

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held, in committee, in the Boardroom, Dundonald International Ice Bowl, on Monday, 20 November 2006, at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Alderman P D Robinson (from 6.05 p.m. – 6.40 p.m.)
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor M Long (in the chair)
Councillor G Robinson (until 6.40 p.m.)
Councillor J Spratt
Councillor J White

IN ATTENDANCE:- General Manager of Leisure & Marketing,
Marketing & PR Manager, Business Manager and
Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES:- Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Mrs I Robinson, and Mrs G Rice, Councillors Ms Bunting, B Hanvey, Henderson, Director of Finance & Leisure Services and Acting General Manager of Leisure & Marketing.

LPB/2006/398: MINUTES OF THE LEISURE PARK BOARD MEETING HELD ON 16 OCTOBER 2006 AND SPECIAL LEISURE PARK BOARD MEETING HELD ON 6 NOVEMBER 2006

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held on 16 October 2006, and of the Special Leisure Park Board meeting held on 6 November be accepted as a true and accurate record.

MATTERS ARISING

LPB/2006/399: MEETING WITH PSNI

Members queried whether the Acting General Manager of Leisure & Marketing had arranged a meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable, as agreed at the last meeting.

RESOLVED: - The General Manager ascertain if the Acting General Manager had convened a meeting with the Assistant Chief Constable, as agreed at the October meeting of the Board.

**REPORT FROM THE ACTING GENERAL MANAGER
(copy previously circulated)**

In the absence of the Acting Manager, who was off sick, the new General Manager presented the above report.

LPB/2006/401: TEN PIN BOWLING EVENTS

The Marketing & PR Manager advised that a request had been received to hold the Inter Banks Bowling Challenge at DIIB in March 2007. She reported that at last year's event income in the region of £1080.00 had been generated, with additional income also achieved from catering and vending. At the previous event the top ten lanes had remained open, to ensure that income continued to be generated. The Officer reported that the additional staffing costs had been calculated at £130.00, which allowed for additional customer services staff, additional control clerks and a standby plant engineer. A DJ would not be required for the afternoon and therefore this would be an additional saving of £90.00 on normal expenditure.

The Marketing & PR Manager stated that on the basis of the overall associated costs, the Acting General Manager had recommended a cost per game of £2.50, which remained unchanged from the previous year. The Officer reminded Members, however, that the event should generate additional income through a number of avenues, and also stated that the charge had previously been increased from £2.00 to £2.50.

The General Manager also advised that a request had been received from the NITBF regarding coaching sessions. There currently was an hourly off peak bowling rate of £9.50 available to squad members, it was suggested that this rate could be increased to £10.00 per hour, which could also be applied to coaching sessions. In tandem with the coaching sessions, there was also a need for a room for instructors to use; on the occasions that this need arose it was suggested that Lattecinos could be used. The General Manager advised that the Acting General Manager had stated that she was conscious that the hourly rate had risen from £6.50 to £9.50 last year, as prior to this there had been no increase for almost 5 years. It was recommended that Lattecinos be offered for use at a charge of £5.00 per hour.

Finally, the Marketing & PR Manager reported that discounted master bowler rates were currently £1.50 per game off peak and £2.00 per game at peak times. This price had not been reviewed recently and it was recommended that an increase of 50p be applied to each session.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed that

- (a) the inter bank bowling challenge could be held at DIIB in March 2007, with a cost per game of £2.50;
- (b) the hourly rate for coaching session for NITBF be increased to £10.00 per hour and the associated use of Lattecinos is charged at a rate of 5.00 per hour;
- (c) the master bowlers rate be increased to £2.00 per game off peak and £2.50 during peak time;
- (d) all the aforementioned rates to be reviewed in April 2007, in line with the Council's 2007/2008 pricing policy;
- (e) as requested by Councillor G Robinson, Members of the Board be furnished with a list of the master bowlers.

LPB/2006/402: STAFF UNIFORMS

The General Manager advised that Staff had not received additional or replacement tracksuit bottoms/sweatshirts in the last three years. He reported that there was sufficient budget available for the uniforms, if approval was given to proceed.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board authorised that new staff uniforms be purchased as follows

- 60 sweat shirts embroidered @ £7.00 plus vat (£420.00)
- 60 track bottoms at £20.00 plus vat (£1200.00)

LPB/2006/403: LIGHTING OF CAR PARK TO PIRATES GOLF

The General Manager drew Members' attention to correspondence received from Mr John Mills in respect of the car park to Pirates Adventure Golf. Members referred to discussion, which had taken place at last months meeting, regarding a matter raised by Mr Hobson in respect of lighting to the car park area. The General Manager advised that the correspondence stated that there appeared to be no specific requirement in respect of the area in question, although felt there may be the opportunity to negotiate an arrangement.

Discussion ensued as to who would be responsible for the lighting of the carpark, Mr Hobson or the Council. Following a query from Alderman Robinson, the Marketing & PR Manager advised that the annual rental for the car park was approximately 5000.00.

Councillor Spratt requested that the Council's Technical Staff be instructed to investigate whether it would be possible to erect additional lights to the existing poles.

Officers stated that they felt this had been investigated but was not possible, due to the additional weight the lights would place on the poles.

Discussion ensued following which it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board requested

- (a) that the General Manager obtain an approximate costing for the erection of lighting in the car park at Pirates Adventure Golf;
- (b) ascertain if it would be possible to erect additional lights to the existing poles, which could be directed towards the car park;
- (c) that the General Manager investigate the length of lease entered into by Mr Hobson for the car park, and report back to the December meeting of the Board.

LPB/2006/404: REVISED JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE GENERAL MANAGER

At this stage in proceedings the General Manager declared an interest and was asked to leave the meeting.

Members perused the revised reporting structure for the General Manager, Councillor Robinson expressed concern that the Councillors had not been included in the line management flow chart.

Following consideration and in light of the current restructuring review being undertaken by the sub committee of Finance & General Purposes, it was felt that it would be inappropriate to consider the above job description at this time.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed, that the revised job description for the post of General Manager should be deferred for consideration until the restructuring review had been undertaken.

At this stage in proceedings the General Manager returned to the meeting.

LPB/2006/405: OVERTIME PLANT STAFF

The General Manager advised that it had come to the attention of the Acting General Manager that a previously reported matter in June, by the then Technical Manager, did not appear to have had a minute recorded against it.

Members were referred to a copy of the report from the Technical Manager.

Cllr Beattie confirmed that he had verbally approved this matter in his capacity of overseeing adherence to the moratorium.

The General Manager advised that in recent months there had been a constant need to allow staff to perform shifts on overtime due to long-term sickness and leave entitlement. The long term sick was more of an issue than leave, and on occasions there had been no option other than to cover a shift with overtime. He stated that this would obviously have an impact on the salaries budget at the year-end, and assured Members that every effort would continue to be made to keep the use of overtime to an absolute minimum.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board approved the use of overtime for plant staff to cover plant staff shifts, as necessary.

LPB/2006/406: PAINTING OF FUNCTION SUITE

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board approved the redecoration of the Function suite, at a cost of £800.00.

LPB/2006/407: HOTEL SITE – LEISURE PARK

The General Manager drew Members' attention to correspondence received from BTW Shiells, regarding interest in the hotel site. He stated that since this correspondence had been received two higher offers had been received, the first from the Diamond Group at £350,000.00 and the highest offer, to date, of £400,000.00 from O'Sullivan. The General Manager added that BTW Sheills were confident that there was more interest in the site.

Following a query from the General Manager, Alderman Robinson advised that criteria had been set to ensure that any proposed development would complement the Leisure Park rather than conflict with its services. He added that the Board had an obligation to the ratepayer to take the highest offer received.

RESOLVED: - Members instructed the General Manager to keep the Chairman fully appraised regarding the sale of the Hotel Site.

LPB/2006/408: VALUATION OF CAR PARK (ADVENTURE GOLF)

The General Manager advised that a fee of £1250.00 + VAT had been quoted to undertake a valuation of the Pirates Adventure Golf car park.

As this request was in response to a general query from the Board it was felt that it did not merit proceeding at this cost.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed not to proceed with a valuation of the Pirates Adventure Golf car park, at this stage.

TECHNICAL REPORT

LPB/2006/409: MONITORING OF CHP PERFORMANCE.

The General Manager advised that the new service contractor who had recently been appointed was also carrying out the monthly performance monitoring. He stated that the Acting Manager had felt, that to maintain an independent status this facility should be transferred onto DIIB's own BEM System. To do this would require modification to the programme controller and software graphics. The Officer reported that there was only one licensed supplier for the BEM system, Satchwell Grant Ltd. and they had quoted £877.25 to carry out the work.

The General Manager advised that this would enable staff to produce performance reports, as and when required, at a saving of £106.00 per month.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board approved the appointment Satchwell Grant Ltd. to perform the necessary modifications to the programme controller and software graphics at a cost of £877.25.

LPB/2006/410: UPPER BOWLING LANES

The General Manager reported that earlier in the year approval had been granted to replace the fluorescent lighting tubes in the bottom lanes. The lighting level in the top lanes was now poor with almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tubes having failed. He reported that it was more cost effective to replace all the lights at the same time, and the Board's approval was sought to replace the 100 lighting tubes ASAP.

The Officer reported that the cost was estimated at £100.00 for standard, or £250.00 for long life (5 years). He continued that there was also a number of U/V lights out, which required replacing and requested that these be replaced at the same time, at an estimated cost of £240.00 for 24 at £10.00 per tube.

Members then discussed the merits of exploring more energy efficient measure that could be used throughout the facility, these included the erection of a wind turbine and the use more energy efficient lighting.

Discussion ensued following which it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board

- (a) granted approval to replace the lighting tubes in the upper bowling lanes with standard bulbs at a total cost of £100.00. The General Manager to take a note of when these bulbs were replaced to establish if it would be more cost effective to use the long life bulbs the next time;
- (b) granted approval to replace the 24 U/V lights at an estimated cost of £240.00;

- (c) requested that the General Manager explore more energy efficient measures that could be used throughout the facility, and prepare a report to be considered at the forthcoming strategy weekend.

LPB/2006/411: STAFFING

The General Manager referred to a previous report from the Acting General Manager regarding staff shortages to LPB on 19 June 2006. He stated that further to this report the situation had worsened, currently there were two members of the plant maintenance staff off on long term sick. They had submitted certificates that indicated they would be off for at least 4 weeks. Because there was no casual relief plant maintenance staff, the Officer stated that it would be necessary to use overtime for available staff to cover essential shifts.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board authorised the use of controlled overtime for available plant maintenance staff to cover essential shifts, as and when required, with such use being closely monitored by the General Manager.

LPB/2006/412: ICE RINK COOLING LIQUID

The General Manager advised that a report had been received on a sample of dripping water underneath the rink, which indicated a leak in the pipes that circulate the brine.

He continued that this was a serious matter that would require expert consideration for identifying and repair. The Acting Manager had already forwarded a copy of the report to the Council's Capital Projects Officer and requested his comments. The General Manager continued that the leak appeared to be small at present and should not cause a major disruption, but stressed that it would require critical attention as soon as practical to prevent it deteriorating any further.

RESOLVED: - The General Manager to submit a more detailed report to the Board regarding the leak of the ice rink cooling liquid.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LPB/2006/413: LONGSTONE SCHOOL

The General Manager advised that a request had been made by Longstone School to use the Ice Bowl seating.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board authorised the hire of the Ice Bowl seating, at a reduced rate to cover staffing costs.

LPB/2006/414: CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MR B HOBSON

The General Manager referred Members to correspondence received from Mr Mr Hobson advising that he would be interested in purchasing the car park, particularly in light of the forthcoming review of Public Administration.

At this stage Members agreed to note the correspondence, until the outstanding issue regarding lighting of the car park had been resolved.

Noted.

LPB/2006/415: NIIHC SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

Councillor Robinson advised that a representative from the Northern Ireland Ice Hockey Club had contacted him, requesting that the Board consider sponsoring the stripes and socks for their junior youth Hockey Team (13-15 year old age group). He continued that this would be a joint initiative with the Ministry of Defence, who had agreed to sponsor the 16-17 year old age group.

The Marketing and PR stated that a lot of requests of this nature were received.

The General Manager advised that the Acting Manager was currently substantiating the MOD funding and would report back to the December meeting of the Board.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed to defer a decision as to whether they would sponsor the kits for the NIIHC until the Acting Manager had substantiated the funding from the MOD.

At this stage in proceedings Alderman and Councillor Robinson left the meeting.

**REPORT FROM THE PR & MARKETING MANAGER
(copy previously circulated)**

LPB/2006/416: HALLOWEEN EXPENDITURE 2007

The Marketing & PR Manager advised that following the recent Halloween Fireworks display she was seeking Members' views on the provision of a Fireworks Display in October 2007, as part of the DIIB annual programme of events. She advised Members that there had been no provision made in the preliminary marketing budget estimates.

Councillor Beattie requested that the proposed costings be forwarded to the estimates working group, it was also agreed that forecast costings should be forwarded in respect of the 20th Anniversary celebrations scheduled to take place in 2007.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed, that the Marketing & PR Manager should forward the proposed costings to the Estimates Working Group for the 2007 Halloween Fireworks display and the 20th Anniversary celebrations scheduled to take place in 2007.

LPB/2006/417: CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

The Marketing & PR Manager advised Members that subsequent to the October LPB meeting and following further discussion with DIIB management staff, a revision of the Christmas opening hours was being proposed. After consideration, it was

RESOLVED: - That the Centre should operate as follows:

Christmas Eve (Sunday)

Skating Session 10.00am – 5.00pm
Bowling last game 5.00pm
Indiana Land last session 4.30pm

Boxing Day (Monday)

Skating Sessions 12.30pm – 4.30pm: 5.00pm – 7.30pm
Indiana Land last session 6.30pm
Bowls last game 6.30pm

New Years Eve (Sunday)

10.00am – 4.30pm: 5.00pm – 7.30pm
Indiana Land last session 6.30pm
Bowls last game 6.30pm

New Years Day (opening 12.00 noon)

Skating Sessions 12.00 noon – 1.00pm: 1.30pm – 4.30pm: 5.00pm – 7.00pm:
7.30pm – 10.00pm

LPB/2006/418: CHRISTMAS/MID WINTER ADVERTISING CAMPAIGNS

The Marketing & PR Manager outlined the Christmas/mid winter advertising campaigns and associated expenditure.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board approved the advertising campaigns and associated expenditure, as follows:

Radio Campaigns	£3000.00
Cool FM /CityBeat/105	
January Edition NI for Kids	£480.00
January/February Leaflet Promotion	£300.00
January/February Shopping Centre Promotions	£350.00
New pricing boards	£250.00
New pricing leaflets	£100.00

Penguin promotional hangars x 2 £300.00
Graphic design @ £20 – 30 per hour

LPB/2006/419: SALE OF ADVERTISING

The Marketing & PR Manager advised that a letter had been circulated to all existing and previous advertisers, along with rate card and event planner. She reported that Cool FM had confirmed that they wished to renew advertising on the Ten Pin Bowling Centre wall and rink dasher boards.

The Officer suggested that Cool FM be charged an additional £500.00 for the rink dasher boards but that the prices of the Ten Pin Bowling Centre wall remain unchanged, at a cost of £2000.00.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board authorised that Cool FM be permitted to renew their advertising on the Ten Pin Bowling Centre wall and Ice Rink dasher boards, at a cost of £2500.00, to be reviewed in April 2007, in line with the Council's 2007/2008 pricing policy;

LPB/2006/420: SALE OF ADVERTISING (EXTERNAL)

The Marketing & PR Manager advised that a legal opinion was currently being sought in relation to the above.

Noted.

LPB/2006/421: BELFAST GIANTS

The Officer advised that a meeting had been held with the Belfast Giants to negotiate a renewed hourly rate. She continued that the current Belfast Giants management had agreed, in principle, to provide two dasher boards for the remainder of the 2006/2007 season at a commercial rate of £1,500.00, in return for a reduction in ice time from £150.00 per hour to £120.00 per hour.

In addition to the above, Mr Elliot had expressed an interest in some joint ventures, which it was felt would help to bring down the Giant's overall ice time costs. The Officer detailed the proposal and following consideration it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board authorised that

- (a) Dundonald International IceBowl rent two dasher boards to the Belfast Giants for the remainder of the 2006/2007 season at a commercial rate of £1,500.00, to reduce their ice time from £150.00 per hour to £120.00 per hour;
- (b) The Belfast Giants and DIIB carry out a joint promotion. This would take the form of four "Skating with the Giant Nights", with a 50:50 split in revenue (net of VAT), once a threshold was reached in terms of revenue for the same period in 2005 with DJ costs also being covered;

- (c) the events would be jointly marketed through the DIIB/Belfast Giant's websites, press and media coverage, Giant's database and Giant's Sunday Life feature articles;
- (d) the events are provisionally scheduled to take place on Tuesday 5 December 2006, Tuesday 11 January 2007, Wednesday 14 February 2007 and Tuesday 8 March.

LPB/2006/422: NEW RINK SESSIONS.

The Marketing & PR Manager advised Members that in order to maximise the increased interest in ice-skating, which should happen as a result of the forthcoming popular 'Dancing on Ice Show', it was being proposed by management that changes be implemented to the ice rink schedule. She highlighted that this new timetable would add a further daily session at weekends and holidays, which would potentially generate more income and facilitate operations during peak periods.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed to implement the ice rink schedule, as detailed below, from Boxing Day and continue it at weekends and during school holidays with a review at Easter. It was also agreed that a new lessons schedule would also be incorporated in the new Friday Tea Time session.

Current Sat/Sun Skating Sessions	Proposed Sat/Sun Skating Sessions
10.00am – 12.00 noon 1.30pm – 5.00pm 5.30pm – 10.00pm	10.00am – 12.00 noon 1.30pm – 4.30pm 5.00pm – 7.00pm 7.30pm – 10.00pm
Current Friday Skating Sessions	Proposed Friday Skating Sessions
11.00am – 5.00pm 5.30pm – 10.00pm	11.00am – 4.30pm 5.00pm – 7.00pm 7.30pm – 10.00pm

LPB/2006/423: REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM MRS KAREN PAYNE.

The Marketing & PR Manager drew Members' attention to correspondence received from Mrs Karen Payne, requesting that the Board reconsider their original decision not to financially assist bowlers travelling to the World Cup in Venezuela.

Members noted this correspondence and requested that the General Manager write to Mrs Payne advising that the Board's original decision, taken in August 2006, could not be reconsidered for a period of six months.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board instructed the General Manager to write to Mrs Payne advising that the Board's original decision, taken in August 2006, could not be reconsidered for a period of six months.

LPB/2006/424: CHRISTMAS ICE SHOW ON SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2006

Members were advised that an invitation from the Clubs organising the above event would be extended to Members.

Noted.

LPB/2006/425: CASTLEREAGH SCHOOLS 11 PLUS PROMOTION

The Marketing & PR Manager advised Members that retrospective approval was being sought, in respect of a special schools promotion which was being offered to all 611 Primary Seven pupils in Castlereaigh between 2.00pm and 5.00 p.m. This promotion would entitle them to 2 for 1 ice skating or Xtreme ten pin bowling for £2.50 (group rate), if they pre booked.

The Vice Chairman advised that he had been consulted and had approved this promotion, in his capacity of overseeing adherence to the moratorium.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board granted retrospective approval for the 11 Plus Schools Promotion, which was offered to all 611 Primary School Children in Castlereaigh.

LPB/2006/426: FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITY – CHOCOBLOC

The Marketing & PR Manager advised Members that the owner of Chocobloc, Bangor, Co. Down had recently contacted her, regarding the possibility of establishing a franchise at DIIB. She provided Members with a brief overview of the Company, which specialised in running parties for adults and children enabling them to make their own themed chocolate. The Officer advised that the gentleman had indicated that he felt that Lattecinis would be an ideal size and location and was keen to see if the Board would consider such a proposal for use of this area.

Members considered the request and discussion ensued as to whether such a franchise could complement the existing attractions at the facility. Concern was expressed that a new facility such as this could actually take business away from the existing attractions, however, Officers explained that after making the chocolate it was at least one hour until it could be picked up. It was felt, therefore, that there could be the potential to pick up additional revenue, especially through catering and additional spend in other attractions.

The General Manager advised that the proposer was keen to put together a business plan, however, he would need throughput figures for the facility in order to proceed.

Discussion ensued following which it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board requested that the Marketing & Marketing & PR Manager Manager

- (a) establish approximately how much revenue was being achieved using Lattecinos as a party room;
- (b) contact the Lands Agency to establish the approximate rental which could be charged for the hire of Lattecinos to run such a franchise;
- (c) be permitted to release the facilities throughput figures to Mr S Lennie, of Chocobloc, to enable him to prepare a business plan;
- (d) advise Mr Lennie that Members of the Board would be willing to receive a presentation on the proposed franchise;
- (e) consider the proposal and prepare a more detailed report as to how well it would 'fit in' with the overall scheme of the facility, including proposals as to how it could be administered, to be considered at the forthcoming Leisure Park Strategy Day.

LPB/2006/427: BATTLEFIELD SPORTS

The General Manager advised that the proprietor had advised that he would be trading under the name Urban Command, drawings of the proposed signage were displayed for Members' information.

Members expressed concern at the lack of detail in the proposals and requested that further drawings be presented at the next meeting of the Board, for Members' consideration.

The Officer advised that it had previously been agreed that a sum of £800.00 be allocated to recommission the emergency lighting, smoke and heat detectors in the former Laser Quest Unit. He continued that since this decision had been taken it had become apparent that it would be more cost effective to purchase new equipment. On this basis, the General Manager asked Members to consider allocating the sum of £800.00 towards the purchase of new detectors, which would still be linked the existing system within the main DIIB building.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board authorised that a sum of £800.00 be allocated to assist the proprietor in the purchase of new emergency lighting, smoke and heat detectors for the former Laser Quest Unit.

LPB/2006/428: MATTING AT BLEACHERS

The General Manager advised Members that the rubber matting at Bleachers was in a very dangerous state, and as a result it had been closed to the public. He advised that Officers were currently investigating how much this would cost to repair, in the interim he had identified an area where the tiered seating could be erected, if the matting had not been repaired in time for the Christmas Ice Show to be held on 17 December 2006.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed that the General Manager liaise with the Chairman once costings had been obtained for the repair of the rubber matting at bleachers, in order to progress this matter in advance of the Christmas Ice Show. If the matting could not be repaired in time then he should liaise with the Chairman regarding the expense of erecting the tiered seating.

FINANCE REPORT (Copy previously circulated)

LPD/2006/429: TRADING ACCOUNTS

The Business Manager tabled for Members' consideration the Ice Bowl Trading Accounts for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 October 2006, together with a summary of last year's figures for comparison.

Noted.

LPD/2006/430: WEEKLY INCOME ANALYSIS

The Business Manager tabled for Members' consideration the weekly income analysis sheets.

Noted.

LPB/2006/431: MAN HOURS

The Business Manager referred Members to a summary of the man hours and costs up to week 31, i.e. week ending 29 October 2006.

Noted.

LPB/2006/432: VARIANCE REPORT PERIOD 7 – OCTOBER 2006

The Business Manager tabled for Members' consideration the variance report for the above period.

Councillor Long stated that whilst he understood the need for the current moratorium, having overseen its adherence in the absence of the Chairman he felt it might be appropriate to review the threshold on purchases and return some of the authority to the new General Manager and Director of Finance & Leisure Service.

The General Manager stated that he would like slightly longer to familiarise himself with his new position before relaxing the moratorium.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed to review the current moratorium at a future meeting of the Board, with a view to setting a purchase threshold for management and returning some of the authority to the new General Manager and Director of Finance & Leisure Service.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

LPB/2006/433: CHRISTMAS LIGHTS AT FACILITY

The General Manager advised that the Christmas signage only worked partially last year, technical staff were checking it but it was felt that it was now obsolete. He continued that if this were the case, there would be no outside Christmas signage at the facility, he added that there had been no provision made in the budget for the purchase of new signage.

The Mayor stated that he felt it was important that the facility was decorated at Christmas time, in light of the number of children who used the facility. Members concurred.

The Marketing & PR Manager suggested that icicle lights could be purchased from Hillmount Nursery, the Council's supplier of Christmas decorations, at a reduced rate of approximately £200.00 per 3-metre strand.

Members discussed the possibility of these being left up all year round and it was agreed that Officers would establish if they would be durable enough.

Discussion ensued following which it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board

- (a) granted the General Manager authority to purchase icicle lights from Hillmount Nursery, for the outside decoration of the facility, at a cost of no more that £2500.00.
- (b) requested that Officers ascertain if the proposed lighting would be durable enough to remain up all year round.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.55 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE