

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting No. 875 held in the Borough Offices, Riada House, on 12th February 2008 at 7.30 pm.**

In The Chair	The Mayor, Councillor J Finlay
Present	Aldermen: F Campbell C Cousley H Connolly J Simpson Councillors: A Cavlan M McCamphill P McGuigan D McKay, MLA A Patterson E Robinson I Stevenson M Storey, MLA R Wilson
In attendance	Chief Executive Director of Borough Services, Director of Central & Leisure Services Head of Corporate & Development Services
Apologies	Councillors B Kennedy and T McKeown

875.1 Rates Estimate 2008-09

The Chief Executive referred to Council's consideration of the rate at its meeting on 5th February when Council set us a target of finding savings in the budget of around 3.25% or £155,000. Various suggestions were put forward by members and parties and all of them have been considered by management. Savings have been made across services and the Directors may want to comment on some of these and the risks associated with them.

Overall this will be a challenging budget to live within and to achieve some of the savings will require an element of good fortune as well as good management. Some of the income figures will also be difficult to reach and some charges will have to be raised significantly.

We looked at the suggestion that some courses/conference budgets should be reduced; I accept that there have been some minor underspends in some services. However, we have been able to achieve the desired reduction without affecting these budgets and I feel that we need to retain them this year, given the challenges we expect from the RPA announcement and the need for new ways of working as well as the integration of new services. It is also the case that the current budget provides less than £400 per member of staff for courses and conferences, while the figure for councillors will be over £1000. I would be concerned how staff would perceive a cut in this budget so ask members to let it stay as suggested.

The Director of Central and Leisure Services referred to the revised summary of general estimate (*appendix A*), showing an increase of 3.96% taking account of revision of budgets, per schedule of savings circulated, (*appendix B*) capital projects information supplied (*appendix C*) and a balance applied of £200,000. This produced a rate of 22.4239 (non-domestic) and 0.2878 (domestic).

Responding to queries regarding the kick-about area in Rasharkin the Director of Borough Services advised that the Rasharkin Community Association has sought Council's agreement in principle to undertake a feasibility study no financial contribution was sought. He also advised that the next meeting of the Leisure & Amenities Committee would consider development options for Scally Park which may not require financial input from Council.

Councillor Robinson indicated that following discussion with Council officers she had, on behalf of the DUP, forwarded revised savings to the Director of Central and Leisure Services and proposed:

that Council approve and authorise the general estimate of rates for 2008-09 presented, with total net expenditure of £6497494, net amount to be raised £4884819 and set the non-domestic rate at 22.4239p and the domestic rate at 0.2878p, an increase of 3.96%.

This was seconded by Alderman Cousley.

Alderman Simpson, on behalf of UUP said they remained concerned at the substantial cost of changing rooms at Dunloy and considered this should be examined before proceeding. In response Councillor McGuigan asserted that the figure was similar to that spent on other similar provision and that the same standard of facility should be provided in Dunloy.

Councillor McGuigan asked that the method of providing play facility at Loughgiel needed to be given serious consideration to determine the best way forward. He requested clarification as to the impact of the DUP motion with particular regard to capital projects they had asked the Director of Central & Leisure Services to include. In response Councillor Robinson indicated that the following capital projects had been included in the draft estimate.

- museum fit out
- replacement sports hall floors & upgrade of PA @ JDLC
- 1 refuse collection vehicle, 1 van, 3.5 tonne 3-way tipper, tractor and loader
- paths upgrade at Riverside Park
- changing rooms at Dunloy
- 1 sand mattress pitch at Riada Stadium
- car park at Riada Playing Fields
- play areas at Derrykeighan and Druckendult
- IT upgrade and computer software for building control and environmental health.

SF sought clarification on the kick-about facility at Rasharkin and Director of Borough Services, responding, indicated that the community association were

undertaking a feasibility study, not necessarily seeking a contribution from Council, but would want council to maintain facility, so incurring revenue costs in future years.

It was proposed by Councillor McKay seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED:**

that the Leisure & Amenities Committee consider the development options for Rasharkin and Loughgiel facilities.

Councillor Simpson requested if the members allowances were to increase to £1,000 per member it should discontinue the current arrangement of permitting members to transfer budgets to other members. Councillor McCamphill asked that consideration be given to revising the present policy so that accommodation costs for overnight stays within Northern Ireland did not have to be met from conference budgets, but rather from members allowances budget given that traveling costs within the province were met from members allowances for conference attendance within the province, arguing that for 2-3 day conferences it would be more economical to stay overnight than to travel.

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

that the meeting adjourn for five minutes to allow parties to consider the DUP motion. The meeting adjourned at 8.15 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 8.20 p.m. The Mayor put the motion to the meeting.

[that Council approve and authorise the general estimate of rates for 2008-09 presented, with total net expenditure of £6497494, net amount to be raised £4884819 and set the non-domestic rate at 22.4239p and the domestic rate at 0.2878p, an increase of 3.96%.]

On a vote being taken the motion was passed unanimously.

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

That the following projects be funded from reserves during the financial year 2008-09

- ***Anti-scalding valves at JDLC £18,000***
- ***Fencing at JDLC £18,000***
- ***Bleacher repairs at JDLC £5,000***
- ***Rebound wall at JDLC £5,000***
- ***Bus Shelters £20,000***
- ***Total £66,000***

The meeting concluded at 8.30 pm

Appendices:

A = 2008-09 General Estimate of Rates

B = 2008-09 Budget Savings Book v.3

C= Approved Capital Projects 2008-09 & Projects funded from reserves

2008/2009 GENERAL ESTIMATE OF RATES - BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**APPENDIX A**

SERVICES	Capital Charges	Other Expenditure	Misc.	Net Cost
	£	£	Income	£
Cultural Facilities	36,305	223,878	5,000	255,183
Town Hall	70,115	86,143	15,000	141,258
Sports Development	0	107,550	37,498	70,052
Indoor Leisure	295,045	1,286,735	620,000	961,780
Summer Scheme	0	13,500	0	13,500
Sports Grounds Parks & Open Spaces	292,275	767,219	32,960	1,026,534
Tourist Facilities	77,740	129,654	100,000	107,394
Tourism	0	109,874	20,000	89,874
Community Services	32,409	189,985	119,996	102,398
Cemeteries	4,441	76,808	18,737	62,512
Public Conveniences	8,989	48,566	0	57,555
Environmental Health	2,816	482,791	134,913	350,694
Dog Control	2,141	86,633	15,000	73,774
Licensing	0	21,278	7155	14,123
Street Cleaning	11,957	210,499	14,792	207,664
Waste Collection	63,000	631,747	238,755	455,992
Waste Disposal	37,187	1,204,719	41,040	1,200,866
Building Control	0	258,834	200,000	58,834
Other Community Assets	0	88,121	0	88,121
Minor Works		9,200		9,200
Economic Development		133,781		133,781
Members Allowances		212,160		212,160
Mayors Allowance		9,000		9,000
Official & Courtesy Visits		16,000		16,000

Democratic Representation	-	200,959	200,959
Corporate Management Costs	0	412,716	412,716
Non Distributed Costs		10,291	10,291
Registration Births Deaths & Marriages		40,559	40,559
Election Expenses		3,000	3,000
Emergency Planning		5,000	5,000
Contributions		22,500	22,500
S115 Expenditure		7,000	7,000
District Policing Partnership		136,874	102,656
Community Safety Partnership		35,918	40,000
Bank Interest			100,000
Totals	934,420	7,279,493	1,904,061
			6,309,852
Total Expenditure		8,213,913	6,309,852
Deduct Capital Charges			996,819
Add Loan Charges			1,184,461
Total Net Expenditure			6,497,494
General Grant - Derating Resources		293,965	1,412,675
		1,118,710	5,084,819
Balance Applied			200,000
Net Amount To Be Raised			4,884,819
Est Product of 1p Rate			217,840
District Rate - Non - Domestic Property			22.4239

Domestic Property

0.012833

0.2878

Domestic Rate Increase

0.0110

3.96%

2008/2009 Budget Savings - Rates Book v 3**Appendix B**

<u>Page</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Budget Detail</u>	<u>SAVE/ - COST</u>
1		Balance Applied	69,500
		Wages	11,665
4	Cultural Services	Community festivals	3,600
		Community Festivals - income	- 1,800
		NW 200 Contribution	- 1,000
4	Museum Service	Events/Exhibitions	6,000
7	JD Leisure Centre	New Equipment	2,500
		Maintenance - Building	2,500
		Maintenance - Fixed plant	2,500
		Telephone	1,500
9	Sports Gds, P&OS	Plants / Materials	25,000
		Access to Countryside	5,500
11	Tourism	Events	2,000
12	Community Services	Electricity	2,000
		Furniture	500
		Community Support grants	- 1,870
13	Amenities Support	Travel/subsistence	2,000
14	Cemeteries	Income	1,000
15	Environmental Health	Partnership working	1,000
		Telephone	- 650
		LA 21	1,000
		Health & Safety	1,500
		Income	3,000
20	Street Cleaning	Plant/Vehicles	5,000
		Litter receptacles	1,500
		Income	892
21	Waste Collection	Plant/Vehicles	10,000
		Refuse containers	5,000
		Publicity	300
		Printing/stationery	200
		Income - Trade Waste	10,000
22	Waste Disposal	Waste Management License fee	2,500
24	Building Control	Group Demand	301

25	Other Comm. Assets	Maintenance contracts		5,000
		Rates		2,000
27	Economic Development			30,000
28	Members Allowances	Conferences/courses	-	5,600
31	Corporate Management	Planning consultancy		2,000
		Corporate planning		1,000
		Internal Audit		5,000
		Marketing/communication	-	8,000
		Corporate Well being		1,800
		Legal Fees		500
		Hospitality		200
35	Emergency Planning			5,000
44	Administration	Telephone		3,750
45	ICT	Travel		500
		Consumables		400
	TOTAL SAVINGS			<u><u>148,688</u></u>

Approved Capital Projects 2008/09

	cost	loan period	loan charge	loan charge
	£	years	term	£
Museum Fit Out	120,000	20	1 year	10,226
Replacement Sports Halls Floors @JDLC	85,000	20	1 year	7,243
Upgrade PA System @ JDLC	35,000	20	1 year	2,983
1 Refuse Collection Vehicles	140,000	7	1 year	23,969
1 Van	13,500	7	1 year	2,311
3.5 tonne 3 Way Tipper	28,000	7	1 year	4,794
Tractor and Loader	22,000	7	1 year	3,766
Riverside Park Phase 1 path upgrade	80,000	20	1 year	6,817
Changing Rooms @ Dunloy	190,000	20	1 year	16,191
1 Sand mattress pitch @ Riada Stadium	95,000	20	1 year	8,095
Car Park @ Riada Playing Fields	50,000	20	1 year	4,261
2 Play Areas - Derrykeighan and Druckendult	100,000	20	1 year	8,522
IT Upgrade	40,000	4	1 year	10,963
Building Control & Env Health Computer Software	36,450	4	1 year	9,990
Total	<u>1,034,950</u>			<u>120,131</u>

Proposed Projects Funded from Reserves

Anti-scalding valves @ JDLC	18,000
Fencing @ JDLC	18,000
Bleacher repairs @ JDLC	5,000
Rebound wall @ JDLC	5,000
Bus Shelters	20,000
Total	<u>66,000</u>