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**MINUTES** of the Special Meeting of the Carrickfergus Borough Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carrickfergus, on **MONDAY**, the **NINETEENTH** day of **JULY** 2010 at the hour of **6.45** o'clock pm, pursuant to the Town Clerk's summons calling the meeting, the following Members were present:-

**Alderman J McClurg, Mayor Presiding**

<b><u>Aldermen:</u></b>	W Ashe	M M Beattie	D W Hilditch
<b><u>Councillors:</u></b>	R Beggs	C J Brown	T R L Clements (from 6.54 pm)
	I E Day	S C Dickson	D Ferguson
	E Ferguson	W S Hamilton (from 6.50 pm)	L McClurg
	L Marsden (from 6.54 pm)		

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Councillors Cosgrove, McKinney and Neeson.

The following Officials were in attendance:

Mr A Cardwell	Town Clerk
Mr I Eagleson	Director of Support Services
Mr S Johnston	Director of Building Services
Mrs J Shearer	Committee Clerk

C.245/10  
(BS.59/10)

**CARRICK RANGERS FOOTBALL CLUB – AGREEMENT**

**THE MAYOR, ALDERMAN J MCCLURG DELCARED AN INTEREST IN THIS ITEM OF BUSINESS, AS DIRECTOR OF THE CLUB, REQUESTED THAT THE DEPUTY MAYOR ASSUME THE CHAIR AND WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION THEREON.**

**THE DEPUTY MAYOR, COUNCILLOR E FERGUSON DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THIS ITEM OF BUSINESS AND WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION THEREON.**

**AT THIS STAGE, IT WAS PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR BROWN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR DAY & AGREED THAT ALDERMAN BEATTIE ASSUME THE CHAIR.**

**ALDERMEN ASHE, HILDITCH, COUNCILLORS D FERGUSON AND L MCCLURG DECLARED A NON-PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THIS**

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**ITEM OF BUSINESS AND WITHDREW FROM THE MEETING FOR DISCUSSION THEREON.**

**COUNCILLOR HAMILTON ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.**

The Director of Building Services advised that the purpose of this Special Meeting was to appoint a Sub-Committee with full Council Powers to consider the issue of the relationship between Carrick Rangers Football Club and Carrickfergus Borough Council.

**COUNCILLORS CLEMENTS AND MARSDEN ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.**

Councillor Brown stated that this matter needed to be resolved as a matter of urgency. He indicated that it had been agreed that a Sub-Committee be formed made up of 3 DUP Members, 2 UUP Members, 1 Alliance Member and 1 Rate Payers' Voice Member. He Proposed that Council proceed with the nominations for this Sub-Committee.

Alderman Beattie enquired as to whether there should be a time limit/lifespan set for the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Brown stated that the playing season commenced in August and the decision was that the matter be dealt with as quickly as possible.

The Director of Building Services advised that this matter of leases was usually dealt with through the Estates Management Sub-Committee. However, the Members who had declared an interest in this item of business were also Members of the Sub-Committee therefore leaving it difficult to achieve a quorum.

Councillor Marsden wished to propose that the Lease be progressed as it was, or that a Lease be drawn up and proceed in the usual manner.

The Director of Building Services stated that the existing Lease was made up of trustees who were either now deceased or very elderly. This was the former governance of the Club. The Club was now a limited company and the aim was to change the relationship with the Club from a Lease to one with a Facilities Management Agreement. That was the suggestion that was put to the Local Government Auditor who had replied that this seemed to be a reasonable solution. A draft Facilities Management Agreement had been drawn up and presented to Members some time ago.

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Councillor Beggs outlined his support for a Sub-Committee to be formed to deal with this issue and felt that an appropriate arrangement should be made to ensure that the Football Club continued to operate and carry on with the valuable youth work being undertaken.

Councillor Hamilton stated that there seemed to be more Members declaring an interest at this stage of the process, than did originally. He enquired as to why so many Members now saw fit to declare an interest.

The Director of Building Services stated that the majority of those declaring an interest had been doing so from the beginning of the process. He had to assume that Members were acting in good faith. Those who might not have previously declared might have only realised that they had an interest or indeed might only recently have taken on an interest.

Councillor Day suggested that the umbrella group of one of the Members' might have recently got involved with Carrick Rangers.

Councillor Hamilton referred to the make-up of the new Sub-Committee and was of the opinion that bearing in mind the number of Members declaring interests, that there might not be enough Members left in the Chamber, from each grouping, to form the Sub-Committee.

Councillor Clements enquired as to what difference there was with regard to the Lease with Carrick Rangers Football Club and other Clubs.

Councillor Brown stated that under the grounds of relevance, this matter was not on the agenda for this meeting.

Councillor Dickson reiterated that purpose of the meeting.

Discussion ensued as to which Committee/Sub-Committee was to be delegated with Council Powers, during which Councillor Dickson expressed disappointment that there was no minute provided with which to guide Officers and Members. Councillor Brown concurred with these remarks.

With regard to the proposed time limit, it was the general consensus that the issue should be resolved by August, if at all possible, as this was the start of the football season.

It was therefore,

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Proposed by Councillor Brown,  
Seconded by Councillor Dickson &

Unanimously RESOLVED That a Sub-Committee, comprising of all Members of Council who had not declared a pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest in Carrick Rangers Football Club, be formed. The Sub-Committee to be delegated Full Council Powers to consider the relationship between Carrick Rangers Football Club and Carrickfergus Borough Council and put it to rights as expeditiously as possible, bearing in mind that the football season commenced in August.

It was further RESOLVED That Alderman Beattie be appointed Chairperson of the Sub-Committee.

### **CONCLUSION OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 7.15 pm, when those Members present were as listed on page 1.