

Ballymoney Borough Council
Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 422 – 21st October 2014

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 422, held in the Council Chamber, Riada House Ballymoney on Tuesday 21st October 2014 at 7.00pm.

IN THE CHAIR Alderman F Campbell

PRESENT

Aldermen
C Cousley, MBE
B Kennedy

Councillors
W Blair
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
A McLean
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

Alderman
H Connolly

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Borough Services
Director of Central & Leisure Services
Business Support Officer

422.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

422.3 MINUTES – MEETING NO 420 – 9TH SEPTEMBER 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor Finlay and
AGREED:

that the minutes of Meeting No 420 on 9th September 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

422.3 MINUTES – MEETING NO 421 – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2014

It was proposed by Councillor Halliday, seconded by Councillor Finlay and
AGREED:

that the minutes of Meeting No 421 on 16th September 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

AMENITIES

422.4 RIVERSIDE PARK, BALLYMONEY IMPROVEMENT SCHEME

The Director of Borough Services provided an update for members on the suggestions made previously for improvements at Riverside Park, Ballymoney. A plan showing the location of various elements, together with illustrations of certain possible features was circulated and members were invited to consider the proposals, comment and prioritise the work not only taking into account the budget Council had established but also the need to bear in mind that any scheme over £250,000 would have to be approved by Causeway Coast & Glens Council [CC&GC] before being actioned by Council. In the circumstances now prevailing he emphasized that it would be necessary to phase any scheme and that being the case he referred in particular to what he termed essential work, such as the replacement path in phase one [that on the railway side of the river] and to the refurbishment of the toilets play area, car park and other surfacing, etc. He advised that whilst the provision of outdoor gym equipment, seating, etc was straightforward, it was necessary to give more detailed consideration to features such as the proposed maze or model boat facility.

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

In the ensuing discussion Members noted what might be done initially and there was general consensus that the toilet block, upgrade of the playpark and path were a priority with other features, including the possible addition of a putting green, being delivered thereafter. In response to Councillor Stevenson the Director contrasted the present staff compliment to what had been available earlier when indeed the park was not as extensive as now. He also dealt with the councillor's query regarding tree maintenance. Councillor Stevenson stated that Council ought now to maximize it's spend at Riverside Park and do the complete scheme referring to the possibility of increasing the budget set. The Director advised that if any scheme in excess of £250,000 was to be actioned then it would not only be necessary to get the approval of the new Council but also to follow the four stage process CC&G had introduced in respect of capital projects coming to it for decision and when any decision might be forthcoming ought also to be taken into consideration.

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

to recommend that Council adopt a prioritized phased approach to the proposed improvements at Riverside Park, the initial scheme to include the refurbishment of the toilets, play park, path and other essential re-surfacing work with other improvements being delivered thereafter.

Councillor Stevenson wished it to be noted that he would prefer that the whole scheme would be done as one contract.

422.5 RIVERSIDE PARK, BALLYMONEY – DESIGNATE AS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Local Nature Reserves (LNR's) are areas set aside for biodiversity where people can go to enjoy local natural resources and wildlife. Article 22(1) of The Nature Conservation & Amenity Lands (NI) Order gives district councils powers to "provide nature reserves on any land in its district where it appears to the council expedient that the land should be managed for such purposes." A report prepared by the Council's Biodiversity Officer, setting out the case for Riverside Park being afforded LNR status was circulated to members. The variety of habitat including river, woodland and wet grassland is an important biodiversity resource given the park's proximity to Ballymoney town centre and easy access to the resident population.

Once approved by Council the next step would be to inform the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) who will consult with the Committee for Nature Conservation and the Countryside (CNCC) to endorse the Council's choice of site.

In order to encourage and enhance local biodiversity for public enjoyment, **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council designate its Riverside Park, Ballymoney, as a Local Nature Reserve.

Councillor Stevenson and Councillor McLean referred to a particular area of the park which was not being maintained satisfactorily. The Director thanked the members for drawing their concerns to his attention and undertook to have the situation remedied as soon as possible.

It was proposed by Councillor McAfee, seconded by Councillor Blair and **AGREED:**

to recommend that Council designate its Riverside Park, Ballymoney, as a Local Nature Reserve.

422.6 BALLYMONEY FESTIVE LIGHTING SCHEME

The Director of Borough Services reported to members regarding this matter and circulated photographs and costings of proposed additional lighting at:

Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre	Tree plus Santa and Sleigh	£6,300
Linenhall Street	6 post mounted features	£2,280
Victoria Street	Addition of seven icicle strings	£3,200
Castlecroft	6 double post mounted features	£6,080
Meetinghouse Street	(a) tree lights x 1200	£11,100
	(b) tree lights x 2400	£14,600

The total cost for the scheme would amount to £28,960 if option (a) is selected at Meetinghouse Street or £32,460 if option (b) is selected. The Director also advised that following year one, in subsequent years were the additional features to become part of the overall scheme and provided the lights to be placed on the trees at Meetinghouse Street remained in situ, the additional cost of installation would be circa. £3,140 + fees.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee again consider the matter, using the Council powers granted determine what is to be done.

Councillor Stevenson welcomed the proposals, stated that the scheme be added to as outlined in the Director's report incorporating option (b) in respect of the number of lights per tree at Meetinghouse Street and advised that the additional lights to the tree at High Street and work referred to in the report to the previous Committee meeting also be included. The Director advised that in order to ensure the continuity of the scheme that last years supplier again be used with Council setting aside its procurement policy for this reason.

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

that the Ballymoney Festive Lighting Scheme be extended as detailed above, selecting option (b) at Meetinghouse Street, providing additional lights to the tree at High Street and carrying out the other essential work at High Street, setting aside the Council's procurement policy in order to purchase from the same supplier to ensure scheme continuity.

Members again noted the Director's advice that with this year's switch on to take place on 20th November it was very unlikely that all of the proposed enhancements would be in situ this festive season.

422.7 JUBILEE WAY

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Members note that it is hoped to commence work early next month to way mark the above route in accordance with Council's previous decision.

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

that Members note that it is hoped to commence work early next month to way mark the above route.

422.8 CONNECT2 RAILWAY BRIDGE – MONITORING RESULTS

Members will recall that two iterations of monitoring surveys were carried out by Millward Brown with regard to the Connect2 Railway Bridge project. The first

survey was carried out in summer 2010, before bridge construction, and the second in spring/summer 2013 following bridge completion. Sustrans UK monitoring unit have now analysed the findings from both surveys and a short summary report was circulated for members' information. The development of the Connect2 Railway Bridge in November 2012 has produced the following key results-

- Annual cycling trips rose by 34% from 9,716 in 2010 to 13,058 in 2013.
- Annual walking trips rose by 120% from 83,510 in 2010 to 184,112 in 2013.
- A reduction in car use of 19,600km replacing some 7,053 additional car trips.
- 105,895 more trips were made annually on the route after the Connect2 project.
- 92.9% of people used the route because it feels safe.
- 54.9% of people using the route said they intend to walk more in the next 12 months.
- 12.4% of people using the route said they intend to cycle more in the next 12 months.
- 35.7% of people use the route because it saves them money.
- The economic benefits of the scheme arising from adult users (over 30 years) are estimated at £7,616,454.

The vision for the next phase of active travel within Ballymoney is to create more strategic walking and cycling routes linking in with the Riverside Park and the railway bridge network and these positive survey findings will be important in securing the case for further financial assistance.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council note the success of the Ballymoney Connect2 project in realisation of this imaginative scheme's objectives.

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

that Council note the success of the Ballymoney Connect2 project in realisation of this imaginative scheme's objectives.

422.9 RADAR SCHEME

A report on the RADAR scheme was made to the June Committee meeting (Minute LAC418.16 refers).

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

The Director summarized the advantages of the introduction of a Radar scheme in respect of the Council's network of disabled public toilets and responded to Member questions. He suggested that keys be made available to applicants, who could demonstrate a need by doctor's letter or 'blue' card at a cost of £5.

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

to recommend that the Radar System be introduced in respect of the Council's network of disabled public toilets and that a key be made available to an applicant meeting the need criteria at a cost of £5.00.

422.10 PROPOSED BUS SHELTER AT KNOCKAHOLLET/DRONES ROAD JUNCTION

Members are asked to note that it is now not feasible to provide a new bus shelter on the site at the Knockahollet/Drones Road junction for which planning approval was obtained by Council. It is understood that discussions are on-going between Translink and other relevant agencies as to the location of a flagged bus stop (given the number of school children).

IT IS RECOMMENDED that members note this update.

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

to recommend that members note this update.

422.11 BUS SHELTER AT KILRAUGHTS ROAD, BALLYMONEY-BALLYMONEY

Members discussed the provision of a bus shelter at Kilraughts Road. The Director circulated a photograph of the area identified by Councillor Stevenson as a potential location for this. The Director explained that since the councillor had raised the matter again as an agenda item those agencies which had a say in such matters – Translink, PSNI, Transport NI had been consulted and all were adamant that the location identified was neither suitable nor acceptable for the provision of a bus shelter.

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

to recommend that the matter be deferred to the November meeting of Committee.

422.12 COMMUNITY INDOOR BOWLING CLUB – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT.

The Director advised that correspondence had been received from the club requesting financial assistance to enable it to host the Men's Irish bowls Championship.

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

to recommend that Council provide financial support to the Community Indoor Bowling Club in the amount of £1,500.

422.13 BALLYMONEY CEMETERY

Councillor Finlay raised the issue of the bollards erected to control vehicular movement within the cemetery which had been one of the matters considered when Members had undertaken their site visit sometime back. The Director responded to Member questions. The meeting was advised that there was to be a further report to Council on cemetery matters considered at the site visit mentioned. Councillor Finlay stated that he wished his disapproval with the installation of bollards recorded.

- * **The Director of Borough Services left the meeting at 8.40pm**
- * **The Director of Central & Leisure Services joined the meeting at 8.40pm**

LEISURE SERVICES

422.14 GOOD RELATIONS SUB COMMITTEE

The minutes of the Good Relations Sub Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14th October were circulated.

Council at its meeting on 6th October delegated authority to this committee to deal with Item 5 in the minutes.

It is recommended that Committee approve the criteria for the grant scheme and approve grants of £350 each to –

- (i) Lisnegaver Flute Band and
- (ii) St Bridgits GAA Club

It is further recommended that the minutes of the Good Relations Sub Committee meeting and the recommendations contained therein are approved.

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

- 1. that Committee approve the criteria for the grant scheme and approve grants of £350 each to –***

- (i) Lisnegaver Flute Band and***
- (ii) St Bridgits GAA Club***

- 2. that the minutes of the Good Relations Sub Committee meeting and the recommendations contained therein are approved.**

422.15 SPORTS HALL EXTENSION TO THE JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE

A Member had requested that this item is tabled to give members the opportunity to discuss the possible progression of the project.

The Director advised that this is one of a number of projects deferred in July 2014 by the Shadow Council.

She advised that work was ongoing regarding the Leisure Services and Facilities Strategy and that a Causeway Coast and Glens Shadow Council Workshop was being held on 30th October.

At the request of Councillor Finlay, the Director advised that to date, around £20k was spent on Consultants fees and that the estimated cost for the Stage 1 process was £40-£50,000.

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

to recommend that Council completes Stage 1 of the scheme for the sports hall extension at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre at a cost of up to £50,000, cost to be met by Ballymoney Borough Council from 2014/15 budget.

422.16 JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE – CONSERVATORY RESTAURANT.

Tender documents are currently being finalised for the procurement of a Catering Franchise for the Leisure Centre.

Arising from the recent consultations for the Leisure Services and Facilities Strategy there has been some discussion with the other Councils about a Catering Operation for the Causeway Coast & Glens. This matter will be further explored before Ballymoney Council proceeds to tender.

Members discussed the type of catering service to be provided and the interest shown in the operation by local businesses within the borough. Opening times, healthy food options and potential use of the restaurant were also discussed. The Director advised members that all these matters will be considered and that information from the Facilities Strategy will be available by 30th October.

422.17 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS INTEGRATED CULTURE, ARTS AND HERITAGE STRATEGY

Ballymoney is the Lead Council for the procurement of consultants to produce a Culture, Arts & Heritage Strategy for 2015-2020.

The tender will be publicly advertised on 17th October 2014, with the closing date for receipt of tenders being 7th November 2014.

It is recommended that approval is granted to the Chair of Committee and the Director of Central & Leisure Services to open the tenders. **It is further recommended** that Committee, at its meeting on 18th November 2014, be granted Council powers to deal with the tender report.

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

to recommend that approval is granted to the Chair of Committee and the Director of Central & Leisure Services to open the tenders and report to Committee on 18th November and that Committee on that date be granted Council powers to deal with the tender report.

422.18 DALRIADA SCHOOL SPORTS FACILITIES MASTERPLAN

With the consent of the Chair, the Director advised that correspondence has been received from the Principal of Dalriada School outlining their sports facilities masterplan which identifies the need for a hockey pitch facility. The Principal has requested an opportunity to discuss the project with the Council

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

to recommend that an invitation is extended to the Principal of Dalriada School to attend the November meeting of Committee.

The meeting closed at 9.20 pm.