

Ballymoney Borough Council

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895.1 Rates Estimate

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 895 held 'in committee' in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney, on Wednesday 14th January at 6.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR Councillor J Finlay, Mayor

PRESENT **Aldermen**
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor
F Campbell
H Connolly
J Simpson

Councillors
A Cavlan
B Kennedy
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
T McKeown
A Patterson
E Robinson

APOLOGIES **Councillors**
I Stevenson
D McKay, MLA

IN ATTENDANCE Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services
Director of Central & Leisure Services
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

895.1 RATES ESTIMATE

The Chief Executive advised that the meeting was convened to further consider Version 2 of the estimates of income and expenditure for 2009/10 (already circulated). Circulated at the meeting were the following papers (attached as Appendix 1):

- [1] updated version of capital programme following elimination of a number of projects by Council 9/12/08
- [2] Service Budget Proposals Options Paper – prepared by CMT 6/1/09

Speaking on behalf of the DUP, Alderman Campbell referred to the decision at the last meeting on 9th December 2008 that members review the information provided on rates in party groupings prior to this meeting. He stated that it was his party's view that the rates estimate increase be brought down to 10%.

Alderman Campbell proposed:

that officers should review the rates estimate and produce a revised estimate keeping the increase to 10% on the current year's estimate.

This was seconded by the Mayor.

The Chief Executive referred to the draft estimates as tabled at the last meeting on 9 December showing an increase of 30.73% and including three capital projects, namely:

- Fire Alarm upgrade at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre
- Re-tiling at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre
- Refuse Vehicle

He clarified with members and it was confirmed that this 30.73% increase was to be reduced to 10% and that the capital projects presently included could be reviewed by officers. The Chief Executive indicated that this task would be a challenging one. He expressed the hope that soon better information would be available on the estimated penny product and general grant figures, also energy and fuel costs and on the Minister Dodds' rescue package.

* **Councillor McGuigan arrived at 6.35 pm**

Councillor Patterson, on behalf of her party, suggested that in view of the current economic climate and the fact that inescapable increases were sitting above 11%, no new capital projects should be included and the budget should be reviewed and only necessary projects considered.

During the ensuing debate, members discussed the merits of considering some priority capital projects and a global revenue budget to allow essential projects to be considered and approved during the year, the impact of reducing bank interest rates and other income budget reductions and the possible need to consider reduction in current service levels to maintain the increase to 10% given that inescapable increases were already beyond this level.

* **Councillor McCamphill arrived at 6.40 pm.**

* **Councillor Kennedy arrived at 6.50 pm.**

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Chief Executive agreed to provide a breakdown of costs of official and courtesy visits spend in 2008/09. He confirmed that the events etc delivered under this budget were approved by Council, including additional spend authorised for events approved after the budget process, on which information had already been provided.

The Mayor then put the motion to the meeting, nine members voting in favour of the motion and no member voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Director of Borough Services advised members that in view of the work to be undertaken on review of budgets, which would take priority, the delivery of some other projects currently in hand or requests for works may be delayed.

The Director of Borough Services drew members' attention to proposed lighting, added at members' request to the current Riverside Park contract as an optional extra and included in the current revised corporate plan capital projects schedule to be considered during the rates process. As contract work was advancing, he sought guidance on whether the lighting should be removed. After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor Kennedy and **AGREED:**

that the lighting element be removed from the Riverside Park Scheme.

The Director confirmed that ducting had already been installed and therefore lighting could be considered at a later date should members wish, albeit that it may be more costly to delivery as supplementary work.

895.2 DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will take place on 3rd February 2009 in the Council Chamber at 6.30 p.m.

The meeting closed at 7.30 p.m.

Appendices attached:

Appendix 1 Updated version of capital programme following elimination of a number of projects by Council 9/12/08

Service Budget Proposals Options Paper – prepared by CMT 6/1/09

APPENDIX 1

Circulation

Cllrs, CE, DBS, DCLS, HCDS.

NOTES:

- **APPENDIX 1 DELETED**
 - **CURRENT YEARS PROGRAMME, WORK COMPLETED OR COMMENCED, NOT UP FOR CONSIDERATION**
- **APPENDIX 2**
 - **ALL PRIORITY 1 RETAINED,**
 - **PRIORITY 2 ELIMINATED, WITH EXCEPTION OF 1 RCV AND RASHARKIN CEMETERY IMPROVEMENTS**
 - **ALL PRIORITY 3 ELIMINATED.**
- **APPENDIX 3**
 - **ALL PROPOSED PROJECTS RETAINED FOR CONSIDERATION AT RATES MEETING**

9/1/09



Appendix 2: Possible Capital Expenditure Projects 2009-11

Major Projects/Equipment	Estimated Cost (£)	Priority	Status
New Community Facility, Cloughmills	1,300,000	1	LAC has determined that we develop land which Council purchased at Old Mill site. Council Architects drawing up plans and estimated costs, if possible by December LAC
New Community Facility, Dervock	Max contribution 1,000,000	1	Planning permission obtained. Plans prepared – no funding package
Megaw Park Upgrade	650,000 rev. £625,000	1	Two cost options presented to LAC. Refurbishment £279K and Refurbishment plus Tennis Courts £449K.
Fire Alarm System Upgrade at JDLC	60,000 rev. £55,000	1	Planned 2009/10
Ballybogy Community Buildings Upgrade	700,000 incl 2 below**	1	Scheme costed and to be considered LAC December meeting. It is hoped that LAC will recommend particular option to Council.
Balnamore Community Buildings Upgrade	Included**	1	Ditto
Stranocum Community Buildings Upgrade	Included**	1	Ditto
1 Replacement RCV	150,000	2	1 this year and 2 nd vehicle deferred meantime
Rasharkin Cemetery Improvements	£91,500	2	Costing prepared
OCE – no projects			

APPENDIX 3 – PROJECTS ADDED AFTER CAPITAL PLAN AND RATES APPROVED.

Projects/Equipment	Estimated Cost (£)	Priority	Status
Replacement Van	£10,000		Awaiting decision
Drumaheglis Access Upgrade	£42,000		Awaiting plans

Ballymoney Riverside Park – fence upgrade	£4,750		Awaiting decision
Ballymoney Riverside Park – lighting scheme	£163,420		Progressed through committee but no decision
Ballymoney Riverside Park – essential path repairs	To be advised		Referred to rates process for decision
Bus Shelter provision	£15,000		Locations to be identified
Festive Lighting Upgrade 2009	30,000		For consideration
Riverside Park, Ballymoney – Lake de-silting	Consultancy - £5,000		Problem reported to LAC
Knock Road Depot Fuel Management System	£8,000		Progressed through Committee – referred to rates meeting for consideration.

V.4
05/01/09
/ej

APPENDIX 3 – PROJECTS ADDED AFTER CAPITAL PLAN AND RATES APPROVED. - ADDENDUM

Projects/Equipment	Estimated Cost (£)	Priority	Status
JDLC Changing Rooms – retiling	215,000		Referred to rates meeting for consideration

V.4 addendum
09/1/09
/ej

SERVICE BUDGET PROPOSALS - OPTIONS PAPER1 CMT 6.1.09										
Page No	Service		Budget Detail		Amount		Consequence	Decision		
4	Museum Service		Publicity		1,900		No funding to publicise opening of museum and 1st temp. exhibition			
			Events/Exhibitions		12,000		No new exhibitions for newly fitted out temp museum gallery 09-10			
6	Sports Development		Programme Costs		2,000		Additional sports programmes			
							not provided			
11	Tourism		Events		22,000		No events organised.			
9	Sports Gds P&OS		Tree Surgery Rockend		3,250		damage to road traffic and pedestrians possible			
10	Tourist Facilities		Tree Clearance		4,250		overshadowing of sites - risk of tree fall due to storm and possible damage when sites in use			
			De-Silting Marina		8,000		unable to let berths due to reduced draught			
			Canoe Access Signage		1,026		scheme may not progress without all partners contributing apportioned funding			
15	Cemeteries		Grave Shoring		5,250		health & safety compromised			
16	Environmental Health		LA21-Biodiversity Project		8,000		Council has sought grant-aid in conjunction with Coleraine and Limavady Councils. Project dependent on each participant contributing			
20	Street Cleaning		Village Litter Bins Upgrade		4,000		continue with extant aged receptacles			
22	Waste disposal		Landfill Site Closure Provision		150,000		Local Govt. Auditor requires Council to make provision			
32	Corporate Management		Corporate Planning		4,300		reduced ability to lobby			
			Citizens Survey		6,000		non-compliance with governance statement			
28	Economic Development		Programmes/Projects		20,000		reduced programme/ project activity			
					251,976					
CLSD	BSD	OCE								