

# ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a **Meeting** of the **Development and Leisure Committee** of Antrim Borough Council held in The Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre, 50 Stiles Way, Antrim on **Thursday 28 January 2010** at **10.00 am**.

In the Chair : Councillor S Nicholl

Committee Members Present : Aldermen -

S Dunlop  
R J Loughran

Councillors -

A D Cochrane-Watson  
H Cushinan  
B Graham  
A Lawther  
A Logue  
M Lucas  
D Ritchie

Non-Committee Member Present : Councillor J Smyth

In Attendance : Director of Development & Leisure  
Public Relations Assistant  
Mr Albert Titterington, Country Lifestyle Festival  
Mrs Rosemary Magill, Women's Aid  
Committee Secretary (*M Aiken*)

Apologies : Councillor O C J Keenan

## **CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS**

The Chairman opened the Meeting by congratulating everyone involved on the success of the recent International Cross Country event at Greenmount on Saturday 23 January.

Members were reminded of Antrim Tourism Conference due to take place at The Dunadry Hotel on Friday 29 and Saturday 30 January 2010.

Members were advised that the Ram's Island Interpretive Centre could be visited at the Lough Shore Park between 11 am and 3 pm on Saturday 30 and Sunday 31 January.

It was noted that to date 151 bookings had already been received via Council's new computerised caravan booking system which went live on 1 January 2010.

A presentation planned for later in the Meeting regarding Antrim Masterplan had to be postponed and would be rescheduled.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

**REPORT:** No. 2(a) had been circulated.

The Chairman welcomed Mr Albert Titterington whose company ran the Country Lifestyle Festival which had been held at Shane's Castle Estate for the past number of years, and more recently its 'sister' event in Birr, Co Offaly - branded as the Great Country Fairs of Ireland.

**ATTENDANCE BY  
MR ALBERT  
TITTERINGTON,  
COUNTRY  
LIFESTYLE  
FESTIVAL  
E/29**

In support of his request for financial assistance Mr Titterington gave an overview of the promotion of the Fairs, the associated costs and the competition from other events in the Province and circulated a media package for Members' information.

Questions from Members were addressed following which the Chairman thanked Mr Titterington for his presentation, advised that a reply would be issued possibly in March and he withdrew from the Meeting.

**RECOMMENDED:** that

- 1 it would be useful for Members to have a report on the comprehensive list of events funded by Council for the incoming financial year;

- 2 using £10,000 as a possible financial contribution to the Country Lifestyle Festival to be held in June 2010, Officers collate all relevant information, including company accounts, to enable Members to make a decision on how to proceed at the February Committee Meeting;
- 3 should Antrim Agricultural Show seek financial assistance in 2010, consideration be given to the suggestion that representatives be invited to give a presentation to Members in the first instance.

**ATTENDANCE BY  
MR ALBERT  
TITTERINGTON,  
COUNTRY  
LIFESTYLE  
FESTIVAL  
E/29  
(continued)**

At this point in the Meeting the Chairman clarified that it was not possible to restrict presentations to one per Committee Meeting owing to the number pending.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Rosemary Magill from Women's Aid who was in attendance to give a presentation in support of the organisation's application for financial assistance for a capital project at Fountain Street, Antrim.

**ATTENDANCE BY  
MRS ROSEMARY  
MAGILL,  
WOMEN'S AID**

Mrs Magill circulated estimated costs and proposed plans for refurbishment of the premises known as Grace House and spoke to these in some detail.

The Mayor, having apologised that he had to leave on Mayoral duties, withdrew from the Meeting at 10.57 am.

Questions raised by Members were addressed and possible means of assistance considered.

There being no further questions the Chairman expressed appreciation for the work of the organisation, thanked Mrs Magill for attending and she withdrew from the Meeting.

**RECOMMENDED:** on the proposal of Councillor Graham seconded by Councillor Lawther that a report be brought to the February Committee Meeting, based on a possible payment of £10,000 to Women's Aid for the Grace House project in Antrim.

## **INTERVAL**

There was an interval at 11.07 am with the Meeting reconvening at 11.24 am. All Members previously present resumed their seats. The Mayor, Councillor Cochrane-Watson, returned to the Meeting at this point.

### **DEVELOPMENT**

**AGREED:** that Report No. 3 in respect of Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory Committees and Partnerships be considered later in the Meeting In-Confidence.

**LOUGH NEAGH  
AND LOWER BANN  
ADVISORY  
COMMITTEES AND  
PARTNERSHIPS**

### **CULTURE AND COMMUNITY**

*Full Powers had been granted to the January Meeting of Committee, in accordance with the provisions of Section 18(i) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 - Page 124 of Minutes of Development and Leisure Committee Meeting of 26 November 2009 and Page 111 of Minutes of Council Meeting of 10 December 2009 refers.*

**REPORT:** No 4 had been circulated with Full Powers having been granted as indicated above.

**COMMUNITY  
CENTRE  
REFURBISHMENT  
PROGRAMME -  
MUCKAMORE,  
NEILLSBROOK,  
PARKHALL AND  
CRUMLIN  
CS1, 3, 4, 5**

As there had been a delay in the process it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that approval be sought from Council to extend Full Powers to the February Meeting of Committee to approve contractors for the refurbishment of Muckamore, Neillsbrook, Parkhall and Crumlin Community Centres.

**NOTED:** that relocating events scheduled to take place at the Community Centres in question would be given due consideration should this prove necessary.

At this point the Mayor extended thanks to the two members of staff, Eleanor Bailey and Mary Kielty, on their handling of a recent incident at Stiles Community Centre.

**REPORT:** No 5 had been circulated.

**SUMMER SCHEME  
GRANTS 2010  
R/7 (ii)**

**RECOMMENDED:** that Council

- a) approves the criteria for the 2010 Summer Scheme which would award grants totalling £12,000 for community based activities for children and young people;
- b) in accordance with the provisions of Section 18(i) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, delegates Full Powers to the March 2010 Development and Leisure Committee Meeting to award grants towards the organisation of Summer Schemes.

**REPORT:** No 6 had been circulated.

**GRANT AID:  
EVENTS AND  
FESTIVALS 2010  
T/11 2010**

**RECOMMENDED:** that Council

- a) approves the draft criteria and outline procedures for the 2010/2011 Events & Festivals grant scheme;
- b) approves budgetary arrangements as outlined in the report, subject to the estimates process;
- c) agrees to match fund the sum offered under community festivals fund by DCAL from the above budget, subject to the estimates process;
- d) in accordance with the provisions of Section 18(i) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, delegates Full Powers to the March 2010 Development & Leisure Committee Meeting to award grants towards the organisation of Summer Events and Festivals and other events falling under the remit of the Community Festivals Fund;
- e) in accordance with the provisions of Section 18(i) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, delegates Full Powers to the October 2010 Development & Leisure Committee Meeting to award block grants towards the organisation of Christmas Switch-On Events by suitable groups in Toome, Randalstown, Crumlin, Parkgate and Templepatrick, and other events falling under the remit of the Community Festivals Fund.

**REPORT:** No 7 had been circulated.

Alderman Dunlop declared an interest having taken part in one of the Senior Citizens Christmas Events, the necessary entry being made in the Members' and Officers' Disclosures Register.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Council

- (a) grants retrospective approval for five additional applications for grants totalling £2,150 awarded to organising groups in 2009, as detailed in the report;
- (b) continues the programme in 2010, to be advertised in September 2010 and delivered in the current format;
- (c) in accordance with the provisions of Section 18(i) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972, delegates Full Powers to October 2010 Development & Leisure Committee Meeting to award grants to suitable groups towards the organisation of Senior Citizens Christmas Events.

**NOTED:** thanks to all involved in making the Senior Citizens Events such a success.

**REPORT:** No 8 had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Officers respond to the Consultation on a Draft Community Development Strategy for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust as outlined in the report by the closing date of 19 February 2010, subject to any additions/deletions agreed at February Council.

**REPORT:** No 9 had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Council approves option two of the report, namely, to offer a franchise for catering and drinks for the refurbished former Courthouse under the normal franchise conditions (ie for a period of two years including an option for up to two annual extensions thereafter at Council's discretion).

During discussion of this item Members had also considered other related issues including car parking for arrival of dignitaries and participants for the official opening, the opening programme and management of the different functions within the building - all of which would be addressed in due course.

**SENIOR CITIZENS  
CHRISTMAS  
EVENTS 2010  
CS/40**

**CONSULTATION  
ON DRAFT  
COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT  
STRATEGY FOR  
THE NH&SCT  
G/134**

**FORMER  
COURTHOUSE  
UPDATE AND  
CATERING  
ARRANGEMENTS  
ED/28(e), S/2(x),  
A/42, S/2(a)(w)**

## RECREATION

**REPORT:** No 10 had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** that, upon the release of the approved Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport, an invitation be extended to Sport Northern Ireland to present an overview to Committee.

**NI STRATEGY FOR  
SPORT AND  
PHYSICAL  
RECREATION  
2007-2019  
R/19**

**REPORT:** No 11 had been circulated.

Proposals for a Music Concert at Antrim Stadium were discussed at length with various views/proposals being aired.

Some of the issues of concern included possible damage to the track, potential impact on residents, noise levels and public liability requirements.

Councillor Lucas asked that his objection to the concert being held at Antrim Stadium be recorded.

**RECOMMENDED:** on the proposal of Alderman Dunlop seconded by Councillor Graham that the promoter give further consideration to the possibility of holding the Music Concert at an alternative venue within the Antrim Borough.

**PROPOSED MUSIC  
CONCERT AT  
ANTRIM STADIUM  
E/44**

**REPORT:** No 12 had been circulated.

**NOTED:** that since issue of the report an additional name of 'John Smyth Park' had been submitted for consideration in relation to the Stiles Way Play Area.

Alderman Dunlop withdrew from the Meeting for part of the discussion as consideration was to be given to naming one of the play areas in his honour.

**AGREED:** at Councillor Ritchie's request that the name Ritchie Park be withdrawn from the names suggested for Stiles Way Play Area. Also, at Councillor Smyth's request, the name John Smyth Park was withdrawn from the names suggested for Stiles Way Play Area.

**NAMING OF  
COUNCIL  
FACILITIES  
S/2 (g)(xi),  
S/2(g)(xii)**

It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the naming of Council Facilities be as follows:

***Synthetic Pitch at Antrim Forum***

On the proposal of Alderman Dunlop seconded by Councillor Ritchie that the Synthetic Pitch at Antrim Forum be named after the late Councillor and former Mayor, Paddy Marks, in recognition of his particular interest and prowess in the sport of hockey

***Muckamore Play Area***

On the proposal of Councillor Graham seconded by Councillor Lucas and on a vote of 6 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention that Muckamore Play Area be named **Dunlop Park** in honour of Alderman Dunlop

***Stiles Way Play Area***

On the proposal of Councillor Graham seconded by Councillor Lawther that the play area at Stiles Way be named **Stiles Way Play Area**

It was also

**RECOMMENDED:** that consideration be given to the suggestion of naming suitable Council facilities in recognition of long serving Members/former Members (*perhaps those with 25 years service or more*) bearing in mind constraints such as RPA and the number of schemes programmed for the foreseeable future.

**REPORT:** No 13 had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** that, in view of information contained in the report circulated, Council approves the immediate withdrawal from Sport North East and withholds the annual payment contributions for last year and the current year.

**REPORT:** No 14 had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** acceptance of the pricing policy as circulated.

**NAMING OF  
COUNCIL  
FACILITIES  
S/2 (g)(xi),  
S/2(g)(xii)  
(continued)**

**SPORT NORTH  
EAST  
RD/SD/7**

**PRICING POLICY  
OVERVIEW  
M/14**

## **REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE:**

**REPORT:** No 15 (i) had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Antrim Grammar School be given free use of a hall at Antrim Forum for a Mathematics Fun Day from 9am until 3 pm for over 200 pupils and staff from Primary Schools and up to 30 pupils and staff from Antrim Grammar and that £500 be granted towards provision of healthy refreshments on the day.

**ANTRIM  
GRAMMAR  
SCHOOL  
G/8**

**REPORT:** No 15 (ii) had been circulated.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Mary Peters Trust be awarded £600 to help maintain the 'Mary Peters' Awards Programme to help young sporting individuals realise their potential and achieve excellence within their sport in the Antrim area, throughout Northern Ireland and further afield.

**MARY PETERS  
TRUST**

**REPORT:** No 16 had been circulated.

The report gave details of a new initiative within the Borough whereby funding had been secured by the PSNI to provide a counselling programme in both group and individual settings to raise awareness of the impact of alcohol abuse on the young people of today.

**RECOMMENDED:** that Council supports the Positive Lifestyles Programme by providing meeting accommodation for participants, equating to approximately 30 hours over a year long programme.

**OPPORTUNITY TO  
WORK IN  
PARTNERSHIP ON  
YOUTH PROJECT  
CS/79**

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

**AGREED:** that the Assistant Director- Recreation prepare and submit a response, before the closing date of 12 February, to an inquiry from the Northern Ireland Assembly into Participation in Sport and Physical Activity - retrospective approval to be sought at the February Meeting of Committee.

**LETTER FROM NI  
ASSEMBLY**

**RESOLVED:** on the proposal of Alderman Loughran seconded by Councillor Ritchie that the remainder of Committee business be taken 'In Confidence'.

**IN CONFIDENCE**

- Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Advisory Committees and Partnerships
- Old Congregational Church, Antrim

There being no further business the Meeting concluded at 12.45 pm.

**Mayor**

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**Chief Executive**

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**Date**

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