

14 July 2010

MINUTES of the Meeting of the Development Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carrickfergus on **WEDNESDAY**, the **FOURTEENTH** day of **JULY** 2010, at the hour of **7.00** o'clock pm, pursuant to the Town Clerk's summons calling the Meeting, the following Members were present:-

Alderman Hilditch, Vice-Chairman Presiding

Aldermen: M M Beattie J McClurg
Councillors: R Beggs C J Brown T R L Clements
I E Day S C Dickson E Ferguson
L McClurg L Marsden

An apology for non-attendance was received on behalf of Councillors Cosgrove and McKinney and the Director of Development Services.

The following Officials were in attendance:-

Mr N Houston Development Manager (Leisure)
Miss A Beacom Senior Committee Clerk

DS.80/10 **Report – Inclusion of Date**

Members requested that the date of the meeting be included on the front cover of the report on business.

MARKETING

Report from Development Manager (Marketing)

DS.81/10 **Arts & Events Sub-Committee – Minutes**
(DS.73/10)

Members had been circulated with copy minutes of the Arts & Events Sub-Committee meeting held on 5 May 2010 for adoption.

In response to a query, Councillor Brown was informed that the hand written and typed scoring sheets for the fireworks quotations had been submitted by the companies concerned.

It was Proposed by Councillor E Ferguson, Seconded by Councillor Clements, & AGREED to recommend adoption of the minutes.

DS.82/10
(DS.74/10)

Tourism & Marketing Sub-Committee – Minutes

(a) 26 May 2010

Members had been circulated with copy draft minutes of the Tourism & Marketing Sub-Committee meeting held on 26 May 2010 for noting.

Councillor Beggs referred to the reduction in price to £5.00 of the book 'Carrickfergus, Whitehead and The Great War'. It was confirmed that the reduced price of £5.00 was still above cost price, but would only apply for a limited period.

Councillor Dickson referred to the Service Level Agreement with the Belfast Visitor and Convention Bureau. In relation to exhibitions, the output referred to Lisburn literature and he requested that the position be checked with regard to Carrickfergus. In terms of visitor servicing, he highlighted that 531,350 enquiries at the Belfast Welcome Centre had resulted in only five accommodation bookings. At George Best City Airport TIC, 347 specific Carrickfergus counter enquiries had resulted in two accommodation bookings.

The Vice-Chairman agreed that these points should be raised with the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Beggs referred to Council's membership of the Causeway Coast and Glens (CCAG) for 2010/11 in the sum of £17,336.00. While the monies had been factored into the estimates, he requested a detailed breakdown of the provision received by Council.

The Vice-Chairman confirmed that the Manager of CCAG was due to appear before the Sub-Committee shortly and the matter would be checked out before next year's estimates.

It was Proposed by Councillor Clements, Seconded by Councillor Dickson, & AGREED to recommend that the minutes be noted.

(b) 7 June 2010

Members had also been circulated with copy draft minutes of the Tourism & Marketing Sub-Committee meeting held on 7 June 2010 for noting.

Councillor Beggs referred to the colour coding for the business card designs and enquired as to the cost implication. The Vice-Chairman confirmed that this issue had been shelved for a year and would be dealt with by the new Council.

14 July 2010

It was Proposed by Alderman J McClurg, Seconded by Councillor E Ferguson, & AGREED to recommend that the minutes be noted.

DS.83/10
(DS.75/10)

Maritime Sub-Committee – Minutes

Members had been circulated with copy minutes of the Maritime Sub-Committee meeting held on 20 May 2010 for adoption.

Councillor Dickson referred to item 5, concerning a letter from the Town Clerk to the Chair of the Sub-Committee regarding the outstanding report. While noting that there had been a severe delay in the process, he enquired if a speedy conclusion had been brought about to this matter. The Vice-Chairman understood that the answer was no and this was causing some problems with the membership of the Sub-Committee and was an ongoing staff matter.

It was Proposed by Alderman Beattie, Seconded by Councillor E Ferguson, & AGREED to recommend adoption of the minutes.

DS.84/10
(CEO.26/10)

Tourism (Amendment) Bill

Members had been circulated with copy letter received on 30 June 2010 from the NI Assembly advising of the commencement of Committee Stage of the Tourism (Amendment) Bill.

It was recommended that Members submit their views on the proposed Bill before 4 August 2010 to the Director of Development Services.

The Vice-Chairman advised that the Tourism & Marketing Sub-Committee would also be examining this issue. However, he drew attention to the annual visits by the Tourist Board to tourist providers which he understood the new legislation would reduce to every four years. He believed that this was somewhat of a gap and the annual visits should be retained, even at a local sector level.

It was AGREED to recommend that all comments be submitted by the deadline.

ECONOMIC

Report from Development Manager (Economic)

DS.85/10
(DS.69/10)

Economic Development Sub-Committee – Minutes

Members had been circulated with copy minutes of the Economic Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 21 May 2010, for approval.

14 July 2010

Councillor Beggs referred to item 7, Whitehead Masterplan and sought confirmation that there was a detailed scoring and grid system for selecting the successful tenderer, given that the company selected was not the cheapest.

The Vice-Chairman advised that this appointment was funded through GROW, which would address any queries.

The Development Manager (Leisure) confirmed to Councillor Beggs that each of the tenders had been scored under the specified criteria and he was satisfied that the appointment met the procurement system and the detailed selection process.

It was Proposed by Alderman Beattie, Seconded by Councillor Clements, & AGREED to recommend adoption of the minutes.

C.86/10
(DS.70/10)

Carrickfergus Development Company - Minutes

Members had been circulated with copy minutes of the Carrickfergus Development Company meeting held on 11 May 2010. As the meeting did not have a quorum, the Minutes were for information only.

Noted.

LEISURE

Report from Development Manager (Leisure)

DS.87/10
(DS.71/10)

Parks, Countryside & Amenities Sub-Committee – Minutes

Members had been circulated with copy minutes of the Parks, Countryside & Amenities Sub-Committee meeting held on 4 June 2010 for approval.

It was Proposed by Alderman Beattie, Seconded by Councillor Day, & AGREED to recommend adoption of the minutes.

DS.88/10
(DS.72/10)

Leisure & Sports Development Sub-Committee – Minutes

Members had been circulated with copy minutes of the Leisure & Sports Development Sub-Committee meeting held on 4 June 2010 for approval.

It was Proposed by Alderman J McClurg, Seconded by Councillor Clements, & AGREED to recommend adoption of the minutes.

14 July 2010

Arising out of the foregoing, Councillor Beggs referred to the up-date on Amphitheatre income and usage and requested an indication as to income compared to projected income.

The Development Manager (Leisure) stated that he was very pleased with the Amphitheatre performance achieved to date compared to the income included in the estimates.

Councillor Beggs stated that other Councils received monthly income and cost figures thus enabling performance of the operation in accordance with the Business Plan. The Development Manager (Leisure) confirmed that he received a monthly print out of expenditure against income and he was able to track all budget heads against all activity areas. Staffing levels were set on the basis of the areas to be covered and he was happy with these levels and the performance of staff. Councillor Beggs undertook to contact the Officer.

(DS.72/10) Councillor Brown reminded Members that he had previously requested this information including running costs.

The Vice-Chairman requested that all Members be provided with a copy of the information.

DS.89/10 **Amphitheatre – Crèche Operation**

Members had been circulated with copy information in relation to the operation of the crèche at the Amphitheatre. The document detailed the opening times, staffing and costs, monthly income and monthly deficit.

In relation to a revised operation, Members had been circulated with copy details of two options based on reduced opening hours. Using option 2 the total deficit would be £3.75 per week.

In response to a query from Councillor L McClurg, the Development Manager (Leisure) stated that the revised operation had run for the month of June 2010 following complaints from a number of regular users. The operational times from 9.00 am to 12.00 noon had achieved 167 children for the month with an average daily figure of 7.59.

In reply to Councillor Brown, the Development Manager (Leisure) advised that the cost per child/per hour was £2.00. Councillor Brown highlighted that in a private facility the cost would be in the region of £3.00 to £3.50 and he felt that an economic rate should be charged.

14 July 2010

While welcoming the facility, Councillor Dickson stated that it had to be provided on a cost recouping basis otherwise other users were effectively subsidising it. He suggested that provision of such a facility could provide an opportunity to set up a small business or as an extension to an existing childcare provider.

In response to a query from Councillor Beggs, the Development Manager (Leisure) stated that the £3.75 per week deficit under option 2 assumed 100% take-up – 24 children per day for five days a week. The £7,507.54 deficit over a period of four months represented a per capita subsidy of £15.00 per child, excluding heating and lighting. Under DOE Performance Indicators for the three years prior to the closure of the Leisure Centre, the subsidy per admission was £3.13, £2.96 and £3.24, respectively. The Officer expressed his support for seeking an outside operator.

Alderman Beattie agreed with Councillor Dickson's suggestion given that successful crèches operated in other Community Centres.

The Committee AGEED to recommend that the Development Manager (Leisure) work up a Business Plan over the next few weeks with full Council powers being granted to the August Development Services Committee meeting to deal with this matter.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.30 pm when those Members present were as listed on page 1.