

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 862 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 4th June 2007 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay

PRESENT:

Aldermen

F Campbell

H Connolly

C Cousley

J Simpson

Councillors

A Cavlan

M McCamphill

P McGuigan

D McKay, MLA

T McKeown

A Patterson

E Robinson

I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

Councillors

B Kennedy

M Storey, MLA

R Wilson

IN ADDENDANCE:

Alison Millar – Assistant Secretary, NIPSA (Item 1)
 Chief Executive
 Director of Borough Services
 Director of Central & Leisure Services
 Head of Corporate & Development Services
 Committee Clerk

Press

862.2 PRESENTATION – NIPSA LITTLE FRIENDS DAY CARE NURSERY, BALLYMONEY

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Alison Millar, Assistant Secretary of NIPSA to give a presentation to members on the background and financial situation relating to the Little Friends Day Nursery in Ballymoney, currently due to cease trading on 31st July with a loss of 15 full time employees.

Mrs Millar explained that the nursery had opened in September 2004 with funding from the National Lottery and Ballymoney Borough Local Strategy Partnership. The Causeway Institute had pledged an amount of £25,000 for 2004/2005 but that had not been forthcoming.

Unpaid invoices issued by the Causeway Institute for nursery fees has resulted in the facility operating at a current deficit of £35,000. Endeavours are being made for the recovery of this debt by the nursery manager.

Mrs Millar gave a resumé of the role of the nursery in the community, as childcare and training providers, funded primarily by the Causeway Institute who gave a statement attached as set out below.

“Dear Mr Dempsey

Thank you for the opportunity of meeting with you yesterday regarding Little Friends Childcare facility.

Please find below our statement regarding our position on this issue.

Little Friends was established in September 2004, through a number a funding applications secured by the Causeway Institute. The main aim was to provide quality childcare to remove barriers to training and education for young parents and to provide a viable service to the wider community. However, since its inception Little Friends has demonstrated that it is:

- not a sustainable business venture*
- not fulfilling its original objectives with only a small number of students and trainees using its services*

Over the last three years the College has heavily subsidized the Centre. The accumulated debt for 2005 and 2006 was £33,450 and the loss being made in the current year to date is £15,367. Causeway Institute has to make provision for these losses. Concerns have been raised by our external auditors and the Department of Employment and Learning in relation to the allocation of monies from the Institute’s budget to keep Little Friends afloat. In addition the cost to the Causeway Institute of the additional staff support provided in general management, finance, payroll, personnel, marketing and estates is approximately £35,000 per annum, none of this has been charged to Little Friends and therefore does not appear in the accounts.

The Governing Body of the Causeway Institute regrettably can no longer continue to financially support the childcare centre and the Institute has entered into a period of consultation with staff at Little Friends. At its most recent meeting of the Governing Body, on 24 May 2007, members were impressed by the level of enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by staff and parents, however, the facility cannot continue to exist under the present set-up. Little Friends as it is now will cease trading on 31 July 2007.

However, it has been agreed that should the staff and parents wish to prepare a business proposal to the Institute with a view to running a childcare centre on the premises, this should be presented by 20 June 2007 for consideration.

Parents and staff have been informed of the present situation, and the Governing Body is deeply saddened that the Childcare Facility has not been sustainable under the current operations.

Thank you again for your consideration”.

The only other childcare facility in the area is operating a six-month waiting list. Discussions have taken place with a view to the Little Friends nursery operating independently in order to maintain the level of provision in the

borough. Mrs Millar requested Council's support through provision of financial and business advice to a Management Committee in order to put together a sustainable business plan to run a childcare centre on the Causeway Institute premises for submission to the Institute by 20th June 2007.

* **Councillor Patterson arrived at 7.10 pm.**

At the request of members, Mrs Millar confirmed that the nursery offers 46 childcare places in the community and that Causeway Institute are the current employers of staff at the nursery and that there may be an opportunity, on closure, for some redeployment of staff to the Institute.

* **Councillor McKeown arrived at 7.15 pm.**

Mrs Millar advised that the Causeway Institute had offered the premises in current use for independent rental at a rate of £23,000 per year. She advised that she is hoping to re-negotiate this figure and that the group are also looking at alternative, less expensive premises from which to operate the nursery.

The Mayor thanked Mrs Millar for her presentation and she left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

It was **RECOMMENDED** by the Mayor that this matter be deferred to the Development Committee on Monday 11th June for further discussion giving committee full Council powers to deal with the issue prior to the deadline date of 20th June for the submission of a business plan.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that this matter be deferred to the Development Committee on Monday 11th June for further discussion and that committee be granted full council powers to make a decision.

862.2 MINUTES – MEETING NO 861 – 8TH MAY 2007

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 861 on 8th May 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

863.3 SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

that the seal of Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate numbers 1063, 1064 and 1065.

863.4 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 329 – 22ND MAY 2007

Mrs Robinson presented the report.

Matters Arising**4.1 The Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 (329.20)**

Mrs Robinson congratulated the Director on the highly successful compliance of businesses within the borough with the new Smoking Order (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 legislation.

4.2 Community Safety Issues

Mrs Robinson reiterated the importance of the work carried out relating to Community Safety issues, particularly the 'Message in a Bottle' initiative and 'Lock Out Crime' Scheme.

4.3 Northern Ireland Landfill Allowances Scheme (329.2)

The Director of Borough Services reiterated to members, via a slide presentation attached as Appendix 1, the scenarios envisaged in relation to meeting future statutory targets for the amount of bio-degradable municipal waste for disposal by landfill over a five-year period.

The Director responded to a number of questions put forward by members relating to such issues as the need to increase the uptake of blue bin waste collection, inspection of blue bins, introduction of brown bins and contaminated waste. It was agreed that a workshop would be held on Wednesday 20th June at 5.30 pm (venue to be agreed) in order to facilitate discussions and the formation of an action plan to deal with the issues of future waste disposal.

4.4 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 329 – 22nd May 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

862.5 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 13 – 21ST MAY 2007

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 13 – 21st May 2007, as circulated, be adopted.

862.6 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 182 – 14TH MAY 2007

Councillor Stevenson presented the report with the Head of Corporate & Development Services outlining the addendum as outlined at 6.1

6.1 Wayfinder Signage

Council approved the provision of map/information at key points in the town centre. Budget £10,000 for equipment, maps and installation. Quotations have been received from two firms for the infrastructure. While the specific sign requirements for all locations have not yet been settled., it is likely that the infrastructure costs will exceed £5,000 and will require committee approval.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that authority be granted to the Head of Corporate & Development Services to accept tenders up to a value not exceeding £7,500. A report will be made to the next Development Committee.

6.2 Tourism Product Development

Council approved development of tourism packages to address the lack in borough tourism products. Products for walking, fishing and cycling have been completed while it was not possible to progress the proposed heritage trails at this time.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that marketing material for Drumaheglis be developed as an alternative and that the budget be increased from £10,000 to a maximum of £15,000 to take account of inclusion of additional activities within the packages. This can be met from savings within the programme.

6.3 Local Strategy Partnership – Service Level Agreement

Council, through the Office of the Chief Executive, provides services to the LSP under a service level agreement. The current agreement expired on 30th December 2006. A new agreement has been developed from the period 1st January 2007 to the 31st December 2008. The agreement in the amount of £93,286.33 covers staff costs, finance, administrative and management services, accommodation, insurance the other ancilliary costs.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that the Service Level Agreement between Council and LSP for the period 1st January 2007 to the 31st December 2008 be approved and signed on behalf of Council.

6.4 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 182 – 14th May 2007, as circulated, the addendum as outlined at 6.1, 6.2 & 6.3 above, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

* Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 8.00 pm.

862.7 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 331 – 15TH MAY 2007

Alderman Campbell presented the report, including an additional item as outlined in 7.1 below.

7.1 Trinity Presbyterian Church

Alderman Campbell advised that a request has been received from Trinity Presbyterian Church for the use of Riverside Park for an outdoor service on Sunday 24th June at 6.30.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that Council grant permission to Trinity Presbyterian Church for the use of Riverside Park for an outdoor service on Sunday 24th June 2007.

7.2 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 331 – 15th May 2007, as circulated, including additional item outlined at 7.1 above, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

862.8 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 355 – 29TH MAY 2007

Alderman Cousley presented the report.

Matters Arising

8.1 EQIA Election of Office Bearers & Representation on Committees & External Bodies (355.8)

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

that the matter be deferred for one month.

8.2 NILGA European Grouping of Territorial Co-Operation Seminar (355.11)

Members are requested to contact the Office of the Chief Executive should they wish to attend the seminar to be held in the Europa Hotel, Belfast on 15th June 2007 commencing at 10.00 am.

8.3 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 355 – 29th May 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

862.9 ROADS SERVICE – DISABLED PARKING

Roads Service are proposing to reserve an on-street disabled parking space outside No. 56 Castle Street, Ballymoney following consideration of a request for same. Council's comments are invited. Council offered no objections.

862.10 RE-CONSTITUTION OF DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIPS (DPPS)

The Policing Board has written on the above subject.

The St Andrew's Agreement Act (2006) places on the Board the responsibility to decide which DPPs should be reconstituted and the test for this is if the political condition is met. The Act states that 'the political condition is met in relation to a DPP if the political members of the DPP reflect, so far as practicable, the balance of parties prevailing among the members of the council on the commencement date'. It is anticipated that the commencement date is likely to be in September.

As the Board takes forward its preparations for testing the political condition for each DPP it will need to have the most reliable information on the political composition of the council and the DPP on the commencement date. At their request the following information has been provided:

- The current political composition of council (number of councillors in each party and independent councillors); and
- The current political composition of the DPP (number of political members from each party, including independent political members).

As the commencement date for this process is anticipated in early September the Policing Board plan will confirm with Council's Chief Executive on that date the status of the information on the political composition of the council and DPP.

* **Alderman Simpson arrived at 8.15 pm**

862.11 A26 DUALLING

The Chief Executive advised members that correspondence has been received advising that public consultations will be taking place on Tuesday 12th June from 3.30 pm – 9.30 pm and Wednesday 13th June from 1.00 pm – 9.00 pm at the Fort Royal Hotel in Glarryford, when the design team will be available to discuss the proposed route corridor and other issues of interest and concern. Further information can be obtained from the website at www.roadsni.gov.uk/a26frosses after the consultation events.

862.12 NILGA MONTHLY UPDATE (MAY 2007)

This was circulated to members for their information.

862.13 VISIT TO ISLE OF MAN INCINERATION FACILITIES

Councillor Robinson extended thanks to Council for authorising her recent visit to England to look at incineration facilities. In view of this, she would like to withdraw from visiting the Isle of Man incineration facilities (date to be finalised) to allow other interested parties to attend.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED:**

that the Director of Borough Services (or his nominee) be appointed to attend the visit to incineration facilities in the Isle of Man.

862.14 TIMING OF MEETINGS IN JULY

It was agreed, at the suggestion of the Mayor, that the timing of meetings during July be agreed at the next Consultation Committee meeting.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

APPENDIX 1

NORTHERN IRELAND LANDFILL ALLOWANCE SCHEME TARGETS



BBC compliance with
its NILAS.ppt