

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 358 – 18th March 2009****Table of Contents**

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358.19	Ballymoney Museum Fit Out	<i>Combine temporary exhibition launch at beginning of May 2009 with official opening.</i>
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358.22	Good Relations Strategy 2009- 2011	<i>Further workshop agreed.</i>
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358.24	Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Partnership Correspondence	<i>Invite representatives to make presentation to the next meeting.</i>
358.25	April Committee Meeting	<i>Two separate meetings. Fix date for 2nd meeting at Council meeting on 6th April.</i>

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 358 held in the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre on Wednesday 18th March 2009 at 6.40 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: F Campbell

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
Alderman Cousley, MBE
J Simpson

Councillors
A Cavlan
J Finlay, Mayor
E Robinson
A Patterson
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES Alderman H Connolly

IN ATTENDANCE Director of Borough Services
[Items 2-14]
Director of Central & Leisure Services
[Items 1,2,15-22]
Representatives from Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society:
Mr Gary Blair, Chairman
Mr Alan Wright, Treasurer
Mr Roy McCombe, Artefacts
Mr Cody Murray, Secretary
Representatives from Dervock Community Association:
Mr Frankie Cunningham, Vice-Chairman
Mr Ross Wilson, Artist
Committee Clerk

358.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 357 – 17TH FEBRUARY 2009

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

that the minutes of meeting No 357 – 17th February 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

358.2 PRESENTATION FROM KINGDOM OF DALRIADA ULSTER SCOTS SOCIETY

Alderman Campbell welcomed representatives from Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation. Mr Trevor Wright addressed members giving an outline of the proposed festival and exhibition to run from 3rd – 17th July 2009. The society

had initially requested the use of the Museum's, temporary gallery for their exhibition.

The Director advised that the museum fit out project would be complete by early May and that the 'Where Motorcycling Reigns' exhibition would be in the temporary gallery during the four months only to August 2009.

The Society representatives requested the use of a room in the Town Hall for their exhibition.

The Society representatives responded to members' questions regarding the content of the exhibition and previous exhibitions held in Charlotte Street and the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.

The Chairman thanked the representatives for their presentation and advised that the matter would be discussed further later in the meeting.

- * **Director of Borough Services arrived at the meeting during consideration of the above matter.**
- * **Representatives from Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society left the meeting at 7.15pm**
- * **Representatives from Dervock Community Association arrived at the meeting at 7.20pm.**
- * **Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 7.15pm.**
- * **Director of Central and Leisure Services left the meeting at 7.15pm.**

AMENITIES

358.3 PRESENTATION FROM DERVOCK COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Members may recall that following the receipt of correspondence from Dervock Community Association advising that the Association was hoping to avail of funding from the Arts Council under its re-imaging communities scheme the Council's Leisure & Amenities Committee dealt with the matter on 17th June 2008 (Minute LAC345.6 refers). Committee agreed and Council adopted the recommendation that Council –

- Grant permission to erect the artwork on Council land at Dervock Riverside Park; and
- Subject to further information regarding costings, agree in principle to provide a contribution in kind to assist with the construction of the base and appropriate lighting for the project.

To further inform Council as to the progress made, etc., regarding its project, Dervock Community Association, with the Committee Chair's consent, will make a presentation (to commence at 7.15pm) at the March meeting on 18th inst.

Alderman Campbell welcomed representatives from Dervock Community Association - Mr Frankie Cunningham, Vice Chair and Ross Wilson. Mr Cunningham updated Members concerning the Dervock Re-Imaging Project by means of a powerpoint presentation.

Members were advised that the timescale set for the project was completion by early July 2009. It was hoped that Council could facilitate the project in a number of ways in addition to consenting to a suitable site, namely the provision of a base and floodlighting and perhaps make the planning application. Members learned that it was the intent to run local community workshops in order to have local input into the design of the piece. It was also requested that it would be helpful were Council to write a letter of support to the Arts Council the project funders.

The community representatives answered Members' questions.

* **Representatives from Dervock Community Association left the meeting at 8.00pm.**

In the ensuing discussion the Director responded to Members, advising that time was required in order to consider both the site for the proposed artwork and to cost the Council's possible contribution 'in kind'.

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

to recommend to Council that the Dervock Community Association Re-Imaging Communities Project be further discussed at the April Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting when it was hoped a cost of the services in kind sought would be available.

358.4 SUPERVALU BEST KEPT AWARDS – NI AMENITY COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP 2009-2010

Correspondence has been received recently from the Northern Ireland Amenity Council inviting Council to renew its annual subscription (of £750) for 2009-2010 and also enter that organisation's SuperValu Best Kept Awards annual competition. In light of the Council's budget for 2009-2010, **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council (1) does not affiliate to the NI Amenity Council in 2009-2010 and (2) does not (as a consequence) enter the NIAC 2009 Best Kept Awards competition.

It is the intent again as last year, to enter the 2009 Translink Ulster in Bloom competition it should be noted.

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

to recommend that Council (1) does not affiliate to the NI Amenity Council in 2009-2010 and (2) does not (as a consequence) enter the NIAC 2009 Best Kept Awards competition.

358.5 MEGAW PARK

When the matter of possible improvements to the Council's Megaw Park property was last discussed by Committee at its meeting on 18th November

2008 (Minute LAC352.19 refers) it was agreed (and Council accepted) “that the various options for the improvement of Megaw Park facilities be further considered at the 2009-2010 Rates Estimates meetings”. Notwithstanding that Council has determined that no new amenities capital schemes be undertaken in the next financial year, it is considered that there is merit in Committee re-visiting the two options outlined previously so that it might make a recommendation to Council as to the scheme to be preferred. Minute LAC352.19 referred to above, which outlines what might be done together with an indicative cost for each option has been reproduced (circulated).

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee reconsider the latest options regarding Megaw Park with the view of making a recommendation to Council as to the scheme to be preferred.

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

to recommend to Council that further consideration be given to the proposals for a Megaw Park improvement scheme by means of an Amenities Working Group.

358.6 LOUGH NEAGH & LOWER BANN ADVISORY COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

A letter dated 3rd March has been received from the Chairman of the Lower Bann Advisory Committee following that body having been advised as to the Council’s decision as regards the making of a financial contribution (letter circulated).

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider the matter with a view to making a recommendation to Council.

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

to recommend that Council note the correspondence received from the Chairman of the Lower Bann Advisory Committee.

358.7 BALLYMONEY CEMETERY MEMORIALS

Application has been received as undernoted for the erection of a memorial in Ballymoney Cemetery.

Section E2 No. 136

Mr Ashley Ballentine, 158 Causeway Street, Portrush
All Polished Gray Granite Headstone and Base

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council grant permission to the above applicant to erect a memorial in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

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

to recommend that Council grant permission to the applicant to erect a memorial in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

358.8 CLOUGHMILLS COMMUNITY FACILITY

Committee at the previous meeting determined that the “Cloughmills Community Facility project be further progressed at the March Leisure and Amenities Meeting”. As mentioned to Committee in February, NIEA Historic Monuments Unit are seeking that in conjunction with any planning application submitted, that an industrial heritage planning impact assessment be completed by an appropriate specialist. Such expertise has been sourced and the cost estimated at circa £700. It is also necessary for Committee to reconsider what development, if any, it wishes to progress at the Old Mill site or would it wish to dispose of same.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee further considers these issues and makes its recommendations to Council.

The Director clarified that in order to move the proposed project forward it was necessary for Council to commission an industrial heritage impact assessment which would address another of the issues to be dealt with as part of the planning process. On the question of funding the Director mentioned that arising from the sale of land money had been earmarked for Cloughmills and this was confirmed by the Mayor and other Members and the view expressed that this be used for the IHIA expenditure now required.

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

to recommend that Council progress with an industrial heritage impact assessment, to be funded out of the Reserves budget (assigned to Cloughmills) at an estimated cost of £700.

It was also agreed that at the next Committee meeting Members would give further consideration to the facilities to be provided on the Council's Old Mill site.

358.9 BALNAMORE COMMUNITY FACILITY

As members are aware Committee has considered on a number of previous occasions how it might progress an improved community facility at Balnamore, but has yet to reach a conclusion on the question of a ‘community hall’.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee determines its position and make a recommendation to Council on the matter.

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

to recommend to Council that representatives from Balnamore Community Association be invited to make a presentation at the April Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting.

358.10 AMENITIES SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

It is the case that presently four Amenities Sub-Committees and Working Groups, namely (1) Cloughmills Recreational Facility Sub-Committee, (2) Multi Use Arena/Megaw Park Amenities Sub-Committee, (3) Riada Playing Fields Working Group and (4) Town Hall Working Group are extant. Given present circumstances it may be opportune to consider changing these arrangements. It is thought that the present four could be replaced by two working groups, one looking at future proposals and schemes and a second addressing existing facilities and operations.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider this proposal relating to the refinement of present Amenities Sub-Committees and Working Groups and make its recommendations to Council on the matter.

The Director agreed that prior to the next Committee meeting he would circulate the membership of the present four Amenities sub-committees and working groups.

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

to recommend that Council replace the existing four Amenities Sub-Committees and Working Groups namely (1) Cloughmills Recreational Facility Sub-Committee, (2) Multi Use Arena/Megaw Park Amenities Sub-Committee, (3) Riada Playing Fields Working Group and (4) Town Hall Working Group with two re-constituted Working Groups - one looking at future proposals and schemes and a second addressing existing facilities and operations.

358.11 BUS SHELTER REQUEST UPDATE

11.1 Kilraughts Road

Further to Minute LAC 356.4 (adopted CM 896) members are informed that together with DRD Roads Service and Translink a further three possible locations for the erection of a bus shelter at Kilraughts Road near its junction with Ballymena Road were identified and investigated. The first, at the fence line with Trolans/Supervalu overspill car park, is deemed unsuitable by the landowner due to the fact that there is an extant planning approval (D/2002/0167/F) to erect 2 residential units with a shared access from the Kilraughts Road at this location. The landowner has intimated that he intends to carry out this residential development and would object to a bus shelter at this location, as it would block access to the site. A further two possible bus shelter locations were identified fronting the existing properties at Nos. 4 and 6 Kilraughts Road. Following investigation it emerges that both properties are subject to an extant planning application (D/2008/0498/F) for the demolition of the existing dwellings and

erection of 14 residential units. To this end it would be prudent to await the determination of this planning application before pursuing the bus shelter request further.

- * **Director of Central & Leisure Services returned to the meeting at 9.05pm.**
- * **Councillor Cavlan left the meeting at 9.10pm.**
- * **Councillor Stevenson left the meeting at 9.10pm.**

11.2 Gracehill Road, Clintyfinnan

Further to Minute LAC 348.3 (adopted CM 888) members are advised that Council planning applications D/2008/0505/F and D/2008/0507/F for the erection of two bus shelters on opposite sides of the Gracehill Road at Clintyfinnan have had to be withdrawn due to belated comments from DRD Roads Service Development Control Section which would have led to a refusal notice being issued by Planning Service. Roads Service DCS was unhappy with the Ballymoney bound shelter location as that section concluded it would prejudice visibility from the junction at Bregagh Road. In the case of the Armoy/Ballycastle bound shelter, again Roads Service DCS raised queries as to the construction of the public footpath shown. As the original consultations were via Roads Service Traffic Management Section and the comments to Planning Service from the Roads Service Development Control Section, there is a necessity for cross-consultation. The necessary amendments to the plans have been made and forwarded to DRD Roads Traffic Management Section to allow them to liaise with their Development Control Section and so ensure both parties are content. Both planning applications will be re-submitted when approval has been obtained from both Roads Service sections.

11 Ballyknock, Loughguile and Drones Road

Further to Minute LAC 356.4 (adopted CM 896) Members are asked to note that plans for a bus shelter at Ballyknock and a further one at Drones Road are being submitted to Roads Service [both Traffic Management and Development Control sections] for a final cross-consultation before planning applications are submitted to Planning Service. It is the intention to adopt this practice for all future bus shelter applications. Members are advised that, in the case of the Ballyknock site, NI Water has confirmed its approval of the submitted plan.

The Director undertook to advise Councillor Stevenson as to the applicant for the proposed housing development at 4-6 Kilraughts Road.

358.12 DARD RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

It has been mentioned on a number of occasions that the DARD Rural Development Programme may be a possible source of funding for a number

of Council projects presently being worked on. Members are asked to note the following –

- Applications to the DARD Rural Development Programme, in respect of community facilities for example, have to be community based; and
- Match funding requests to Council would be precluded by its extant policy.

- * **Councillor Cavlan rejoined the meeting at 9.20pm.**
- * **Councillor Stevenson rejoined the meeting at 9.20pm.**

358.13 USE OF BALLYMONEY RIVERSIDE PARK

Lislagan Primary School PTA has recently requested use of Ballymoney Riverside Park on Monday, 29th June 2009 for a sponsored walk. As yet no time has been arranged. Committee is asked to note that the PTA's request has been sanctioned.

358.14 BOROUGH SERVICES DIRECTORATE PLAN 2009-2010 – AMENITIES

The Amenities aspect of the proposed Borough Services Directorate Plan 2009-2010 is set out below –

- Complete the delivery of the current Amenities capital expenditure programme and progress future capital initiatives
- Deliver building maintenance and ground maintenance programmes
- Review Assets Register from an amenities perspective
- Contribute to successful delivery 2009 Milk Cup
- Complete the delivery of the Ballymoney Riverside Park Improvement Scheme
- Continue to progress the Connect2 – MO71 - Ballymoney Railway Bridge and Links
- Continue to progress access initiatives, including Countryside access
- Continue to monitor the Council's CO² emissions
- Monitor the Council's energy consumption and implement energy saving initiatives

Members' comments are invited. The draft Borough Services Directorate Plan 2009-2010 will be taken through the Council's Health & Environmental Services Committee, as has been the practice in other years.

358.15 ESTATE MANAGEMENT

The Director responded to Member questions regarding heating control at both Riada House and the Town Hall and explained the measures recently introduced as regards the temperature maintained.

- * **Director of Borough Services left the meeting at 9.50pm.**

LEISURE SERVICES

358.16 PRESENTATION BY THE KINGDOM OF DALRIADA ULSTER SCOTS SOCIETY

Members discussed the earlier presentation (ref: 358.2) by the Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society who had advised members that they are holding a 2-day festival and an exhibition in Ballymoney this year. The exhibition is to run from 3rd to 17th July 2009 and the Society requested the use of the Museum for the exhibition.

The Director reminded members that the Museum is due to re-open in May 2009 and the first exhibition to run from May to August is "Where Motorcycling Reigns". As this space is unavailable, members may wish to grant use of alternative rooms at the Town Hall. She advised that Council policy is not to grant the free use of facilities but on occasions, a contribution is made towards the cost of hiring the facilities.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that

to recommend that Council grant financial assistance towards room hire at the Town Hall for the Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society festival, 3rd July – 17th July 2009 out of an underspend in councillors' conference budget in 2008/09.

Councillor Cavlan felt that this proposal was unfair, that members had earlier rejected a request to fund community groups through finding an alternative means and that members were taking money out of reserves to fund an event. Councillor Patterson concurred with Councillor Finlay's proposal. Councillor McCamphill considered that such proposed action would go against Council policy.

In response to members' questions, the Director of Central & Leisure Services clarified that this contribution would result in an overspend in the Leisure Contributions budget but would be offset by an underspend elsewhere, such as that within the councillor's conference budget.

The Chair put the motion to a vote. 4 members voted in favour of the motion, 2 members voted against and there were 2 abstentions.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

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

to recommend that the Director check with the Society which room they require for the exhibition.

In addition, Councillor Robinson expressed her deep dismay at the fact that there was not as much community funding available for 2009/10 as she had anticipated. Councillor Robinson would like it to be considered that the remaining money in the councillors' conference budget be used in 2009/10 to attract match funding under the Community Festivals Fund Scheme.

The Director advised that this money could not be accrued as it was contrary to accounting policy. She advised that if Council agreed, a sum of money would be taken from reserves and used to attract match funding in 2009/10.

358.17 REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Chair of committee requested that the following items be tabled for committee to consider;

- a) request for sponsorship for a Road Race by Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club
- b) request for financial assistance to enhance their "Roon the Toon" event by the Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club.

The Director advised that Council previously agreed, on the recommendation of the Leisure & Amenities Committee, that consideration of these two requests be dealt with at the rates setting process. At a rates meeting, the Director reminded Council that it had agreed that these two requests were to be considered at the rates time.

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

to recommend that a decision on the two requests for financial support from Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club and the Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club be made at the Council meeting on 6th April 2009.

Councillor Robinson asked for it to be recorded that she had refrained from the agreed proposal above.

358.18 UPGRADE OF FIRE ALARM AT JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE

Council agreed a budget of £60,000 in the financial year 2009/10 to upgrade the Fire Alarm system at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.

As it is critical that this work is undertaken as soon as possible permission is sought to engage the Council's consultants to draw up a scheme, tender for the works and authorise the Chair of Committee and Director of Central & Leisure Services or her nominee to open the tenders.

Further reports will be brought to committee in due course.

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

to recommend that Council engage their consultants to draw up a scheme to tender for the works for the upgrade of the fire alarm system at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, and to authorise the Chair of Committee and Director of Central & Leisure Services or the Director's designated nominee to open the tenders.

358.19 BALLYMONEY MUSEUM FIT OUT

The Director advised that the Museum fit out project is progressing well. The main contractor hopes to have the work complete and be off site by the end of March. After that the hanging, fixing and placing of all the boards, panels and objects will take place as well as the installation of the temporary exhibition.

The Director advised that the launch of the first temporary exhibition "Where Motorcycling Reigns" was planned for 9th May and that the museum would open to the public on 11th May 2009, with an official opening ceremony to be held later in the year.

The Director suggested that in the current economic climate, it would be financially beneficial to combine the official opening with the launch of the first temporary exhibition at the beginning of May.

In response to a query, the Director advised that the official opening would be organised by the Office of the Chief Executive and that the matter would be tabled for the next meeting of the Corporate and Central Services Committee.

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

to recommend that Council combine the official opening of the Ballymoney Museum with the launch of the first temporary exhibition, "Where Motorcycling Reigns", to be held at the beginning of May.

The Director circulated Derrykeighan Stone design to be used as the museum logo on all publicity material and on merchandise.

The Temporary Exhibition programme for the period May 2009 to January 2010 was circulated at the meeting.

358.20 BALLYMONEY & DISTRICT MALE VOICE CHOIR

The chairman of Ballymoney & District Male Voice Choir has written to the Council seeking financial support for their 65th Annual Concert to be held in Dalriada School on Saturday 4th April 2009.

The concert will feature the male voice choir as well as special guest tenor, David Revels, and special guest performers, The Elphinstone Fiddlers from Aberdeen University.

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

to recommend that Council is unable to support the Ballymoney and District Male Voice Choir's 65th Annual Concert, as no budgetary provision was made in 2009/10 to support groups.

358.21 GOOD RELATIONS GRANTS

The following application for grants have been considered:

- Cloughmills Community Action Team for assistance towards a Youth Diversionary Project for the youth of Cloughmills and the Borough.

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

to recommend that Council grant £350 to Cloughmills Community Action Team for assistance towards a Youth Diversionary Project for the youth of Cloughmills and the Borough.

358.22 GOOD RELATIONS STRATEGY 2009-2011

The Director reminded members that work is on going to produce a new Good Relations Strategy for the Council for the 2 year period 2009 to 2011.

A workshop was held with members and senior officers on 5th March 2009 to consider the draft strategy.

IT IS RECOMMENDED to hold a further workshop to develop the Strategy and an action plan for 2009/10.

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

to recommend that Council hold a further workshop to develop the Good Relations Strategy and an action plan for 2009/10.

358.23 AMALGAMATION OF AGE CONCERN NORTHERN IRELAND AND HELP THE AGED

Age Concern and Help the Aged have jointly written to the Council advising of their proposed amalgamation in light of the Governments modernisation programme and the review of public administration. A copy of their letter to the Chief Executive detailing their proposals was circulated.

Council is asked to acknowledge that the objectives of the Fit for Purpose programme are to ensure:

- collaboration and best practice approaches for older people's groups
- partnerships and collaboration approaches to service delivery for older people
- the creation of more effective networks among older people, policymakers and stakeholders
- capacity building to meet the new challenges of the Review of Public Administration

It was **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council acknowledge the amalgamation of Age Concern Northern Ireland and Help The Aged along with the objectives of the Fit for Purpose programme.

358.24 CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS TOURISM PARTNERSHIP CORRESPONDENCE

The Director informed committee that she had received correspondence from the Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Partnership who had made a request to make a presentation to the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

Members discussed the implication of inviting the Causeway Coast and Glens partnership to make their presentation.

It was proposed by councillor Stevenson, seconded by Alderman Cousley and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council invite the Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Partnership to make a presentation to the next Leisure and Amenities Committee meeting in April.

- * Alderman Cousley and Councillor Patterson left the meeting at 11.30pm.
- * Committee Clerk left the meeting at 11.30pm.

358.25 APRIL LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

Some members expressed concern at the lateness of the Committee meeting ending and suggested that next months meeting should be split into two separate meetings for Leisure Services and Amenities.

As two presentations are to be made (depending on Council approval) at the next Committee meeting, it was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

to recommend that two separate meetings are held in April – one for Leisure Services and the other for Amenities and that the date of the second meeting be agreed at the Council meeting in April.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 11.40pm.