

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Castlereagh Borough Council, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh BT8 6RB on Thursday, 24th July 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

- PRESENT:-** Councillor Mrs A M Beattie (in the chair)
- ALDERMEN:-** J Norris MBE
J White
- COUNCILLORS:-** J Beattie
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
D Drysdale (until 8.00 pm)
C Hall
B Hanvey
T Jeffers
M Long
Mrs V McCoy
G Robinson
J Spratt
C Tosh
L Walker
- IN ATTENDANCE:-** Director of Finance, Director of Leisure Services, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Human Resources Manager, Planning Service Officer, Planning Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer
- APOLOGIES:-** Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Copeland, Robinson and Rice and Councillors Hughes, Bunting, Duncan and Henderson

2008/460 : OPENING OF MEETING

Alderman Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2008/461 : MINUTES

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
 - (i) Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 26 June 2008
 - (ii) Minutes of the Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 26 June 2008
- (b) The minutes of the Council meeting of 26th June 2008 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, subject to the following amendments:
 - 2008/298 – context of the minute to read “that where any of the Council land at BNSCOE is to be affected by others (Sustrans and/or contractors) a photographic record of the situation before works commence should be kept to avoid subsequent dispute/disagreement following the works.
 - Councillor Long – delete “until 10.15 pm” in the list of attendances, and include Councillor Mrs Duncan who had been present at the meeting until 10.45 pm
 - 2008/445 – amend wording to read “Councillor Spratt declared an interest as a member of the Committee of the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister”
 - 2008/327 - This minute to be taken back, as a report was being tabled by the Economic Development Manager on this issue during the course of the meeting.

2008/462 : SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Spratt, at this point, asked Members to agree to a Suspension of Standing Orders so that he could raise an item relating to the TA Medical Corps and RIR Units currently serving in Afghanistan.

RESOLVED:- that, the Council approve a Suspension of Standing Order to enable Councillor Spratt to raise an item relating to the TA Medical Corps and RIR Units currently serving in Afghanistan.

**2008/463 : PROPOSAL FROM COUNCILLOR SPRATT
RE: TA MEDICAL CORPS FIELD HOSPITAL UNIT, HYDEBANK & RIR
TROOPS CURRENTLY SERVING IN AFGHANISTAN**

Councillor Spratt referred to the TA Medical Corps currently serving in Afghanistan and in particular, the Field Hospital Unit based in Hydebank Borough.

Councillor Spratt stated that as the TA Field Hospital Unit had been awarded the Freedom of the Borough, it was only fitting that they exercise their right to parade as Freemen of Castlereagh, on their return from this dangerous mission at the end of the year. He paid tribute to those men and women, many who were attached to the Ulster Hospital or GP's working within the Borough and were now manning the field hospital at Afghanistan. Furthermore, he felt that those RIR soldiers based within the Borough, or who are resident within Castlereagh, be included in this event.

He felt that it was fitting that Castlereagh Borough Council honour our troops and he proposed that the Chief Executive and the Mayor commence talks with the Army MOD on a formal basis with regard to the organisation of a civic event and parade through the Borough to reward them for their bravery.

Councillor Jeffers wished to second this proposal. He commented that, as the Council's TA Reserve & Cadet Forces representative, the Field Hospital Unit based in Hydebank were a credit to the ratepayers of Castlereagh and were ordinary people prepared to risk their lives in dangerous circumstances, and come away from their normal jobs.

Councillor Long stated that the Alliance Party wished to support the proposal and he appreciated the work carried out by these troops. He indicated that there had already been some discussion on the radio in relation to this matter and asked if Councillors could provide further clarification.

Councillor Spratt commented that the Council had taken a very informal approach on the matter and that, as Freemen of the Borough, the TA Medical

Corps had kept in very close contact with the Council. He advised that the Mayor of Castlereagh had always been invited to any of their functions as they were proud of the fact that they had been awarded Freedom of the Borough.

Councillor Drysdale concurred with the comments previously made and acknowledged the sterling work of the TA Medical Corps and RIR troops and was happy to support the proposal, on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party.

Councillor Hanvey added that whilst he was happy to recognise the service of the TA Field Hospital Unit in his capacity as a former health service employee, he asked to place on record that he was totally opposed to the war in Afghanistan and Iraq and did not see any merit in the invasion of these countries by US and UK forces.

At this point, Councillor Spratt wished all the troops overseas a safe return to their native land at the end of their tour of duty.

Following agreement, it was therefore

RESOLVED:- that, the Council authorise the Chief Executive and Mayor to commence formal talks with the Army MOD with a view to organising a civic event to honour the brave troops of the TA Field Hospital Unit based in Hydebank who are currently serving in Afghanistan with the RIR and to exercise their right as Freemen of Castlereagh to parade through the Borough when they return from their tour of duty at the end of the year.

Furthermore, that this invitation be extended to those RIR soldiers based in Castlereagh or resident within the Borough who are also currently serving in Afghanistan.

PLANNING

2008/464 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 3 JULY 2008 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED:- that, the minutes of the Special Planning Meeting held on 3 July 2008 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

2008/465 : NOTES OF THE OFFICE PLANING MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Jeffers asked if the hot food carryout embargo that existed in the Dundonald area had been taken into account when the Planning Service were considering this application.

The Planning Service Officer concurred that there had been a series of guidance notes prepared over 10 years ago based on a hot food outlet embargo at Dundonald, however the Planning Appeals Commission had refused to endorse the content therein. Therefore, as the Department now felt that the guidance notes were very questionable under these circumstances, they were unable to base them when determining planning applications of this nature.

He went on to add that since BMAP had now superseded these guidance notes, the Planning Department had adjudicated its decision based on the principles of BMAP.

Councillor Chambers felt it was up to the Planning Service to try and adopt a policy which would stand up to the scrutiny of the Planning Appeals Commission as she reiterated that it had only applied to certain locations in the Borough whereby local shopping areas had been forced to close and were being replaced by numerous hot food outlets.

Councillor Robinson referred to the Council's policy against apartments and asked if BMAP now superseded these guidance notes.

The Planning Service Officer stated that the Planning Department were not absolving their responsibility to assess these applications but he outlined the difficulties in measuring them against such guidance notes. He commented that this planning application was not yet before Council for consideration and should any Members wish to comment on it further, he was happy to meet with them on a 1:1 basis.

Noted.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 24 JULY 2008

(copy previously circulated)

2008/466 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0142/F – CONSTRUCTION OF 10 APARTMENTS (DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLING) – 49 GRAHAMSBRIDGE ROAD, BELFAST

The Planning Service Officer informed Members that the applicant had withdrawn this planning application.

Noted.

**2008/467 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0629/F –
CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT CONSISTING OF 9
APARTMENTS AT 31-33 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD**

Councillor Robinson requested an Office Meeting as the applicant had tried to contact the Planning Service on a number of occasions but had received no response.

The Planning Service Officer clarified that the developer had had a previous application refused. He agreed to meet the developer if he withdrew this current application as the Planning Department had considered the application and it was up to him to revisit the scheme.

Councillor Robinson commented at the additional expense that would be incurred by the developer should he have to withdraw the scheme and re-submit an amended application. The Planning Service Officer confirmed that if the developer withdrew his proposal and submitted a further application within one year, a concessionary fee would only be applicable.

Councillor Jeffers wished to support Councillor Robinson's comments, as he felt it was an indictment that the developer was not given the opportunity to meet with the Planning Service.

Alderman White advised that the existing dwelling at 31 Old Dundonald Road presented an eyesore and he expressed concerns that the vacant state of the property could lead to vandalism of the building.

Councillor Chambers commented that the developer and the Council had fought to get approval for the original application and she felt that when developers submit their planning applications, the Planning Service should be giving them further advice on how to make them more acceptable. She stated that, in her view, if this was a large-scale developer, the Planning Service would have accommodated the scheme, but she felt that smaller developers were not given equal consideration.

Councillor Walker concurred with Councillor Robinson and agreed that an Office Meeting would ease the current situation.

Councillor Robinson suggested that the Council's Planning Officer write to the Planning Service requesting an Office Meeting to discuss this application.

Councillor Drysdale stated that this development would enhance the area and it was important that the matter was addressed and the applicant accommodated.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorise the Planning Officer to write to the Planning Service to request an Office Meeting to discuss this application further.

2008/468 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2007/0655/F – ERECTION OF A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING OF 27 UNITS WITH ASSOCIATED BASEMENT CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPING AT 29 BELVOIRVIEW PARK, NEWTOWNBREDA

Councillor Chambers concurred with the Planning Service's recommendation to refuse this application on the basis that it was a totally inappropriate site to develop. She asked that her opposition to this proposal be recorded in the likelihood that the applicant goes to appeal.

Noted.

2008/469 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2007/0676/F – CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT COMPRISING 165 DWELLINGS, ASSOCIATED CAR PARKING, LANDSCAPED OPEN AMENITY SPACE, CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA & GENERAL SITEWORKS

Councillor Jeffers referred to this proposal and asked if the plans submitted to the Planning Service had detailed underground planning provision.

The Planning Service Officer reiterated that there had been a previous scheme which had been withdrawn, but he had a copy of the current plans should Members wish to view them.

Councillor Jeffers commented that although he felt that the concept of the scheme was satisfactory in relation to a mixed development at the site, he felt that the proposed 5 storey block was totally out of character with the Dundonald area. He also commented that there were issues relating to the water course, and problems of overlooking, especially as a playgroup was located next door to the site. He therefore requested an Office Meeting with some of the affected residents in attendance to discuss these issues either on-site or at the Council Offices.

Councillor Long concurred with Councillor Jeffers and indicated that the previous schemes had created major concerns, however whilst the current proposal had reduced the number of units there were still proximity and car parking issues to be addressed. He agreed that the development was out of character with the locality and would contribute to over-development in the Dundonald area.

He further wished to highlight two additional issues, namely the provision of screening for neighbouring properties and clarification if the proposed play area would be managed by a private management company.

Alderman White supported the proposal to have an Office Meeting. He referred to the fact that this was a very sensitive area of mostly single storey bungalows and it was vitally important that there would be no overshadowing to existing residents. He stated that he felt a great deal of sympathy with local residents and referred to the two lengthy petitions which had been submitted in opposition to the scheme.

Councillor Drysdale agreed that although the development would enhance the area, the high rise apartment block would cause contention to the scheme and he also welcomed an Office Meeting.

The Planning Service Officer commented that whilst he recognised the issues raised by Members, these had already been considered by the Planning Service in making their recommendation. He stated that the developer had been asked to demonstrate how this sensitive area had been recognized and advised that he would be held to account with regard to what has been provided. Therefore, given the context of the scheme, the Planning Service had agreed that this proposal delivered an appropriate form of development.

He stated that he would be more than happy to meet with Members on a 1:1 basis to discuss this application, but he was reluctant to hold the application back as it had a very coherent approach to the characteristics of the site.

Councillor Jeffers asked how the Planning Service could justify a 5-storey building in an area in which there was nothing of a similar height.

Councillor Beattie stated that, as Chairman of the Cross Party Committee on Future Planning, he felt that the Planning Service were not listening to Elected Representatives and the sooner planning came under the control of Local Councils, the better.

The Planning Service Officer reiterated that the Department had considered this scheme very carefully in terms of the previous scheme and had pressed the developer and his agent to revisit it. He advised that, given the position this site enjoyed at this junction, it did not interfere with a level of residential housing and would make a contribution to the overall character of the area. In relation to comments regarding the 5-storey building, he commented that approval had been granted for a similarly sized building mass across the road from the scheme.

Councillor Spratt stated that the Planning Service Officer's comments demonstrated some degree of inconsistency as every other development had been refused but the Department had permitted a 5-storey building as part of the scheme.

The Planning Service Officer indicated that this site was at a major junction which enjoyed a relationship beside a commercial area which had mixed use.

Following a proposal from Councillor Jeffers, which was seconded by Alderman White, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorise the Planning Officer to write to the Planning Service requesting an Office Meeting to discuss this planning application further.

2008/470 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0273/F - LANDS ADJACENT TO 69A NEWTON PARK, BREDA – ERECTION OF 1 NO. RETAIL UNIT

Councillor Robinson asked if the Planning Service Officer could confirm if the Planning Service makes their recommendations before the various agencies have had an opportunity to submit their response to the proposal.

The Planning Service Officer stated that in this instance, the Department were already aware of the issues involved and the Roads Service had not given any indication in relation to the scheme. He reported that the Planning Service had received criticism in the past due to the lengthy delay in processing applications and this scheme had been based on a similar proposal which the Department had been unhappy with and in this instance, had not been dependant on the Roads Service.

Councillor Robinson responded that, whilst he understood the time constraint issues, this application had been taken to the Department's Group meeting and considered without all the relevant information being received, therefore it did not follow normal planning procedures.

The Planning Service Officer reiterated that although this proposal was deemed unacceptable by the Department, Members' comments had raised questions in relation to the role of the Planning Service.

Noted.

2008/471 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 10/6/08 – 07/07/08 (copies previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/472 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 4 JULY 2008 FROM THE PLANNING APPEALS COMMISSION REGARDING AN APPEAL AGAINST AN ENFORCEMENT NOTICE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/473 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 1 JULY 2008 FROM NORTHERN IRELAND WATER TO THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: DRAINAGE ISSUES AT KNOCKBRACKEN HEALTHCARE PARK, SAINTFIELD ROAD AND COMBER ROAD, CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer informed Members that this correspondence referred to forward planning issues relating to flooding in the Carryduff area.

Noted.

2008/474 : EMAIL FROM NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL RECEIVED ON 11 JULY 2008 RE: BELFAST METROPOLITAN AREA PLAN (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2008/475 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BRIAN GIBSON, SOLICITOR, 3 KINGS BRAE RE: PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2008/0324/F

Councillor Mrs McCoy referred to this planning application which was still with the Planning Service and indicated that, despite Council opposition, the amended scheme had made very few changes, therefore she wished to record her objection to the cramming of development into such a small site.

Councillor Robinson concurred with Councillor McCoy's comments and expressed his disappointment that the developer had not taken the Council's concerns on board and had only slightly amended the proposal.

Noted.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor Drysdale left at 8.00 p.m.

ROADS

2008/476 : Correspondence received on 11 July 2008 from the Department of Regional Development re: Accessible Transport Strategy – Action Plan 2007-2009 (copy letter previously circulated; document available at www.drdni.gov.uk/ats)

Noted.

2008/477 : WANSTEAD AVENUE – CONDITION OF FOOTPATHS

Alderman White referred to the dangerous condition of the footpaths at Wanstead Avenue, especially as there were a number of elderly residents living in the vicinity. He indicated that the Roads Service had carried out improvements to the road surface but had omitted to repair the footpaths.

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be requested to write to the Roads Service with regard to the dangerous condition of the footpaths at Wanstead Avenue and requesting urgent action to carry out repairs, especially in light of the number of elderly residents living in the immediate vicinity.

2008/478 : NILGA UPDATE

Noted.

FINANCE

2008/479 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED:- That, the Council approve the under noted payments:

Capital Account	General	£ 9,824.23
General Account	Salaries	£503,787.77
General Account	Suppliers	£915,293.54

LEGAL

2008/480 : DEED OF TRANSFER TO BE SIGNED AND SEALED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH LANDS AT LOUGH MOSS PARK BETWEEN CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL AND MRS HUDDLESTON

RESOLVED:- That it was agreed that the Deed of Transfer be signed and sealed on behalf of the Council in connection with lands at Lough Moss Park between Castlereagh Borough Council and Mrs Huddleston

2008/481 : CONTRACT TO BE SIGNED AND SEALED ON BEHALF OF THE COUNCIL IN CONNECTION WITH THE WIND TURBINE AT LOUGH MOSS BETWEEN CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL AND HORIZON RENEWABLE ENERGY

RESOLVED:- That it was agreed that the Contract be signed and sealed on behalf of the Council in connection with the wind turbine at Lough Moss between Castlereagh Borough Council and Horizon Renewable Energy

2008/482 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR JULY 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

2008/483 : FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2006/2007

RESOLVED:- That, the Council approve the Statement of Accounts in respect of the year ended 31 March 2007.

2008/484 : SUMMARY OF THE COUNCIL'S MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL TO 30 JUNE 2008

Noted.

2008/485 : PROVISIONAL ACTUAL PENNY PRODUCT 2007/2008

The Director of Finance referred Members to correspondence received from the Department of Finance & Personnel regarding the Council's Provisional Actual Penny Product 2007/2008.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council grant approval for the transfer of the refund to Capital in order to offset the deficit funding on the Wind Turbine at Lough Moss.

2008/486 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPUTY CHIEF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDITOR

The Director referred Members to correspondence received from the Deputy Chief Local Government Auditor in response to the Council's letter of 22 May 2008 and, in particular, Section 115 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Councillor Robinson referred to the Quad Motor Cycle and commented that the Council should follow the Auditor's advice to tender for the vehicle.

Alderman White expressed his concern that the response was not very satisfactory and provided no options other than to go through the normal tender process.

In respect of the Lisnasharragh High School film contribution, Councillor Spratt agreed that the Council should contribute £1,000 towards to project but this donation should only be given on the basis that the project is underway and an assurance has been made that the film will be made.

RESOLVED:- That

- (a) the Deputy Chief Local Government Auditor's advice should be followed by the Council to tender for the Quad Motor Cycle.
- (b) the Council authorise that a financial contribution of £1,000 be made payable to Mr Brownlee towards the production of a film on Lisnasharragh High School on the basis that the project is underway and that an assurance is given that the film will be completed.

REPORT FROM THE SENIOR IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

2008/487 : PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THE MICROCACHE UPGRADE

Following consideration of the Senior IT Systems Administrator's report, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council give approval for the purchase and installation of the Microcache upgrade at a cost of £3,250.00.

REPORT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER'S REPORT

2008/488 : HANWOOD BUILDING

Councillor Robinson and Alderman White wished to declare an interest.

The Director of Finance took Members through the Officer's report and listed a summary of the key terms of the draft licence for Members' consideration. He advised that Officers were requesting Local Government Auditor approval to proceed before affecting the licence.

Councillor Beattie proposed that the Council accept the Officer's recommendations outlined in his report, which was seconded by Councillor Spratt.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council approve the Economic Development Manager's recommendations as outlined in his report, namely:

- Members approve the summary of terms of the licence as detailed in the report.
- A licence agreement is developed in keeping with the terms for a period of 21 years at no charge, subject to approval by the Local Government Auditor and that the subsequent changes to the other leases are affected.
- Members note that granting the licence to the Hanwood Trust will not permit the Council to use the Centre as a Disaster Recovery site.
- The licence for the Hanwood building includes the extension under Phase 3 (changing facility and sports pitch)
- The letter of comfort requested by IFI and Sport NI accompanies the licence, and
- Officers pursue Ministerial approval for the lease of land from the Council to the Hanwood Trust towards implementing Phase IV.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER

2008/489 : LOCK KEEPER'S COTTAGE - TENANT FOR THE TEA ROOMS WITHIN THE VISITORS' CENTRE

The Director of Finance advised that following advertisement for Expressions of Interest for the above tenancy, four replies had been received, reviewed by a panel and accepted by the Economic Sub Committee. However, although each

of the four potential tenants were invited to submit a business plan for the tenancy to be received by 18th July, only one business plan was received from Mr Kirk McCambley which was subsequently assessed and tabled for recommendation by the Assessment Panel at the July Council Meeting.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- that, the Council authorise Mr Kirk McCambley to be offered an introductory lease or licence (as advertised by the Borough Solicitor) for the Visitors' Centre Tea Room tenancy until 31st March 2009 with an option to extend.

Furthermore, that Officers liaise with Mr Kirk McCambley regarding the terms of the lease/licence to ensure that the facility is open for business at the beginning of September 2008 with the final lease to be presented to Council at its August meeting.

2008/490 : ESSENTIAL KITCHEN EQUIPMENT – LOCK KEEPER'S COTTAGE

Members were asked to approve the installation of essential appliances in the kitchen of the Lock Keeper's Cottage and come to an agreement with the tenant regarding a contribution towards additional catering equipment, but not tables and chairs. Three tenders were received and DMC Catering Equipment Ltd were the lowest quotation received and Officers advised that they had previous experience in installing kitchens in similar types of establishments.

RESOLVED:- that, the Council accept the quotation submitted by DMC Catering Equipment Ltd in the sum of £6,338.00 + Vat for the kitchen equipment at the Lock Keeper's Cottage on the basis that it is the lowest priced tender.

REPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY SERVICES MANAGER

2008/491 : COMMUNITY ARTS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION – BALLYBEEN WOMEN'S CENTRE

Members were given information on the background to the Ballybeen Women's Centre and details of the project to run 4 x 2-hour jewellery making workshops for 15 female participants taking place between September and November 2008 at Ballybeen Women's Centre.

The project costs were outlined and as the project meets the recommended criteria of the Arts Development Grant Programme, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council approve an award of £200 from the Arts Development Grant programme to Ballybeen Women's Centre for their jewellery making project.

2008/492 : AUTUMN/WINTER ARTS PROGRAMMAE

Members were informed that the details and costings of the first draft of the Autumn/Winter Arts Programme were approved by the Central Services Committee on 9th June 2008 and the Arts Officer was seeking the inclusion of two events in the programme and sought Members' approval to implement them.

- The Bench – drama performance at Tullycarnet Library at a cost of £400 on 16th October 2008
- Book Reading by Colin Batemen at Tullycarnet Library at a cost of £500 on 2nd October 2008

RESOLVED:- That, the Council approve the implementation of the above additional items to the Autumn/Winter Arts Programme and the associated expenditure of £900 from the Arts Direct Projects Budget.

2008/493 : GOOD RELATIONS DEVELOPMENT GRANT APPLICATION – TULLYCARNET STREETREACH USA - TULLYCARNET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Members were given details of the project and noted that a similar project had run throughout the Tullycarnet area last year but had now been further developed by the inclusion of American young people in the hope of building friendships and understanding between differing communities.

The project will begin 1st July 2008 for 4 days and satisfied the criteria of the Goods Relations Grant programme.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council retrospectively approve that Tullycarnet Presbyterian Church be awarded £500.00 for the project "Tullycarnet Streetreach USA" which will be intergenerational and provide an opportunity to develop better relations between young people and senior citizens in Tullycarnet, with the young people from the USA.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF LEISURE SERVICES

2008/494 : ROBINSON CENTRE

The Director of Leisure Services referred to minute no: RC/2008/04 which was ratified at the June Council Meeting and stated that a subsequent report was taken to the Leisure Services Committee in June 2008 whereby it was resolved that the sauna and steam room work would be undertaken along with the necessary reconfiguration of the changing rooms (LS/2008/102). She went on to comment that due to the likely cost of the works, it would be necessary to tender.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorises Officers to commence tendering for the necessary design and refurbishment work at the Robinson Centre associated with the Health Suite.

2008/495 : LOUGH MOSS – WIND TURBINE

The Director of Leisure Services referred Members to the background of the proposed wind turbine at Lough Moss and the details of subsequent Committee discussion on the matter.

She advised that contract details relating to the installation of the turbine were currently being finalised and they related to conditions such as insurance details and the required Performance Bond. She anticipated that the contract would be finalised and ready for signature on the week commencing 21st July 2008.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council grant permission for the contract to be signed to enable the full project to proceed as per the project timetable, with the Mayor and Chief Executive being required to sign the contract.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM THE CAPITAL PROJECTS OFFICER

2008/496 : ROBINSON CENTRE – STAIR LIFTS

The Director of Leisure Services referred Members to the Supplementary Report from the Capital Projects Officer in which it outlined that quotations for the supply and installation of two stair lifts to the Fitness Suite and in the sauna area to comply with DDA legislation were invited from four firms.

Two quotations were received and Pollock Lifts submitted the lowest quotation and were both Constructionline registered and had third party health & safety accreditation.

Therefore, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Council accept the quotation submitted by Pollock Lifts Ltd, in the sum of £9,155.00 + vat for the supply and installation of stair lifts at the Robinson Centre.

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER

2008/497 : UPDATE ON PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY – GILNAHIRK ROAD & GILNAHIRK AVENUE

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised Members that, further to a meeting held on 10th June 2008 which the Operational Services Manager had attended along with the Chief Executive and the Access to the Countryside Officer, the Developer stated that he would submit an application for diversion of the above Asserted Public Right of Way. However, at the time of writing the report, no submission had been received and officers had subsequently written to the Developer giving him 7 working days to outline his proposed intention, following which if he had failed to respond, action would be taken to enable the Council's Solicitors to commence legal enforcement measures.

Noted.

2008/498 : BELFAST DEAF UNITED FOOTBALL APPLICATION 2008/09

The Director referred Members to correspondence received on 3rd June from Belfast Deaf United. He indicated that he had sought further consideration and advice from the Council's Equality Officer and Council's Solicitor and he referred to a copy of the Council's current policy and legal response attached to the report.

He stated that a review of the current policy will be undertaken and recommendations presented to the September meeting of the Technical & Environmental Services Meeting. However, in the interim, due to time constraints, he sought approval for Belfast Deaf United to hire a pitch at Billy Neill Soccer Centre as a temporary measure.

RESOLVED:- that, the Council approves the hire of a pitch at the Billy Neill Soccer Centre of Excellence for Belfast Deaf United for Football Season 2008/09 on a fortnightly basis, until a review of the current policy is tabled at the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

2008/499 : ASSERTED PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY - MILLTOWN ROAD TO LOCK KEEPERS COTTAGE

Members were informed that an application for an extension of the Ramada Hotel site had been lodged with the Planning Service. The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that, further to discussion with the Chief Executive, a response had been sent to the Planning Service requesting that the current width of the Asserted Public Right of Way between Milltown Road and the Lock Keepers Cottage be maintained in its current form during and after the development.

Noted.

GENERAL

2008/500 : MEMBERSHIP OF TULLYCARNET NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP & TULLYCARNET COMMUNITY FORUM

Tabled:- Email from Member Services to Chief Executive dated 8 July 2008 re membership of Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership and Tullycarnet Community Forum (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED:- That, Members authorised that the previous membership of the Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership and Tullycarnet Community Forum would be retained for 2008/09.

2008/501 : MEMBERSHIP OF THE BILLY NEILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the previous membership of the Billy Neill Advisory Committee would be retained for 2008/09.

2008/502 : COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP - MEMBERSHIP

Councillor Jeffers referred to the winding down of the LSP, which had been linked in with the Community Safety Partnership and had originally comprised of 28 Members including 10 Councillors. He proposed that the new Community Safety Partnership would comprise of 18 members - 8 Council Members and 10 Members from the various statutory agencies and other bodies.

Councillor Beattie suggested that the Party whips discuss the Council representation.

Councillor Jeffers urged the necessity to get the process moving before the LSP ceases and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- that, the matter would be left with the Party Whips to sort out the names of the Council's Elected Member representation on the Community Safety Partnership using normal protocol procedures.

2008/503 : TRANSITION ARRANGEMENTS AND EARLY CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MERGING COUNCILS

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of the Environment dated 15 June 2008 re: Transition Arrangements and Early Cooperation between Merging Councils (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/504 : UPDATE ON THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Tabled:- Correspondence from Committee for Regional Development dated 24 June 2008 re: update on the work of the Committee (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/505 : DRAFT CARAVAN AND MOBILE HOMES BILL

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly dated 11 June 2008 re: Draft Caravan and Mobile Homes Bill (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/506 : FREE TRAVEL FOR PEOPLE ATGED 60-64 – PUBLIC CONSULTATION & EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT FINAL REPORT

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department for Regional Development dated 27 June 2008 re: Free Travel for People Aged 60-64 : Public Consultation and Equality Impact Assessment Final Report (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/507 : DRD CORPORATE PLAN 2008-11 & BUSINESS PLAN 2008-08

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department for Regional Development dated 12 June 2008 re: DRD Corporate Plan 2008-11 and Business Plan 2008-08)

Noted.

2008/508 : PROPOSED DRAFT CRIMINAL DAMAGE (COMPENSATION) (AMENDMENT) (NI) ORDER 2008

Tabled:- Correspondence from the NIO dated 25 June 2008 re: Proposed Draft Criminal Damage (Compensation) (Amendment) (NI) Order 2008

Noted.

2008/509 : DRAFT INITIAL WORK PROGRAMME

Tabled:- Correspondence from Commission for Victims & Survivors dated June 2008 re: Draft Initial Work Programme (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/510 : ANNUAL CONFERENCE – ASSOCIATION OF NIELB

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Association of NIELB dated 25 June 2008 re: Annual Conference on 16 and 17 October 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Alderman White commented that the four Commissioners had now formally stood down and each of the Boards would be receiving Executive Powers. He advised that members on the Association would automatically receive an initiation to the Annual Conference in due course.

Noted.

2008/511 : ARMISTICE DAY VISIT 2008 TO FLANDERS

Tabled:- Correspondence received on 2 July 2008 from Island of Ireland Partnership re: Armistice Day Visit 2008 to Flanders

RESOLVED:- That, Members wishing to attend the Island of Ireland Partnership's Armistice Day Visit 2008 to Flanders should make their own arrangements to the event.

2008/512 : WEST SIDE REGENERATION DISTRICT DRAFT REGENERATION PLAN – BELFAST CITY CENTRE SOUTH WEST QUARTER – PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department for Social Development dated 26 June 2008 re: West Side Regeneration District Draft Regeneration Plan – Belfast

City Centre South West Quarter – Public Consultation Document (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/513 : PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION'S REISSUED GUIDING PRINCIPLES 2 & 4

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 11 July 2008 from the OFMDFM re: Public Service Commission's Reissued Guiding Principles 2 & 4 – Managing Vacancies Effectively in Existing Organisations & Filling Vacancies and New or Substantially New Posts in New Organisations being Created as a result of the Review of Public Administration

Councillor Robinson suggested that this correspondence be tabled at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee Meeting.

The Human Resources Manager advised that the Council had to comment by 8th August 2008 but the principles would not come into effect until April 2009.

Councillor Chambers stated that it was worthwhile for Members to give an input into how this guidance would affect Council staff.

Alderman White referred to the fact that the letter had been sent in on the 11th July when the Council was closed over the twelfth holidays and Committees were in summer recess. As the Commission were requesting a response by 8th August, he therefore suggested that the Council should write to the OFMDFM to complain that the timescale did not give Elected Members sufficient time to respond to the document.

The Human Resources Manager outlined how this process would essentially be taken forward and that the Staff Commission were reviewing the document and that a final draft would be reissued in 2009.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) The Chief Executive write to the OFMDFM complaining that their correspondence had been received by the Council on 11th July 2008 seeking a response by the 8th August 2008 when this was at the height of the holiday period and the Council were sitting in summer recess.
- (b) Members with any issues in relation to these Guiding Principles should raise the matter with the Human Resources Manager. These concerns would subsequently be issued at the next Finance & General Purposes

Committee meeting and any further issues would be raised at the following Council Meeting.

2008/514 : PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE DANGEROUS WILD ANIMALS ORDER (NI) 2004

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 4 July 2008 from the Department of the Environment re: Proposed Amendments to the Dangerous Wild Animals Order (Northern Ireland) 2004

Noted.

2008/515 : INTRODUCTION OF GREEN REBATES – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Tabled:- Consultation document from the Department of Finance and Personnel
Re: Introduction of Green Rebates (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/516 : BT CHARGES FOR NON-DIRECT DEBIT CUSTOMERS

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 7 July 2008 from NILGA re: BT Charges for Non Direct Debit Customers (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/517 : 5-YEAR REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

Tabled:- Correspondence received on 8 July 2008 from the Department for Regional Development re: 5 Year Review of the Regional Development Strategy

Noted.

2008/518 : HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE (REFORM) BILL

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety re: Health and Social Care (Reform) Bill (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/519 : OIL PRE-PAYMENT SCHEMES

Tabled:- Correspondence from Northern Ireland Oil Federation dated 3 July 2008 re: Oil Prepayment Schemes (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/520 : WIDENING THE JURY POOL

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 4 July 2008 from the Northern Ireland Court Service re: Widening the Jury Pool (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/521 : NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT – BUZZ BINGO CLUB, UNIT 1, EASTPOINT ENTERTAINMENT VILLAGE

Tabled:- Correspondence from Joseph Donnelly & Co, Solicitors, dated 3 July 2008 re: Alan Humphries - Notice of Application for Provisional Grant – Buzz Bingo Club, Unit 1, Eastpoint Entertainment Village, Dundonald (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Robinson referred to the Dundonald Icebowl's current strategy drawn up by the Leisure Park Board and asked if this application satisfied the criteria as he expressed concerns that the Bingo Club was in close proximity to local churches and primary schools.

The Director of Leisure Services advised that the Bingo Club lies outside this restriction as the restrictions/clauses were only imposed following the sale of the land. However, she commented that as the Council was a statutory consultee, Members could object to the application on the grounds as outlined by Councillor Robinson.

Councillor Robinson therefore made a proposal, which was seconded by Councillor Walker that it be

RESOLVED:- That, the Director of Leisure Services write, on behalf of the Council, objecting to the Notice of Application for Provisional Grant for Buzz Bingo Club.

2008/522 : FUEL DUTY AND VAT REVENUES

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 3 July 2008 from West Lothian Council re: Fuel Duty and VAT Revenues (copy previously circulated)

Alderman White suggested that the Council support West Lothian Council as Northern Ireland were facing a similar situation and it was therefore

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to West Lothian Council in support of their Notice of Motion to object to rising fuel duty costs and vat revenues.

2008/523 : CHANGES TO HOME DELIVERY SERVICE – BELFAST TELEGRAPH

Tabled:- Correspondence from Ards Borough Council dated 7 July 2008 re: Changes to Home Delivery Service – Belfast Telegraph (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Walker proposed that the Council support Ards Borough Council's resolution in their objections to the proposed changes to the Belfast Telegraph's home delivery service.

Councillor Long seconded this proposal and Councillor Chambers added that these changes were affecting local businesses who currently supplied a delivery service.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council write to Ards Borough Council in support of their resolution to object to the proposed changes to the Belfast Telegraph's home delivery service.

2008/524 : 24 AUGUST – OLYMPIC FLAG HANDOVER TO LONDON 2012

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 27 July 2008 from the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Ltd re: 24 August Olympic Flag Handover to London 2012 (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Leisure Services advised Members that there was one available flagpole at the Dundonald Ice Bowl.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorise that the Olympic Flag be flown from the available flagpole at Dundonald Ice Bowl on 24th August 2008 to coincide with the Olympic Flag Handover to London 2012, on the basis that the Ice Bowl has an available flagpole and represents the hub of Castlereagh Borough Council's sports and leisure facilities.

2008/525 : INVITATION FROM THE MAYOR OF GUILLEMONT, SOMME

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 26 June 2008 from the Somme Association re: Invite from the Mayor of Guillemont, Somme, France (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/526 : POST OFFICE CLOSURE PROGRAMME – NORTHERN IRELAND

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive dated 8 July 2008 re: Post Office Closure Programme – Northern Ireland (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/527 : NAC (NI) REGION'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Tabled:- Correspondence dated 8 July 2008 from the National Association of Councillors Northern Ireland Region re: NAC (NI) Region's Annual General Meeting & Conference (copy previously circulated)

Following a proposal from Councillor Spratt, which was seconded by Councillor Beattie, it was

RESOLVED:- That, Officers make arrangements for the Council's NAC representatives to attend the NAC (NI) Region's Annual General Meeting and Conference.

2008/528 : DATA SHARING

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel received on 1 July 2008 re: Data Sharing

Noted.

2008/529 : COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY (CAP) HEALTH CHECK

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development dated 25 June 2008 re: Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) Health Check

Noted.

2008/530 : RATES DEFERMENT SCHEME FOR HOME OWNING PENSIONERS

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Department of Finance and Personnel received on 26 June 2008 re: Rates Deferral Scheme for Home Owning Pensioners

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2008/531 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE EASTERN DIVISION ROADS SERVICE DATED 11 JULY 2008 RE: QUESTIONS ASKED BY COUNCILLORS FOLLOWING THE PRESENTATION OF ROADS SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT (copy circulated at meeting)

Councillor Spratt referred to the A23 junction Moneyreagh Road/Hillsborough Road junction and indicated there had been 3 accidents in 2 days at that particular location. He stated that this was the most dangerous junction within the Borough and he felt that the Roads Service were hiding behind the BMAP enquiry rather than carrying out improvements.

He therefore proposed that a strongly worded letter be sent to the Roads Service reiterating the Council's concerns and asking them to critically look at the junction to avoid further accidents and fatalities at that location.

Councillor Beattie seconded the proposal and suggested that an off-peak traffic light installation may alleviate some of the problems at the junction, but he concurred that it required urgent review.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council authorise the Chief Executive to write a strongly worded letter to the Roads Service highlighting the Council's previous concerns in relation to the A23 Moneyreagh Road/Hillsborough Road junction in light of the numerous accidents that have occurred and asking that they critically consider implementing urgent traffic improvement measures to curb the number of accidents at that junction.

2008/532 : MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE

The Director of Leisure Services advised Members that the supposed handover of the Moneyreagh Community Centre which was due to take place this week had been postponed. Subsequently, the Moneyreagh Summer Scheme had been relocated to one of the Primary School mobile classrooms and all parents had been notified of the change in venue.

She stated that she would let Members know once a new date had been scheduled for the handover of the Community Centre.

Noted.

2008/533 : DEDICATION OF NEW STANDARD – THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION CREGAGH/WANDSWORTH ORMEAU BRANCH

The Director of Leisure Services advised Members that the Council had received correspondence from the Royal British Legion Cregagh/Wandsworth Ormeau Branch inviting the Mayor and Members to their Dedication Service for their new Standard on 24th August 2008 at 1.30 pm in St Finnians Church.

As Freemen of the Borough they wished to parade from their hall to the church and on the return journey, they requested that the Mayor take the salute of the march past. In addition, they sought permission to borrow the podium that the Mayor normally used for the Remembrance Sunday salute for the event.

The letter also stated that because of the cost of catering, band costs, transportation for the elderly and infirm, and entertainment for those attending this event, there were substantial costs involved and they asked if the Council would consider making a financial contribution.

Councillor Spratt stated that the Royal British Legion is a voluntary and dedicated organisation and due to the fact that the Borough still has an area of residential housing occupied by ex-Service Members, he proposed that the Council lend the Royal British Legion the use of the podium for the event and that the Council contributes a £1,000 donation towards the costs. He advised Members that he had clarified with the Director of Finance that this would be in order.

Councillor Chambers seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) Members receive a copy of the correspondence in relation to the Royal British Legion's Dedication of their new Standard Service for their information
- (b) The Council offers the Royal British Legion the use of the Council's podium for use at the event.
- (c) Following clarification with the Director of Finance, the Council contributes a donation of £1,000 towards the event to cover the costs of catering, band costs, transportation for the elderly or infirm and entertainment for those attending the event.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.55 p.m.

