

## **CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the Leisure Park Board held, in committee, in the Board Room at Dundonald International Ice Bowl on Monday 18 February 2008 at 6.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** J Bunting (in the Chair from 6.50 p.m.)

**COUNCILLORS:** J Beattie  
M Chambers (in the Chair until 6.50 p.m.)  
D Drysdale  
B Hanvey  
G Robinson (from 6.15 p.m.)  
J Spratt (from 7.25 p.m.)  
J White

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Director of Leisure, General Manager Leisure & Marketing, Business Manager, Technical Manager, and Assistant Members' Services Officer.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received from Councillors Henderson and Long and also from Councillors Bunting, Robinson and Spratt who would be late on arrival to the meeting.

### **LPB/2008/22: ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

In the absence of the Chair and Deputy Chair Members of the Board

RESOLVED: - That, the Mayor should chair the meeting until the arrival of the Chairperson.

### **LPB/2008/23: NEW TECHNICAL MANAGER**

The Director of Leisure introduced the new Technical Manager, Mr Andrew Cross to Members of the Board.

Members welcomed Mr Cross to the meeting.

Noted.

### **LPB/2008/24: MINUTES OF LEISURE PARK BOARD MEETING**

**(Please refer to minute no LPB/2008/33 where an amendment was subsequently made)**

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed that the Minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held on 21 January 2008, be accepted as a true and accurate record.

### **LPB/2008/25: MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES**

The Director of Leisure advised that as requested at the last Board meeting by Councillor Long, she had sought an opinion from the Chief Executive in respect of the decisions taken regarding the Soccer Sixes Event. She advised that it was her intention to brief Members at the March meeting, when Councillor Long would be present.

The General Manager then briefed Members regarding the query made in respect of Tumble Tots. He advised, that the when Tumble Tots had changed venue they had been using Tullycarnet Community Centre and had been charged a rate of £13.20 + VAT per hour. He confirmed that this was comparable to the daily rate they were now being charged for the function suite at DIIB.

The Director advised that further to the last meeting the General Manager had, as requested, entered into negotiations with NIISA regarding their outstanding invoice. She confirmed that further to this meeting all outstanding issues had now been resolved and NIISA would be settling their account in full. Once received Officers would then enter into negotiations in respect of their request to host the Northern Ireland Open to determine the level of support being requested.

RESOLVED: -

- (a) The Director of Leisure to brief Members on her findings in respect of the request from Councillor Long regarding the Soccer Sixes event, at the March Leisure Park Board meeting;
- (b) Following receipt of the outstanding invoices from NIISA, Officers be permitted to enter into negotiations in respect of their request to host the Northern Ireland Open, to determine the level of support being requested and update Members at a future meeting.

### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES TO THE LEISURE PARK**

#### **LPB/2008/26: TRADING ACCOUNTS**

The Business Manager took Members through the detail of the Trading Accounts to the end of period 10. She reported an operating surplus of over £46,000 for the month. Income was down on the same period last year, however, it was felt that the reduction in revenue was largely due to snow, which adversely affected income over the first weekend in January and the closure of the Ice Rink for two days as a result of the soccer sixes event.

The Business Manager advised that, to date, the income figures for February were very positive as the facility had been very busy.

She reported that the year to date figures presented took no account of the business interruption insurance claim that had been submitted. This is still being progressed.

Members welcomed the figures.

Noted.

At this stage in proceedings Councillor Robinson entered the meeting.

### **REPORT FROM THE PR & MARKETING MANAGER**

(This was presented by the Director in the absence of the Officer)

#### **LPB/2008/27: PROPOSED PRICING REVIEW**

The General Manager drew Members' attention to the proposed pricing review for bowling, Indianaland and Ice Skating. Members perused these price increases and it was subsequently

RESOLVED: - Members approved the new pricing structure for bowling, skating and Indianaland with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> March 2008 so as to capture the Easter Holiday period.

#### **LPB/2008/28: HEROS PROGRAMME**

The General Manager referred Members to a proposal from Todd Kelman of the Belfast Giant to run a Hockey Camp. The date was yet to be finalised but he would require 2 x 1 ½ hr ice sessions daily, probably in August 2008.

The Director advised that no negotiations had taken place and officers intended to meet with Todd Kelman to discuss the proposals in more detail, however, she felt that if the rink was used early in the morning the proposal would be viable.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board granted Officers authority to enter into negotiations with Mr Todd Kelman, regarding the possibility of running a Hockey Camp and update Members at a future meeting of the Board.

#### **LPB/2008/29: RINK ADVERTISING**

The Director advised that Tullycarnet Community Football Association had requested free advertising space within the ice rink to promote their Club to young people in the local area. They were prepared to pay any production costs but were looking for the space free of charge.

The Director urged caution to Members, advising that she would be concerned that this would set a precedent for an influx of requests from similar organisations.

Members concurred and following discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board

- (a) granted Officers authority to offer Tullycarnet Community Association a site on the front of the upper balcony, which was not considered to be a prime location, for a reduced fee of £100.00 per annum;
- (b) requested that Officers advise the representatives to contact Castlereagh Sports Development Association to establish if any funding was available for PR such as this.

## **REPORT FROM THE GENERAL MANAGER**

### **LPB/2008/30: ADVERTISING REQUEST**

The General Manager reported that the Health Promotion Agency had expressed an interest in purchasing an advertising panel on the rink to promote their next campaign of 'Safe Sex' to young people across Northern Ireland. The General Manager advised that he wished to seek Members views in respect of this proposal.

Councillor Robinson stated that whilst he welcomed the work carried out by the Health Promotions Agency, he felt that a 'Safe Sex' campaign was not appropriate, given that the ice rink was used by children of all ages.

Members concurred but felt that it would depend on each specific advertisement being proposed.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board requested that any proposed advertisement from the Health Promotions Agency should be tabled for the Board's consideration, prior to a decision being taken as to whether it would be permitted in the ice rink.

### **LPB/2008/31: REQUEST TO HOST WORLD TRANSPLANT GAMES 2011**

The Officer advised that the World Transplant Games was the largest organ donation awareness event in the world. The Games are a biennial event, lasting eight days, with an average attendance of 1,500 competitors and their families from across the globe. Competitors must have undergone life-saving organ transplant surgery or allograft bone marrow surgery. He continued that Belfast was bidding to host the games from Sun 6- Sun 14 Aug 2011. DIIB was the preferred venue for the Ten Pin Bowling Event and he reported that site visit by the organising committee had been held earlier in the day, which he had attended along with the Chief Executive.

The Director advised that obviously the ability to host the event would depend upon the refurbishment or rebuild progress, however she felt that whichever option was selected, that DIIB either on the existing site or new site could be capable of hosting this event.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed to host the World Transplant Games Ten Pin Bowling Event in 2011, if Belfast was selected as the chosen venue.

### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES**

#### **LPB/2008/32: SOCCER SIXES – PROPOSED BUSINESS CASE FOR FUTURE YEARS**

The Director advised that a full update report would be brought back to the Board on the proposal for future years. She reported that the final work was still underway in terms of the evaluation and she felt that it was essential to have this before any consideration could be given to holding further events.

Councillor Drysdale commended all staff involved in the organisation of the event, stating that he felt the event had been very successful and had proven to be an excellent marketing opportunity for the whole Ice Bowl facility.

At this stage in proceedings Councillor Bunting entered the meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding the event, following which it was

RESOLVED: - Officers to table a full evaluation report on the recent soccer sixes event. It was further resolved that once the full evaluation of the recent event had been concluded a full business case would be then progress.

#### **LPB/2008/33: MINUTES**

Councillor Ms Bunting apologised for being late on arrival to the meeting. She then drew Members' attention to the minutes and stated that she felt that the detailed table of financial overspends detailed within the trading accounts contained too much financial information.

Members agreed and it was subsequently

RESOLVED: - Members requested that the minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held on held on 21 January 2008, be accepted as a true and accurate record subject to the removal of the table of financial overspends contained with the trading accounts (minute ref: LPB/2008/02 refers). This table of overspends would be included as an addendum to the business manager's main report.

**LPB/2008/34: TESCO JUNIOR GIANTS MATCH**

The General Manager advised that a request had been received from NI Ice Hockey Club for use of the Ice rink to host a match with Murrayfield Ice Hockey club in Scotland and Eaglebrook College, Massachusetts, USA. He reported that in an attempt to facilitate arrangements being made the club had been advised that it would be possible to avail them of the time needed to facilitate the matches. The Officer stated that the request related specifically to Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008. The club would pay the established rate for ice time. The lessons programme would not be affected by the match and the closure of the rink on the Sunday morning would be advertised on the website and in the facility prior to the event.

Councillor Robinson suggested that Officers should approach all the local Hockey Clubs seeking expressions of interest for training times, which would enable Officers to prepare a timetable.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board

- (a) granted the NIIHC permission to hire the ice rink to facilitate the matches as requested;
- (b) requested that Officers approach the local Hockey Clubs seeking expressions of interest for training sessions, to enable Officers to prepare a training timetable.

**LPB/2008/35: SPECIAL MEETING TO CONSIDER ECONOMIC APPRAISAL OF DIIB**

The Director asked Members to consider whether they wished to hold a special LPB meeting to enable the consultants to outline their findings in respect of the ongoing Economic Appraisal of DIIB.

Following consideration it was

RESOLVED: - Members agreed that the consultants could make a presentation of their findings on the Economic Appraisal at the April 2008 meeting of the Board.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**LPB/2008/36: CHARITY BOWLING**

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board agreed to finalise the grant for the Mayor's Charity Bowling following the event.

**LPB/2008/37: BOUNCY CASTLES**

The General Manager reminded Members that it had previously been resolved that the remaining funvalley bouncy castles should be leased to

Community Services. He advised that Community Services had been awarded a granted, however, this could not meet the costs of leasing the bouncy castles only purchasing them.

Discussion ensued, following which it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board granted the General Manager authority to enter into negotiations with Community Services with regard to securing the best price for the remaining bouncy castles.

#### **LPB/2008/38: ICE SKATING PROFESSIONALS**

The General Manager advised Members that he would be meeting with representatives from the ice skating professionals to discuss a number of issues.

Noted.

#### **LPB/2008/39: ESTIMATES – BUDGETS**

Following a query from the Chairman, the Director advised that the budgets as set at the estimates would be tabled as soon as the profiling of the budgets was completed. This would give members a full overview of the year ahead budget.

Noted.

At this stage in proceedings Councillor Spratt entered the meeting.

#### **LPB/2008/40: TRESPASSING ON COUNCIL LAND**

Councillor White again highlighted concern over youths using land to the rear of the Ice Bowl to scramble motorbikes. He stated that he felt that this situation was getting worse and something needed to be done as a matter of urgency to address the problem.

The Chairman advised that it had previously been agreed that the Chief Executive was to investigate whether the Minister would be interested in this land for social housing, however, to date no formal approach had been made.

Councillor Robinson stated that it would not be possible to take a decision in respect of this matter until the outcome of the Economic Appraisal was known.

Discussion ensued, following which it was

RESOLVED: - Members of the Board requested

- (a) that the Chief Executive make a formal approach to the Minister, to establish if she would be interested in the land to the rear of DIIB for the erection of social housing;
- (b) that in the interim the Technical Manager should carry out a site visit to the area in question, to establish if additional fencing or a turnstile type gate system could be erected to try and help alleviate the problems.

At this stage in proceedings the Business Manager, Technical Manager and Assistant Members' Services Officer left the meeting.

**STAFF IN COMMITTEE**

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.00 p.m.

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**