

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE OF DUNGANNON AND SOUTH TYRONE BOROUGH COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2012 IN THE COUNCIL OFFICES, CIRCULAR ROAD, DUNGANNON

- MEMBERS PRESENT:** In the Chair, Councillor McGonnell (Chair)
- Councillors Ashton, F Burton (7.35 pm), Brush, Cavanagh, Cuddy (7.32 pm), Daly, Donnelly, Gildernew, Gillespie, McGuigan, McLarnon (7.36 pm), Molloy, Morrow, Mulligan, O'Neill, Quinn, Reid and Robinson
- OFFICERS PRESENT:** I Frazer, Acting Chief Executive
K Barrett, Recreation Manager
V Beggs, Investment & Grants Manager
P Clarke, Community Development Manager
C Linney, Corporate Strategy & Policy Officer
M Grogan, Secretariat
- APOLOGIES:** Councillor Monteith
N Hill, Parks and Tourism Manager
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Agenda Item 1: Presentation by Representatives of The Northern Ireland Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committee

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm.

1. THE NORTHERN IRELAND VETERANS ADVISORY & PENSIONS COMMITTEE

The Chair welcomed Mr Arnold and Ms Carroll to the meeting. Mr Arnold delivered a presentation (appendix 1).

Following the presentation the following comments/suggestions were made:

- Not a full-time position, nominated person would still perform their own role within Council but with a little more responsibility working as an advocate for the NI Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committee.
- Presentation very informative as it outlines the great cause this group is doing for veterans and their families.
- There are currently 210 veterans claiming the war pension in the DSTBC area alone, these include: 180 disablement and 30 war widows/widowers.
- Not a huge workload involved, would only be responsible for advocating a service to people who require information about gaining access to welfare support.

- Anticipating holding a Seminar for all nominated advocates in Northern Ireland to make their aware of the services provided by the Group.

The Chair thanked Mr Arnold for the presentation following which he withdrew from the meeting at 7.52 pm.

After discussion members felt that the Council should appoint an Advocate as this is a very worthwhile cause.

Proposed by Councillor Morrow
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that the Council appoint an Elected Member as an Advocate to the Northern Ireland Veterans Advisory & Pensions Committee.

2 **REPORT**

The Development Report (appendix 2) was presented reference being made to the undernoted:

2.1 **Strategic Approvals (Section 1)**

2.1.2 **Blackwater Canoe Camp Site (item 1.1.1)**

The Acting Chief Executive made reference to the above proposal and the relocation to a more advantageous site. This required the new site to be resurveyed. Additional cost of £3,220 refers to the construction of extra steps providing a greater range of usage at various water levels which will be an advantage given the nature of the Blackwater River.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that additional costs as sought be granted.

2.1.3 **Lough Neagh Partnership Funding (item 1.1.2)**

The Acting Chief Executive sought approval to request for administration funding in support of the Lough Neagh Partnership for 2013-14. The partnership has indicated a contribution of £5,000 from each stakeholder Council.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to ring-fence the identified expenditure of £5,000 from the 2013-14 budget allocations, subject to available resources.

2.1.4 Forest Recreation Audit (1.1.3)

In response to a query regarding deterrent measures to keep quads/bikes out of Knockmany Forest Park, the Acting Chief Executive advised that the design of the turnstile at the Hill of the O'Neill wouldn't be compatible with Knockmany.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Acting Chief Executive liaise with Forestry Service again to seek a favorable outcome.

2.1.5 Council Facility Killymaddy (item 1.1.4)

The Acting Chief Executive updated the Committee on the future of Killymaddy and how best to utilise the space. Council has been approached to enter into a partnership with the local community groups, Clonanease and Killeeshil Historical and Community Association and Killeeshil Panda Play Group to utilise Killymaddy as a community resource for the local area under a lease agreement and value as agreed by the district valuer recommendation.

Councillor O'Neill left the meeting at 8.12 pm.

Ranfurly House is now the main Information Tourist Centre and Killymaddy is an outlet, it has served its purpose well, but now has to think of the future and relocation of Killymaddy, possibly between A4 and A5 trunk roads.

Councillor Brush left the meeting at 8.25 pm.

After discussion, it was

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to enter into a Council partnership with Clonanease and Killeeshil Historical and Community Association and Killeeshil Panda Play Group to utilise Killymaddy as a community resource. Business plans to be drawn up as two separate identities.

The Chairman welcomed Councillor Molloy to his first Committee meeting.

Councillor Reid left the meeting at 8.35 pm.

2.1.6 DSD Additional Funding (item 1.3.1)

The Investment & Grants Officer sought approval to proceed with DSD Application for additional £100,000.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to grant permission as requested.

2.2 Operational Approvals

2.2.1 PCSP - Membership Update (item 2.1.3.1)

Councillor Molloy will now replace Councillor Bronwyn McGahan as Council representative on Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

2.2.2 PCSP – Transitional Action Plan (item 2.1.3.2)

In response to a query about Council involvement in funding, the Community Development Manager advised that this was only done so as a matter of information.

2.3.1 Coolhill Cemetery Boundary (item 2.2.1)

Member welcomed the survey being carried out as the trees in Coohill Cemetery are of a considerable height and could be a danger to the public.

On receipt of a more detailed report and costing, a further report will be submitted for consideration.

2.3.2 Festive Light Grant Aid (item 2.3.2.4)

The Community Development Manager circulated Addendum (appendix 3) to Strategic Development Report. The Festive Grant Applications have been assessed there were 16 applications received and recommended approval.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that approval be granted.

In response to a query about additional monies re: Community Festivals, the Community Development Manager advised that there is no money left in the budget, but if there was any slippage, would inform the Committee.

In response to a query regarding application by Augher, the Acting Chief Executive advised that no application was made and late applications would not be considered.

2.3.3 Ranfurly House Arts & Visitor Centre (item 2.3.4.1)

In response to a query about non-payment to sub-contractors from the Patton Group, the Acting Chief Executive advised that there is nothing that can be done to support the sub-contractors as contract was with the Patton Group. The Administrator has made it perfectly clear that the Patton Group are still in business. There is still sufficient money kept from the Contractor to finish of the project at the Hill. Anticipated timeframe for opening the Hill of the O'Neill to the public would be sometime in January 2013.

Councillor Molloy left the meeting at 9 pm.

2.3.4 Proposed Events in the Square Box (item 2.3.4.3)

It was agreed that the Acting Chief Executive attend the next Arts Forum meeting to discuss performance space.

2.4.1 Corporate Strategy & Policy – Nursery Pre School Provision (item 2.5.1)

Member raised concern about the ongoing lack of nursery pre school provision in the borough. If the situation is not addressed as a priority matter, it will certainly escalate.

After discussion, it was

Proposed by Councillor Cavanagh
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that the Corporate Strategy & Policy Officer arrange a meeting with the PAEG & SELB to discuss options for 2013 to deal with growth and provision in disadvantaged areas as per OFMDFM government strategy.

Councillor Gildernew left the meeting at 9.10 pm.

3.1.1 Public Realm Scheme (item 3.1.2.1)

In response to a query the Acting Chief Executive advised that no Contractor has been appointed yet. Procedures would need to be put in place to safeguard against eventualities.

After discussion it was suggested that something needs to be done to safeguard sub-contractors in case main contractors get into difficulties.

3.1.2 Royal Scottish Pipe Band Ulster Championships (item 3.2.1)

The Acting Chief Executive advised that the Council were unsuccessful in their bid to the hosting of the Ulster Championship event on 10th August 2013. The Council has requested a feedback meeting with the Pipe Band Association in relation to the unsuccessful bid.

3.1.3 LED Programmes Update (item 3.4.1)

Member advised that it would be beneficial to get involved with the New Policing College at Loughry, as it is as near to Dungannon as Cookstown. It would be good to be working in conjunction with Cookstown Council to get a piece of the action where businesses are concerned.

3.1.4 CCTV Review (item 3.5.1)

The Acting Chief Executive advised that the meeting scheduled with the PSNI on Friday 30th November 2012, report to be issued immediately thereafter.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that the findings of the meeting be issued to members on Friday.

4 Correspondence (item 4.1)

4.1 Dungannon United Youth CIC (item 4.1.1)

The Acting Chief Executive submitted correspondence dated 14th November 2012 from Dungannon United Youth with an update on the development of their current pitch facilities to a 3G synthetic surface. They are seeking financial support to complete the development of the facility by September 2013.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council that a meeting be arranged to discuss the level of revenue to be put in the budget for next year.

4.1.2 The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland (item 4.1.2)

The Acting Chief Executive submitted letter dated 19th October 2012 from The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland requesting a meeting with local Councillors and Officers to discuss providing seating and cutting grass on the towpath etc.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to arrange a meeting with the group to discuss way forward.

4.1.3 St Macartan's Cathedral Clogher (item 4.1.3)

Submitted letter from St Macartan's Cathedral Clogher requesting the Council to reconsider the upkeep of the cemetery on account of its historic and strategic importance.

Members felt that such an historic site should be looked at sensibly.

The Acting Chief Executive advised the only reason for ceasing the upkeep previously at this site was because it could have possibly set a precedent for all other graveyards upkeep.

Resolved: That it be recommended to the Council to investigate the matter again.

4.1.4 The Shaftesbury Estate of Lough Neagh Ltd (item 4.1.4)

Submitted letter from The Shaftesbury Estate of Lough Neagh clarifying points of interest regarding the Lough. Estate wants to work with those who have an interest in the development of the Lough Neagh to ensure that the best possible outcome is reached.

4.1.5 Clogher Valley Agricultural Show 2012 (item 4.1.5)

Correspondence dated 19th October 2012 from Ms Hollie O'Flynn thanking the Council for its generous sponsorship towards her prize at Clogher Valley Agricultural Show 2012.

4.1.6 Augher Summer Festival Committee

Correspondence dated 28th October 2012 from Mr Gerry McElroy, Festival Chairman of Augher Summer Festival Committee thanking members of the Council for donation towards recent festival.

5. Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.30 pm and concluded at 9.50 pm.

MAYOR _____

CHIEF EXECUTIVE _____
(Acting)