

## **CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the Central Services Committee meeting held, in committee, in the Function Suite, Castlereagh Borough Council, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at 7.30 p.m.

**PRESENT:-**

Alderman Mrs G Rice  
Councillor Mrs M Chambers  
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane  
Councillor D Drysdale  
Councillor C Hall (from 7.50 p.m.)  
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE  
Councillor T Jeffers  
Councillor M Long  
Councillor J Norris  
Councillor G Robinson  
Councillor J Spratt

**IN ATTENDANCE:-**

Director of Administration & Community Services, Community Services Manager, Administration Manager, and Assistant Members' Services Officer

**APOLOGIES:-**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillors Bunting and Henderson.

**CS/2005/71 : MINUTES**

Tabled:- Minutes of the Central Services Committee dated 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005 (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

### **MATTERS ARISING**

**CS/2005/72 : NEWTOWNBREDA MURAL PROJECT – REQUEST FOR A GRANT OF £1,000.00  
(Minute Ref No: CS/2005/65 refers)**

Councillor Robinson asked for an update with particular reference to a matter he had raised with the Director of Administration & Community Services earlier in the week.

The Director of Administration & Community Services updated Members in relation to the Newtownbreda Mural Project and assured them that although the subject of the mural had yet to be decided, local residents would be consulted, prior to commencement of the project.

Noted.

**CS/2005/72 : FORMER CREGAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE, CAPPAGH GARDENS  
(Minute Ref No: CS/2005/60 refers)**

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, Members authorised the Officers to commence procedures to board and secure the former Cregagh Community Centre at Cappagh Gardens.

**REPORT FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER**

**CS/2005/73 : CIVIC RECEPTION FOR DR MALCOLM BRODIE MBE**

The Administration Manager drew Members' attention to the minutes from the Working Group set up to progress arrangements for the Civic Reception for Dr Malcolm Brodie MBE.

She stated that invitations would shortly be sent out to Councillors and their respective Partners, and she would be grateful if Members could RSVP by return to confirm catering numbers.

Councillor Norris referred to Dr Brodie's past and present achievements and felt that he justifiably merited this civic reception, as he was a credit to Castlereaugh and Northern Ireland, as a whole.

The Director of Administration & Community Services indicated that arrangements were progressing well and Dr Brodie had submitted the names of the 4 speakers who would be participating at his Civic Reception.

Noted.

**CS/2005/74 : BATTLE OF TRAFALGAR, SERVICE OF COMMEMMORATION – SUNDAY, 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

The Administration Manager informed Members that she had received positive responses from the Naval Forces and Sea Reserves in relation to the forthcoming Battle of Trafalgar Service, but unfortunately they were not able to provide naval standards for the event.

However, she commented that the British Legion would be providing 40 Members for parade and their standards would be available on that date.

She also commended the Minister of Granshaw Presbyterian Church for his assistance with the arrangements, as he had organised Lynda Bryans, who was a member of his congregation, to perform a reading, in addition to the Mayor, and he had also arranged for the participation of a soloist.

Again, she asked if Members could RSVP as quickly as possible and indicated that robing would be carried out in the Church Hall, prior to the service.

The Director of Administration & Community Services concurred with the Officer's comments with regard to the assistance of the Reverend Brown and the Church's organisations, including the catering by the Womens' Group after the Service . Furthermore, she stated that although they had not requested a fee for their services, Members had felt it would be appropriate that the Council should make a donation to their chosen charity.

Councillor Spratt wished to state that, as a member of Granshaw Church, the donation would be used towards working with the young people of the Moneyreagh and Crossnacreevy area.

Following consideration, it was:-

**RESOLVED:-** That, the Committee agree a donation in lieu of a fee for use of the Church, catering facilities etc. Officers to determine an appropriate figure based on the services provided and to report back to the Committee.

### **CS/2005/75 : UDR MEMORIAL**

The Administration Manager informed Members that she had met with Major Ewing of the Royal Irish Regiment and the Memorial Tablet would be transported to the Council Offices within the next fortnight.

She stated that he had also supplied names of the bereaved family members concerned, should the Council wish to hold a small Service of Dedication and she had calculated that the guest list would be for approximately 80 people.

Regarding funding for the event, she reported that £1,000 could be allocated from the Civic Budget.

The Director advised Members that as there were a series of civic events being held during November and early December, she was conscious of staffing workloads. In light of this fact, she felt that the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in November would be a suitable date, due to its close proximity to Armistice Day.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) the Mayor liaise with the Chairman of the Committee regarding a suitable date in November, with the exception of a Sunday, to organise a Service of Dedication in respect of the UDR Memorial tablet, preferably at 6.00 p.m. during the evening with refreshments being served afterwards.
- (b) the Committee approves the allocation of £1,000 from the Civic Budget to cover the costs of this event.

#### **CS/2005/76 : CHRISTMAS TREE WORKING GROUP**

The Administration Manager referred Members to the minutes of the Christmas Tree Working Group meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> September and the recommendations therein relating to the arrangements for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremonies at the Civic & Administration Offices, and switching on of the lights at Dundonald, Carryduff and Cregagh.

She reported that the Community Services Officers had written to a number of schools within the Borough requesting expressions of interest in relation to school choir participation but Officers could not make a decision until all responses had been received.

The Director reiterated that all schools including Torbank and Ballybeen Special Schools, had been contacted, and should there be a large response, names would be selected randomly as it was only fair to give all schools the opportunity to participate.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Committee approves the recommendations contained within the minutes of the Christmas Tree Working Group held on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2005 with regard to the date, locations and format of the ceremonies etc., and the budget as follows:-

£17,000 as agreed in 2005/2006 budget

- Tree Budget £10,000
- Events £ 6,000
- Hospitality £ 1,000

**CS/2005/77 : CIVIC RECEPTION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND FOOTBALL TEAM**

The Administration Manager referred to the Council's invitation that had been extended to the Northern Ireland Football Team and IFA Officials following their recent success against the England Football Team.

She drew Members' attention to the response received from Mr David Currie, Head of International Administration which had been circulated for Members' information and had suggested that a possible civic reception could be arranged at a later date.

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES**

**CS/2005/78 : CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS  
(Minute Ref No: CS/2005/59 refers)**

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that she had now received a legal opinion on the various aspects discussed in respect of the implementation of the Civil Partnership Act 2004 and outlined the content of this letter for their information.

She indicated that the Council's Solicitors had advised that, under Civil Marriage legislation, there was no legal requirement for the Registrar to conduct a formal ceremony and the mechanics of registering the civil partnership could be carried out in the Registrar's own office, as recommended by the Committee.

However, in relation to a situation whereby a homosexual couple wish to hire out a Council function room to hold a Ceremony or other event within the terms of hire, the legal opinion advised that any discrimination by the Council against same-sex couples would conflict with Human Rights legislation and there could be the potential for a challenge against the Council.

She reported that, whilst individual Members may not be in personal agreement with Civil Partnerships, there was a legal requirement of the Council to implement the legislation and the legal opinion provided a way forward by permitting the signing of the Civil Partnership Schedule in the Registrar's Office in compliance with the new legislation.

Furthermore, it should be recognised that it would be unlawful not to hire out the Function Suite to same sex couples to arrange their own event/ceremony, in the same way it is hired to heterosexual couples, as this would be discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation, and in breach of the Convention on Human Rights.

In response to queries from Councillors Robinson and Chambers, the Director outlined that a number of companies were attempting to set up business in Northern Ireland organising Civil Partnership ceremonies, and should they wish to book the Function Suite through their company name, they would be charged the commercial rate.

Councillor Spratt expressed concern that the Council had a duty of care to its employees and whilst the legal opinion clarified certain matters, the Officers should be mindful of the needs of those staff members affected.

He therefore proposed that, although he was unhappy at the position the Council was being placed in, Members should accept the legal advice received whilst being mindful of the Council's duty of care to its staff. Furthermore, if a same-sex couple wish to book the Council Function Suite to hold a Civil Partnership ceremony, there should be the involvement of Registration Staff in such an event in view of the legal opinion received. The usual terms and conditions would therefore apply for the hiring of the Function Suite.

Councillor Long, however, wished to record that he had no objections to the Council's Function Suite being used for Civil Partnership ceremonies

At this point, Alderman Rice wished to declare an interest in the proceedings, in her capacity as a Human Rights Commissioner.

The Director of Administration & Community Services empathised with the Members' concerns but stated that the Council must adhere to the new Civil Partnership legislation. She felt, however, that this proposal did represent a good way forward in terms of the involvement of Council employees.

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) the Central Services Committee recommends that the legal opinion be accepted, whilst being mindful that the Council has a duty of care to its employees in events involving Civil Partnerships.

- (b) in recognition of the legal opinion received, which outlined that the Civil Partnership Act 2004 does not call for any ceremony in the formation of the civil partnership, the Registrar does not have to conduct any ceremony in a function room, but rather the mechanics of registering the civil partnership would be carried out in the Registrar's own office.
- (c) Accept that it would be unlawful for the Council to refuse to hire out a function room to same sex couples to hold a function, as that action would be discriminative on the grounds of sexual orientation, which is a breach of the Convention on Human Rights and a public authority (such as the Council) may face a claim for damages if it acts in any way which is incompatible with the Convention.

However, should any same sex couple wish to hire out a function room, the usual terms and conditions for hire will be applicable.

### **CS/2005/79 : MOBILE PHONE CONTRACT**

The Director of Administration & Community Services referred Members to a report on the Mobile Phone Contract, which had been prepared by Members' Services section, and outlined the content therein.

She stated that the Finance Officers had negotiated a contract which provided the Council with 25,000 free minutes per month, covering calls to all UK landlines and UK mobiles, which were used on a first come first served basis. The terms of this contract had been considered, at that time, as the most advantageous and economically beneficial for the Council.

Following a query from Councillor Spratt regarding usage in relation to the minutes quota, the Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that, under the former agreement, the Council's allocation of minutes were not being fully utilised each month as low users did not use up their allocation. However, under this new arrangement, the allocated minutes were pooled therefore no minutes were lost.

Councillor Robinson indicated that he would like to receive a printout of his calls per month. The Director informed Members that, whilst personal details could be provided to individuals, information could not be given out regarding other Members as this would be in breach of the Data Protection Act.

Councillor Spratt wished to commend the Officers for their negotiations in obtaining a mobile phone contract, which represented best value for money.

However, Councillor Hall expressed his disappointment at the poor reception and network coverage he was experiencing with his Orange mobile phone.

RESOLVED:- That, the Officers be congratulated, on behalf of the Members, for their negotiations in obtaining such an advantageous and economically beneficial mobile phone contract for the Council.

At this point, Councillor Spratt left the Committee at 8.20 p.m.

**CS/2005/80 : RELEASE OF MINUTES TO PRESS  
(Minute Ref No: CS/2005/49 refers)**

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that she had been requested by the Chairman, at the last Council meeting, to take this minute back to Committee for further consideration.

The Officer stated that, at present, the Agenda was given to Journalists with no accompanying paperwork or minutes. Journalists attending the Council meeting had, however, asked for this documentation to be given out at the start of the meeting, and this matter had been considered at a previous Committee meeting (Minute Ref No: CS/2005/40 & CS/2005/49 refers). This request had been agreed.

Members discussed the implications of releasing minutes to the Press, during the course of the Council Meeting, once they had been ratified, although Councillor Robinson voiced his concerns that there would be room for human error should this be implemented, and he proposed that ratified minutes should be given out to journalists only at the close of the Council meeting, with amended minutes being distributed the following day once the necessary changes had been implemented.

Councillor Long, however, wished to record his disappointment at Councillor Robinson's proposal and felt that adopted minutes should be circulated to the Press, once ratified, during the course of the meeting.

Councillor Drysdale enquired if ratified minutes were still being circulated to the Library Headquarters, to which the Administration Manager responded that copies were forwarded to individual libraries several days following the Council Meeting.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:-

- (a) That, the Press, who attend Council Meetings, will receive the Council Agenda and associated papers, with the exception of "In Committee" items prior to the Council Meeting.
- (b) That, the Committee recommends that the resolution to Minute Ref No: CS/2005/40 which states that "the 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 ratification" be amended to state that ratified minutes will only be circulated to the Press following the close of the Council Meeting, and any minutes requiring amendment will be held to the following morning and distributed to journalists once the necessary changes have been implemented.

**CS/2005/81 : USE OF FUNCTION SUITE BY GLENCREGAGH RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION**

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that a letter had been received by the Council from Glencregagh Residents Association requesting free use/reduced hire rates for the Council's Function Suite and it had been referred to the Chief Executive, therefore she did not have a copy to table. However, she reiterated that similar requests had been refused on the grounds that they would be establishing a precedent.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Officers be instructed to award Glencregagh Residents Association a seating grant of £75.00 towards their use of the Function Suite, subject to the necessary documentation being completed and in order.

**REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER**

**CS/2005/82 : LETTER FROM CREGAGH & DOWNSHIRE OAP**

The Director of Administration & Community Services referred Members to a letter received from Cregagh & Downshire OAP seeking the Committee's approval to reduce the amount of rental charged in respect of the group's use of Downshire Hall.

She outlined that when the group had initially approached the Council to take over the running of the premises and all associated costs, the Council had subsequently agreed and had made £4000 provision in the estimates to cover the costs, including the provision of cleaning services. Since then, she reported that the Council had replaced the boiler and heating system at a cost of

approximately £2000, in addition to taking over the public liability insurance for the building.

She stated that she believed that the group were receiving excellent value for money in paying a rental of £6.50 per session, which covered approximately 20-30 persons, and was within the normal charging policy relating to senior citizens.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Officers be instructed to write to the Cregagh & Downshire OAP Group detailing the expenditure already covered by the Council in the full running of the premises from the Club, and reiterating that the rental of £6.50 per session was already subsidised at a senior citizen rate.

### **CS/2005/83 : FUTURE USAGE OF DOWNSHIRE HALL**

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that at the time of taking over responsibility for Downshire Hall, Members had considered the possibility of developing it as a Community Arts facility in order to meet a need in the area. She indicated that the Council's Arts Officer had prepared a preliminary report on the feasibility of developing such a facility, a copy of which was attached.

However, in order to advance the project to the next stage, she stated that the Arts Officer was proposing to set up an Advisory Committee and was seeking nominations from Members.

Members agreed that the membership of the Advisory Committee should be on the basis of a 3:1:1 format and names would be forwarded to the Community Services Manager by Party Whips.

The Director advised that the purpose of the Committee would be to make recommendations and support the Arts Officer in her funding applications, and she informed Members that initial discussions were already ongoing with the Arts Council in relation to the project.

Members suggested that there would be merit in inviting participation from the over-arching Castlereagh Arts Group, namely Castlereagh Arts.

Councillor Long added that representation from local residents should be included on the Committee.

The Director commented that Members had to be mindful of the expectations of the local community, as this would be an Arts Facility, and not a Community Centre.

The Community Services Manager stated that, in his view, once the project commenced, local residents would need to be kept informed of the progress, although Councillor Chambers reiterated that this would be a Borough-wide facility and not restricted to the local community.

In the interim, the Director advised Members that the Arts Officer may need to submit a feasibility study and the costs would have to be incurred by the Council, as this was a Council led proposal. She was mindful that this had not been provided for in the estimates.

Alderman Rice felt that, the nominated Councillors should meet with the Arts Officer prior to the setting up of the Advisory Group to ascertain what is required and who should be invited to the Group meetings.

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) the nominated Councillors meet initially with the Arts Officer prior to the formation of an Advisory Committee to progress the possibility of developing an Arts Facility in the Downshire Hall. Following this meeting, that the Advisory Committee be formed once the way forward has been determined and a list of those who should be invited to attend is agreed.
- (b) this Advisory Committee to be set up on a 3:1:1 basis, with the Chairman of the Committee and 2 other DUP Members, names to be submitted by the Party Whip, Councillor Long and a member of the Ulster Unionist Party whose name would be submitted by the Party Whip, plus those Community Groups as determined by nominated Councillors and the Arts Officer at the preliminary meeting to be called sometime in the near future.

## **COMMUNITY RELATIONS GRANT APPLICATIONS**

### **CS/2005/84 : TUESDAY BREAK GROUP**

RESOLVED:- That, the Tuesday Club receive £500.00 as a contribution to the "Making Music Project" as the project meets with the aims and objectives of Castlereagh Borough Council's Community Relations Programme.

### **CS/2005/85 : BALLYBEEN JUNIOR YOUTH CLUB**

RESOLVED:- That, Ballybeen Junior Youth Club receive £500.00 as a contribution to the "Junior Youth Project" as the project meets with the aims and objectives of Castlereagh Borough Council's Community Relations Programme.

**CS/2005/86 : CASTLEREAGH LIFESTYLE FORUM**

RESOLVED:- That, Castlereagh Lifestyle Forum receive £500.00 as a contribution to the “Castlereagh/North Belfast Project” as the project meets with the aims and objectives of Castlereagh Borough Council Community Relations Programme.

**CS/2005/87 : CREGAGH & DISTRICT OLD PEOPLES CLUB**

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) Cregagh & District Old People’s Club receive £260.00 as a contribution to the “Cross Borough Project” as the project meets with the aims and objectives of Castlereagh Borough Council’s Community Relations Programme.
- (b) in addition, that the letter also makes reference to the Council’s contribution of £260.00 which has been awarded to the Cregagh & District Old People’s Club in respect of their “Cross Borough Project.”

**CS/2005/88 : COMMUNITY RELATIONS TRAINING DAY FOR CAPACITY BUILDING PARTICIPANTS**

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The Committee recommends approval for this event as provision of funding of £1,000.00 has been made available through the Community Relations Programme and the project meets with the aims and objectives of the Community Relations programme, and
- (b) That, Castlereagh Hills Golf Club be used for this event at the rate of £14.55 incl VAT per person.

**CS/2005/89 : COUNCILLOR FOR A DAY PROJECT**

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that the Councillor for a Day project required a visit to the October Council Meeting, and she indicated that there would be approximately 15 young people in attendance.

Members discussed the visit to the Council meeting, and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The Council be recommended to approve this project and a contribution of £350.00 from the Community Relations Programme budget to cover costs of transport and hospitality for the two events..
- (b) That, approval is given for 15 children to be invited to attend the Council Meeting in October.

Furthermore, as the project will involve the young people attending the proceedings of a Council Meeting, the Director of Administration & Community Services will take them through Council procedures and Standing Orders in the Function Suite, whilst the Planning Business is being discussed, following which, the young people will be escorted to the Council Chamber and invited to sit in on the remainder of the proceedings.

#### **CS/2005/90 : CASTLEREAGH INTERGENERATIONAL CONFERENCE – MARCH 2006**

The Community Services outlined the background to the Conference and Members agreed that it be

RESOLVED:- That, the Council approve £1,000.00 contribution to this project as it is in line with the Community Relations Plans and funding is available within the Community Relations programme to cover the costs.

#### **CS/2005/91 : CLONDUFF COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION – PAYMENT OF OUTSTANDING DEBT**

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that she, in conjunction with the Community Services Manager and the Community Facilities Co-ordinator had met with the Chairman of the Clonduff Community Association in relation to the outstanding debt.

He had informed her that they had been assured that a grant in respect of the Summer Holiday project, which had been outstanding and they had therefore used their rental money owing to Castlereagh Borough Council on the strength that grant funding was being awarded from another organisation. He gave an assurance, however, that the Council would be remunerated once this had been received, and the Council should receive payment by the end of the month, as he had now received confirmation that it was to be paid.

The Director then mentioned that they were interested in the future in taking over the lease of the property, but given their current financial difficulties, Council staff would be reluctant to consider this proposal at this point in time.

She then went on to say that the debt had not yet been cleared by the Group and, under normal procedures, the Council would refuse further use of the premises until the rental had been paid.

As the Council had given the Association until the next Council meeting to make the payment, she informed Members that she would report further at this meeting.

RESOLVED:- That, the Director of Administration & Community Services provide an updated report at the next Council meeting as to whether the outstanding debt had been paid by the Clonduff Community Association.

#### **CS/2005/92 : UPDATE ON MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY FACILITY**

The Director of Administration & Community Services confirmed that a meeting of the Stakeholders had taken place on the 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005 and the project had been well received by the local community, although the attendance had been rather disappointing.

She indicated that it had been agreed to have another meeting in December/early January when further designs are available and she was pleased to announce that there was a likelihood that grant funding for £90,000.00 would become available in respect of the project. Furthermore, she stated that an indication had also been given from the funders that this amount could be increased subject to slippage on other projects.

Noted.

#### **CS/2005/93 : ARTS GRANTS**

The Community Services Manager reported that Castlereagh Arts had made available 10 Arts Development Grants for constituted Community Groups in the Borough. The total amount of each grant was up to a maximum of £200 and 5 grants were available between now and December, and the further 5 would be allocated between January and March 2006/

He outlined further information relating to the grants and the project criteria that would be applied and informed Members that information relating to the Arts Grants would be posted on the Council's website once it was up and running.

RESOLVED:- That, Members approved the criteria as outlined by the Officers.

**CS/2005/94 : VISUAL ARTS FESTIVAL**

The Community Services Manager notified Members that the Visual Arts Festival would take place between the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> October with many exhibitions running throughout October, and a full list of events had been circulated for their information.

Noted.

**CS/2005/95 : 2005 SUMMER SCHEME EVALUATION REPORT**

The Community Services Manager drew Members attention to the report on the Community Services Summer Scheme 2005, which had been previously circulated for their attention and outlined the content.

He referred to the recommendations within his report in relation to the Summer Scheme, including pilot schemes, and stated that he would update Members on their progress.

The Officer then indicated that an evaluation exercise had been carried out following the recent summer scheme 2005, which had identified areas that needed further work.

The Community Services Manager suggested that the Officers would like to look at the possibility of a summer scheme for Senior Citizens, feeding into Senior Games.

At this point, the Chairman wished to commend the Community Services Manager on his detailed and very informative report.

RESOLVED:- That, the Committee recommends the approval of those recommendations contained within the Community Services Manager's report on the Summer Scheme 2005 Evaluations, and to give permission for Officers to act on those recommendations in line with Council policies, with Members being updated on the progress accordingly.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**CS/2005/96 : CONNECTING WITH YOUTH – NEWTOWNBRED A UNITED CHURCHES PROJECT**

The Director of Administration & Community Services informed Members that she had met with the representatives from Newtownbreda United Churches and they were looking at a proposal and in the process of forwarding a Business Plan to take over the lease for the former Vi-Sport premises for outreach youth work.

She informed Members that Newtownbreda United Churches had requested that, should the Business Plan be ready, they would like to come to the November meeting of the Committee to make a presentation.

Councillor Hall asked if they had already approached the LSP, to which the Director responded that it was their intention to approach the LSP, however they may still require to apply to the Council for the shortfall in funding.

RESOLVED:- That, the Committee recommends that the representatives from Newtownbreda United Churches be permitted to present their Business Plan, if it is prepared in time, at the November meeting of the Central Services Committee.

**CS/2005/97 : HIRE OF DOWNSHIRE HALL**

The Director informed Members that the Council had received a request to hold a tabletop sale in Downshire Hall or Clonduff Community Centre during Sundays.

In light of the fact that there were several churches in the catchment area, and in light of the insurance and health and safety implications, she felt that this type of event was not in keeping with Council operating policy on Sunday usage of their facilities. She felt that the Members should consider a refusal of this request.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Committee recommends that the Council refuses the request to hold Sunday tabletop sales in the Clonduff or Downshire Hall facilities, in light of the number of churches in the area, the fact that this type of event is not conducive to Council usage of its facilities on a Sunday and the insurance and health and safety implications involved.

Furthermore, that the Group be asked to consider an alternative evening to hold a tabletop sale in the Downshire or Clonduff Community Centre facilities.

**CS/2005/98 : PLANTING OF A TREE IN MEMORY OF MRS GRETA FALLOON**

Councillor Hughes referred to previous discussions in which it had been suggested that a tree be planted in memory of Mrs Greta Falloon, and asked if this action had already been carried out.

The Director of Administration & Community Services stated that she would speak with the Administration Manager to progress this project with a view to planting a tree in the gardens of the Civic Offices.

RESOLVED:- that, the Director of Administration & Community Services will liaise with the Administration Manager to arrange for the planting of a tree in the gardens of the Civic Offices, in memory of Mrs Greta Falloon.

**CS/2005/99 : PRESENTATION BY COUNCILLOR DRYSDALE RE: GREENGRAVES DRAMA GROUP**

Councillor Drysdale commenced his presentation by reiterating that he had no pecuniary interest in Greengraves Drama Group.

He informed Members that the funding requested was to appoint a drama coach, and he was concerned that local children would lose out if the necessary funding was not awarded, especially as this drama group served a socially deprived area.

He referred to previous Council requests with regard to the stipulation of a performance of the 'Rainbow Valley', and stated that this event had been rescheduled on a number of occasions due to children leaving the group and absences through illness etc resulting in continuity issues.

Alderman Rice indicated that this Group had received funding from the LSP and had also submitted requests for expenditure towards transport costs.

Councillor Chambers stated that, as the Council were accountable for any funding it awarded, she had expressed concern that the Council had requested receipts against the use of grants received so far and an explanation why the performance of 'Rainbow Valley' had not taken place as yet but these were still forthcoming.

Councillor Long commented that, in his view, by postponing the performance on a number of occasions, these actions would have disappointed those children participating in the play.

Alderman Rice again referred to the funding applications made to the LSP, and stated that it was her understanding that they had also had reservations because of a lack of performance, and she suggested that Officers should check this information further.

The Director confirmed that 2 previous grants had been awarded from Community Relations for this project, but as yet the performance had not taken place.

She indicated that she had spoken to the Community Relations Officer regarding information requested from the Group regarding other funding received, but as yet this information had not been received.

The Community Services Manager stated that when he had been asked to look at duplication in funding, he had been assured by the LSP that they had awarded finance to the Drama Group for purposes other than those awarded by the Council.

The Director of Administration & Community Services agreed that the Council's issue was one of accountability and the need for relevant documentation as requested. There was also concerns that 2 previous grants had already been given for this project.

Alderman Rice stated that, in her view, the Council should not award a grant in the sum of £500 from the Community Relations Programme until the proper documentation had been submitted, and the performance had taken place.

Councillor Long also added that, if the Drama Group set a date and time for a performance of "Rainbow Valley", the Committee may look again at the funding application retrospectively.

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) the Committee recommends that the Council should not fund a grant for £500 from the Community Relations Programme until the requested information has been received from Greengraves Drama Group, namely receipts to account for the use of grants received so far.
- (b) Furthermore, that once the Drama Group have held a performance of "Rainbow Valley", that the Central Services Committee may again consider the funding application on a retrospective basis.

**CS/2005/100 : APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDING RECEIVED BY LAGAN VALLEY HERITAGE & CULTURAL SOCIETY AND LONGSTONE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

Councillor Drysdale referred to the above applications, which had been discussed at the July Council meeting, but had been refused. He argued the point that they had appeared for discussion under Bonfire Committee items, and took issue with the fact that they had related to cultural events organised to promote community relations, and had no bearing on bonfire celebrations.

Councillor Hall responded that during the proceedings of the July Council Meeting, he had referred to the fact that the events would be held during the afternoon of the 11<sup>th</sup> July and not during the evening.

Councillor Chambers stated that the Committee were not in a position to revoke this decision, as ratified minutes could not be altered for a period of 6 months. She asked Councillor Drysdale to inform the Groups that they ensure that their applications for funding are submitted well in advance of the date of the event, as it was her understanding that the funding applications in question had been submitted after the event had taken place.

Councillor Jeffers indicated that when the Bonfire Committee had been set up, other groups had applied for funding well in advance of the date of the event, and had, indeed, also applied for funding from other sources.

Councillor Drysdale, however, queried that they had discussed these two applications under the auspices of "Bonfires" and, in his opinion both groups had not received fair consideration on the evening.

However, it was brought to Members' attention that the funding allocated to the Bonfire Committee was for the issue of party packs, sweets etc. and not given out as grants for cultural events.

Following discussion, Members agreed that as the applications from the Lagan Valley Cultural & Heritage Society and the Longstone Community Association had failed to meet the requisite criteria, reconsideration of their requests would not take place.

Noted.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.40 p.m.

---

CHAIRMAN

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of

\_\_\_\_\_ 2005 with the exception of

Minute Nos: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE