

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Leisure & Amenities Committee**

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 421, held in the Council Chamber, Riada House Ballymoney on Tuesday 16th September 2014 at 7.00pm.

IN THE CHAIR Alderman F Campbell

PRESENT **Aldermen**
H Connolly
B Kennedy

Councillors
W Blair
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
P McGuigan
C McLaughlin
A McLean
T McKeown
E Robinson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: Councillor Atkinson

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Central & Leisure Services
Head of Amenities
Business Support Officer

421.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McLaughlin declared an interest in item 7 as a member of St Bridget's GAA.

421.2 MINUTES - MEETING NO 418 – 17TH JUNE 2014

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 418 on 17th June 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

421.3 MINUTES – MEETING NO 419 – 17TH JULY 2014

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 419 on 17th July 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

LEISURE SERVICES**421.4 NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following notice of motion by Councillor McGuigan, presented at the Council Meeting No. 1001, on the 4th August 2014, and seconded by Councillor McLaughlin, was referred by the Mayor, without discussion, to the Leisure & Amenities Committee as Good Relations falls under Leisure Services.

“That Ballymoney Council works effectively to end sectarian, illegal and anti-social activity within the Borough. That Councillors recognise their responsibility and support the efforts, through their words and actions, of council officers and other statutory organisations working to end the illegal burning of tyres on bonfires, the promotion of hate crime, the placing and/or removal of cultural flags and symbols in an act meant to intimidate or cause offense.

That this Council recognises the damage that these activities do to community relations and also the financial cost to ratepayers.”

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson

that the motion be referred to the Good Relations Sub Committee

Councillor McGuigan referred to his Motion which had been submitted in accordance with Standing Orders and disagreed that a proposal could be made before he had had an opportunity to speak in support of it. He indicated that he would be happy for the meeting to be adjourned to enable the Chair to clarify the Standing Order which permitted him to do so.

Councillor Finlay requested it be recorded that he was against the decision to allow Councillor McGuigan to speak on the motion and would be seeking legal advice if his proposal to defer the issue to the Good Relations Committee was ruled against. The Director of Central & Leisure Services indicated that the motion had been referred to the Leisure & Amenities Committee and under Standing Orders it is to be discussed at this Committee. Councillor Stevenson concurred with Councillor Finlay's view that the Good Relations Committee which falls within the remit of Leisure & Amenities would be the appropriate place to deal with the matter.

Alderman Campbell permitted Councillor McGuigan to speak on his motion.

Speaking in support of his motion, which had been made as a result of an incident in July and in response to a query from a journalist who had asked 'Would Councillor McGuigan condemn the action of a flag being displaced?', Councillor McGuigan stated that in Finvoy a flag had gone missing but there were 30 other flags still in place. There were no concerns raised about flags in Dunloy or Loughguile which were stolen or burned. I will try and be genuine, fair minded and balanced as I believe that any acts of sectarianism should be condemned regardless of where it comes from.

As a Council we have a Bonfire Committee and Health & Environmental Services Committee who do good work with other statutory agencies in trying to reduce the effects of bonfires, some of which are Sectarian in nature in terms of flags, symbols, emblems and posters which are displayed for weeks before the 12th July. I believe that the Council should have some kind of moral authority on this issue. Some Councillors said these are just harmless fun but I believe they are not. Officers and agencies are trying to bring about a resolution and this Council should send a message against sectarianism, from wherever this is received. The other issue is about burning tyres which should be stopped as it damages community relations and has financial implications for Council in clearing up. They are dangerous and need to be recognised as such. Antisocial groups that are engaging in this are going to continue if they see in the papers that it is acceptable and no one should be saying it is acceptable.

Councillor Finlay reiterated his view that his motion should have been taken and that in not doing so, a fundamental mistake had been made under Standing Orders and he will be seeking legal advice. Councillor McGuigan disputed that and requested Councillor Finlay to advise which Standing Order he was referring to. He stated that he felt he was giving a balanced statement and urged Council to support his motion.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Halliday

that the motion be referred to the Good Relations Sub Committee.

Councillor McGuigan requested a recorded vote:

FOR (8)

Councillor Blair
Alderman Kennedy
Councillor McLean
Councillor Finlay
Councillor Stevenson
Councillor Halliday
Councillor Robinson
Alderman Campbell

AGAINST (4)

Councillor McGuigan
Councillor McLaughlin
Alderman Connolly
Councillor Cavlan

The Chair declared the motion carried.

421.5 GOOD RELATIONS SUB COMMITTEE

Committee is requested to consider re-establishing the Good Relations Sub Committee and make a recommendation to Council.

Last year the sub-committee was established with 11 members 4 DUP, 1 UUP, 2 SF, 1 SDLP, 1 TUV and Mayor & Deputy Mayor

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

to recommend that the Good Relations Sub-Committee be established with 11 members 4 DUP, 1 UUP, 2 SF, 1 SDLP, 1 TUV and Mayor & Deputy Mayor.

Party leaders will advise names of those nominated by each party to the Director of Central & Leisure Services.

At the request of Councillor McGuigan that meetings take place in the evening, the Director advised that meetings had previously been held prior to the Leisure & Amenities Committee meetings to enable any decisions to be reported at that Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and **AGREED.**

to recommend that the meetings of the Good Relations Sub Committee be held in the evening.

421.6 GOOD RELATIONS PROGRAMME 2014/15

In 2014/15 the Council agreed a Good Relations budget of £119,765. This was submitted to OFMDFM requesting 75% funding. The OFMDFM has written to Council, indicating that due to the current funding environment there is a gap between the current allocation and the level of funding requested. The grant offered is £67,000, of which £29,301.25 is for the 14/15 programme. This is a 44% reduction on the level of grant requested. The Good Relations Officer has been delivering on the action plan from the beginning of the financial year and to date circa £76K has been committed. This is circa £6.6K in excess of the funding offered. OFMDFM has indicated that should additional funding become available Councils will be contacted.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider funding the full years action plan, the additional cost of which would be around £23,820, and make a recommendation to Council.

It is further recommended that Council note that the offer of grant of £67,000 will be accepted.

The Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that an alternative would be to take no further action on programmes within Council's Action Plan for the remainder of the year. Councillor Robinson expressed the view that halting the programme at this stage would not be beneficial providing that funds are available to proceed with the plan.

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

to recommend that Council note that the offer of grant of £67,000 will be accepted and that a report on what remains to be delivered of the programme and associated cost be produced for the Good Relations Sub Committee.

- * **Councillor McKeown left the meeting at 7.35 pm.**
- * **Councillor McLaughlin withdrew from the meeting at 7.35 pm having declared an interest in item 7.**

421.7 GOOD RELATIONS GRANT SCHEME

Applications have been received from the following –

- (i) Lisnagaver Flute Band for assistance towards a Vintage Rally & Family Fun Day.

The Chairman advises that a lot of good relations work has been undertaken and this event will strengthen community relations in the area.

- (ii) St Bridgits GAA for assistance towards a Cross Community Sports/Family Event.

This event is being supported by both communities and will strengthen relations in the community.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee considers the 2 requests for a grant of £350.00 each and makes a recommendation to Council.

Members discussed options for the provision of funding to such groups from now until the end of the financial year taking into consideration that all grant schemes are now closed and any new schemes will not attract grant aid.

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

to recommend that a decision on funding for the two groups is deferred to the Council Meeting and that the Director brings a report on the estimated cost of providing a grant to those groups which have not received a grant in 2014/15 but were successful in 2013/14.

* Councillor McLaughlin re-joined the meeting at 8.10pm

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

Ballymoney Borough Council in association with Coleraine Borough Council, Limavady Borough Council and Moyle District Council is leading on a procurement exercise for consultants for the Development of an Integrated Culture, Arts and Heritage Strategy 2015-2020 and Action Plan 2015-2018 for the Causeway Coast & Glens District Council. The estimated cost is circa £15,000, to be split between the 4 councils.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the work undertaken by council officers and agrees to meet the share of the costs.

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Director of Central & Leisure Services agreed to provide a variance report on any underspend up to 31st March 2014. She clarified, at the request of Councillor Finlay, the role of the Councils in paying for consultancy, reports from which will go to the Causeway Coast & Glens District Council.

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

to recommend that Council notes the work undertaken by council officers and agrees to meet its share of the costs.

* Alderman Kennedy and Councillor McAfee left the meeting during discussion of the above item at 8.12 pm.

421.9 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS LEISURE STRATEGY

Coleraine Borough Council has engaged consultants for the development of a Leisure Strategy for the Causeway Coast & Glens District Council. The estimated cost is circa £8.5K.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the work being undertaken and agrees to meet its share of the cost.

Councillor Finlay expressed the view that Ballymoney should have some input into the strategy. The Director indicated that officers would be providing information to the Consultants. Councillor Stevenson expressed the view Ballymoney Council should be allowed to deliver the projects already approved by this Council during

the life of the Council. Councillor McGuigan stated that members were provided with an opportunity to decide on Ballymoney and other projects but voted to defer.

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

to recommend that the Council notes the work being undertaken and agrees to meet its share of the cost.

* **Alderman Kennedy and Councillor McAfee re-joined the meeting at 8.25pm**

421.10 JOEY DUNLOP LEISURE CENTRE SPORTS HALL EXTENSION

Under the DOE expenditure controls direction the Sports Hall Extension project requires the approval of the Shadow Council before proceeding.

The Shadow Council had deferred a decision on a number of projects, including this one, to October 2014.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council note the current position.

Councillor Robinson advised members that she had recently attended an IRRV conference at which the impact on some ratepayers of Councils merging was advised. Councillor Finlay stated that without the Ministerial decision that projects over £250,000 required shadow council approval, many of the projects would have commenced including the sports hall extension.

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

to recommend that Council note the current position.

421.11 LETTER OF THANKS – LOUGHGIEL SHAMROCKS & DUNLOY CUCHALLAINS

Letters have been received from Loughgiel Shamrocks and Dunloy Cuchallains thanking Council for its financial support towards the All-Ireland Feile, which was much appreciated.

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

to recommend that Council note the letters of thanks.

- * **The Director of Central & Leisure Services left the meeting at 8.35 pm.**
- * **Head of Amenities joined the meeting at 8.35 pm.**
- * **Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 8.35 pm.**

AMENITIES**421.12 DERVOCK WAR MEMORIAL GARDEN SCHEME**

As members are aware Committee has been granted 'Council powers' to receive the evaluation report from its consultants regarding the tenders sought from the scheme select list contractors and determine whether a contract be let.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider and determine the matter.

The Head of Amenities advised that tenders from three contractors were received on Friday 12th September 2014 which were evaluated by the Council's Consultant.

Contractor	Tender Figures
JS Dunlop Limited	£57,826.00
JPM Contracts Limited	£67,700.00
Wilson & MaWhinney	£73,893.00

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

to recommend that the contract for work on the Dervock War Memorial Garden Scheme be awarded to JS Dunlop, Ballymoney at a cost of £57,826.

421.13 BALLYMONEY FESTIVE LIGHTING SCHEME

The undernoted information was presented to members at the Council's meeting on 4th August –

1) <u>New Features at 'Entrances' to Town</u> features at Newbridge, Portrush, Knock, Kirk, Kilraughts, Ballymena, Garryduff, Milltown Roads – not feasible at Balnamore Seacon Roads	£52,720
2) New Features at JDLC	£18,600
3) New Features at Meetinghouse Street	£21,340
4) New Features at Linenhall Street	£2,640
5) Additional lights – High Street Christmas Tree Essential power supply upgrade at High & Meetinghouse Streets	£2,380 £13,900
6) Additional Features at Victoria Street – not feasible with extant infrastructure.	

Total:	£101,580

Council referred this matter back to Committee. At the meeting on 4th August a member mentioned providing additional lighting at Castlecroft. If by Castlecroft the member was referring to the land and structure owned by Council the festive lighting scheme of 2013 was extended to incorporate this area. It would not be appropriate for Council to erect festive lights on private land.

Whilst the cost of installation for 2014 is included in the above estimates members should note that were all of the elements listed to be incorporated in an enhanced scheme for Ballymoney the budget for 2015 and successive years would increase from the present cost allowed (2014/15) of £30,000 to at least £54,880. Were item 1 only to be excluded from any revised scheme then the annual revenue budget required each year in respect of on-going installation costs would be £52,160.

Members should note that correspondence (dated 20th August) has been received from Ballymoney Chamber of Commerce advising that the Chamber has had representations from traders for “additional lighting features in Victoria Street, on trees at Meetinghouse Street and extension of the lighting features into Castlecroft Square...”

It should also be noted, that as has been intimated by the Director, given that the ‘switch on’ for this year is to take place on 20th November it is perhaps unrealistic to expect that any enhancement Council might now decide on could be realised in the time now available.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee reconsiders this business, returned to it by Council.

Councillor Stevenson recorded his view that it had been an arduous process in bringing this initiative forward for discussion.

Councillor McGuigan expressed the view that the report should be noted.

Members discussed the options and agreed that option 1 was not feasible but options 2-6 should be considered. Reiterating the Director’s comments with regard to the timescale involved in purchasing new features and carrying out work to undertake any new installation, the Head of Amenities advised that it is unlikely that the additional work can be carried out before 20th November.

Members expressed the view that enhancement of the lights at Meetinghouse Street, Victoria Street and Castlecroft should be explored further along with an upgrade to the lights at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre. Based on the above budget figures, Alderman Kennedy suggested a cap of £25,000 for purchase of additional lighting.

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

to recommend that options 2-6 be explored and that a report on an enhanced lighting scheme to include additional lighting at Victoria Street, Meetinghouse street, Castlecroft and the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, be brought to the next meeting of Committee.

A vote was taken with seven members voting in favour and two members voting against.

The Chair declared the motion carried.

Councillor McGuigan recorded his disagreement with the decision and reiterated his view that additional Christmas lighting is a waste of ratepayer's money and does not extend to any of the rural villages within the borough of Ballymoney.

* **Alderman Kennedy left the meeting at 9.20 pm.**

421.14 REMEMBRANCE SEAT & TREE

Correspondence has been received from Ballymoney District LOL No. 16 indicating that that organisation "would like to plant a tree and put a bench seat in Riverside Park (Ballymoney) to remember those brave man and ladies who gave their lives in the 1914 to 1918 World War I". It is envisaged by the requester that Council would be responsible for the installation work.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider this request and make recommendation to Council.

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

to recommend that Council agree with the request as detailed above.

421.15 LETTER OF THANKS – BALLYMONEY CHURCH OF GOD

Correspondence has been received from Ballymoney Church of God thanking Council for its kindness in letting the Church have use of its staging and chairs for the recent 4 night gospel crusade.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council note the letter of thanks received.

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

to recommend that Council write to the Senior Minister, Pastor Edward Taylor wishing him a speedy recovery following a recent stroke.

421.16 SPRINGWELL CUP: PRIMARY SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY 2014

A request has been received in the above regard. As was the case in 2013 **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council facilitate Springwell Running Club, permitting it to stage the Ballymoney leg of the competition at Riada Playing Fields on 15th October 2014 and making the Stadium facilities available for the event's duration.

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

to recommend that Council facilitate Springwell Running Club, permitting it to stage the Ballymoney leg of the competition at Riada Playing Fields on 15th October 2014 and making the Stadium facilities available for the event's duration

421.17 MUGAs

Following the recent upgrade/provision of multi-use games areas (MUGAs) at Megaw Park, Drumbolcan Park, Ballybogey and Glebeside, Council may wish to consider further upgrade work to the MUGAs at Stranocum, Dunloy and Macfin. Retaining the existing footprint at each location would new estimated costs as per the table below:

Location	Size	Estimated Cost
Stranocum	27mx16	circa £42,000
Dunloy	40mx20	circa £69,000
Macfin	50mx25	circa £98,000

Should floodlighting be required this would cost an additional estimated £20,000 per site.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider upgrading the existing MUGAs at the above sites and make recommendation to Council.

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

to recommend that the matter be reconsidered once an up to date financial report is available.

421.18 PRIORITISATION OF PLAY AREA UPGRADE

Following Council Meeting (CM996) Committee was asked to re-consider a strategy for the phased upgrade of play areas. As requested, updated information on estimated costs will be available at the meeting. For information the following survey results may be of help to members to formulate a strategy for the revision of its play area provision.

Play Area Survey (May 2013)

Location	Status	Houses	Children		
			< 3yrs	4-12yrs	Total
Ballyknock	Poor play value/eqt/surfacing	25	2	8	10
Balnagarvey	Poor play value/eqt/surfacing	24	2	7	9
Ben Vista	Poor play value/eqt/surfacing	20	0	0	0
Carnany	Play Eqt removed	139	4	24	28
Fernbank	Play Eqt removed	16	2	1	3
Finvoy	Poor play value/eqt/surfacing	28	4	5	9
Lislagan	Play Eqt removed	35	1	0	1
Jubilee*	Poor surfacing/eqt old				
Scally Pk**	Play Eqt removed	52	8 (up to 3)	5 (4-6yrs)	5 (7-10yrs)
Seacon	Play Eqt removed	36	4	6	10
Westgate	Poor surface/play value	42	5	5	10

*This facility is in a different category to the others cited. Survey not carried out as this site attracts visitors and users from outside the immediate catchment area.

** Existing site to be disposed of? Note lower age profile.

Members are asked to consider –

- Which play areas, if any, are surplus to requirements,
- What might be done with these sites, and
- Formulate a strategy for the refurbishment of the remaining play areas together with the landscaping of areas no longer required as play areas

It should be noted that any capital scheme costing in excess of £250,000 will require to be referred to the Causeway Coast & Glens Shadow Council for its approval in order to progress.

Members discussed play park provision throughout the borough and await a financial update regarding available funding for this work.

421.19 PROPOSED SCALLY PARK PLAY AREA

Following the suggestion made at the Council's meeting on 7th April regarding the provision of a new play facility at Scally Park, Loughgiel, work has been undertaken to progress the matter. It has now been confirmed that the NIHE owns the land towards the 'centre' of the estate which might be utilised. Contact has been made with NIHE officials, including the local District Manager, regarding the possibility of the identified land being made available. It is likely, as was the case with land at Glebeside, that an application (probably supported by a business

case) would need to be made to NIHE to obtain a decision whether Council opts for a lease or outright transfer. It is now necessary for Council to determine whether or not it wishes –

- 1) to provide a play area using the NIHE land identified at Scally Park;
- 2) to lease or acquire the said land; and also
- 3) Council needs to determine what type of play area it wishes to provide, sanctioning consultant support for the scheme design and obtaining planning permission etc.)

It would also be appropriate for Council to determine what Council now wishes to be done in respect of the land it owns at the entrance to Scally Park – whether to retain or offer it for sale.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider this business and make a recommendation to Council as to how it ought to proceed.

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

to recommend that Council

- 1) provide a toddler play area using the NIHE land identified at Scally Park.*
- 2) explore acquisition of the land from NIHE by outright transfer.*

The meeting closed at 10.20 pm.