

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, and remotely, on Tuesday 4th October 2022 at 6.00pm

PRESENT: Alderman A Grehan (in the Chair)

Councillors D J Craig, J Lavery BEM,
H Legge, T Mitchell and Jenny Palmer.

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION: Deputy Mayor Councillor M Guy

Alderman S Martin

Councillors N Anderson, RT Beckett, R Carlin,
M Henderson, S Mulholland and S Skillen.

ALSO ATTENDED: Alderman J Tinsley and Councillor A Givan
(both via Zoom)

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Head of Communities
Head of Parks and Amenities
Head of Sports Services
Member Services Officers (BF and EW)
Technician
IT Support

Commencement of Meeting

In the absence of both the Chairman (Councillor A McIntyre) and the Vice-Chairman (Councillor A Gowan) it was noted that, in accordance with Standing Order 6.3, it fell within the remit of the nominating officer of the Chairman's political party to propose a nominee to take the Chair. Accordingly, it was agreed that Alderman A Grehan take the Chair.

(Alderman A Grehan in the Chair).

1. **Apologies**

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Chairman (Councillor A McIntyre) and the Vice-Chairman (Councillor A Gowan).

The Acting Chairperson, on behalf of the Committee, expressed condolences to Councillor Aaron McIntyre and his family circle on the sad passing of his grandmother.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Regarding items 3.2, 5.1 and 6.1, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, declared an interest since she had a family relation who was a member of sporting clubs named within the report/minute.

Regarding items 3.2 and 5.1, Councillor S Mulholland, declared an interest since she had a family relation who was a member of a sporting club named within the report.

3. Report of the Head of Communities

3.1 Hardship Funding Programme

The Head of Communities reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 6th September, it had agreed that a sum of £100,000 be allocated towards a Council Hardship Funding Programme. In addition, the Committee had agreed that a report in respect of the criteria for the Fund be submitted for consideration and that delegated authority be granted to the Heads of Communities and Parks and Amenities, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, to approve funding for successful applications and that a report in this regard be submitted for notation in due course.

Accordingly, the Head of Communities spoke to a report which outlined the aims and objectives of the fund and gave an overview of the eligibility criteria that would be applied. In addition, she reported that it was anticipated that the Fund would be open for applications between the end of October and mid-November, with successful applicants availing of funding before Christmas.

In response to a query by Councillor S Skillen, the Head of Communities outlined the steps that would be taken to promote accessibility to the Fund across the several DEAs in the Council area.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed that the Committee note the information provided and approve the eligibility criteria as presented and agreed further that the Fund be opened to applications in accordance with the timelines outlined in the report.

3.2 DEA Investment Programme DIY Community Fund – Outcome of Assessment

(Councillor S Mulholland and the Deputy Mayor (Councillor M Guy) who had declared interests in this matter, retired from the meeting for the duration of this item).

The Committee was reminded that, in accordance with the DEA Investment Programme 2022/23, at its meeting on 7th June, it had agreed that £30,000 be allocated towards a DIY Community Fund, which sought to support the refreshment, refurbishment and general improvement to existing community facilities. It was reported that the Fund, which had a maximum amount of £1,000 available per application, had opened on 26th July and closed on 5th September.

The Committee was advised that 51 applications had been received, 48 of which had been deemed eligible, with an amount of £49,222 requested. However, that amount had been reduced to £40,177, after the application of the weighted-score model, and a table outlining the outcome of the exercise had been circulated in advance to the Committee.

Since the Fund had been oversubscribed, the Committee was informed that a number of options had been explored for consideration. The Head of Communities outlined the options and recommended that option 1 be adopted, namely, that all 48 applications

deemed eligible for funding be approved, with the additional £10,177 in funding being accessed from within an anticipated underspend in the DEA Investment Programme 2022/23.

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed that the Committee note the information provided and adopt the recommendation as outlined by the Head of Communities.

4. Report of the Head of Parks and Amenities

4.1 Use of Wallace Park – Church Lads’ and Church Girls’ Brigade NI

The Head of Parks and Amenities reported that correspondence had been received from the above-mentioned organisation seeking permission to hold its 130th anniversary review event in Wallace Park on a date to be determined between June and September, 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor H Legge, and agreed that the Committee accede to the request, subject to the organisation engaging with officers of the Council and the Safety Advisory Group in respect of health and safety requirements.

5. Report of the Head of Sports Services

5.1 DEA Investment Fund - Keep the Ball Rolling

(It was noted that both the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, and Councillor S Mulholland, who had both declared an interest in this matter, retired from the meeting for the duration of this item).

Further to the Committee’s decision of 5th May, in respect of the above-mentioned matter, the Head of Sports Services reported that in response to an open call in June, 47 applications had been received for support under the Fund, 44 of which had been deemed eligible. After consideration, the total eligible amount requested had been £102,425.28, which was £2,425.28 in excess of the £100,000 pre-agreed budget.

The Head of Sports Services recommended that the Committee agree to approve the full amount requested and that the shortfall in funding be sourced from within the revenue underspend in the 2022/23 Sports Services budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor H Legge, and agreed that the Committee adopt the recommendation of the Head of Sports Services.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Carryduff GAC

(It was noted that the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, retired from the meeting for the duration of this item).

The Acting Chairperson indicated that a request had been received from representatives of Carryduff GAC seeking financial assistance, in the sum of £1,360 plus VAT, towards the publication of a booklet to mark the 50th Anniversary of the club.

On the proposal of Councillor R Carlin, seconded by Councillor S Mulholland, the Committee agreed to accede to the request, subject to a request by Councillor R T Beckett that the Council's contribution be acknowledged within the booklet and invitations be extended to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, or their nominees to attend any subsequent launch.

6.2 Lough Moss Leisure Centre

In response to a query by Alderman M Henderson, the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing clarified the current position in relation to the provision of a GAA practice wall at the above-mentioned site.

6.3 Council Services

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor J Lavery, and agreed that the Committee authorise Council officials to investigate the feasibility of providing additional skip services and logistical support to communities over the forthcoming period, subject to the matter being drawn to the Environmental Services Committee.

7. Confidential matter under AOB

(Councillor N Anderson left the meeting at 6.40pm).

The Chairperson advised that the reason for confidentiality for the following matter was by virtue of the Local Government Act (2014) Northern Ireland, i.e., information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)'.
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The Committee agreed to consider the following matters "in committee".

"In Committee"

7.1 Twilight Night

(Councillor A Givan left the meeting at 06.55pm)

The Committee discussed a range of matters concerning the logistical arrangements for the upcoming 'Twilight Night' event and a range of other forthcoming Council events.

The Committee noted the comments which had been made by Members in this regard.

7.2 Christmas at the Castle

The Committee discussed a range of matters concerning the upcoming 'Christmas at the Castle' event and indicated positive support for the event.

The Committee noted the comments which had been made by Members in this regard.

8. Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor R T Beckett, and agreed that normal business be resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7:20pm.

Chairman