

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC SERVICE DELIVERY COMMITTEE
OF DUNGANNON AND SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON
TUESDAY 23 AUGUST 2011 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD,
DUNGANNON**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councillor Mulligan (Chair)

Councillors Ashton, Brush, F Burton, Cavanagh, Cuddy, Daly, Donnelly, Gildernew, Gillespie, Hamilton, McGahan, McGonnell, McGuigan (7.45 pm), McLarnon, Morrow, O'Neill, Reid, Robinson

APOLOGY: Councillor R Burton

OFFICERS PRESENT: A Burke, Acting Chief Executive (ACE)
J Eagleson, Recycling Officer (RO)
N Hill, Tourism & Parks Manager (TPM)
J McClelland, Director of Building Control (DBC)
F McClements, Acting Director of Environmental Health (ADEH)
B McMinn, Director of Technical Services (DTS)
L Marshall (Secretariat)

IN ATTENDANCE: Claire Foley, NIEA

The meeting started at 7.34 pm

1 HISTORIC GRAVEYARD MAINTENANCE

Ms Foley made presentation (appendix 1) regarding the maintenance of historic graveyards. Ms Foley explained the value of old graveyards and described the best way to maintain them and the issues that can arise when they are not maintained. While the presentation focused on a few of the graveyards across the Borough Ms Foley advised that there are about 16 in total and agreed to forward a more detailed list of these graveyards, their location etc to Council.

DTS advised Members that the difficulty for Council in maintaining historic graveyards is the issue of unstable headstones and if one of these headstones fell on someone visiting the graveyard, this issue has already been flagged up by health and safety.

In response to Members questions Ms Foley advised that the NIEA does not offer any grants to Council or other bodies for the upkeep of graveyards. In relation to health and safety issues Ms Foley was not

aware of any claims being made by the public for accidents, falls etc taking place in graveyards.

Ms Foley left the meeting at 8.05 pm.

The Chair reminded Members of the letter which had been received from Clogher Cathedral regarding grass cutting and advised that this matter would be for discussion again at a future meeting.

2 TOURISM AND PARKS

The report (appendix 2) and addendum (appendix 3) of the Tourism and Parks Manager were presented reference being made to the undernoted:

OPERATIONAL

2.1 Brantry Wood Project

As per report TPM provided information on developing the Brantry Lough Project by entering into a partnership with Forest Service (who own the adjoining Brantry Wood) to provide enhanced recreation and leisure facilities. Any such partnership would involve engaging with Forest Service through the creation of a Licence Agreement.

Some members expressed concern at the delay in moving forward with developing the 'Game Keepers' Lodge and surrounding grounds adjacent to Brantry Lough and felt that some practical facilities are needed now by those who use the area ie. toilets and bins.

Proposed by Councillor F Burton
Seconded by Councillor Brush and

Resolved That Council engage with Forest Service through the creation of a Licence Agreement and integrate Brantry Wood into the future plans of Brantry Lough and Game Keepers lodge.

2.2 Sports Changing Rooms, Dungannon Park

As per report TPM outlined necessary repairs and maintenance required at the sports changing rooms in Dungannon Park, proposed expenditure to be £1400.

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved To complete the works required, that is, to replace oil tank with associated works to the sports changing facilities to meet with current regulations. Cost to be £1400.

2.3 Caravan Park, Dungannon Park

A preliminary site meeting has taken place at Dungannon Park in which a proposal to extend the caravan site from the current 12 spaces to a possible 24-30 spaces was identified. Such an increase to the caravan site would also involve extension to improve shower/toilet facilities and providing additional link up services for caravans. These proposed plans for extension would require significant investment, TPM advised that spend could be 50% funded by Tourist Board.

Members felt there is a clear demand for space at the caravan site and that Council should continue to keep investing in Dungannon Park and its facilities. Members also felt there may be further opportunity for funding via SWARD.

Resolved That Tourism and Parks Manager carry out feasibility study and report back to this committee.

(Councillor Morrow left the meeting at 8.30 pm)

2.4 Muintir na Mointeach Ltd

As per report TPM advised that Muintir na Mointeach has requested a contribution from Council towards keyholder and supervisory work carried out by the members of Muintir na Mointeach at Washingbay Wetlands Park.

Proposed by Councillor Donnelly
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That Council make £1,000 contribution to Muintir na Mointeach Ltd.

2.5 Festive Lighting

TPM circulated addendum (appendix 3) seeking permission for approximate £10k spend on installation costs for additional festive lighting which had been agreed at the Strategic Development Committee on 27 June 2011.

As no budget has been identified for the spend, approval is also sought to meet the expenditure out of reserves in year one and include in relevant budget in year two.

Proposed by Councillor McGahan
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

That approximate £10k spend on installation costs for festive lighting be approved, monies to come from reserves in year one and relevant budget in year two.

Discussion ensued with the following points being raised –

- Festive lighting issues for all towns/villages should be brought to one meeting. Special meeting to discuss these issues should be called.
- Report was supposed to come to previous nights Strategic Development Committee. Concern as to why tonight's information could not have come to last night's meeting.
- Issue of supplier only holding lights until this Friday (26 August).

ACE stated that the difficulty arises with Auditor if Council acquires lights and then does not approve spend on installation costs.

In light of discussion the proposal above was amended to read -

"That approximate £10k spend on installation costs for festive lighting be approved, monies to come from reserves in year one and relevant budget in year two and to hold a special meeting to discuss festive lighting in other towns/villages across the Borough as soon as possible."

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor F Burton

Not to approve additional £10k spend but to hold Special Meeting to discuss festive lighting for all towns/villages in the Borough as soon as possible.

The amendment was put to the meeting and 12 members voted in favour. The amendment was carried.

2.6 Adoption of Report and Addendum

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That the report and addendum of the Tourism and Parks Manager be adopted, and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

3 LEISURE CENTRE ISSUES

OPERATIONAL

3.1 Car Parking, Dungannon Leisure Centre

Member stated that management of disabled and parent/toddler spaces at the leisure centre required attention as it appears their use is being abused.

TPM agreed to pass this issue to the Leisure Services Manager.

3.2 Signage - Gortgonis Complex

Member expressed a need for signage to direct users to the Gortgonis Complex in Coalisland.

3.3 Officer Attendance at meetings

Member stated it was important for all officers to attend the committee meeting relevant to them in order to receive a response to matters arising.

(N Hill left the meeting at 9.02 pm)

4 TECHNICAL SERVICES

The report (appendix 4) of the Director of Technical Services was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

STRATEGIC

4.1 Payment of NIEA Subsistence Fees

As per report DTS recommended paying annual subsistence fees of £12,265 in relation to Council civic amenity sites. In addition DTS advised of letter from NIEA in relation to an application to surrender the license for Moy civic amenity site. DTS recommended that Council pay £1100 fee as it continues to receive an invoice for the annual subsistence fee for the Moy site.

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to pay NIEA annual subsistence fees of £12,265 and £1100 fee to surrender license for Moy civic amenity site.

4.2 Rethink Waste Funding – Round 3 Capital

RO advised that Council has been successful in securing funding of £154,000 from DoE Rethink Waste fund. It is proposed that this funding will be used to increase the capacity for green waste at Drumcoo and also increase on site capacity for holding blue bin material at Drumcoo, Coalisland and Fivemiletown civic amenity sites.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to seek quotes from companies who would be able to provide the relevant assets to enable increased capacity of green waste and blue bin waste.

OPERATIONAL

4.3 Commercial Cardboard Collection

DTS advised that this scheme has been running successfully for about a year but due to the current high price for cardboard operatives have recently found that another private collection vehicle has been collecting any cardboard left out by businesses. In an attempt to stop this happening DTS advised that he has written to local traders informing them of the situation.

4.4 Proposed visit to MBT Plant – Slovenia

DTS advised of above proposed visit scheduled to take place in November. This visit is being organised by SWaMP2008 and offers members and officers the opportunity to see a fully operational MBT plant and view the technology that will be applied to the SWaMP2008 long term residual waste contract. The study tour is open to officers from Council and SWaMP2008 Councillors, cost will be approximately £500 per head.

Proposed by Councillor Daly
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That relevant officers from Council participate in the study tour with Councillors involved with SWaMP2008 to declare their interest in attending in due course.

4.5 Campaign to reduce plastic bag usage

Member suggested setting up a trial scheme in partnership with traders in Dungannon Town to encourage customers to bring their own bags

when shopping, if a bag is required then it can be purchased for a fee with 'fines' from these purchases going to charity.

RO to research issues surrounding such a scheme and report back to committee.

Member also suggested expanding the Council's Bag for Life initiative to other areas of the Borough.

4.6 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That the report of the Director of Technical Services be adopted, and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing be approved.

(Councillors Brush and F Burton left the meeting at 9.25 pm)

5 BUILDING CONTROL

The report (appendix 4) of the Director of Building Control was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

STRATEGIC

5.1 Amendment to the Building Regulations – Consultation

As per report DBC outlined the proposed Phase 2 amendments to the current building regulations. Members raised the following issues –

- Exemption for porch extension should stay at 30m²
- Moveable dwellings, whether moveable as a single unit or not, should continue to be exempt from paying fees

DBC agreed to take on board members comments and respond to the consultation accordingly.

(J Eagleson left the meeting at 9.30 pm)

OPERATIONAL

5.2 Refusals

The Director of Building Control advised that as further information required had not been received he recommended refusal of the applications as listed on appendix 5.

5.3 Fee Exemption Request

DBC referred to letter received from Department of Social Development requesting that Council reconsider the need to impose building control fees on insulation measures in homes under the Warm Homes Scheme.

DBC advised that fee regulations are part of the NI Building Regulations made by Department for Finance and Personnel, the only exemption from fees in these regulations is when the work is for disabled people. If the Council was to operate outside the regulations and agree to this request then many others including groups and individuals could make the same request which would put Council in a very difficult position.

Resolved That Council do not agree to the fee exemption request and advise Department of Social Development to forward their request to Department of Finance and Personnel who has responsibility for this matter.

5.4 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor Cavanagh
Seconded by Councillor Daly and

Resolved That the report of the Director of Building Control be adopted, and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

(Councillor Gildernew left the meeting at 9.35 pm)

6 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The report (appendix 6) of the Acting Director of Environmental Health was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

STRATEGIC

6.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions)(NI) Order 1985 – dealing with late applications to renew existing entertainment licences

As per report ADEH highlighted the options available to Council in dealing with late applications to renew existing entertainment licences.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to adopt the following policy in dealing with 'late' applications to renew a licence –

Where a premises has previously been granted an entertainment licence, or has had such a licence renewed, and they do not apply to renew this licence before the expiry of the current licence then any subsequent licence that is granted will be valid only from the subsequent date of approval to the date the previous licence would have expired, had it been renewed on time.

6.2 Consultation on litter guidance

As per report ADEH highlighted the draft regulatory impact assessment on extension of street litter control notices. The objective of this proposal is to reduce litter on the streets and therefore help in the creation and maintenance of clean, safe, and green neighbourhoods and public places.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to extend the list of premises to allow Street Litter Control Notices to be issued in respect of all pubs, bars, cafes, restaurants and other eating and drinking venues, including a vehicle, stall or other moveable structure, outside which litter of all types may be dropped by customers. This would be achieved through an amendment to the Street Litter Control Notices Order (Northern Ireland) 1995.

OPERATIONAL

6.3 Consultation on draft high hedges fee legislation

ADEH drew attention to the above consultation and draft response to it as per report.

Members were agreeable to the introduction of the proposed charges as outlined in CEHOG response.

(Councillor Cuddy left at 9.48 pm)
(Councillor Cavanagh left at 9.53 pm)

6.4 Hazardous Waste – Derryhubbert/Derrycorr

Member spoke in relation to hazardous waste issues that are ongoing at Derryhubbert/Derrycorr. Member felt that Council should request a

meeting with the Minister responsible for NIEA to discuss a way forward to getting waste cleared.

Resolved That meeting be arranged with relevant Minister to discuss ongoing problems with hazardous waste being dumped in the Derryhubbert/Derrycorr area.

(Councillor McGahan left the meeting at 9.55 pm)
(Councillor McGonnell left at 10.00 pm)

6.5 Adoption of Report

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Hamilton and

Resolved That the report of the Acting Director of Environmental Health be adopted, and that all recommendations, subject to the foregoing, be approved.

7 DURATION OF MEETING

The meeting was called for 7.30 pm and ended at 10.02 pm.

MAYOR_____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE _____
(Acting)