

11 February 2010

MINUTES of the Special Meeting of the Carrickfergus Borough Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carrickfergus, on **THURSDAY**, the **ELEVENTH** day of **FEBRUARY** 2010 at the hour of **6.00** o'clock pm, pursuant to the Town Clerk's summons calling the meeting, the following Members were present:-

Alderman P McKinney, Mayor Presiding

Aldermen: W Ashe M M Beattie

Councillors: R Beggs C J Brown T R L Clements
I E Day S C Dickson E Ferguson
J McClurg L McClurg J L Neeson

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors M S Cosgrove, D Ferguson and L Marsden.

The following Officials were in attendance:

Mr A Cardwell	Town Clerk and Chief Executive
Mr A Barkley	Director of Environmental Services
Mr I Eagleson	Director of Support Services
Mr S Johnston	Director of Building Services
Mr J McCormick	Director of Development Services
Mrs C Montgomery	Management Accountant
Mrs J Shearer	Committee Clerk

C.61/10
(C.48/09)

SUMMARY OF ESTIMATES SUB-COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Town Clerk advised that following decision by Council, the Estimates Sub-Committee met during January and February to make recommendations to Council for the striking of rates for the financial year 2010/11.

Senior Management had presented Members with a first draft budget distributed on 22 December 2009, with a net amount of £10,006,302 to be raised by way of the district rates. This implied an increase of 6.74% in the domestic district rate of 0.3450 pence struck for 2009/10.

Work in the Estimates Sub-Committee reduced the proposed expenditure to be raised by way of the district rates to £9,905,193. This figure assumed Council's adoption of the Sub-Committee's recommendation

- that £316,000 from reserves be used in 2010/11,

11 February 2010

- the capital schemes for the year were approved

and implied a domestic rate of 0.3645 pence, an increase of 5.66% on the 2009/10 figure. The corresponding increase in the non-domestic rate was 5.67%. It was estimated that £864,000 would remain in reserves at the end of the incoming financial year.

The final budget containing all the changes as proposed by the Sub-Committee would in due course be set out in a revised Estimates of Rates Document and distributed to all Members. A schedule dated 11 February 2010 containing revisions to the Estimates of Rates Document dated 22 December 2009 had been circulated to Members and it was the recommendation of the Sub-Committee that these be adopted by Council.

Notes on each session had previously been copied to all 17 Elected members and it was noted that there had been 1 response to the invitation for Members to raise any queries or concerns with senior management in writing.

The Town Clerk also gave details of the rates being struck by the RPA partnership Councils.

C.62/10
(C.49/09)

ESTIMATES SUB-COMMITTEES – MINUTES

Members had been circulated with copy Minutes of the Estimates Sub-Committee meetings held on 20 January 2010 and reconvened on 22, 25 and 27 January, 2, 5 and 9 February 2010.

It was

Proposed by Alderman Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Day, &

Unanimously RESOLVED That the Minutes be adopted.

C.63/10
(C.62/10)

MATTERS ARISING

Councillor Brown referred to the pages 37 and 39 of the Estimates booklet and specifically the amounts included for Marine Gardens Play Park and Fisherman's Quay. He enquired as to why these amounts had been included, bearing in mind that major capital schemes were going ahead at both these locations.

The Director of Development Services indicated that the money

11 February 2010

allocated to Marine Gardens Play Park was a proportion of an overall contingency sum for play parks' maintenance throughout the year to deal with incidents of vandalism and general repairs as and when required. These would be works not covered by the capital project contract.

With regard to Fisherman's Quay, the Director of Building Services explained that the money included was again a contingency sum to deal with repairs and maintenance not covered by the capital project contract.

Councillor Brown was of the opinion that if major works were being carried out at both these locations, then maintenance should not be an issue. He then advised of an article in relation to Bryson House and the profits made from re-cycling and felt that some of these profits should be passed onto Council. He referred to the figure of £84,000 included for income for re-cycling and enquired as to whether this was a realistic figure, bearing in mind the increase in tonnage which should offset the reduction in commodity prices. He referred to income for previous years and felt that £84,000 was quite a reduction.

Discussion ensued with regard to this matter during which the Director of Environmental Services indicated that the figure was the best estimate based on historical data. Councillor E Ferguson felt that it was important that Council safeguard its ratepayers against fines and penalties should targets for re-cycling not be met.

C.64/10
(C.59/10)

MOTION FOR ADOPTION OF RATES FOR 2010 – 2011

The Town Clerk recommended that the following motion be adopted for the Rates for 2010/2011:-

Having considered the estimates of Council's income and expenditure for the financial year 2010/2011 and having adopted the minutes of the Estimates Sub-Committees, Council resolved to authorise the use of £316,000 from reserves and fix for the incoming financial year the amount of £9,905,193 as the amount to be raised by means of the rates set by Council. Council also authorised the associated expenditure.

The resultant domestic district rate for the year commencing 1 April 2010 was 0.3645 pence, representing an increase in the domestic district rate of 5.66% over 2009/2010. The corresponding increase in non-domestic district rate was 5.67%, giving a new rate of 26.25 pence.

11 February 2010

Council also authorised the associated expenditure including the undernoted capital expenditure:-

2010-2011 Proposed Additional Capital Schemes	
Project	Total Amount of Scheme
<u>2209/2010 Sanctions Commencing 2010/2011</u>	
Eden Community Centre £560K included 2009/2010 Estimates	£1,500,000
Front Elevation Project included 2009/2010 Estimates	£ 550,000
Sunnylands Land Purchase included 2009/2010 Estimates	£ 25,000
The above Schemes included in 2009/2010 Estimates but project would not commence until 2010/2011.	
<u>Proposed Sanctions – Funded by Loan Sanction</u>	
Refit Bentra Golf Course Pavilion – Deferred 2009/2010 Estimates	£ 18,000
Fisherman's Quay Refurbishment & Repair	£ 130,000
Navigator Statue (Sept 2010)	£ 90,000
Knockagh Monument Redevelopment (£50,000 project)	£ 12,500
Whitehead (Wood Project £200k 75% funded & village renewal)	£ 125,000
Amphitheatre Main Hall	£ 50,000
Whitehead Path – (Link to Gobbins)	£ 75,000
Christmas Lights	£ 25,000
Marine Gardens	£1,500,000
Woodburn	£ 25,000
IT Purchases	£ 20,000
Castleview Pavilion (heating system)	£ 15,000
Skate Park	£ 500,000
Extension to Dog Pound	£ 56,000
	£4,716,500

It was

Proposed by Councillor J McClurg,
Seconded by Councillor E Ferguson &

11 February 2010

Unanimously RESOLVED That Council adopt the above motion as recommended, including associated expenditure and capital schemes.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 6.20 pm, when those Members present were as listed on page 1.