

Minutes of the SGM of Co. Louth Golf Club

Wednesday 14th July 2021 at 7.30pm

Chairman Jack Gogarty opened the meeting and welcomed all present to the SGM of County Louth Golf Club. He gave some information to the format of the meeting in view of the COVID situation and then outlined the background to the irrigation project.

He then proceeded to read out Motion 1 (Two-third majority required)

“That Aquaturf Solutions Ltd. Installs a new irrigation system and associated works at a cost of €1,276,818, inclusive of VAT, funded as follows:

- (1) €446,000 to be removed from Ring-fenced No. 2 account and €383,000 to be removed from Ring-fenced No. 1 account
- (2) The balance of €447,818 to be sourced from Bank borrowings over a period not exceeding 10 years

Note: If Motion 1 is approved, the sum of €1.223m under rule 8.12 will reduce to €840,000, therefore rule 8.12 would read....

Notwithstanding anything contained in these rules, the Trustees shall at all times maintain a sum of €840,000 in specified bank accounts, together with any interest accruing, solely for the purpose of the prospective purchase of lands currently held by way of sporting lease.”

Proposed by: Patrick Joy

Seconded: Neil McMahon

Patrick Joy (Proposer) then proposed the motion. By way of Power point he firstly gave an overview of the current system and the issues and challenges that face the course staff in both operating and maintaining it. He then proceeded to speak about the new proposed system and the features and benefits this would bring to the club. “Ultimately, an up-to-date and reliable irrigation system would be necessary to maintain and improve the course presentation”. He then spoke about the tender process and project costs. After strong negotiation with three contractors, the most competitive price was received from Aquaturf. He then outlined their expertise in this area, referencing projects completed in peer clubs. Finally, he recommended proceeding with the project to start this year due to the potential of significant price increases in both labour and material costs.

(Note: Please refer to presentation)

Neil McMahon (Secunder) then seconded the motion. He agreed with Patrick on all the points made and benefits of installing a new system. He said the tendering of

the project was carried out in a very robust manner and the Club was in a very good financial position to fund it.

The Chairman then asked for any question or comments on the presentation,

Shane Santry asked if the price was fixed for labour and material costs. Patrick confirmed it was, but a 2.5% contingency for materials had been built in which would be standard in a project of this type. Shane then asked about material warranties and installation guarantees. Patrick confirmed a 3-year warranty applied to all parts supplied and 5 years on workmanship from Aquaturf.

Johnny Dunne felt with negative interest rates been applied to cash deposits the Club would be better reinvesting in projects of this type. Neil confirmed that one financial institution has written to the club and has confirmed this fact.

Padraic Smith said Green Fee income was very important and therefore the club should always be investing in achieving the highest possible standard of course presentation and supported the installation of the new system.

Declan O'Brien asked about the interest rate on Bank borrowings and what would the monthly repayments be. Neil confirmed the rate would be the market rate at between 3% to 3.5%. The repayments would be 72K PA plus interest over a 7-year period. He also mentioned this could be off set in the future with monies from Ring Fence No. 2 account as new members join. Declan then said priority should be given to members over green fees in terms of access to the course. The chairman confirmed from analysis, that 70% of timesheets are taken up by members and that this area is been closely monitored by Liam Murphy and the management committee.

Damien Carroll asked that if the project was to go ahead would this mean a subscription increase and levies been imposed on members. Neil replied that the project costs have already been agreed and the finance is in place. He also said that a subscription increase will be proposed at the next AGM but said this was a separate matter which will be communicated to members in due course.

Both Des Rodgers and Fred Green made mention and asked questions around the areas of water consumption, Energy efficiency and environmental impacts. Patrick reassured them that the new system would comply with all the latest requirements in these areas. He also agreed that from an energy usage perspective, areas like solar panel installation would be of benefit in the future. Des said he could help in this area which the Chairman noted and thanked him.

Bryan Ronan and Pat McEntee felt it would be better to train two irrigation technicians from the course team along with Wayne to provide better cover. Patrick agreed and confirmed he would talk to Wayne Murray

After further contributions from Pat McCann, Fergus Walsh, Tom Matthews, Alan Clarks, Niall Kierans and Sarah O'Hagan and with no more questions the Chairman then read out Motion 2 (Simple majority required)

"That the Trustees of County Louth Golf Club be directed to release a sum not exceeding 200,000-euro from Ring-Fenced funds for the purpose of funding the club's operational costs for November and December 2021 and for January 2022. The 200,000-euro sum will be replaced by 31st March 2022 from subscription income."

Proposed by: Neil McMahon

Seconded by: Carmel Kierans

Neil McMahon (Proposer) then proposed the motion. He started by saying the motion was identical to last year due to the ongoing issues around the COVID pandemic. With no green fees our free cash runs out and the club needs to fund its operating costs until Subscriptions start to be paid in January 2022. He again reiterated this was only a temporary arrangement and confirmed green fee bookings for 2022 were strong.

Carmel Kierans (Secunder) then seconded the motion. She said she agreed with the proposal and reiterated the fact that the club would run out of cash to fund its day-to-day operations.

As there were no questions on Motion 2, the Chairman then advised the meeting about the procedures for voting both through the Survey Monkey App and by casting a vote in the clubhouse.

The Chairman then thanked everyone for there attendance and closed the meeting.

Results

Motion 1 (Two Third majority required)

Total Number of Votes Cast = 511
Those members in favour of motion 1 were 484
Those members against motion 1 were 27
Motion 1 passed

Motion 2 (Simple majority required)

Total number of Votes Cast = 510
Those members in favour of motion 2 were 480
Those members against motion 2 were 30
Motion 2 passed

Richard Murray
(Hon. Secretary)