BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL Leisure and Amenities Committee Meeting No: 324 – 21st November 2006

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL Leisure & Amenities Committee

Minutes of Leisure and Amenities Meeting No 324 held in Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, 33 Garryduff Road, Ballymoney on Tuesday, 21st November 2006 at 7:30pm

IN THE CHAIR: F Campbell

PRESENT Aldermen

J Simpson H Connolly C Cousley

Councillors
A Cavlan
M McCamphill
T McKeown
E Robinson
J Finlay
D McKay
A Patterson
I Stevenson

IN ATTENDANCE Director of Central and Leisure Services

R Wilson

[Items 1-17]

Director of Borough Services

[Items 18-29] Committee Clerk

Head of Leisure Services

Sam Brown

Gerry McKay \PD International

Bobby Harmon} [Item 324.3]

Denzil Dinsmore, Coogan and Shackleton

[Item 324.3]

Richard Hunter, R Robinson & Sons

[Item 324.18]

324.1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Mervyn Storey.

324.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO. 323 – 17TH OCTOBER 2006

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

that the minutes of the committee's meeting No. 323, on 17th October 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

LEISURE SERVICES

324.3 ENERGY USE AT JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE

The Chairman welcomed Sam Brown, Gerry McKay and Bobby Harmon, PD International, and Denzil Dinsmore, Coogan and Shakleton to the meeting.

Bobby Harmon made a presentation to the committee on the fuel additive that has been used for a trial period in the Leisure Centre.

They detailed how the additive worked and the savings that have been achieved by the organisations that use it.

Denzil Dinsmore from the council's consultants Coogan and Shakleton explained that during the trial period there were over 20% savings on fuel consumption compared to the same period last year.

The PD International representatives answered a number of members' questions. In response to a member's query Denzil Dinsmore advised that the additive could be used at other council premises where it would be easier to measure the savings on fuel consumption. Sam Brown suggested that consideration should be given to using it in council vehicles where savings would also be achieved.

Councillor McKay arrived at 8.10pm Sam Brown, Gerry McKay, Bobby Harmon and Denzil Dinsmore left the meeting at 8.25pm

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

to recommend to council to continue using PD International's fuel additive at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre for an additional year and also to commence its use at Ballymoney Town Hall and Riada House where it is easier to monitor.

324.4 JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE – DATES CLOSED OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

The Director advised that it would be economical to close the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre on 23-26 and 31 December 2006 and 1st January 2007.

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

to recommend to council that the Leisure Centre is closed on 23-26th December and 31st December 2006 and 1st January 2007.

324.5 BELFAST TELEGRAPH SPORTS AWARDS 2006

The Director informed the committee that the Annual Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards would be held on Monday 22nd January 2007 in the Ramada Hotel, Belfast, with tickets priced at £60 each.

Discussion ensued regarding the recent successful Ballymoney Sports Awards and the benefit of the Belfast Telegraph Awards to recognise sporting excellence.

Motion 1

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson to recommend that council apply for a table of ten, to include two members from the Sports Advisory Committee.

An alternative proposal was made:

Motion 2

It was proposed by Councillor Cavlan, seconded by Councillor McKay to recommend to council that the Leisure Chairperson along with an Officer only represent the Council.

The Chairman put Motion One to the committee with eight voting for this proposal and three against. This motion was therefore carried.

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

to recommend that council apply for a table of ten, to include two members from the Sports Advisory Committee.

324.6 TALENTED YOUNG ATHLETES AWARD SCHEME – REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

A request for financial assistance under the Talented Young Athletes Award Scheme had been received from Peter O'Hara, Wakeboarding.

The Director informed members that Peter had been selected to be in the British Squad for the European Championships in 2007. In 2005/06 Council contributed £1000 under the scheme.

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

to recommend to council that they provide financial support of £1,000 to Peter O'Hara

John Finlay and Councillor McKeown left the meeting at 8.40pm.

324.7 TALENTED YOUNG ATHLETES AWARD SCHEME - REVIEW

The Director explained that committee should consider whether the above scheme be administered by the Sports Advisory Committee.

The Scheme has a budget of £4000 this year and to date one award of £2000 had been made.

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

to recommend to council that the Talented Young Athletes Award Scheme be administered by the Sports Advisory Committee from 1st April 2007.

324.8 BALLYMONEY MUSEUM

The Director reminded members that the Stage II application is to be submitted to Heritage Lottery by March 2007, for the Museum design and fit out.

The Director recommended that prior to this, that the Museum Project Team meet in early February to consider the draft design documents before they are put on display for public comment. Any amendments would be made to the design and the final draft will be presented to the Leisure & Amenities Committee by Hayley Sharpe, the design consultants.

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

to recommend to council that a Special Meeting be held on Thursday 22nd February 2007 at 11.00am in order to receive a presentation by Hayley Sharpe.

It was suggested that additional committee members be nominated onto the Museum Project Team.

The following members were elected to the Museum Project Team Committee:

Nominations	Proposed by	Seconded by
Councillor Robinson	Councillor Patterson	Alderman Campbell
Councillor Cavlan	Councillor McKay	Alderman Campbell
Councillor McCamphill	Councillor Cousley	Alderman Campbell
Councillor Finlay	Councillor Robinson	Alderman Campbell

324.9 NORTHERN IRELAND MUSEUMS COUNCIL - ELECTION OF CHAIR

The Director informed members that The Northern Ireland Museums Council are in the process of electing a new Chair and as a member the Council is eligible to vote. There are two nominations, Shan McAnena who is currently Curator of Art and Director of the Naughton Gallery, Queens University Belfast and Lexie Scott, former Councillor with Ballymena Borough Council.

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

to recommend that the council nominate Lexie Scott as Chair of the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

324.10 CRAMSIE AND TAYLOR PORTRAITS

The Director stated that the Cramsie and Taylor portraits had been valued at £1000 - £2000 and £800 - £1200 respectively, that council last year agreed not to undertake any conservation work which was estimated between £33,000 and £49,500 and that the portraits were currently in rented storage.

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

to recommend to council that the paintings are offered to the families

324.11 COMMUNITY RELATIONS GRANTS

The committee considered the following applications:

- (i) Druckendult & District Community Association for assistance towards a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. Amount requested £200.
- (ii) Stranocum & District Community Association for assistance towards a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. Amount requested £100.
- (iii) Carnany Community Association for assistance towards a Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. Amount requested £680.
- (iv) Rasharkin Womens Group for assistance towards Art & Craft courses for community members including migrant workers. Amount requested £300.

The Director advised that all applications for support towards Christmas Dinners/Events should be treated equally and the same level of support provided.

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

to recommend that council grant £200.00 to the Rasharkin Womens Group for assistance towards Arts and Craft Courses for community members including migrant workers.

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

to recommend that council grant £100.00 each to (i) Druckendult & District Community Association, (ii) Stranocum & District Community Association and (iii), Carnany Community Association under the Community Support Grant Scheme.

324.12 COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS

The committee considered the following applications-

- (i) Castle Community Association for assistance towards a Christmas Social.
- (ii) Bushvale Senior Citizens Group for assistance towards a Christmas Dinner.
- (iii) Dunloy Development Association for assistance towards a Christmas Event.
- (iv) Cloughmills Golden Oldies for assistance towards a Christmas Social.
- (v) Dazzled Drama and Theatre Group for assistance towards equipment.
- (vi) Ballybogey Community Association for assistance towards a Christmas Event for Senior Citizens.
- (vii) Autumn Leaf Club for assistance towards a Christmas Dinner for its members.
- (viii) Bendooragh & District Association for assistance towards a Christmas Party for children.
- (ix) Hebron Mothers & Toddlers Group for assistance towards the cost of health and safety and play equipment.

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

to recommend that council grant £100.00 to each to the above community organisations.

324.13 THE RELATIVES ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND

The Director informed the committee about the Relatives Association, a registered charity based in Ballymena, committed to supporting relatives and working to promote the rights and dignity of people in Health Care Establishments throughout Northern Ireland. She advised that The Association had produced a booklet "Where 2 Turn" to assist relatives cope with the emotional, practical, financial and bereavement aspects of having a family member admitted to a Care Home and that the Association had requested that the Council purchase a number of the booklets at £2 each and display them at its various facilities used by the public. This would help the Association with the distribution of the booklet and also help raise their profile as a support organisation.

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

to recommend to council that the matter be deferred until the next committee meeting in December.

324.14 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS HERITAGE TRUST - CORE FUNDING OR 2007/08

The Director informed committee that the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust had written to the Council requesting an additional contribution of £5000 for 2007/08 toward core costs of the Trust. In addition the Trust also requested that the Council consider setting aside an additional £10,000 as match funding for potential projects.

She also advised that the Council this year made a contribution of £5,745 to the Heritage Trust.

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

to recommend that the matter be considered at the setting of the 2007/08 Rates Estimates.

John Michael and Richard Hunter arrived 9.25pm.

324.15 LETTERS OF THANKS

Letters of thanks for financial assistance were received from:

- Ballymoney Ornithological Association
- Ballymoney Health Centre Committee

324.16 JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE SOFT PLAY AREA CHARGES

The Director informed members that the soft play area would be open in the New Year and that the following proposed charges were recommended:

Child Age Group	Time	Price
Child Under 4 years	1 hour	£3.00 per child
Child Over 4 years	1 hour	£3.50 per child
Play + food (minimum 10 children)	1 hour play +	£6.50 per child
	½ hour food	-

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

to recommend to council that the proposed charges take effect from 2nd January 2007.

Councillor McKay left the meeting at 9.32pm.

324.17 GP REFERRAL SCHEME

The Director advised members of the proposed GP Referral scheme in line with the Northern Partnership of Physical Activity to operate from January 2007. Referrals will only be taken on strict medical guidelines and will be charged £19.00 per month with no joining fee. Each referral will last six months and each patient will only be allowed one referral. No patient will be allowed to participate in the referral scheme who has been a member of the fitness suite in the previous twelve months. She advised that where possible referrals will be programmed during the off-peak hours and particularly at quiet times of the fitness suite.

Following discussion the conditions of the scheme were agreed.

Councillor McCamphill left the meeting at 9.34pm.

Councillor McKay rejoined the meeting at 9.34pm.

Councillor McCamphill rejoined the meeting at 9.36pm.

Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 9.37pm.

Director of Central and Leisure Services, Head of Leisure Services and Councillor Patterson left the meeting at 9.37pm.

AMENITIES

324.18 CHANGING FACILITIES AT DUNAGHY AND BALNAMORE

Meetings have taken place with the Council's consultants to consider options in light of the tenders received being in excess of the Council's budget. It is considered that both facilities can be provided for approximately £350,000 without compromising the integrity of the proposed accommodation.

It is proposed that the 21-week contract would commence in either January or February 2007 with the contactor working at both locations simultaneously.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council proceed on the basis outlined above accepting the lowest tenders received in respect of main contract, electrical and mechanical services and negotiating the savings to be achieved.

R Hunter, R Robinson & Sons was in attendance regarding this business.

The Director in presenting his report indicated that savings now achieved had brought the contract figure down to £339,629.11, with the following exclusions (1) Council would supply and fix pitch fencing and (2) adjustment of NIE connection charges. The latter element would either give rise to a further saving of approximately £4,000 or increase the cost by approximately £7,000. He also intimated that Council when setting its budget for the present year had allowed the sum of £214,000 for one replacement facility (Dunaghy), but had later authorised the provision of two (Dunaghy and Balnamore).

Richard Hunter responded to Members questions as to where the savings had been made.

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

to recommend to Council to proceed on the basis outlined above accepting the lowest tenders received in respect of main contract (Martin & Hamilton Limited), electrical (Gordon Wilson Electrical) and mechanical services (Gorman Mechanical Services Limited) and negotiating the savings to be achieved.

Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Wilson rejoined the meeting at 9.56pm.

324.19 LOWER BANN CYCLEWAY NCN ROUTE 96 TOWN LOOP (Appendix 1)

On 4th September 4th 2006 Council committed in the principle to provide £6,331 match funding to the provision of the National Cycle Network Route 96 (The Lower Bann Cycleway from Toome to Coleraine) in 2007-2008 or thereafter. These monies to provide primarily for interpretation panels, route counters and map production for the section between McLaughlin's Corner, Vow Road, Bann Road and Glenstall Road, providing a cycle link to Drumaheglis.

However, it was always the intention at the junction of the Glenstall and Balnamore Roads to take the NCN route to the right and into Ballymoney bringing the potential benefits of the NCN to Ballymoney town, utilise public transport links, provide a recognised tourist trail, etc. With the completion of recent phases of shared use path within Riverside Park and the railway tunnel connection and link to the A26 By-pass. Sustrans in association with Roads Service and DARD are keen to establish a NCN Town Centre Loop see map reproduced at Appendix 1 comprising a wheel effect with links through and around the town centre. In terms of infrastructure costs, Roads Service carried out a detailed design and costing, with the estimate coming in at £84,000. The primary cost relates to the extension of the By-pass link from Kirk Road to connect to Semicock Road and a possible contra flow lane along High Street. Sustrans have drawn down some 25% of these costs through DARD and Roads Service is committed in principle to 48%. Sustrans are also currently pursuing a further 16% through EHS and other sources. Sustrans have now approached Council seeking match funding of £10,000 to be allocated over two financial years (£5,000 per year) to assist in the completion of this worthwhile project. The extension of the link path along the By-pass was a concept adopted by Council in the Ballymoney Cycling Feasibility Study of May 1999 (Oscar Faber), together with the vision of a town centre network. This project would not only see to fruition the completion of this vision, it would also benefit from having the NCN label attached and the resulting publicity in terms of printed material. NCN status will undoubtedly bring tourists to the town centre and the completed shared use paths will provide a superb access network for both residents and visitors to the town, for the walkers, cyclists, disabled and many other recreational groups. Members are asked to look upon this as an ideal opportunity to invest in the future access and tourism provision within the town.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council support the NCN Ballymoney Town Loop and commit £5,000 per year over the next two financial years to the project.

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

to recommend to Council to support the NCN Ballymoney Town Loop and commit £5,000 per year over the next two financial years to the project.

324.20 AMENITIES CHARGES

Further to previous Committee report it is necessary to bring the following matters to Committee:

- (1) A typographical error was made in stating the fee for non-resident exhumations. The fee ought to be £232.
- (2) Use has been made of the first floor glazed gallery at the Town Hall (Temporary Exhibition 2) for various functions since it became available. It is understood that this area could be made available for hire during 2007. As the floor area is similar to the Cramsie Room it would be appropriate that the same charges and booking conditions apply.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the above amendments be made to the Amenities Charges adopted by Council on 6th November 2006.

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

to recommend to Council that the above amendments be made to the Amenities Charges adopted by Council on 6th November 2006.

324.21 SITE FOR STRANOCUM COMMUNITY BUILDING

Correspondence dated 9th November has been received from Stranocum & District Community Association. The Association had advised that it is presently surveying the community and expects that a community building will be identified as a priority. It has also set up a sub committee to deal with the issue. The Association requested that Council advise as to whether it is content to permit the Community Association to build on the Council owned land where the present `portacabin' is situated.

The Director advised that were Committee to conclude that the request received from the Community Association ought to be supported then Council ought to establish the value of the asset to be assigned utilizing the District Valuer.

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

to recommend to Council that it agree in principle to the proposal from Stranocum & District Community Association and that the District Valuer be engaged to establish the value of the asset that may be assigned.

324.22 STRANOCUM WAR MEMORIAL

NIE has advised that the cost of providing a new electricity supply at the above location is £747.23 plus vat.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council accept the quote received from NIE regarding the supply of electricity at Stranocum War Memorial.

The Director further advised that all the necessary information was to hand to permit to permit an application for financial assistance to be made to the War Memorials Trust and that this would be progressed.

324.23 TRADING APPLICATION

An application was received on 6th November from Stephen Laverty of Laverty's Mobile Catering seeking permission to trade at Glebe Rangers Football Club home matches at the Council's Riada Stadium.

It is understood that it has been Council policy not to authorise such trading on its land in direct competition with its Conservatory Restaurant and vending services within the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.

Were Council minded to permit trading on its land at Riada Playing Fields and Riada Stadium it ought to consider the following –

- 1. What concession(s) are to be made available:
- 2. How such concession(s) are to be let;
- 3. What conditions are to be applied to any concession(s) granted; and
- 4. What fee structure is to be set.

As it will take some time to conclude such a process, were Members content to allow trading, then consideration would also to be given to entering into an interim arrangement with the present applicant.

In the ensuing discussion the Director responded to Members questions, commenting on the demand for the proposed service, litter clearance, and proposed fee. He advised that were Committee minded to permit such trading then it ought to make the grant conditional on the stall holder collecting and removing from site all litter generated by the activity and that a fee of £20 be pre-paid before trading would be authorised on each occasion. After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Wilson and seconded by Councillor Stevenson to recommend to Council to maintain the Council's present policy and not permit any trading at the Riada Stadium [Motion 1]. Following further debate Councillor McCamphill proposed and Councillor Cavlan seconded that Council permit the applicant to trade for an interim period of two months on the basis of the terms outlined by the Director and that the matter then be reviewed [Motion 2].

Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 10.24pm Councillor Robinson rejoined the meeting at 10.27pm

The Chairman put Motion 2 to the vote with six Members voting for the proposal and five against. He declared the motion carried.

324.24 RECONSTITUTION OF AMENITIES WORKING GROUPS

IT IS RECOMMENDED that both the Riada Playing Fields Working Group and the Town Hall Working Group be reconstituted.

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

to recommend to Council that both the Riada Playing Fields Working Group and the Town Hall Working Group be reconstituted with the previous Members being re-appointed.

Riada Playing Fields Working Group

Alderman Campbell (Chair)
Alderman Connolly
Councillor Finlay
Councillor Robinson
Councillor Stevenson
Councillor Wilson

Town Hall Working Group

Alderman Campbell (Chair) Alderman Connolly Alderman Cousley Alderman Simpson Councillor Finlay Councillor Patterson

324.25 BALLYMONEY CEMETERY MEMORIALS

Application has been received, as undernoted, for the erection of memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery -

Section I2 No. 116 & 117

Mrs. Pat Gablraith, 25 Ballywindelland Road, Ballymoney All Polished Grey Granite Headstone and Base

Section 8 No. 42

Mrs. Patricia McCurley, 17 Laurelhill Road, Lisburn All Polished Black Granite Headstone

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council grant permission to the above applicants to erect memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

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

to recommend that Council grant permission to the above applicants to erect memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery, subject to usual requirements.

Councillor Mc Kay left the meeting at 10.58pm

324.26 CONNECT 2' BIG LOTTERY LIVING LANDMARKS PROJECT

Members were advised by the Director that the "Ballymoney Bridges" project was submitted to Sustrans on Council's behalf on 23rd October 2006, thus meeting the end of October deadline set. Discussions are presently on-going concerning the delivery of the project.

The Director further outlined the work which had been undertaken to date and advised that were the very stringent deadlines for project detail to be met [March and May 2007] it would be necessary to access the consultancy funding proposed for inclusion in next year's budget. He indicated that he would be in a better position to report as to what was required at the next meeting of Committee.

324.27 SYNTHETIC PITCH REJUVENATION

The necessary rejuvenation work to the Council's synthetic pitch has been satisfactorily completed. The contractor (Crawford Contracts) had moved on to the site on Monday 16th October, commenced work the next day and finished on Tuesday 24th October; with the facility brought back into use on Thursday 26th October.

The Director further advised that users were very satisfied with the rejuvenated facility.

324.28 ANTRIM COAST & GLENS AONB MANAGEMENT PLAN

Correspondence has been received from the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust advising that it has been offered 100% funding by Environment & Heritage Service towards the preparation of an Antrim Coast & Glens AONB Management Plan. The Antrim Coast & Glens AONB is one of only nine AONB's in Northern Ireland and forty nine within the UK which have been recognised through this designation as landscapes of national importance. Although non-statutory the plan will provide a framework for managing special landscape.

324.29 BALLYMONEY RIVERSIDE PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Following the Council's meeting on 5th June 2006, R Robinson & Sons were asked to investigate and prepare an improvement plan for Ballymoney Riverside Park. A schedule of proposals, together with drawings were received on 23rd October. The schedule is reproduced as Appendix 2 to this report.

As Members are aware from the meeting held on 19th November certain of the works are regarded as having a higher priority due to health and safety considerations. It was also the case that enhanced planting and bio-diversity promotion aspects are presently being further considered by Council officers with a view to working up a proposal for submission to Entrust via Arena Network in order to draw down landfill tax credit.

The Director indicated that given the lateness of the hour this business could be held over and considered at the Committee's next meeting. He asked that Members in the interim would consider the proposals and to facilitate this he undertook to obtain a further set of drawings from the consultants and have these displayed in the Members Room.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 11.20pm.

APPENDIX 1

Lower Bann Cycleway NCN Route 96 Town Loop

APPENDIX 2

Ballymoney Riverside Park Improvements