported that Castlereagh Arts had also secured the sum of £1,700 for the VE-Day Jazz Concert in Belvoir Players Studio.

Noted.

CS/2005/20: PROPOSED ARTS GRANTS SCHEME

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that the sum of £2,000 had been approved in the Estimates for a pilot programme comprising of ten grants of £200 each towards arts projects during 2005-2006. These grants are to be awarded to constituted groups in the Castlereagh area, and their purpose will be to further art skills, knowledge, training and events.

The Director also circulated the proposed draft grant aid criteria and application form for Members' approval.

The Committee entered into a discussion regarding the criteria and the application form, and it was

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the application form and grant aid criteria relating to applications for one of ten grants of £200 each towards arts projects in 2005-2006.

CS/2005/21: NEW SEASONAL CONCERT SERIES

The Director of Administration & Community Services circulated a proposal for a new seasonal series of concerts to replace the current First Friday concerts from the Arts Officer. The Officer thought that the proposed series of concerts would prove to be successful and more cost-effective.

After some discussion, Members

RESOLVECD: That Council be recommended to grant approval of the programme for the new seasonal concert series.

CS/2005/22: SUMMER DANCE FESTIVAL JUNE-JULY 2005

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that this year's Community Dance & Music Festival would include many performers from Castlereagh, with performances of Salsa, Line Dancing, Hip-Hop and traditional dance. There would also be workshops and demonstrations in Irish Dance, Rock & Pop Summer School etc. The Director continued to say that Members were invited to join in the festivities.

Members entered into a discussion, and Councillor Ms Bunting enquired whether Ulster Scot performances would also be included in the itinerary, as she felt it would be important to keep alive the Ulster Scot culture in this country.

The Director replied that Scottish dance groups had been included in other recent programmes, and she informed Members that a conference would be taking place to promote the Ulster Scot connection. She also agreed to forward the Committee's comments to the Arts Officer.

RESOLVED: That the Director of Administration & Community Services encourage Community Services staff to more actively promote the Ulster Scots culture through its various programmes and events.

CS/2005/23: ERNEST ANDERSON BURSARY

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that this year the recipients of the Ernest Anderson Bursary were Sarah McCormack from Gilnahirk and Anna McAughtry from the Cregagh area of Castlereagh. Both are visual artists, and their work will be on display in the Visual Arts Festival, which will be held in October 2005.

The Ernest Anderson Bursary had been set up in the name of the late Ernest Anderson, former Mayor of Castlereagh.

Noted.

COMMUNITY SERVICES MATTERS

CS/2005/24: COMMUNITY RELATIONS FUNDING

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined for Members' benefit details of the Community Relations funding, pointing out that the applications tabled at the meeting would be subject to approval from the Community Relations Unit. However, it was hoped that this funding would be confirmed by the end of June 2005.

The Director explained that several grant aid applications had been received by the Community Relations Officer as part of the Council's Community Relations programme, 75% of which is funded by the Community Relations Council.

Noted.

CS/2005/25: APPLICATION FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF BELVOIR CHURCHES

This association was formed in 2002. Its purpose is the development of projects that address community issues in the Belvoir, Best Hill and Milltown estates.

This year the association has requested funding for 'Belvoir 5-Aside Cross-Community Football Project', which will take place in the Belvoir estate on 5-8 July 2005. It is hoped that this project will help to improve relations among young people from the above-mentioned estates as well as providing something positive for them to engage in during the month of July.

The details of the funding applied for are as follows:

| | |
|---|-------------|
| Hire of pitches (four nights) (Boys' Brigade Centre) | £100.00 |
| Provision of food | £100.00 |
| Trophies/medals | £130.00 |
| Publicity material | £70.00 |
| Set of goal posts | £100.00 |
| Total | £500.00 |

The Director of Administration & Community Services pointed out that the cost of sporting equipment could not be included according to the programme criteria, therefore goal posts had to be excluded.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to award the sum of £400 to the Association of Belvoir Churches to contribute towards the cost of the 'Belvoir 5-Aside Cross-Community Football Project'.

CS/2005/26: CARRYDUFF PLAYCARE AND PLAYGROUP

Community Services received this application on 23 March 2005. However, as no Committee meetings were taking place during April or May, approval is sought retrospectively.

Carryduff Playgroup was formed in 1968, to be joined by Carryduff Playcare, which was formed in 1999. The group is managed by a voluntary committee, consisting of parents, and provides cross-community out-of-school care.

An application has been received for funding towards the cost of holding a fun day in the Carryduff area on 23 April 2005, which consisted of fancy dress competitions, sideshows, bouncy castle, music and games. The project aimed to promote mutual respect among Catholic and Protestant communities in that area.

The breakdown of the costs for this projects is as follows:

| | |
|---------------|---------|
| Marquee | £470.00 |
| Bouncy castle | £58.00 |
| Climbing wall | £235.00 |
| Total | £763.00 |

The Director of Administration & Community Relations informed Members that the maximum amount to be awarded was £500.

It was, therefore

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to retrospectively award a grant of £500 through the Community Relations Programme towards the cost of holding a fun day intended to promote mutual respect among Catholic and Protestant residents in the Carryduff area.

CS/2005/27: CHRIST CHURCH PRESBYTERIAN

This Church was formed in 1963 to offer a place of worship and general services to residents of Ballybeen and Dundonald. The project for which funding has been applied for is intended to further the group's aim to provide positive programmes for young people.

The group has applied retrospectively for funding towards the 'Mini Soccer School/Dancing and Singing' project, which took place between 5 May and 10 June 2005 and consisted of five singing and dancing workshops and six nights of mini soccer. The project's aim is improve relations among young people from the Dundonald area.

Details of funding applied for:

| | |
|----------------------------|---------|
| Pitch hire (six nights) | £100.00 |
| IFA mini soccer training | £100.00 |
| Trophies/prizes | £180.00 |
| Publicity | £25.00 |
| Hall hire for presentation | £20.00 |
| Refreshments | £75.00 |
| Dance instructor | £30.00 |

Total £530.00

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve retrospectively the maximum grant of £500 towards the cost of the 'Mini Soccer, Dance and Singing' project, held by Christ Church Presbyterian from the Community Relations Programme.

CS/2005/28: DUNDONALD VILLAGE REGENERATION GROUP

Councillor Jeffers declared an interest and left the room.

This group was formed in 1995 and consists of residents and shopkeepers in Dundonald to conserve the identity of Dundonald village and improve its profile.

Funding has been applied for the 'Motte Festival', which will be held on 10 September 2005, with the aim of bringing together members of various religious denominations and ethnic groupings from Dundonald and elsewhere in order to celebrate local heritage and talents. Performers include Chinese lion dancers, pipe bands, silver bands, drumming clubs and junior Church choir African Special.

The details of the application are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| Hire of PA system | £100.00 |
| DJ | £100.00 |
| Cost of performers | £60.00 |
| Advertising | £150.00 |
| Insurance | £69.00 |
| Total | £479.00 |

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to award the sum of £479 to Dundonald Regeneration Group from the Community Relations Programme to assist with the cost of the 'Motte Festival', which will take place on 10 September 2005

CS/2005/29: GILNAHIRK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church was established in 1760, and the project for which the funding application is intended, will be held together with St Colmcille Family Group.

The project for which funding has been applied for consists of a cross-community residential, which will take place on 2-4 December 2005 in the Corrymeela Centre in Ballycastle. The programme includes arts and crafts, joint worship and

the exploration of traditions, conflict issues as well as family and community issues in a cross-community environment. The project is intended to bring families from Protestant and Catholic backgrounds together and encourage them to share experiences and begin friendships.

Gilnahirk Group has applied for assistance for the following:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Drama facilitator | £100.00 |
| Materials for arts and crafts workshops | £100.00 |
| Refreshments | £50.00 |
| Cost of accommodation (18 families) | £250.00 |
| Total | £500.00 |

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to award a grant in the sum of £500 to assist with the cost of the 'Gilnahirk/St Colmcille Church Family Project' from the Community Relations Programme.

CS/2005/30: GREENGRAVES DRAMA GROUP

This drama group was formed in 1994, its main aim being the promotion of artistic and personal development in socially disadvantaged areas.

The project 'Rainbow Valley' has received funding for the past two years. However, due to a postponement of the production, they now require additional funding to cover costs between June and September 2005. It is hoped that the actors from Ardoyne, Shankill and Ballybeen will build good relationships and explore diversity issues through this drama, which examines stereotypical images of religion and race.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members of the funding received in the two previous years, and details are as follows:

| | | |
|------|---------------------|-----------|
| 2003 | Small Grants Scheme | |
| | Facilitator | £480.00 |
| | Refreshments | £20.00 |
| | Total | £500.00 |
| 2004 | Large Grants Scheme | |
| | Facilitator | £1,470.00 |
| | Venue hire | £315.00 |
| | Transport | £210.00 |
| | Total | £1,995.00 |

Additional funding in the sum of £13,000 has been received from outside bodies. The group have now applied for a further £500 to cover a shortfall due to the postponement of the performance.

The Director of Administration & Community Services sought Members' views as to whether or not further funding from the Community Relations Programme should be granted, given that the performance had, in fact, not taken place, despite the Council funding it during 2003 and 2004.

Members raised concerns regarding the amount of funding already received by the group, with several Councillors stating that receipts to account for the use of the grants received should be requested, after which the Council would more fully consider the application. The Chairperson suggested that a further grant should be postponed until the information had been obtained.

After some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That

- (a) The Director of Administration & Community Services write to Greengraves Drama Group, requesting receipts to account for the use of grants received so far as well as an explanation as to why the performance of 'Rainbow Valley' has not taken place yet.
- (b) The application for a grant in the sum of £500 from the Community Relations Programme be deferred until after the requested information has been received from Greengraves Drama Group.

CS/2005/31: DUNDONALD FAMILY AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE

Originally Dundonald Methodist Church initiated and developed this programme, until it became Dundonald Family and Community Initiative in March 2005, aiming to bring together families from the Ballybeen area in order to encourage participation in programmes to improve their physical, spiritual, intellectual and social development.

The group has applied for funding to assist with a summer activity week for schoolchildren and their families in the Ballybeen area, held between 18-22 July 2005. The project is intended to encourage participants to experience new activities, develop new skills and discover more about the Indian/Asian culture as well as relieving tension in the area.

Funding is required to assist with the following:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Basketball coach (five sessions @ £20) | £100.00 |
|---|---------|

| | |
|--|-------------|
| Archery coach (six sessions @ £30) | £180.00 |
| Dance teacher (five sessions @ £20) | £100.00 |
| Arts and crafts (five sessions @ £20) | £100.00 |
| Refreshments | £20.00 |
| Total | £500.00 |

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve a grant in the sum of £500 from the Community Relations Programme to Dundonald Family and Community Initiative to assist with the cost of hosting a summer activity week between 18-22 July 2005.

CS/2005/32: RELEASE OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS FUNDING FOR THE BONFIRE SCHEME

The Director of Administration & Community Services stated that the sum of £1,000 had been made available, subject to approval from the Community Relations Unit, for health and safety issues regarding bonfires. The Director recalled that in 2004 ten party packs at £100 each had been allocated to registered schemes by the Inter-Agency Bonfire Committee, with the aim of developing supervised, cultural events.

The Director sought Members' views regarding a continuation of this scheme in 2005. It was thought that the best way forward would be to allocate party packs instead of money to bonfire groups, and after some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to approve the release of £1,000 to the Inter-Agency Bonfire Group to be given to those bonfire groups that comply with required regulation.

CS/2005/33: COMMUNITY SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that the Council had received a Sports Lottery grant for the development of a sports programme and to employ a Community Sports Development Officer. This position had been filled by Miss Claire Bell, who will be responsible for the development of the sports programme over the next three years.

Noted.

CS/2005/34: APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed the Committee that Mr Lawrence Fergusan, former Community Services Manager, had resigned and that the reserve candidate had agreed to accept the position with effect from 20 June 2005.

Noted.

SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS

CS/2005/35: HIRE OF FACILITIES FOR FUN DAY BY CREGAGH COMMUNITY FORUM

The Director of Administration & Community Services tabled a letter from the Chairperson of Cregagh Community Forum. The group are planning to stage a fun day on 20 August 2005 as part of the Cregagh community visioning process and action plan for the future, and they requested the hire of Cregagh community facilities for this purpose.

The Chairperson of Cregagh Community Forum also thanked the community services worker Lisa Wilson for her contribution to the Forum and the centre staff for their dedication. She also expressed gratitude to the Council for the free use of Council facilities for the community's VE Day celebrations.

A discussion ensued, and the Chairperson suggested that Council facilities could be made available free of charge for the fun day, but staff salaries should be covered by Cregagh Community Forum. However, Councillor Rice raised concerns regarding equality issues, in that other community groups might feel disadvantaged. Members felt that the hire of Council facilities should be examined in more detail by Officers in order to avoid future problems.

After some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That

- (a) Council be recommended to approve the hire of Council facilities free of charge to Cregagh Community Forum for the purpose of holding a fun day, but that the staff salaries be covered by the Forum.
- (b) The Director of Administration & Community Services meet with the Director of Finance & Leisure Services to resolve the imbalances regarding the variants in charges for similar events being organised by groups using leisure facilities.

CS/2005/36: REPRESENTATION IN NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL AREAS

The Director of Administration & Community Services circulated a letter from Mr Frank Duffy of the Belfast Regeneration Office, which outlined plans to establish 13 neighbourhood partnerships for neighbourhood renewal areas in the four parliamentary constituencies. It is hoped to establish the needs of disadvantaged communities and to ensure that core services and budgets offered by public bodies can be arranged to bring disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged areas closer together.

Neighbourhood partnerships will take responsibility for the following:

- Seeking approval from Belfast Regeneration Office for any refinements to the neighbourhood renewal boundaries.
- Analysing and prioritising the needs of neighbourhood renewal areas in conjunction with the Belfast area partnerships.
- Preparing seven-to-ten-year visions frameworks and three-year action plans in conjunction with local residents and the Belfast area partnerships.
- Working with the Belfast area partnerships to prepare and present programmes and project proposals with the necessary supporting evidence.
- Co-ordinating the implementation of the neighbourhood action plans in conjunction with the Belfast area partnerships.
- Keeping the community informed of proposals and developments regarding neighbourhood renewal in their areas.

It is planned that each neighbourhood partnership will consist of one equal partnership between two strands, ie:

- Local government and the main statutory organisations operating at neighbourhood level.
- The social partners, consisting of the private sector, trade unions and the community and voluntary sector.

Mr Duffy stated that the appointment of political representatives to the Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership would likely be the responsibility of this Council.

Members examined the plans for the neighbourhood partnerships, and after some discussion, the following Councillors were nominated to represent Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership: Councillor Cochrane, Councillor Jeffers and Councillor Robinson.

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to nominate Councillor Cochrane, Councillor Jeffers and Councillor Robinson as representatives in Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership.

CS/2005/37: NEW COMMUNITY HALL AT NEWTOWNBRED A

The Director of Administration & Community Services reiterated for Members' benefit that a feasibility study had been carried out in 1995 to determine a suitable site for the erection of a community centre. The study had established a site in Four Winds as most advantageous. However, to date the owner has been reluctant to agree to the sale of this site, and a vesting order had therefore been lodged with the relevant Government department by the Council's solicitor.

The solicitor had subsequently advised that there was a strong possibility that a public inquiry would be carried out, the cost of which would have to be carried by the Council.

The Director continued that, by way of an alternative, Forster Green offered a suitable location in conjunction with the Trust. A public survey, carried out in the Newtownbreda area, had shown a preference of 66% for Forster Green as the location for the new community centre. The cost for the erection of the building had been estimated at £650,000, and there was a possibility that there would be the additional expense for the purchase of the site, fitting out and consultancy fees.

As the Trust was requesting a decision from the Council regarding the erection of a community centre at Forster Green, the Director of Administration & Community Services asked Members' views as to how to proceed.

Councillor Beattie was of the view that the Council should look favourably at this partnership proposed and investigate the site further. However, Councillor Rice felt that the best way forward would be to agree to build the centre at Forster Green. She added that, in her view, it would not be possible to purchase the site in Four Winds, and that the Council should not delay the decision any longer. Councillor Beattie stated that he would prefer to arrange a site visit at Forster Green in order to assist the Committee with its decision.

After some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That a site visit to the proposed site at Forster Green be arranged in order to determine its suitability for a new community centre in conjunction with the Trust.

CS/2005/38: COMMUNITY SAFETY WEEK 20-24 JUNE 2005-06-20

The Director of Administration & Community Services tabled the itinerary for Community Safety Week in Castlereagh, to be held between 20-24 June 2005.

This aim of this event is to provide relevant information and training to improve community safety.

Noted.

CS/2005/39: CASTLEREAGH DANCE & MUSIC FESTIVAL JUNE/JULY 2005

The Director of Administration & Community Services circulated for Members' benefit the programme for the Dance & Music Festival, which was organised by the Council's Arts Officer in conjunction with SEE&LB, Belvoir Players, Forestside Shopping Centre and the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Noted.

ADMINISTRATION MATTERS

CS/2005/40: REQUEST FROM THE PRESS FOR ADVANCE RELEASE OF THE COUNCIL AGENDA AND ASSOCIATED PAPERWORK

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined a request from journalists attending Council meetings that they receive a full agenda at the start of each Council meeting in order to assist reporting. Under the Local Government Act there is a requirement to release all minutes on request, but the Director was concerned that issues might be reported inaccurately if Committee minutes, which might require changes, were released before their ratification by Council.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to release the agenda and associated papers to journalists at the beginning of Council meetings, but that Committee minutes should be held until after their ratification.

CS/2005/41: CIVIL PARTNERSHIP

The Director of Administration & Community Services tabled a letter received from the General Register Office regarding the introduction of same-sex civil partnerships under the Civil Partnership Act 2004. As district councils in Northern Ireland will be local registration authorities for these partnerships, they will be responsible for setting up a register of civil partnerships.

Councillor Robinson stated that he wished to place on record that the DUP strongly objected to same-sex civil partnerships and their registration in Council. Councillor Hall asked that his objection be noted also.

Councillor Rice stated that she had reservations about same-sex civil partnerships. However, she recognised that Council would be committed to carrying out these ceremonies due to changes in legislation, taking effect from 5 December 2005.

Councillor Hughes felt that, although she had concerns regarding same-sex partnerships, it was a personal decision.

The Director of Administration & Community Services reminded Members that, while they could register their personal objections to the legislation, the actual arrangement of civil partnerships was a legal responsibility on the Council, which had to be met. The Director assured Members that they would be taking place in one of the committee rooms on the first floor in the Civic & Administrative Offices.

RESOLVED: DUP Members registered their personal objection to the legislation, but recognised that the arrangement of civil partnerships was a legal responsibility on the Council.

CS/2005/42: WINDING UP OF BALLYORAN COMPANY, BALLYORAN CENTRE, BALLYBEEN

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that an agreement had now been reached between the Council and the Department for Social Development regarding the original waiver of the grant to Ballyoran Company, the company responsible for building the Community Resource Centre. In addition, Castlereagh Borough Council will be required to provide a similar waiver for the sum of £125,000, this being the grant available to Ballyoran Company. The Director advised that once the legal work had been completed, Castlereagh Borough Council would take full ownership. She continued to say that, as Councillor Jeffers, the current Mayor of Castlereagh, was a Director of the Ballyoran Board, he would not be permitted to sign the waiver.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to authorise the preparation of a waiver in the sum of £125,000, this being the grant provided to Ballyoran Company by this Council, in order to wind up that company, with the assets reverting into the ownership of the Council. (As the Director of Administration & Community Services was also a Director on the board of Ballyoran, she would arrange for this recommendation to be presented to Council by the Chief Executive.)

CS/2005/43: PROVISION OF LOOP SYSTEM FOR COUNCIL OFFICES

The Director of Administration & Community Services recalled that, following a decision made at the Staff & Office Accommodation Committee meeting of 13

December 2004, a loop system be installed in the Council Chamber and the Function Suite (minute S&OA/2004/110). She confirmed that provisions for a loop system had been made according to the original specifications of the building, but additional work was necessary to make this system operational. The Director confirmed that provision had been made for this work in the Council's capital programme for structural alterations. Quotations had been received as follows:

| | | |
|-----|------------------|----------------|
| (a) | Function Suite | |
| | Radiocontact | £485.34 |
| | RNID | £1,417.25 |
| | Audio Promotions | £410.00 |
| | Grainger Comm | £604.00 |
| (b) | Council Chamber | |
| | Radiocontact | £3,160.00 |
| | RNID | £2,270.14 |
| | Audio Promotions | No quote given |
| | Grainger Comm | £2,052.48 |

The Director recommended that Grainger Communications be awarded the contract for both installations at a cost of £2,656.48.

After some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Council be recommended to award a contract for the installation of a loop system in the Council Chamber and the Function Suite of the Civic & Administrative Offices at a cost of £2,656.48, payable out of the Council's capital monies set aside for disability discrimination legislation.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____ 2005 with the exception of

Minute Nos: _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE