

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Leisure Services Committee held, in committee, in the Waiting Room, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday, 5th April 2007 at 7.30 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillor C Hall (in the chair)
Councillor Mrs AM Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Mrs J. Cochrane (in at 7.50 pm)
Councillor C Tosh

IN ATTENDANCE:- General Manager of Leisure & Marketing, Area Manager (Leisure) and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES:- Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman J Norris; Councillors D Drysdale, Mrs S Duncan, B Hanvey and J Spratt and the Acting Director of Leisure

TABLED:- MINUTES OF THE LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST MARCH 2007 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

**LS/2007/52 : TOUR OF THE NORTH CYCLE RACE 2007
(Minute No: LS/2007/46 refers)**

The Area Manager (Leisure) confirmed that the final stage of the Tour of the North Cycle Race 2007 would be taking place from Lough Moss Centre on Easter Monday, 9th April 2007, commencing at 9.30 am. He confirmed that the Mayor would be attending on behalf of the Council.

Noted.

LS/2007/53 : WIND TURBINE AT LOUGH MOSS (Minute No LS/2007/41refers)

The General Manager Leisure & Marketing reported that he had contacted the Department of Finance & Personnel to confirm that the grant deadline could be extended and a response should be available by the end of April. He also advised that the lead time for purchase of the turbine had been shortened and it should be possible to get it up and running in time to draw down the grant, providing the grant timeline was extended.

Noted.

LS/2007/54 : EZE FITNESS CONTRACT (Minute No LS/2007/39 refers)

The General Manager Leisure & Marketing reported that, together with the Director of Finance and the Area Manager (Leisure), he had met with representatives of Eze Fitness earlier that day. He indicated that the Council's Auditor still had one or two issues to address. He stated that the Director of Leisure Services would be meeting with the Council's solicitors in the week commencing 16th April 2007 and it was hoped that the contract would be finalised and signed in early May.

Noted.

REPORT OF THE AREA MANAGER (LEISURE)

LS/2007/55 : LOUGH MOSS DEVELOPMENT – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOFT PLAY AREA AND MULTI-PURPOSE PITCH

The Area Manager (Leisure) sought authorisation to advertise for Expressions of Interest for the purpose of gauging interest and potential partnership opportunities for the construction of a purpose built soft play area either inside or outside the Lough Moss facility and the construction of a multi-purpose pitch similar in size to that at Cregagh that would alleviate some of the current over-demand for the astro pitch.

RESOLVED: that the Council advertise for Expressions of Interest in respect of a purpose built soft play area and a multi-purpose pitch at Lough Moss.

LS/2007/56 : COACHING RATES

The Area Manager (Leisure) reported that casual coaching rates for activities such as swimming, martial arts, trampolining, etc had remained static for a number of years and had fallen behind those being offered by other Councils. He advised that, as a result, casual employees were moving on to higher wages elsewhere or to contracted employment. This had led to an acute shortage of

coaches for a number of activities and would have a detrimental effect on the consistency of coaching provision. He also stated that, since some coaches had indicated they would not be available after May, this would be an ongoing problem.

The Manager indicated that no provision for an increase to coaching rates had been made within the estimates for the new financial year and he wished to table a report to the May meeting with recommendations for increases in the casual coaching rates and the possibility of creating a number of contracted coaching posts.

RESOLVED that the Area Manager (Leisure) report to the May meeting of the Committee with proposals in respect of casual coaching rates and the possibility of creating contracted coaching posts.

LS/2007/57 : SUMMER SCHEME PRICES

The Area Manager (Leisure) sought the Committee's approval for the following prices for the Summer Schemes at Lough Moss and Belvoir.

Lough Moss – (based on 4 hours per day)

Pre booking price	£7.00 per day
Pay on day	£8.00 per day
Registration fee	£2.50 per child (£1.00 per child for any additional family members)

Belvoir – (based on 4 hours per day)

Pre booking price	£5.70 per day
Pay on day	£6.70 per day
Weekly (4 days)	£22.85 per child
Registration fee	£2.50 per child (£1.00 per child for any additional family members)
Early Bird Session	£1.00 per child (8.30-9.30am and in addition to above charges)

The Manager advised that additional staff and specialised coaches were required at Lough Moss due to the diverse range of ages catered for and the number of "coached" activities. In response to Members' queries, he indicated that the increase on last year's prices was 50p per day.

RESOLVED: that the Council approve the increased prices for the Summer Schemes at Lough Moss and Belvoir as detailed above.

LS/2007/58 : PROPOSAL BY THE MODEL CAR CLUB OF NI

The Area Manager (Leisure) reported that the Model Car Club of NI had approached Lough Moss about the possibility of establishing a “permanent” race venue at the Centre from the months of April to September. He indicated that their proposal included the removal of two islands to the rear of the car park that would allow a track to be built on race days and that the Club had agreed to pay for the removal of the islands (subject to cost). He stated that there would be a charge of approximately £70 for the hire of the section of the car park and this would generate additional income at a time when the Centre was not particularly busy.

The Manager reported that it was estimated that the cost of the work involved in removing the islands would be £1,200; this would be covered by the Club and would be carried out by the Council. He also reported that the cars used were battery powered and would not cause any major noise pollution. He stated that the activity would take place every other Sunday. He advised that he had discussed the proposal with the Council’s Health & Safety Officer and Capital Projects Officer, neither of whom foresaw specific problems.

The Area Manager (Leisure) sought the Committee’s approval to progress the matter and report back at the May meeting with details of costs and confirmation that any remedial work would be carried out by an appropriate company and that the Council’s insurers would be informed of the change of use before any work began.

RESOLVED that the Council agree that officers be authorised to progress the proposal as detailed above **after Council approval and report back to the May meeting with any additional relevant information including details of any cost implications to the Council.**

LS/2007/59 : INCIDENT AT ROBINSON CENTRE

RESOLVED: that this matter be deferred until later in the meeting when it would be considered “in committee”.

LS/2007/60 : LETTER FROM ANNADALE HOCKEY CLUB

Members considered correspondence from Annadale Hockey Club (copy previously circulated) requesting clarification and a time scale for the Council’s plans for replacing the astro pitch at Lough Moss. The Club indicated that they could continue to use a replacement pitch at Lough Moss if it was water based or sand dressed but that a sand based pitch would not be suitable for hockey and they would therefore have to investigate other options.

The General Manager Leisure & Marketing reminded Members that in his presentation to the Committee Mr McNally had raised the possibility of providing a replacement pitch in a partnership arrangement with the Council.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that officers meet with Annadale Hockey Club to discuss the Council's options in respect of a replacement hockey pitch at Lough Moss
- (b) that the Council advertise for Expressions of Interest in respect of provision of a replacement pitch at Lough Moss.
- (c) that the next meeting of the Committee be held at Lough Moss to facilitate Members' consideration of options.
- (d) that officers liaise with Technical Service Officers to explore opportunities to develop partnerships with industry for new synthetic based pitches at Lough Moss.

LS/2007/61 : INVOICE PAYMENTS FOR APPROVAL

The Area Manager (Leisure) sought approval for payment of the following invoices and advised that these could result in an overspend in the appropriate budget.

Annual alarm and fire safety contract - Surefire (Service Contracts)

Robinson Centre – Total £419.30
Fire alarm 6 month service x 2 = £200
Emergency lighting 6 month service x2 = £200
Fire extinguisher 12 month service = £19.30

Lough Moss Centre – Total £415.00
Fire alarm 6 month service x 2 = £200
Emergency lighting 6 month service x 2 = £200
Fire extinguisher 12 month service = £15.00

Belvoir Centre – Total £287.90
Fire alarm 6 month service x 2 = £200
Emergency lighting 6 month service x2 = £75
Fire extinguisher 12 month service = £12.90

VAT to go onto all prices

All spare parts and extinguisher refills are extra as required.

Intruder alarm maintenance and monitoring – Diamond Systems (Service Contracts)

Robinson Centre - £164.60 + VAT

Purchase of chemicals for Robinson Centre – Albion Group (Chemicals)

Retrospective approval is sought for the purchase of HTH granules that are used to disinfect the swimming pools at a cost of £660.00 +VAT (6 X 40kg barrels)

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that approval be given for payment of the invoices as detailed above.
- (b) that officers be asked to investigate the practicalities and possible economies of scale involved in seeking one service contract for alarms and fire safety equipment to cover all the Council's offices and facilities.

LS/2007/62 : IFA INVOICE

The Area Manager (Leisure) sought Members' approval for the payment to the IFA in respect of an invoice in the sum of £2,212.60 relating to the purchase of sports bags as part of the Grass Roots Development Programme.

The Manager reported that, as the IFA was the sole supplier of the bags, no other quotations had been sought.** He also confirmed that there were sufficient funds in the budget to cover the amount.

RESOLVED: that the Council approve the payment of £2,212.60 to the IFA.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT OF THE AREA MANAGER (LEISURE)

LS/2007/63 : U19 RUGBY WORLD CUP

The Area Manager (Leisure) reported that Belfast was hosting the 2007 U19 Rugby World Cup and the Council had been approached by the Liaison Officer for the Canadian Rugby Team with a view to leisure provision during their stay. He advised that DIIB has agreed to discount prices for entrance to its facilities and the Committee was asked to consider whether it wished to discount its swimming and sauna/spa prices specifically for the athletes involved. He

indicated that both Belfast City Council and Queens PEC were offering their facilities free of charge.

RESOLVED: that, as recommended by the Area Manager (Leisure), a discounted price of £1.00 per person for use of either the swimming pool or sauna/spa facility (£2.00 for both) be offered to the appropriate members of the various rugby teams participating in the World Cup event.

LS/2007/64 : CRECHE PRICES

Members were advised of the contents of an email sent to Councillor Bunting from a user of the crèche facilities at the Robinson Centre protesting about the increase in crèche prices.

The Area Manager (Leisure) reminded Members of the reasons for increasing the crèche prices and advised that the crèche continued to run at a loss. He also indicated that some centres were withdrawing crèche provision due to child protection and cost issues **and he compared the Council costs with other facility operators and indicated that they were competitive.**

After discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Area Manager (Leisure) **contact** Councillor Bunting explaining the Council's position with regard to crèche provision at the Robinson Centre **so that she could respond** to the email.
- (b) that copies of the above letter and Councillor Bunting's response be circulated to Members.

LS/2007/65 : TRADING ACCOUNTS FOR BELVOIR, LOUGH MOSS AND ROBINSON CENTRES

The General Manager Marketing & Leisure presented trading accounts for Belvoir, Lough Moss and Robinson Centres.

Councillor Duncan welcomed the increase in income being generated by the Fitness Suites in the Robinson Centre.

The Area Manager (Leisure) pointed out to Members that, after a couple of years of increasing revenue, the Lough Moss Centre had now reached a plateau. He stated that there had been a couple of events last year that had brought in additional monies. He also stated that the pitch was being used at full capacity and in fact football bookings were being turned away. He indicated that this was why officers were interested in investigating the possibility of providing an

additional pitch so that the Centre could meet demand and continue to increase revenue.

Noted.

STAFF IN COMMITTEE

As there was no further business, the meeting ended at 9.35 pm

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____ 2007 with the exception of
Minute Nos: _____

MAYOR