



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

13th June, 2012

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 13th day of JUNE, 2012, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MR. COUNCILLOR DAVID JOHN ASHFORD, J.P.

Councillor

Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman

Mr. C.C. Thomas

Mr. S.R. Pitts

Mr. J. Joughin

Mr. D.W. Christian, J.P.

Mr. E.A. Joyce

Mrs. C.E. Malarkey

Mr. G.J. Faragher

Miss. D.A.M. Pitts

Mr. W.M. Malarkey

Mr. R.H. McNicholl, J.P.

Mr. J.E. Skinner

Mr. S.C. Cain

Mr. A.V. Quirk

The Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Borough Treasurer and Borough Engineer and Surveyor were in attendance.

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs. R. Chatel and Mr. Councillor C.L.H. Cain.

1. **Minute's Silence**

The Council stood for a minute's silence as a mark of respect to Councillor Mrs. Doreen Kinrade, and Mr. Robin Gibb, both of whom had recently died.

2. **Minutes – 9th May 2012**

Minutes of the annual meeting held Wednesday, 9th May, 2012, were approved and signed.

3. **Questions – Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas**

The following question addressed by Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas to the Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee, having been circulated together with the Lead Member's reply was noted:

Question:

In respect of the Noble's Park bowling-green kiosk part of which provides a bowling clubhouse;

- (i) How were the following costs estimated i) £215,000 to fully refurbish or rebuild the building ii) £148,000 to retain the club house but demolish the toilets;
- (ii) Were quotations or estimates obtained from potential contractors to inform these estimates and, if so, how and when;
- (iii) Was professional opinion sought and obtained for these estimates;
- (iv) How much has the Council spent on maintenance in each of the last ten years;
- (v) What, if anything, has the Committee learned from its decision to reconsider the previously agreed demolition in respect of i) maintenance ii) dialogue with users and the wider community iii) the process of estimating refurbishment and iv) the provision of information as such decisions are taken?

Reply:

The question of the Noble's Park Bowling Pavilion Building is still under consideration by the advisory Committee and as can be seen in the minutes of the last meeting, Members have asked for all relevant information. Representatives of the Bowling Club that occupies the pavilion have also been invited to the next meeting.

It is premature to go into too much detail at this stage but the Member can be assured that no final decision will be made until the Committee is in possession of all material information.

In relation to the estimated costs, and how they were arrived at, they were calculated by the Borough Engineer and Surveyors Department. The Committee has asked for a more thorough breakdown and until this is received no comment is appropriate.

The following question addressed by Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas to the Lead Member for Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee, having been circulated together with the Lead Member's reply was noted:

Question:

Multi-Purpose Events Hall

Which other potential sites have been considered for location of the proposed 75m long 8 metre high 2700 square metre footprint steel and membrane covered sports and events hall, with alcohol and music license, for which outline planning application (PA11/01748A) has been unsuccessful to date given planning officer and committee concerns about potential disturbance, visual impact arising from scale and position, and the lack of information about the required 180 parking spaces?

Reply:

The proposed multi-purpose building the subject of the planning application was intended to optimise use of a specific area of Noble's Park, by enabling all-weather use of the newly resurfaced hard courts. As such it is site-specific and no other sites were considered.

No formal notification has been received of refusal of the planning application despite a recent newspaper article indicating it.

The following question addressed by Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas to the Leader of the Council, having been circulated together with the Leader's reply was noted:

Question:

Ratepayer-borne non-housing-related borrowing by Douglas Borough Council for regeneration

Has Treasury concurred with, and Department of Infrastructure approved, the recent petition by the Mayor, Alderman and Burgesses of the Borough of Douglas to borrow for the purpose of payment of professional fees for electrical design work in connection with the lighting and CCTV element of the Douglas Town Centre Regeneration Scheme; and

How much is currently estimated for ratepayer-borne non-housing-related borrowing up until end-2015 and how much of this will be used for i) Douglas Town Centre Regeneration ii) proposed Cambrian Place development iii) other non-housing use.

Reply:

The petition for borrowing powers for payment of professional fees for electrical design work in connection with the Town Centre Regeneration Scheme is currently under consideration by the Department of Infrastructure and the outcome is awaited.

The calculation of rateborne borrowing for schemes other than housing is not easily or quickly achieved but the Borough Treasurer is working to gather the information requested by the Member and will supply when it is available.

The following question addressed by Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas to the Lead Member for Environmental Services, having been circulated together with the Lead Member's reply was noted:

Question:

Plans to link south west Douglas to the town centre with a footpath and cycleway

What is the current status of the previously announced plan to enhance the right of way to pedestrians and cyclists between south west Douglas the town centre through:

- (i) The Nunnery Estate including river crossings
- (ii) Lake Road and Quay West development
- (iii) The Quays
- (iv) The proposed Lower Douglas Development Site;

What discussion about this plan have been held by Council members and officers in 2011 and 2012 with i) landowners ii) developers iii) planning officers iv) government departments v) potential users and the wider community; and

Has more general access and use of Nunnery estate for i) dog-walking ii) leisure and sport iii) allotments been discussed with landowners?

Reply:

This scheme to develop cycle and pedestrian access was originally put forward as a suggestion by a private individual and potential funding source who has since withdrawn the offer. Therefore the scheme has not been progressed.

4. Executive Committee – 25th May 2012 – Part B, Clause 2

Resolved unanimously, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Part B Clause 2 of report of meeting held Friday, 25th May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council."

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr. Councillor E.A. Joyce declared an interest in this item and retired whilst it was considered.

5. Executive Committee – 25th May 2012 – Part A Clauses 1 to 10 inclusive, Part B Clause 1 and Clauses 3 to 7 inclusive

Motion moved by Mr. Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Part A Clauses 1 to 10 inclusive and Part B Clause 1 and Clauses 3 to 7 inclusive of report of meeting held Friday, 25th May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council."

Question put. On division being challenged the vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion: Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts, Councillor Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman, Messrs Councillors J. Joughin, D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs. C.E. Malarkey, Messrs Councillors E.A. Joyce, G.J. Faragher, Councillor Miss. D.A.M. Pitts, Messrs Councillors W.M. Malarkey, R.H. McNicholl, J.E. Skinner, S.C. Cain, A.V. Quirk, the Mayor – **14**

There voted **Against** the Motion: Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas – **1**

Motion carried.

6. **Pensions Committee – 23rd May 2012**

Resolved unanimously, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Pensions Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Wednesday, 23rd May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

7. **Housing and Property Advisory Committee – 16th May 2012**

Resolved unanimously, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Wednesday, 16th May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

8. **Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee – 15th May 2012**

Resolved unanimously, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Advisory Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Tuesday, 15th May, 2012, be received, approved, and adopted by the Council.”

9. **Environmental Services Advisory Committee – 14th May 2012 – Part B Clause 1**

Resolved unanimously, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee, as contained in Part B Clause 1 of report of meeting held on Monday, 14th May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr. Councillor E.A. Joyce declared an interest in this item and retired whilst it was considered.

10. **Environmental Services Advisory Committee – 14th May 2012 – Part A Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive**

Resolved unanimously, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Advisory Committee, as contained in Part A Clauses 1 to 7 inclusive of report of meeting held on Monday, 14th May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

11. **Appointment of one Member to the Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee**

Resolved unanimously, “That Standing Order 17 be suspended to enable appointment of a replacement representative on the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee following the resignation of Mr. Councillor S.C. Cain.”

The Worshipful the Mayor invited nominations for one Member to serve as a Council representative to the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee for the municipal years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014.

Mr. Councillor W.M. Malarkey was nominated by Mr. Councillor D.W. Christian and seconded by Mr. Councillor G.J. Faragher.

Councillor Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman was nominated by Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas and seconded by Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts.

A ballot took place in which the votes were cast as follows;

Mr. Councillor W.M. Malarkey	9
Councillor Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman	6

The Worshipful the Mayor declared that Mr. Councillor W.M. Malarkey, having obtained a simple majority of the votes of the Members present, was appointed as Council representative to the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee for the municipal years 2012/2013 and 2013/2014.

IN PRIVATE

12. **Adjournment and Resumption**

The meeting adjourned at 3.35pm and resumed in private at 3.55pm with the same Members present.

13. **Executive Committee – 25th May 2012**

Motion moved by Mr. Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr. Councillor S.R. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee as contained in private report of meeting held on Friday, 25th May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

14. **Point of Order**

Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas rose on a point of order to query the approval of the matter contained in Part D Clause 2 of the private report of the Executive Committee meeting held on Friday, 25th May, 2012. Mr. Councillor C.C. Thomas asked for confirmation that approving the report of meeting was simply approving the amendment to the Capital Programme and not the overall Scheme which he hoped would be considered by full Council. The Chairman confirmed the scheme had already been approved by Council and was in a position to enter into contract.

15. **Executive Committee – 25th May 2012**

Resolved unanimously, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Friday, 25th May, 2012 be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

16. **Housing and Property Advisory Committee – 16th May 2012**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs. C.E. Malarkey, seconded by Mr. Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Advisory Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Wednesday, 16th May, 2012, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put. On division being called the vote was taken electronically and there voted **For** the Motion: Messrs Councillors J. Joughin, D.W. Christian, E.A. Joyce, Councillor Mrs. C.E. Malarkey, Messrs Councillors G.J. Faragher, W.M. Malarkey, J.E. Skinner, the Mayor – **8**

There voted **Against** the Motion: Councillor Mrs. S.D.A. Hackman, Messrs Councillor S.R. Pitts, C.C. Thomas, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Messrs Councillors R.H. McNicholl, S.C. Cain, A.V. Quirk – **7**

Motion carried.

The Council rose at 4.45pm.

Town Clerk & Chief Executive