

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 359 – 21st April 2009****Table of Contents****LEISURE**

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 359 held in the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre on Tuesday 21st April 2009 at 6.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: F Campbell

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
J Simpson
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor

Councillors
M McCamphill
E Robinson

APOLOGIES A Cavlan
J Finlay
A Patterson
I Stevenson

IN ATTENDANCE Director of Central & Leisure Services
Don Wilmont, Causeway Coast and Glens Partnership
[Item 1-2]
Committee Clerk

359.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 358 – 18TH MARCH 2009

* **Alderman Cousley arrived at the meeting at 6.40pm.**

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

that the minutes of meeting No 358 – 18th March 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING**1.1 BALLYMONEY MUSEUM FIT OUT (RE 359.19)**

The Director of Central and Leisure Services reminded members that at the March committee meeting it had been decided to combine the Official Opening of the Ballymoney Museum with the Launch of the first temporary exhibition, "Where Motorcycling Reigns". However the Director advised members that the situation had now changed and that the Official Opening of the Ballymoney Museum would now take place at the end of May.

She advised that the Chief Executive would report on the matter at the next Corporate and Central Services committee.

The Museum, including the first temporary exhibition "Where Motorcycling Reigns" will open to the public on Monday 11th May 2009. Invitations to guests to attend preview evenings on Wednesday 6th May and Thursday 7th May from 7.30 - 9.30 pm have issued. The Director requested that council members attend the first preview evening on Wednesday 6th May.

359.2 PRESENTATION FROM CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS TOURISM

The Chairman welcomed Don Wilmont, Manager, Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership to the meeting and invited him to make his presentation on the role and work of the Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership and the benefits to the Borough of Ballymoney in the hope that members would reconsider their decision to withdraw their funding for 2009/10.

Members asked Mr Wilmont questions and examined a pack of tourism literature, which was circulated.

Alderman Simpson asked Mr Wilmont what were the ramifications for Ballymoney by cutting their funding, what was the impact likely to be? Mr Wilmont felt that there would be serious consequences for both organisations; Ballymoney Borough and its facilities will not feature in their widespread future publications, there would be no public access to their library of images for Ballymoney, no familiarisation trips to the area, no web page dedicated to the area, he also described that it would be very bad for the customer not to obtain the full offering of the area. He added that where specific marketing facilities existed, Ballymoney would not feature, for example within Biker Tourism and Genealogy events/assistance etc.

The Chair thanked Mr Wilmont for attending the meeting, concluding that the information Mr Wilmont had supplied was excellent, and that members had gained a lot of information that he felt they did not previously have.

*** Mr Don Wilmont, left the meeting at 7.35pm.**

Alderman Connolly reminded members that he was well aware of everything that the Causeway Coast and Glens Tourism Partnership did for Ballymoney as he was a Director of the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust. Alderman Connolly had recorded his desire for Ballymoney to stay in the CC&G Partnership at the rates estimate meetings when decisions were being made regarding withdrawal of funding.

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

to recommend that if council show an under spend of budgets after the finalisation of the 2008/09 accounts (at the end of June), serious consideration should be given to reviewing funding for organisations from which the Council had withdrawn at the 2009/10 rates estimate time.

Alderman Simpson referred to a further item within the agenda at 359.3, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre – Purchase Of New Tables & Chairs, and suggested that members use this £10,000 of unspent reserves funding for 2008/09 capital projects and £15,000 from the additional income earned in 2008/09 in the Leisure Centre to pay the £17,300 to rejoin CC&G Partnership.

Members then moved to discuss the matter of the new tables and chairs for the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.

- * **Councillor McCamphill arrived during consideration of the above matter at 6.48pm**

359.3 JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE – PURCHASE OF NEW TABLES & CHAIRS

The Council in 2008/09 agreed to refurbish the Sports Halls at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre. Part of this work included providing Floor Guardian, which is a protective carpet, used while holding exhibitions and the like as well as for use as an Emergency Rest Centre. The contract also included for the provision of Sports Hall Linings, which creates a Marquee effect that has proven very popular with other Council facilities in UK.

A number of sporting groups have shown an interest in holding functions in the Leisure Centre as this is the only Council facility that can cater for groups of 120 -200 people seated at tables.

The present seating is the very old Polyprop design, which has given over 28 years service to the Leisure Centre.

The Council over the last 3 years has invested in the following improvements in the Sports Halls –

- Three phase electrical supply for concerts
- New energy saving lighting
- New stage curtains
- Upgrade PA System (for the whole Leisure Centre)
- Refurbished bleacher seating and
- Refurbished flooring.

In light of the above investment I believe that a final investment in new chairs and tables would provide a valuable and additional income stream for the Council.

The estimated cost of 300 chairs and 20 tables with storage trolleys is £25,000. This could be funded by using £10,000 of unspent reserves funding for 2008/09 capital projects within the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and £15,000 from the additional income earned in 2008/09 in the Leisure Centre.

The new folding chairs could be used for seating at Special Events and Concerts as well as at functions where the tables are used.

In light of discussions at agenda item 359.2 and in order to benefit the Ballymoney Museum, Ballymoney Tourist Information Centre and tourism in general, it was proposed by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Councillor McCamphill and **AGREED:**

to recommend that council defer any decision on the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre purchase of new tables and chairs until the 2008/09 accounts are signed off (at the end of June 2009) and to use the £10,000 of unspent reserves funding for 2008/09 capital projects and £15,000 from the additional income earned in 2008/09 in the Leisure Centre to rejoin the Causeway Coat and Glens Tourism Partnership for 2009/10 at a cost of £17,336.

359.4 GOOD RELATIONS STRATEGY 2009-2011

Two workshops involving both members and officers were held on the 5th March and 8th April 2009 to consider and discuss the draft Good Relations Strategy for 2009 – 2011.

The draft strategy and action plan has been amended to include the various matters raised and comments made by members. A final draft of the strategy was circulated and is recommended for approval.

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

to recommend that Council adopt the Good Relations Strategy 2009-2011.

359.5 GOOD RELATIONS GRANTS

The following applications for grants were considered.

- II. Ballybogey Community Association for assistance towards a cross community event with young people.

£300 grant recommended

- III. Cloughmills & District Fife & Drum Club for assistance towards a historical trip.

£300 grant recommended.

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

to recommend that council grant £300 each to (i) Ballybogeey Community Association for assistance towards a cross community event with young people and (ii) Cloughmills & District Fife & Drum Club for assistance towards an historical trip.

359.6 NORTH WEST 200 2009 - HOSPITALITY

Two complimentary tickets have been received for the North West 200 on 16th May 2009. A further ticket has been purchased following discussions with the Mayor. As this is the 80th Anniversary of the North West 200 and the museum is due to open to coincide with this event it is important that officers attend the North West 200 to record the event for museum material. It is therefore suggested that the Mayor and two officers avail of the North West 200 tickets.

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

to recommend that Council grant the Mayor and two officers, namely the Museums Manager and Tourism Co-ordinator, the North West 200 tickets.

359.7 BALLYMONEY FAMILY HISTORY PROJECT – AUTUMN 2010

The Director informed members that following an online survey by the Museum Manager a number of people from different parts of the World with ancestral links with Ballymoney have expressed an interest in “Coming Home” to Ballymoney to participate in the Family History Project. The project will run over four days with a number of events ranging from tours of selected graveyards, seminars/workshops, visits to tourist attractions/ facilities and entertainment.

It is planned to run the project in September/October 2010.

Members expressed their support for the Family History Project.

359.8 BALLYMONEY OLD VEHICLE CLUB – VINTAGE RALLY & FUN DAY

The Secretary of the Ballymoney Old Vehicle Club has written to the Council advising of their annual show to be held in Ballymoney Show Grounds on 9th May 2009. The club pride themselves in raising funds for numerous charities and this annual show is their main fundraiser.

The Secretary also advises that the Mayor has opened all their shows since they began and that members of the Club “heavily support the Mayors Show” each year by displaying numerous vehicles.

The club are requesting financial support towards the running costs of their Annual Show.

It was **AGREED**

that council would be unable to support the Ballymoney Old Vehicle Club Vintage Rally & Fun Day, due to council's policy not to give donations to organisations that were fund raising for charities as they had various means of fund raising.

359.9 LEISURE CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET 2009/2010

The Director advised for members' information that the Leisure Contributions budget for 2009/10 is £2,000.

The Council to date has approved contributions to three organisations amounting to £2,400.00 in 2009/10.

359.10 COMMUNITY FESTIVALS FUND 2008/09

In 2008/09 the Council had a budget of £10,000 to grant aid community festivals, 50% of which is funded by the Department of Culture Arts & Leisure. The Director reported that 8 organisations had applied through an open public advert, with 1 group being refused, as it did not meet the criteria. 7 qualifying groups were awarded £9,309, DCAL claimed £691 towards administration, in total £10,000 was expended and the full £5,000 available was reclaimed.

Alderman Campbell addressed committee on behalf of Councillor Finlay, requesting that committee give consideration to matching up to £5,000 for Community Festival grants for 2009/10. The Director advised that council would need to check with the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure to ascertain if funding is still available for 2009/10. She further advised that it may be too late to consider establishing the grant scheme in 2009/10 as most communities held their festivals in the summer months in 2008/09.

It was **AGREED** that the Director would check the availability of match funding.

359.11 LETTER OF THANKS

The Secretary of the Ballymoney Drama Festival has written to the Council thanking Council and its officers for the financial support and help in so many ways with its 70th Festival.

359.12 RASHARKIN COMMUNITY CENTRE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (RCCMC)

The Director advised that in accordance with the Management Policy and Constitution of the RCCMC the Centre is not to be used for "political meetings or activities".

Council has received a request to use the Centre as a polling station for elections.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the policy and constitution be amended to allow the centre to be used as a polling station during election periods.

The Director further advised that the constitution has not been reviewed since 1997 but work is now underway to amend and update the constitution as appropriate.

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

to recommend that Council amend the Rasharkin Community Centre policy and constitution to allow the centre to be used as a polling station during election periods and that the fully revised constitution be tabled at next months committee meeting.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 9.25pm.