

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Council meeting held in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday 2 July 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor L Walker
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Henderson
J Norris MBE (in at 7.10 pm)
J White

COUNCILLORS: AM Beattie
J Beattie
M Chambers
J Cochrane
S Duncan
B Hanvey
R Hughes MBE
M Long
V McCoy
G Robinson
J Spratt MLA
C Tosh

IN ATTENDANCE: Duty Director (Director of Finance), Emergency Planning Officer, Operational Services Manager, Assistant Member Services Officer

APOLOGIES:- Apologies were received on behalf of Aldermen Rice and Robinson, Councillors Bunting, Drysdale, Hall, & Jeffers

2009/354 : NOTICE OF MOTION

The Acting Chief Executive advised that a Notice of Motion to rescind a Council minute had been received. He confirmed that, in accordance with Standing Order requirements, he had received 7 days' notice of the motion and it had been received stating the names of 3 Members of Council.

Councillor Spratt then put forward the following Notice of Motion:

“that the Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 6(a) resolve to rescind the following Minute No F&GP/2009/104(a)”

Councillor Spratt explained that the Council's decision to advertise posts on a fixed term basis had been taken in the belief that this would be the position for both Castlereagh Borough Council and Lisburn City Council. As this was not the case, the decision could be seen as placing staff from Castlereagh Borough Council in a less advantageous position than their counterparts in Lisburn. He indicated that legal advice on the matter had been sought and he felt that rescission of the motion would restore a level playing field for staff in both Councils.

Alderman Henderson seconded the motion.

The motion was then put to the meeting and it was

RESOLVED: that the Council, in accordance with Standing Orders 8 and 6(a), rescind Minute No F&GP/2009/104(a) which states:

“The vacancies recently advertised be reviewed and changed to a fixed term contract basis up to 2011”

2009/355 : TENDERS – BELVOIR ACTIVITY CENTRE SPORTS HALL

A report on tenders received in respect of flooring works at Belvoir Activity Centre Sports Hall was tabled. Members were advised that 4 tenders had been submitted and, of these, one had been excluded as it did not meet the mandatory requirements.

Members were advised that part of the cost would come from funds set aside for DDA works with the balance coming from the capital programme including savings in the cost of the refurbishment of the hockey pitch at Lough Moss. It was noted that the contract period would be 5 weeks with work due to commence on 10 August 2009 and complete on 13 September 2009.

RESOLVED:

- (a) to accept the tender submitted by Glenwood Flooring Ltd
- (b) that, in the event of Glenwood Flooring Ltd withdrawing, the tender submitted by Sports Surfaces Ltd should be accepted.
- (c) that contract documents be signed by the Mayor and Acting Chief Executive.

2009/356 : DISTRICT COUNCIL MUTUAL AID PROTOCOL

The Acting Chief Executive referred to the District Council Mutual Aid Protocol (copy previously circulated) and advised that this was an agreement between 5

neighbouring Councils setting out contingency plans should circumstances arise that prevented any one of the Councils from delivering services. He indicated that the 5 Councils were Lisburn City Council, Ards, Castlereagh and North Down Borough Councils and Down District Council. He reported that the document was not legally binding but was a voluntary agreement to ensure that essential Council services were maintained in the event of an emergency occurring.

He indicated that the Council's Emergency Planning Officer was coordinating the emergency planning arrangements on behalf of the 5 Councils and was present at the meeting to answer any questions.

Alderman Henderson advised that the Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee was responsible for the Council's emergency planning activities. In response to a query by Councillor J Beattie, the Acting Chief Executive advised that no additional monies were being made available for emergency planning.

It was then proposed by Alderman White, seconded by Councillor Hanvey and

RESOLVED: to adopt the District Council Mutual Aid Protocol.

(Alderman Henderson left the meeting at 7.10 pm)

2009/357 : LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARY COMMISSIONER'S FINAL REPORT

The Acting Chief Executive reminded Members that the Local Government Boundary Commissioner's Final Report was going to the Assembly in September 2009 with a draft Order giving effect to the Commissioner's recommendations. He advised that copies of the report and maps were available for inspection at the Council offices.

Noted.

2009/358 : TRANSITION COMMITTEE MINUTES OF 18 JUNE 2009

The Acting Chief Executive referred to the Council decision of 25 June 2009 to reject the Transition Committee minutes of 18 June 2009. He advised that this decision had created difficulties for Lisburn City Council as it had been agreed at Item 3.5 of those minutes to support 3 loan sanction applications that had been submitted to the Department of the Environment and a further 2 that were due to be submitted. He indicated that it was now a matter of urgency for Lisburn City Council to get the loan sanctions agreed in order for work to commence on the various projects.

It was then proposed by Alderman White, seconded by Councillor Long and

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to adopt Item 3.5 of the minutes of the Transition committee of 18 June 2009 relating to Capital Schemes.

2009/359 : USE OF CONSULTANTS

Councillor Spratt referred to the tender report relating to replacement of the sports hall floor at Belvoir Activity Centre and queried why a firm of consultants had been employed to assist in assessing the tenders since he believed that the Council had in-house resources to evaluate schemes. It was

RESOLVED: that officers be asked to investigate the use and costs of consultants in the assessment of tenders for the replacement of the sports hall floor at Belvoir Activity Centre and report their findings to the relevant Committee in September 2009.

2009/360 : MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

The Acting Chief Executive advised that Members' allowances for the 2008/2009 year would be placed on the Council's website.

Noted.

2009/361 : HOUSING (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Acting Chief Executive referred to correspondence received from the Northern Ireland Assembly's Committee for Social Development regarding the Housing (Amendment) Bill. He indicated that written evidence had been requested by 17 July 2009. Councillor Spratt indicated that public consultation had already taken place and that there would be an opportunity for the Council to comment further when the draft Order was published. Both he and Alderman White stated that they considered that the amendments being introduced were acceptable.

Noted.

2009/362 : COMMUNITY SERVICES SUMMER SCHEMES

Councillor Chambers advised Members that a problem had arisen with transport costs for the Community Services summer schemes. She indicated that the quote received from Translink and agreed by Council had been in the sum of £13,500. She reported that transport costs had now risen to £14,540 due to the fact that several educational trips had been planned to venues outside the Greater Belfast area such as Oxford Island. She asked Members to consider finding the additional monies to fund the trips rather than curtailing the plans for

the summer scheme. Councillor Duncan indicated that she wished to support Councillor Chambers' request. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Council agree to proceed with the summer schemes as planned with an additional transport cost of £1,040 and the Acting Chief Executive was requested to finance the overspend from other budgets.

STAFF IN COMMITTEE

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR