

COOKSTOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Proceedings of a DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 20th May 2008 at 7.00 pm

Present:	Councillor Clarke	Chairman
Councillors:	Baker, Glasgow, Molloy, McAleer, McCartney, McCrea, McGarvey, McIvor, McNamee, and Quinn	
Officers:	Adrian McCreesh Ruth Carson	Director of Development Admin Officer
	Stephen Cuddy	Cookstown Hockey Club

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were reported on behalf of Councillors Lees, McGlone, Wilson, and Michael McGuckin.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2.1 Cookstown Hockey Club

The Chairman welcomed Stephen Cuddy, Vice Chair, Cookstown Hockey Club, to the meeting to give Members a presentation on the proposed installation of a new water based hockey pitch in Cookstown. Mr Cuddy advised Members that Cookstown Hockey Club is presently using a sand based pitch located on the grounds of Cookstown High School and have been leasing this from since 1994. However the Clubs playing requirements have outgrown the present facility and therefore the need for a second pitch. It is envisaged that this second pitch will be a water based pitch as there are presently no water based pitches West of the Bann and this will therefore not only improve existing facilities for local hockey training but also create potential to have International Hockey played in Cookstown. It is envisaged that once installed all Cookstown Hockey Club matches will take place on the new water based pitch leaving the sand pitch available for rental for multi sports use.

Mr Cuddy advised that funding has been secured from the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure, Sport NI, for the amount of £500K subject to expenditure before 31 March 2009. It is estimated that the overall cost of installing a water based pitch will total approximately £800K + VAT leaving a shortfall of approximately £350K. Mr Cuddy advised it is envisaged that this will be made up of a financial contribution from Cookstown District Council with the remainder being provided by Cookstown Hockey Club. Mr Cuddy reminded Members that discussions regarding the above proposals took place with Cookstown Council back in 2004. At that time an agreement had been made in principle for Council to provide financial support of up to £80K for Cookstown Hockey Club to develop its own pitch and Council to move forward with its planned investment for soccer, gaelic and rugby at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena.

Mr Cuddy also advised Members that as a requirement of funding they are required to prepare a business case over the next few weeks. McClure Watters have subsequently been employed to carry out same and as a result Cookstown Hockey Club require a letter from Cookstown District Council advising of their financial support towards this project.

The Chairman thanked Mr Cuddy for his presentation after which he answered a number of questions.

Mr Cuddy left the meeting at 8.25pm.

Discussion ensued among Members after which

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey
Seconded by Councillor McCrea and RECOMMENDED

That Council provide a financial contribution of £90K to Cookstown Hockey Club in principle subject to appropriate terms and conditions stipulated by Corporate Services.

3. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Committee NOTED documentation in relation to the European Sustainable Competitiveness Programme for Northern Ireland 2007-2013. Members were advised that funding in the region of £50M will be made available to Local Government under this programme. Cookstown Council are presently in the process of drafting proposals to secure

funding. These will be brought to Council for approval before submission to the Department of Trade and Industry.

NOTED.

4. COOKSTOWN & MAGHERAFELT CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU

The Director of Development provided the Committee with an update on the current financial status of Cookstown Citizens Advice Bureau. Members were advised that following CAB's presentation to Development Committee meeting of 18 March 2008, representatives of Cookstown CAB met with Council's Audit Committee to clarify the financial status of the organisation. At this meeting it was recommended that financial forecasts are drawn up and provided to Corporate Services on a monthly basis. Restructuring of the organisation has also taken place since then.

Members were also reminded that funding of £74,900 has been allocated to Cookstown District Council from the Department for Social Development for Advice Service expenditure during financial period April 08 – March 09. It was requested that Council release the first stage payment of £15,000 to Cookstown CAB.

After discussion

It was proposed by Councillor McCrea

Seconded by Councillor McGarvey and RECOMMENDED

That Council sign off Letter of Offer with the Department for Social Development to accept allocated funding of £74,900 for Advice Services and that Council release first stage payment of £15,000 to Cookstown CAB.

5. COMMUNITY SERVICES

5.1 Community Festival Fund

Members NOTED guidance notes in respect of forthcoming Community Festivals public call. Members were advised that notification of public call has already been advertised within the local papers inviting groups to

apply for grants for expenditure on Community Festivals. Applications will then be assessed by the Good Relations Committee and recommendations brought back to Council for approval.

5.2 Department for Social Development Local Community Fund

The Director of Development advised that funding has been made available from the Department for Social Development, Local Community Fund, for expenditure within Ardboe and Dunamore wards during financial period April 08 – March 09. Approval is therefore sought to allocate such monies via the public call process and for Cookstown Local Strategy Partnership to spearhead the assessment process.

It was proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McIvor and RECOMMENDED

That DSD Local Community Funding of £71,411 be allocated to Ardboe and Dunamore wards by way of public call and Cookstown Local Strategy Partnership spearhead the assessment process.

5.3 NIO Community Safety Unit

Members NOTED Letter of Offer issued by the Northern Ireland Office, Community Safety Unit, confirming Technical Assistance up to a maximum of £41K per annum for period April 2008- March 2011. Funding is subject to the provision of assessment and planning of work carried out over the last three years and a proposed plan for the next three years.

It was proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McCrea and RECOMMENDED

That Letter of Offer between NIO Community Safety Unit and Cookstown District Council be signed off accepting Technical Assistance of up to £41K per annum for period April 2008 – March 2011.

5.4 Voluntary Body Grant Aid

The Committee NOTED minutes of Voluntary Body Sub Committee meeting held 30th April 2008. Members were advised that there will be a further public call for allocation of remaining funds of £6,000 in September 2008.

It was proposed by Councillor Baker
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and RECOMMENDED

That the minutes and recommendations of Voluntary Body Sub Committee meeting held 30th April 2008 be ADOPTED and that Letters of Offers be issued to groups with immediate effect.

6. RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Members NOTED a letter from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development confirming first allocation of funding for £12M towards the Rural Development Programme.

7. PLAY AREA PROVISION

The Director of Development advised Members that Play Area Budget for financial period April 08 – March 09 is £30K. This is for the development of new and maintenance of existing play areas within the District, £15K of which has already been committed to develop one play area within 2008/2009. Members were advised that two further requests have been made to Council regarding the provision of play area facilities within the District.

7.1 Rathbeg Play Area

Members were reminded that following significant demand to reinstall a play area provision at Rathbeg, Cookstown, a survey was carried out among the residents, results of which were circulated to Members prior to the meeting. Members were advised that the total cost of installation of such facilities is approximately £39K.

It was proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and RECOMMENDED

That Council make financial provision of £39K within next years Play Area Budget (2009/2010) for the installation of Play Area facilities at Rathbeg, Cookstown.

Councillor Quinn advised that he is presently working with residents from the Blackhill, Cookstown. He advised that a Residents Association has been established to improve the quality of life for residents living in

that area. A request has been made by the group that should they be successful in achieving their objective, that Council consider the reinstallation of play area facilities.

NOTED.

7.2 Ard Stewart, Stewartstown

Members were also advised that a letter has been received from Stewartstown Central Estates Steering Group requesting that Council consider the upgrade of existing play area in Ard Stewart and the provision of a new play park in Chambre Park, Stewartstown.

Discussion ensued among Members after which

It was proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Baker and RECOMMENDED

That Council keep the existing play area at Ard Stewart and consider establishing a kickabout area at Hendersons Park. It was further RECOMMENDED that provision for such facility be provided for within Councils Play Area budget 2009/2010.

8. TOURISM

8.1 Sperrins Tourism Ltd

8.1.1 Sperrins Tourism Work Plan 2008/2009

Members NOTED Sperrins Tourism Work Plan for period 2008-2009.

8.1.2 Draft Plan for Tourism Projects in the Sperrins 2008-2013

Members NOTED Draft Plan for Sperrins Tourism Projects for period 2008-2013.

8.1.3 Sperrins Tourism Minutes

Members NOTED minutes of Sperrins Tourism meetings held March and April 2008.

The Director of Development advised that Council's annual contribution of £20,500 is now due for payment.

It was proposed by Councillor McGarvey

Seconded by Councillor Molloy and RECOMMENDED

That annual contribution of £20,500 to Sperrins Tourism be paid in two stage payments of £10,250.

8.2 Cookstown Tourist Information Centre

Members NOTED programme of events prepared by Cookstown Tourist Information Centre for summer period.

8.3 Tourism Sub Committee

Members NOTED minutes of Tourism Sub Committee meeting of 30th April 2008.

8.4 Western Regional Tourism Partnership

The Committee NOTED minutes of Western Regional Tourism Partnership meetings held 22nd February and 2nd April 2008.

9. BURNAVON

9.1 Town Twinning

Members NOTED minutes of Town Twinning meeting held 7th May 2008.

9.2 Tullaghoge Fort

The Director of Development advised Members that a meeting has taken place with the Minister of the Department of Culture, Arts & Leisure, regarding the development of Tullaghoge Fort. A Tullaghoge Fort Sub Committee meeting will be organised over the next few weeks to update Members accordingly.

9.3 Burnavon Extension Update

Members to be updated regarding the Burnavon Extension at the next Arts & Cultural Sub Committee meeting.

10. DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

The Committee NOTED letter from the Award Director, Duke of Edinburgh's Award, requesting Council to host a Silver Presentation in November 2008. It was UNANIMOUSLY RECOMMENDED that Council host the Silver Presentation.

11. COOKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL

Members NOTED letter of thanks from The High School, Cookstown in relation to recent Civic Reception.

12. LOUGH NEAGH AND LOWER BANN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Members NOTED minutes of Lough Neagh and Lower Bann Management meeting held 17th April 2008.

13. WESTERN ECONOMIC STRATEGY TEAM

Members NOTED minutes of WEST meeting held 12th March 2008.

14. SISTER CITIES

The Committee NOTED correspondence from the City of Milpitas, USA, in relation to developing a Sister Cities relationship.

15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15.1 Postcomm

Members NOTED a letter from Postcomm inviting them to attend an event on 28 May 2008 in the Silver Birch Hotel, Omagh. Any Member wishing to attend was asked to contact the Development Department over the next few days.

The meeting ended at 8.25 pm.

Chairman

Clerk/Chief Executive

Date

TABLED FOR INFORMATION

1. Association of Irish Festival Events – Aoife year book 2008
2. Department for Employment and Learning – Labour Market Bulletin 21 – March 2008
3. Pobal – Developing a comprehensive policy and a strategy to enhance and protect the development of the Irish Language in the North of Ireland