

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, and remotely, on Tuesday 6th February 2024 at 6.00pm**

- PRESENT:** Councillor R T Beckett (Chairperson)
- The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan  
Deputy Mayor Councillor G McCleave
- Aldermen A Grehan and H Legge; and  
Councillors D Bassett, D J Craig, N Eaton,  
B Higginson, S Lowry, A McIntyre, T Mitchell  
and G Thompson.
- PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:** Alderman S P Porter; Councillors R Carlin  
and J Gallen.
- OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Alderman J Tinsley (Zoom); Councillors A Givan (Zoom)  
and G Hynds.
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing  
Head of Communities  
Acting Head of Parks and Amenities  
Head of Sports Services  
Member Services Officers (BF and EW).

1. Apology

An apology was received on behalf of Alderman S Skillen.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing

3.1 Crewe United Football Club – 60th Anniversary (2.12)

The Director reported that correspondence had been received from Crewe United Football Club seeking financial support in respect of the club's 60th anniversary.

It was moved by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed:

1. To place an advertisement in the club's charity brochure at the cost of £100;
2. To approve the attendance of the Chairperson and the Vice-Chairperson at the club's anniversary dinner at a cost of £90; and
3. To meet 50% of the hospitality costs for a reception to be hosted jointly by The Right Worshipful the Mayor and the Committee, which would be approximately £175.

It was noted that invitations seeking Committee representation at future events would continue to be presented for consideration.

#### 4.0 Head of Communities

##### 4.1 Community Support Grants 2024/25 – Outcome of Assessments (3.48)

(Alderman A Grehan and Councillor S Lowry joined the meeting at 18.05)

The Head of Communities reported that, in response to an open call for applications, 81 had been submitted and assessed against pre-agreed criteria, 74 of which had been deemed successful. The total amount eligible for funding, based on the weighted score, had been £278,893, which was more than the original budgeted amount. Accordingly, a 5% reduction had been applied across those amounts and it was recommended that the Committee approve a sum of £265,034 payable to the successful applicants.

The Committee was reminded that the recommended amount had included an agreed uplift of £100k by the Council and a contribution from the Department for Communities of £49,465. However, the DfC amount had yet to be confirmed. The Head of Communities reported that she had received an update from DfC which had indicated that it anticipated that the level of financial support provided to the scheme in previous years would be maintained in 2024/25.

In response to several Members' queries, the Head of Communities gave an overview of the assessment criteria and eligibility for funding and indicated that it would not be prudent to discuss any individual application, given that there was an appeals' mechanism in operation.

Members also raised several issues relating to overall funding cuts and the impact that that were having on and the ability of community groups to operate effectively.

Moved by Councillor D J Craig,  
Seconded by Alderman S P Porter,

That the Committee agrees that the successful applicants be awarded the full amount deemed eligible for funding, that being £278,893, and that the Director undertakes to re-examine departmental budgets to identify an additional sum of £13,859 to be allocated to the scheme.

The Director advised that the additional amount proposed, i.e., £13,859, was an unbudgeted figure and it should be considered alongside other budgetary pressures. She advised further that the additional funding should be considered corporately and that she would liaise with colleagues in Corporate Services to have the matter considered in line with other finance-related matters and relevant governance.

After further discussion, the proposal was not put to the Committee, but it was agreed that the successful applicants be allocated the amounts outlined within the report, that being at a 5% reduction, on the understanding that a request for an additional sum of £13,859, be brought to the attention of the Corporate Services Committee.

##### 4.2 Communities Festivals' Fund (36.48)

The Head of Communities informed the Committee that 40 applications had been submitted for support from within the fund, 31 of which had been deemed eligible. The total amount of eligible funding, based on the weighted score, had been £64,783, which exceeded the original budgeted

amount. Accordingly, a 12.1% reduction had been applied and it was recommended that the Committee approve funding in the sum of £57,000. The Committee was reminded that the recommended amount assumed that the Department for Communities would contribute 50% of that figure.

In response to several queries raised by Members, the Head of Communities clarified that the applications had been assessed against pre-agreed criteria and scoring matrix. She highlighted that there existed a finite budget for what was a competitive assessment process. She added that, as part of the overall process, there existed a formal appeals' mechanism and, as such, it would be imprudent to comment on applications that may be considered within that mechanism at a future date.

It was moved by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Councillor G McCleave, and agreed that the Committee approve the payments under the fund as recommended within the report.

(The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Alderman S P Porter left the meeting at 18.39; Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting at 18.45 and returned at 18.49; and Alderman M Guy left the meeting at 18.51)

#### 4.3 Consultation Response – Antisocial Behaviour (55.51)

It was moved by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Committee endorse the response to the consultation exercise as set out, subject to the following amendments:

1. In respect of question 14, that the Committee's view was that persons under the age of 18 should not be the subject of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs); and
2. In respect of question 17, that the Committee's view was that the standard of proof threshold should be maintained as *beyond reasonable doubt* as opposed to the *balance of probabilities*.

The Committee also noted the comments of Members in relation to the role of the Council in enforcing byelaws relating to the consumption of alcohol in public places.

(Councillor P Catney left the meeting at 19.03)

#### 4.4 Voluntary and Community Sector & Support Policy Framework (1.025.25)

The Committee endorsed a consultation response in the above-mentioned matter, subject to the amendment in respect of question 41 regarding the associated equality screening exercise, in that the Council's response would reflect that the views of younger people should have been considered within the category of age.

#### 4.5 PEACEPLUS Action Plan - Request for Delegated Authority (1.10.18)

It was moved by Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Alderman H Legge, and agreed that the Council, at its meeting on 27th February, be requested to delegate authority to the Committee to approve the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan at a meeting in March, to enable it to be submitted to the Special EU Programme Body (SEUPB) by the submission date of 28th March.

## 5.0 Head of Parks and Amenities

### 5.1 Moira Presbyterian Church (1.12.02)

It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Committee grant approval to Moira Presbyterian Church to host a religious service at Moira Demesne on Easter Sunday, 31st March. It was agreed also that the relevant byelaw, regarding the hosting of religious services in parks and open spaces, be temporarily set aside for this purpose.

### 5.2 Lisburn Baptist Church and Railway Street Presbyterian Church (1.12.50)

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Committee grant approval to both Lisburn Baptist Church and Railway Street Presbyterian Church to host separate religious services at Wallace Park on the morning of Easter Sunday, 31st March. It was agreed also that the relevant byelaw, regarding the hosting of religious services in parks and open spaces, be temporarily set aside for those purposes.

## 6.0 Head of Sports Services

### 6.1 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10k & Fun Run (1.15.20)

At its meeting on 3rd October, the Committee had approved several changes to the routes for the above-mentioned events. Subsequently, at the Council meeting on 24th October, several issues had been raised regarding the revised route and, accordingly, the minute was referred to the Committee for further consideration. The Head of Sports Services reported that officers had been addressing the matters raised but that some issues remained unresolved. Therefore, he recommended that the Committee amend its decision of 3rd October and agree that there be no change to the routes for the event in 2024.

It was moved by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Committee adopt the recommendation of the Head of Sports Services.

## 7.0 Any Other Business

### 7.1 Mr Thomas McCormick (1.17.20)

The Chairperson agreed to liaise with the Mayor's office to convey condolences on behalf of the Committee to Mrs Trisha McCormick and Mr Ta McCormick of the Hilden Community Association on the recent passing of their son, Thomas.

### 7.2 Lagan Valley Regional Park (1.20.12)

A Member referred to a recent decision of Belfast City Council to approve £21,000 in funding for the Lagan Valley Regional Park, on the basis that Lisburn and Castlereagh Council would match fund that figure. This related to a £42,000 funding cut which had been made by the Department for Infrastructure for the financial year 2023/24.

In response, the Director indicated that she had met with officials from Belfast City Council in this regard and that several areas were being explored. She added that any decision in the matter would be considered by the Committee, or the Corporate Services Committee.

(Councillor J Gallen left the meeting at 19.25)

7.3 Carryduff Greenway (1.21.40)

In response to a Member's question, the Director indicated that she, or the Acting Head of Parks and Amenities, would be content to meet with to discuss the progress achieved to date in respect of the greenway and the next steps in the project.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 19:25.

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Chairperson