

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

DP

Youri De Smet *(Mayor)*



Marc Lang *(Alderman)*



Frank Colabianchi *(Councillor)*



Monique Smit-Thijs *(Councillor)*



Francine Moro Oliveira Costa
(Councillor)



Nadine Philippe *(Councillor)*



Mariette Gallmeister *(Councillor)*

Déi Gréng

Roger Miller *(Alderman)*



Stefan Glober *(Councillor)*

CSV

Nadine Schares *(Councillor)*



Guy Weirich *(Councillor)*



Marc Rauchs *(Councillor)*

LSAP

Yolande Schuster *(Councillor)*



MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

HELD ON 10 JULY 2026 AT 8.00 A.M.

Present:

DP

Youri DE SMET (Mayor)
Marc LANG (Alderman)
Frank COLABIANCHI (Councillor)
Monique SMIT-THIJS (Councillor)
Francine MORO (Councillor)
Nadine PHILIPPE (Councillor)
Mariette GALLMEISTER (Councillor)

déi gréng

Roger MILLER (Alderman)
Stefan GLOBER (Councillor)

CSV

Nadine SCHARES (Councillor)
Guy WEIRICH (Councillor)
Marc RAUCHS (Councillor)

LSAP

Yolande SCHUSTER (Councillor)

Georges FRANCK (Secretary)

Excused: Marc RAUCHS (Councillor/CSV, for items 8B to 16B)

Agenda

In public session:

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In closed session:

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A. SEA: Resignation of a municipal employee

In public session:

03. | Information and correspondence
04. | Conventions and contracts
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B. Lease agreement with the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: Approval
C. Amendment to the agreement on the provision of parking spaces for the installation of charging infrastructure for electric and hybrid vehicles: Approval
D. Basic deed (acte de base) with declaration of co-ownership and subdivision for 'Résidence Albert & Eva-Maria': Approval
05. | Education
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B. Plan for out-of-school childcare (PEP) 2026/2027: Approval
06. | The Centres pour Personnes Âgées of the municipality of Bertrange
A. Increase in the rent for a staff apartment: Confirmation
07. | Finances
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B. Granting of ordinary and one-off subsidies to local clubs/associations and other organisations
C. MultiCulti 2026: Subsidy
D. Bartreng beweegt sech – Nuit du Sport 2026: Subsidy
E. Support for renewable energy: Approval of an additional special credit
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H. Approval of a special credit for the renovation of the 'Ënneschte Bësch' chalet
I. Approval of an additional special credit for the redesign of four tennis courts
08. | Projects
A. Cost estimate for the preliminary planning of the new care home in Bertrange: Approval
B. Additional cost estimate for the redesign of four tennis courts: Approval



- C. Cost estimate for the redesign of Rue de Mamer: Approval
- D. Cost estimate for the renovation of the 'Ënneschte Bësch' chalet: Approval
- 09. | Hiermesweiher retention basin
 - A. Notarial exchange agreement: Approval
 - B. Easement agreement: Approval
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- 10. | Town planning
 - A. Subdivision of two plots of land located in Bertrange on Rue de Luxembourg into three plots
- 11. | Regulations
 - A. Regulation on the award of merit grants to particularly high-achieving pupils and financial assistance to disadvantaged pupils in post-primary and post-secondary education
 - B. Regulation on the granting of subsidies to local clubs/associations: Amendment
 - C. Internal rules of procedure and organisation of the Education and Childcare Service: Amendment
- 12. | Regional Museksschoul Westen
 - A. Provisional school organisation of the 2026/2027 courses of the 'Regional Museksschoul Westen'
- 13. | Municipal staff
 - A. SEA: Reduction in the provisional service of a municipal employee – correction
 - B. Municipal staff: Reduction in the provisional service of a municipal employee
 - C. Municipal staff: Creation of three positions for employees with intellectual tasks
 - D. Municipal staff: Creation of a position for a municipal employee
- 14. | Advisory and legal committees
 - A. SEA Advisory Committee: Change in composition
 - B. SEA Advisory Committee: Appointment of a member
 - C. Sports Committee: Replacement of a member
 - D. Committee for Intercultural Coexistence: Replacement of an alternate member
- 15. | Traffic
 - A. Confirmation of emergency traffic regulations
 - B. Temporary traffic regulation: Approval
 - C. Amendment to the traffic regulation scheme: Approval
- 16. | Miscellaneous
 - A. Acknowledgement of the statutes of a local association
 - B. Aid for victims of the natural disaster in Venezuela and emergency aid in response to an Ebola outbreak

In public session:

01. Approval of the agenda

Mayor De Smet states that item 11.D concerning the emergency regulation relating to the water shortage should be added to the agenda.

The Municipal Council unanimously approves the extended agenda.

In closed session:

02. Personnel management

A. SEA: Resignation of a municipal employee

Since the deliberations took place in closed session, kindly note that we are unable to publish any details here. (Editor's note)

In public session:

03. Information and correspondence

Mayor De Smet states that, in the closed part of the meeting, the resignation of an SEA employee was accepted. He thanks her for her service and wishes her all the best in her future career.

Mayor De Smet also provides the following information:

- the document on municipal invoices requested at the previous Municipal Council meeting has been presented to the Municipal Councillors. A total of 11,365 invoices were sent out in 2025. Of these, 72% were still sent in paper form, while 27% were delivered electronically. As regards payment of the invoices, 68% of payments were made by conventional bank transfer and 32% by direct debit.

- the municipality of Bertrange achieved a very good result in the context of the Nature Pact. After an improvement of more than 8% had already been achieved in 2025, the result was increased by a further 5%. With a score of 64.18%, the set target was significantly exceeded and silver certification was achieved. Particular praise was given to the close cooperation with SICONA and the municipality's numerous initiatives. These include the 'Méi Natur fir eis Stied an Dierfer' initiative, avoiding gravel gardens, creating tiny forests and climate gardens, renaturalising the Pétrusse and sustainably managing the municipal forest, as well as the numerous awareness-raising measures for citizens. The municipality's clearly formulated environmental strategy was also assessed particularly positively and was considered to have made a significant contribution to achieving silver certification. Achieving gold certification has been set as the clear objective for the coming years. In this connection, he thanks Alderman Roger Miller, who is responsible for the Nature Pact, Véronique Linden, the local forester, SICONA and the Environment Committee for their commitment.

- the social welfare office statistics for 2025 are now available. Despite population growth, there was a significant decline in applications for financial

assistance. In Bertrange, the number of applications fell from 436 to 331, a decrease of around 24%. The number of households requiring financial assistance also fell from 130 to 107, corresponding to a decrease of 18%. The proportion of affected households fell from 3.52% to 2.82%. A positive trend was also recorded across the social welfare office as a whole. The number of applications for financial assistance fell from 1,489 to 1,061, representing a decrease of 29%. At the same time, the number of affected households fell from 420 to 346, or by 18%. Mayor De Smet thanks all social welfare office employees for their commitment and their important work, which is not always easy.

The population on the day of the meeting amounts to 9,701.

The treasury balance stands at 30.4 million euros.

04. Conventions and contracts

A. Agreement on the granting of a municipal subsidy: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns an agreement between the municipality, Volley Bartreng and Sparta Bartreng. Under the agreement, the municipality will grant Volley Bartreng a monthly subsidy of 3,000 euros to finance the rent for a house on Rue de Leudelange. The agreement expressly stipulates that the subsidy may be used solely to cover the rent, service charges and costs associated with the use of the house. Volley Bartreng is required to provide regular evidence of the corresponding payments. At the same time, the municipality reserves the right to monitor compliance with the provisions. In the event of a breach of the agreement or non-compliant use, full or partial repayment of the subsidy may be demanded. The agreement has also been linked to a sporting condition. Both Volley Bartreng and Sparta Bartreng must enter a women's team in the official championship for at least one season within a three-year reference period. This is intended in particular to ensure the continued promotion of women's sport. The purpose of this agreement is both to provide financial support to the two clubs and to underline the importance attached to sport in Bertrange. The measure is presented not merely as financial support, but as an investment in the future of club life and in the attractiveness of sport in Bertrange. Given the challenges clubs now face in recruiting and retaining qualified players and coaches, this solution is intended to enable them to offer suitable accommodation and support their sustainable development.

Councillor Schares welcomes this arrangement whereby additional subsidies are granted to the clubs. She asks to what extent this amount covers the rent and service charges and how many rooms the house has. If one club needs to accommodate fewer players for a certain period, could the other club then use those rooms? What happens if one club no longer meets the conditions; would the other club also be affected? She would also have welcomed discussion of this issue at the Finance Committee meeting on 29 June, as subsidies to clubs were also discussed there.

Mayor De Smet replies that the amount covers the full rent but only part of the service charges, as the clubs should not be relieved of all responsibility. There are four rooms in total, and the clubs are jointly drawing up house rules. If one club no longer meets the conditions, the other will not be penalised as a result. The matter could have been discussed in the Finance Committee and this will be done in future.

Councillor Weirich wishes to briefly address the individual provisions. After all, public money is involved. Should the worst-case scenario arise, the municipality would still have a certain amount of discretion. He can hardly imagine



that the money would actually be reclaimed. He particularly wishes Sparta Bartreng every success in establishing a new women's team.

Mayor De Smet states that he is confident this will be achieved and that a women's team will once again compete.

Councillor Schuster adds that house rules are essential when different people and personalities live together. Everyone knows that both clubs have to raise large sums in order to maintain their high standard in their respective leagues. She appeals to the players to respect this gesture and to appreciate how fortunate they are to benefit from it.

This item is unanimously adopted.

B. Lease agreement with the State of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns making premises in the former 'Bei der Péitruß' SEA available to the CTSA (Centre pour enfants et jeunes présentant un trouble du spectre de l'autisme). For the coming school year, the CTSA will be provided with two classrooms and a room in between them. The lease agreement was initially concluded for two school years, from 1 September 2026 to 31 August 2028. However, there is an option to extend the agreement by a further year at a time. In return, the municipality will receive monthly rent of 4,828 euros plus 400 euros in service charges. He points out that these are not the CTSA classes already accommodated at the 'Beim Schloss' school. Rather, providing the premises will create two additional classes.

Mayor De Smet emphasises that finding suitable premises in which the children concerned can be taught is a major challenge for the CTSA. Providing suitable premises is therefore regarded as an important responsibility of the municipality in order to ensure that these children, too, have appropriate conditions for their school-based care. With a total of four classes, Bertrange is one of the municipalities providing the CTSA with the most classroom space, putting it on a level with the country's largest municipalities. The municipality is thereby making an important contribution to supporting the children concerned and their families.

Councillor Schares would like to ask several questions about the planned accommodation of CTSA classes in the former SEA premises. She asks about the background to the agreement and, in particular, whether the contact was initiated by the ministry or the Centre de compétence. In this connection, there are also rumours about the possible establishment of another location for CTSA classes in Bertrange. Is the present agreement the first step in this direction? She also wishes to point out that the agreement states that the building in question will be demolished at a later date. Until now, the plan had been to make the premises available to the clubs/associations after the SEA moved out or to use them for educational purposes. Are there already any more concrete plans for a possible demolition? Would it not make more sense to retain the premises as an alternative location for the time being?

In this connection, Councillor Schares also asks about the status of the announced comprehensive study on school and other municipal infrastructure. The study is intended in particular to determine how population and pupil numbers will develop and what infrastructure will be needed in the long term. She would like to know the current status of the study and when the first results can be expected.

Mayor De Smet replies that the municipality is in regular contact with the CTSA representatives, who had approached the municipality because classes

are already accommodated there. As the municipality still has premises available, it agreed to the request. Not every rumour is based on fact. This concerns a total of four classes. He hopes that other municipalities will also agree to make premises available, as everyone has a responsibility in this regard. With regard to the study on Bertrange's schools, he states that the CTSA is also being taken into account in the planning and that these classes will be retained in future. The possibility of demolishing the containers is connected with this very study. However, nothing has yet been decided. It is not only about the school itself, but also the SEA, Project Alpha and the sports infrastructure. Many different scenarios have been explored and the results will be presented to the Municipal Council shortly. There are still premises available that can be used as alternatives. The CTSA also wishes to be integrated into normal school life as far as possible.

Councillor Colabianchi praises the College of Aldermen for continuing along the path it has followed for many years and offering these children both suitable infrastructure and opportunities for integration into school life. They have been doing this for 35 years, although there was initially no consensus regarding this step. However, the initiative has proved highly successful. In this connection, he wishes to praise Bertrange's teaching staff, who have always been open to the project. He also emphasises the importance of including the possible demolition of the relevant infrastructure in the agreement. The building in question is a timber structure with a limited service life.

Councillor Smit-Thijs adds that she also welcomes this initiative. Anyone personally affected knows how valuable this is. Inclusion sometimes reaches its limits, but support should be provided wherever and however possible.

Councillor Weirich asks whether the premises had been inspected beforehand. In principle, he wishes to commend the College of Aldermen for taking this approach. The CTSA is urgently looking for additional premises. These children should be integrated as far as possible. He would like the CTSA teaching staff to be better integrated into normal school life.

Mayor De Smet replies that the necessary work is being carried out in consultation with the CTSA. The communication between the teachers in Bertrange works well. There are varying degrees of autism, so the classes are organised accordingly and consist of six to seven pupils, allowing each child to receive individual attention.

Councillor Schuster agrees with the previous speakers. As a pupil herself, she experienced what it is like to have an autistic pupil in the class. Integration is not always easy and people do not always know how to behave. She therefore particularly welcomes the fact that, here in Bertrange, these children are integrated into normal school life as far as possible. Do they have any experience of how this works in practice?

Mayor De Smet states that there have been no difficulties and, as already mentioned, this has been the case for 35 years. The door is always open to further strengthening this cooperation. For example, the municipality has offered to have meals for these pupils prepared by the SEA cook rather than by an external provider. These children are part of the Bertrange school community; no distinction is made here.

Councillor Rauchs asks whether there are already any projects planned for the rest of the building. If not, rooms could perhaps be created here for band rehearsals or painting workshops.

Mayor De Smet notes that these premises are not currently used for school purposes. If there is demand, this can be discussed, always in consultation



with those responsible for the teaching staff. Band rehearsals can already be held at the youth centre.

This item of the agenda is unanimously adopted.

C. Amendment to the agreement on the provision of parking spaces for the installation of charging infrastructure for electric and hybrid vehicles: Approval

Mayor De Smet explains that this item concerns an addendum to an existing agreement with SWIO relating to the municipality's electric vehicle charging stations. Two additional parking spaces are available in the car park by the combined heat and power plant, where electric vehicles can be charged. The addendum to the existing agreement governs the use and management of this additional charging infrastructure.

This item of the agenda is unanimously adopted.

D. Basic deed (acte de base) with declaration of co-ownership and subdivision for 'Résidence Albert & Eva-Maria': Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns the basic deed (acte de base) governing all cadastral matters. The nine parking spaces behind the apartment building will also be regulated, with a maximum parking period of one hour. This basic deed (acte de base) will then also make it possible to hold the annual tenants' meetings.

This item is unanimously adopted.

05. Education

A. Provisional school organisation 2026/2027: primary education – cycles 1, 2, 3 and 4: Approval

Councillor Smit-Thijs states that a total of 40 classes are planned in Bertrange for the coming school year; this figure is unchanged from the current school year. According to the current figures, 604 children are enrolled. There are 64 children enrolled in the 'Précoce' classes, divided among four classes and supervised by a teacher and an educator. Cycle 1 has nine classes with 144 pupils, while cycles 2, 3 and 4 also have nine classes each. Class sizes remain very good, with an average of 15 pupils per class. This continues to provide excellent conditions for high-quality teaching and support. Alongside the organisation of the classes, work has also been carried out to further develop the educational provision. Cooperation with the UGDA is planned for the coming school year, under which various classes will take part in choir courses. Work is also currently underway on a concept for involving the UGDA in music lessons as early as cycle 1. The SEA playground will be used by cycle 3 in the mornings, and break times have once again been aligned. The 'Summerschool' will also be offered again this year. The 2026/2027 school year will be a year of transition. There is a new curriculum for primary education, which will be implemented gradually. Luxembourgish will remain the common language. Despite the changes, the new curriculum represents continuity. Project Alpha, literacy education in French, will start this year in cycle 1.2.

Councillor Schares asks why three places still state that a teacher needs to be appointed even though these persons were already appointed at the previous Municipal Council meeting. It is now also known who will take which position, and the corresponding letters have already been sent to the children. By now, every child knows which teacher they will have in the next school year – apparently, only the school organisation document has not yet been updated

accordingly. What is the situation with Project ALPHA? Could nothing be done at this stage, or do they first have to wait and see what decisions will be taken in cycle 1.2 before assessing what the situation will be at the start of the following school year?

Councillor Schares explains that the municipality is responsible for the infrastructure of these buildings. In this connection, she wishes to briefly address the heatwave experienced recently. In the week around National Day, the ministry issued a red alert on 21 June due to the high temperatures. Lessons should generally continue to take place, but educational activities should be adapted to the temperatures and local conditions. No nationwide school closure was planned, as conditions vary from building to building at local level. Any exemption could only be granted at local level in cases of force majeure, as also stated in the relevant communication. On the same day, the president of the Bertrange schools issued a notice stating that the College of Aldermen had informed him that pupils would be exempted from lessons on the afternoons of 22 and 24 June. This meant that compulsory school attendance was suspended for those periods. The school remained open and pupils who did not want or were unable to stay at home could still attend school. The teaching staff were also present. A circular was then sent out on 24 June, stating that the same arrangement would also apply on the afternoon of Friday, 26 June.

Councillor Schares states that she is in no way questioning this decision. The discussion concerns school organisation, and in her view this also includes the well-being of the children. The College of Aldermen undoubtedly had its reasons for deciding to suspend compulsory attendance. However, it is also important to be aware that situations like this will become increasingly frequent in future. The long-term solution therefore cannot be to send children home whenever temperatures are high. Some parents were able to make arrangements and look after their children at home, while some older children could stay at home alone. But by no means every family has this option. At the same time, the children and teachers who remain at school are still sitting in overheated classrooms. As the municipality is responsible for the school buildings, she would therefore like time, energy and money to be invested in bringing the buildings up to date accordingly. After all, this was not the first heatwave. A similar situation occurred at around the same time last year, albeit for a shorter period. Has anything been done in the classrooms since then? She is convinced that a number of small but important measures could already make a difference. The first step should be to check whether all blinds and shutters are working properly. Merely keeping the shutters lowered can prevent the rooms from heating up even further due to direct sunlight. In some cases, however, this apparently does not work. The teaching staff have reportedly been asking since October for the shutters to be checked. When the extreme heat arrived, someone was sent to lower them. However, since then, the shutters can no longer be raised, meaning that the rooms are permanently dark. At the 'Beim Schloss' school, for example, some classrooms have curtains while others do not. This has also been pointed out several times already. It should also be checked where solar-control film could be applied to the windows.

Councillor Schares also asks how many classrooms are fitted with fans and how many have been purchased. An assessment of the school buildings is also needed. Some rooms are more affected than others because of their orientation and exposure to sunlight. Consideration must be given to how all classrooms can be equipped in the long term, so that normal lessons can still take place on very hot days. Is air conditioning really the only solution, or are there other options? She suggests, for example, commissioning Bureau Schroeder to carry out a proper assessment and identify possible solutions. It could then be examined whether these rooms can be used on an hourly basis. The question also arises as to the situation at the SEA, for example, and whether it is air-conditioned. Activities in the forest or in shaded areas could

also be an option. With a little creativity, a heat action plan could be developed for the schools, so that they are prepared for next summer and do not have to wait until the next heatwave before taking action.

Mayor De Smet replies that the decision was taken jointly with the school president. A number of school camps also had to be cancelled. Compulsory school attendance – in other words, the obligation to be present – was suspended. Many children made use of this option. The issue of heat has already been taken into account in the construction of the new ‘Bei der Gemeng’ SEA, ensuring comfortable temperatures there even when outdoor temperatures are high. In addition, a general heat action plan is to be drawn up so that standardised, clearly defined measures are available for future periods of extreme heat. The caretaker service started earlier in the mornings, so that the schools could be aired out, which already helped to cool them to some extent. Unfortunately, shutters are not a cure-all. The heatwave falls under the municipality’s resilience plan, but it is also important to recognise that the school buildings are of a certain age. The infrastructure needs to be examined in this regard. If necessary, the SEA, ArcA and other buildings may have to be used. Fans are already being provided, but there are also other approaches, including for the school playgrounds, which are to be equipped with shade sails. At the start of the school year, the municipality will meet with the school management to discuss and develop the possible approaches.

Councillor Smit-Thijs states that the present document was reviewed by the School Committee in mid-June; a number of changes have occurred since then and have therefore not yet been included.

Councillor Weirich states that Project Alpha will be a challenge for the teaching staff and is being met with considerable scepticism. However, it is necessary in order to address the imbalance between pupils as effectively as possible. He asks about the situation regarding vandalism in Bertrange’s schools. He also wholeheartedly welcomes the ‘Art à l’Ecole’ project. There is demand for more art education at school. This demand is now being met, with classes taking place on Saturday mornings. Nevertheless, there is a difference between integrating this into normal school lessons and having to do it in one’s free time.

Mayor De Smet notes that the ‘Art à l’Ecole’ project depends on teachers being willing to offer the courses. This is a first step which may create a certain momentum among the teaching staff and allow more courses of this kind to be offered in future. With regard to the question of vandalism, he explains that it remains limited.

Councillor Schares asks how the ‘Art à l’Ecole’ courses are organised.

Mayor De Smet replies that there are teachers who are willing to run these courses. Deisy Varandas is now offering them in the municipality.

Councillor Schuster is pleased that children can now be given this opportunity. The ‘D’Jugend moolt’ exhibition had already shown that many children have artistic talent, which can now be further developed. How many children can enrol?

Mayor De Smet states that 12 children are currently enrolled.

Councillor Philippe adds that exhibitions by younger artists have also deliberately been organised at the Schauwenburg for some time now and have been very well received. The intention is to continue and further expand them.

This item is unanimously adopted.

B. Plan for out-of-school childcare (PEP) 2026/2027: Approval

Councillor Smit-Thijs states that this item concerns the ‘plan d’encadrement périscolaire’ (PEP) for the 2026/2027 school year, which governs cooperation between the primary school and the SEA. This has to be approved every year and also received a favourable assessment from the School Committee on 16 June 2026. There is only one minor change this year, which sets out the arrangements for communication between teachers and educators more clearly.

Councillor Schares notes that there are two points in the text that should be amended.

Councillor Schares addresses the problems in the ‘Beim Schloss’ playground, which led to separate break times being introduced for cycles 3 and 4. In this connection, it was proposed that other areas, such as the SEA playgrounds, also be used during breaks. She asks whether these should not also be listed in the PEP. She also asks for an initial assessment of the ‘Zesummen aktiv’ initiative, which has been running since the 2025/2026 school year. How has the programme been received by the children and, in particular, has it succeeded in encouraging physical activity among children who are generally less active?

Councillor Smit-Thijs replies that this information was not yet available at the time of drawing up the document. She will provide the information on ‘Zesummen aktiv’ at a later date.

Councillor Weirich asks why the lines concerning pupils with special needs have been deleted.

Councillor Smit-Thijs explains that these points are now incorporated elsewhere in the text and have not been removed altogether.

This item is unanimously adopted.

06. The Centres pour Personnes Âgées of the municipality of Bertrange

A. Increase in the rent for a staff apartment: Confirmation

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns an increase in the rent for a duplex apartment at the CPA, which is currently occupied by the caretaker. He points out that the rent was last adjusted in 2011. The CPA Committee has therefore proposed increasing the monthly rent by 125 euros, or 25%. This would bring the future monthly rent to 625 euros.

This item is unanimously adopted.

07. Finances

A. Participatory budget: Approval of the projects

Mayor De Smet states that a participatory budget was organised again this year, for the second time. This gave citizens the opportunity to submit their own ideas and vote on projects intended to make life in the municipality even more attractive. A total of seven complete projects were received, five of which were retained for the vote. The result of this year’s vote was particularly close. Only a few votes separated several of the projects, which was seen as a sign of the large number of good and interesting ideas submitted. The winning project was the expansion of the water playground. This is a proposal to expand the playground in the village centre. The person who submitted the



project will now be invited to a meeting at the municipality to discuss the idea in detail with the relevant departments and examine how it can best be implemented in practice. The other participants were also thanked for their contributions. Although their projects did not win, it was pointed out that many of the ideas submitted could be incorporated into other municipal projects and implemented at a later date. The participatory budget is an important instrument for public participation. It allows citizens to actively help shape the development of the municipality and demonstrates that valuable ideas can also originate from the public and be taken forward. This form of participation is to be further encouraged in future.

The following projects were put to the vote as part of the participatory budget:

- Expansion of the water playground in the village centre
- Renaturalisation of the Rilsper pond
- Community garden
- Expansion of the Rilsper playground
- Multi-sports court at Centre Atert

Councillor Schares states that playgrounds, sport and renaturalisation stand out in particular among the submitted projects and therefore also reflect citizens' interests. She asks how many different people took part in the vote and whether any further projects were submitted that did not meet the criteria. She also asks about the current status of the shared-space project from the previous participatory budget.

Mayor De Smet replies that the two projects that were not retained were a 'Repair-Stube' and a reading space, both of which would have been well over budget. The number of people who voted will be provided at a later date. With regard to community gardens, he appeals to the 'Amis de la Fleur' association, which operates one in the village centre. The climate garden is also moving in this direction. As regards last year, two projects have been implemented and work has begun on optimising the shared space. A speed display has been installed. In addition, a project for AI-assisted traffic counting was submitted under the ministry's Smart City call for projects and selected for funding. In future, this is intended to provide additional data and enable targeted optimisation of the traffic situation on this basis.

Councillor Glober notes that a publication should be produced about the new water playground in order to generate even more interest in the participatory budget among citizens and encourage them to participate.

Mayor De Smet agrees with Councillor Glober. This could also be done via the new municipal bulletin.

Councillor Rauchs welcomes the initiative. All the projects submitted can be taken forward. With regard to the community gardens in particular, he suggests also considering the possibility of allotments.

Mayor De Smet responds that this would require a certain amount of land, which is not currently available. As already mentioned, the climate garden is a first step.

Councillor Schuster is pleased with the citizens' participation. She too believes that greater efforts should be made to promote the initiative. Perhaps this could already be done at the welcome evening for new citizens.

The Municipal Council unanimously adopts this item.

B. Granting of ordinary and one-off subsidies to local clubs/associations and other organisations

Alderman Lang states that, as part of the support provided to local clubs/associations, an overview has been presented of the financial assistance granted in 2025. A total of 24,240 euros was spent on payments to local clubs/associations in connection with events. The total budget for club/association subsidies amounted to 107,500 euros. A total of 22,113 euros was provided for the trip to Klagenfurt, while the 'Guiden a Scouten' received 1,287 euros to support their summer camp in Serfaus. A further 36,000 euros went to subsidies for Sparta and volleyball, plus around 4,000 euros for Sparta's '3x3' event. Direct financial support therefore totalled 195,140 euros. A further significant increase in this support is planned for 2026. The corresponding budget item was increased by 65,000 euros, meaning that a total of around 265,000 euros in financial support is to benefit the clubs/associations directly. Among other things, funding for activities organised by the clubs/associations was increased by 15,000 euros to 30,000 euros in total. A new budget item of 50,000 euros was also created, allowing clubs/associations to receive 5,000 euros in support if they employ a manager or supervisor for five hours per week to supervise young people under the age of 16. He emphasises that the municipality wishes to continue providing targeted support to clubs/associations wherever a specific need is identified. Qualified staff to supervise and support young people are particularly important in sport, as well as in cultural and leisure activities.

In addition to direct financial support, Alderman Lang also points to the indirect support provided to clubs/associations. As an example, he cites the public viewing event, where care was taken not to compete with local clubs/associations but instead to complement and support their activities. He also explains the support provided to Sparta Bartreng in this connection. This is to be governed by the same principles as the municipality's assumption of licence costs for volleyball. In addition, other costs required to enable tournaments to be held in Bertrange are to be covered as well. The aim is to enable clubs to continue holding their sporting activities and events in the municipality to a high standard.

Councillor Schares welcomes the changes to the financial support for local clubs/associations, particularly the support for youth work. However, alongside financial support, administrative simplification is also important. She therefore asks about the status of the announced online booking system for premises and the planned inventory of municipal equipment, which is intended to make it easier for clubs/associations to request equipment in future. At the same time, she points to organisational difficulties. For example, equipment requested and approved in advance is sometimes only partially available at events. The clubs/associations concerned must be informed of any changes in good time. Situations like this cause unnecessary work and frustration for volunteers. Councillor Schares therefore calls for clearer processes, better organisation and reliable communication between the municipality, the caretaker service and the clubs/associations.

Mayor De Smet replies that the online booking system for premises and equipment is currently being developed. Another digital project had taken priority. The difficulties mentioned cannot be generalised or presented as representative. The municipality always tries to satisfy everyone as far as possible. There is always room for improvement, but the municipality always stands by the clubs/associations and supports them wherever and however it can.

Alderman Lang praises the caretaker service for the good work it has done. Efforts are being made to increase staffing across the municipal services in order to ease the workload as well. The work is appreciated by everyone – both the clubs/associations and everyone around this table. He cannot accept the suggestion that frustration of this kind has an impact on volunteering.

In his view, considerably more than missing equipment would be needed for that to happen.

Councillor Schuster welcomes the increase in subsidies. She asks how the minibus provided by the municipality is being used.

Mayor De Smet states that the bus is not yet being fully utilised. So far, the youth centre has made four bookings.

Councillor Weirich wishes to make a few general comments on this agenda item.

These fit well with the issue of club/association subsidies, but apply equally to other agenda items and, more generally, to the policies pursued here in Bertrange. He is pleased that policy here is not based on a strict form of liberalism. Such liberalism focuses entirely on the individual, with everyone expected to fend for themselves. Under this approach, clubs/associations too would have to look after themselves and would not receive the support that the municipality of Bertrange grants them year after year. The approach pursued here and supported by the entire Municipal Council is one with which he fully identifies because it reflects the tradition to which he feels connected. It is a tradition that recognises the importance of clubs/associations for society and for each individual and the contribution they make. Clubs/associations convey values that are indispensable to society. They promote community life, social cohesion and the common good. At the same time, they can provide individuals with great satisfaction, strength and a sense of purpose.

This is precisely why Councillor Weirich is always very happy to support the financial assistance granted by the municipality to clubs/associations – particularly when it is allocated according to transparent criteria and in a fair manner. He has no reason to doubt that this is the case here.

Mayor De Smet replies that the increases were developed with this perspective in mind. Everyone benefits if youth work continues to be supported.

The Municipal Council unanimously adopts this item.

C. MultiCulti 2026: Subsidy

Alderman Lang explains that this item concerns the proceeds from the MultiCulti event. It took place on 9 May and, as in previous years, was very well received. A donation of 2,000 euros is to be made to the TamTam White and Friends association. This organisation collects donations to provide Christmas presents for children from financially disadvantaged families.

The Municipal Council unanimously adopts this item.

D. Bartreng beweegt sech – Nuit du Sport 2026: Subsidy

Alderman Lang states that this item concerns the proceeds from the 'Bartreng beweegt sech' event held as part of the 'Nuit du Sport', which attracted a large turnout. The municipality donates 1 euro for every kilometre covered, and the two major sponsors, Belle Etoile and City Concorde, each also donate 1 euro per kilometre. The donation amounts to 4,337 euros, which will be divided equally among the following three associations: ZAK! Zesummen aktiv, ALGSO and Luxrollers. The two shopping centres are increasing the amount for ZAK! Zesummen aktiv and ALGSO by 2,000 euros each. As the municipality will also be a 'Centre de promesse' for Télévie next year, the amount of 4,337 euros will be donated to this association.

This item of the agenda is unanimously adopted.

E. Support for renewable energy: Approval of an additional special credit

Alderman Miller states that this agenda item concerns an additional special credit for renewable energy subsidies. The cap on the amount was abolished by the Municipal Council last year. The amount initially budgeted for 2026 was insufficient, meaning that an additional credit of 200,000 euros has already been approved. This is also insufficient, as the municipality has been inundated with applications. This is not only due to the removal of the cap but, above all, to the fact that applications are being processed more quickly by the competent ministry. Various bonuses were also still available until the beginning of this year. More than 160 applications have already been received, 125 of which have been processed. Last year, 79 applications were received. The number has therefore quadrupled. This makes it necessary to adjust the amount budgeted. An additional amount of 630,000 euros is therefore to be approved. This figure is based on a projection to the end of the year.

Councillor Schares asks what amount was initially budgeted.

Alderman Miller replies that it was 300,000 euros.

This item is unanimously adopted.

F. Rent subsidies: Approval of an additional special credit

Mayor De Smet states that, in connection with the subsidies, approval of an additional special credit is proposed because it is foreseeable that the amount originally budgeted for 2026 may not be sufficient to last until the end of the year. An amount of 110,000 euros was originally budgeted for 2026. By May, 62 beneficiaries had already been recorded and around 50,000 euros had been paid out. The College of Aldermen therefore proposes that the Municipal Council approve an additional credit of 50,000 euros. An amendment to the law on individual housing allowances entered into force on 1 January 2026. The financial scope of the allowances was not changed. The purpose of the amendment is in particular to clarify the calculation of income, harmonise procedures and introduce additional safeguards for beneficiaries. It has been established that, depending on income, rent and household composition, the amount of the allowance ranges from 10 to 520 euros per month. A condition for applying is that rent must account for more than 25% of household income. The municipality of Bertrange provides additional support by paying a further 50% of the amount granted by the State. For comparison, Mayor De Smet points out that there were a total of 50 beneficiaries in December 2025, compared with 42 in July 2025.

This item is unanimously adopted.

G. Approval of additional special credits in the ordinary budget

Mayor De Smet explains that this item refers again to the agreement on subsidies for Volley Bartreng and Sparta Bartreng already discussed under item 4. As this item has already been explained in detail, he will not provide any further explanation. The second and third points concern the replacement of the advertising boards at Centre Atert and at the football ground. The existing systems are now eleven and ten years old respectively and, due to their age, spare parts are no longer available. It is therefore proposed that the existing LED panels be replaced. To accommodate the clubs and enable implementation as quickly as possible, the new systems are to be ordered now. This will also make it possible to benefit from the technical advances made in recent years. The new LED panels have a higher resolution and offer additional programming options for displaying different content. An LED system with a total length of 34 metres is planned for Centre Atert. Three LED

panels, each five metres long, are to be installed at the football ground. This measure is another concrete form of support for local clubs.

This item is unanimously adopted.

H. Approval of a special credit for the renovation of the 'Ënneschte Bësch' chalet

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns the approval of a special credit. The funds must be made available before a decision can be made on the actual project. The 'Ënneschte Bësch' chalet has been in use for several years and is now to be comprehensively renovated and modernised. Earlier implementation was not possible because the necessary approvals were still outstanding. However, there are now signs that approval will be forthcoming, particularly as the chalet is currently also used for educational purposes and is very popular with the children. The cost of the planned renovation is estimated at 160,000 euros including VAT. The chalet is an important part of the municipal infrastructure and is used by various clubs/associations and by the SEA in particular. A comprehensive renovation is to be carried out to ensure the building's safety, functionality and long-term usability. Among other things, the planned conversion includes renewal of the electrical installations, installation of new flooring, as well as fitting of new windows and a new wooden entrance door. A photovoltaic system with battery storage is also planned in order to increase the chalet's energy autonomy and sustainability. Further work concerns the sanitary facilities, insulation and renewal of the ceilings, painting work and installation of a new wood-burning stove. The outdoor area is also to be redesigned. Among other things, a canopy, a new timber-clad façade and a water cistern to supply the sanitary facilities are planned. The investment is intended not only to improve the comfort and safety of the chalet but also to reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs in the long term. In addition to the actual conversion work, a total amount of 200,000 euros has been proposed. This is also to include new furniture, which is to be made in cooperation with the forester and the municipality's own carpenter. On behalf of everyone, Mayor De Smet expressly thanks the local forester for making it possible at long last to comprehensively renovate the chalet. In conclusion, he emphasises again that, formally, this item concerns solely the approval of the special credit of 200,000 euros. Further decisions concerning the specific implementation of the project will be dealt with at a later date.

Councillor Schares states that the refurbishment is clearly needed. She welcomes the canopy. With regard to the new door, she asks what material it will be made of. Would it be possible to obtain all the energy required solely from the solar panels? The SEA uses the chalet regularly; what about school classes? Has the idea of a forest classroom already been considered? Have there been any requests from clubs/associations to use it?

Mayor De Smet replies that no decision has yet been taken on the material for the door. The chalet is no longer particularly attractive in its current state and is rarely used by the clubs/associations. This could change after the renovation. The photovoltaic system with storage capacity should be sufficient to supply the chalet with enough energy. He thanks the local forester for the rapid development and implementation of the project. The idea of a forest classroom is not new and has already been discussed in the past, but is not currently under active consideration. The SEA works intensively with the children on the topic of nature.

This item is unanimously adopted.

I. Approval of an additional special credit for the redesign of four tennis courts

Mayor De Smet explains that, as with the previous item, this initially concerns approval of a special credit, this time in connection with the renewal of the tennis courts. In December 2024, the Municipal Council approved a total cost estimate of 1.1 million euros including VAT. However, during implementation of the project, it became apparent that a range of additional work was required. This largely consists of additions intended to improve the quality, functionality and sustainability of the infrastructure. The additional work includes applying a special 'Cooltop' coating to the tennis courts. This innovative coating absorbs less solar radiation, meaning the surface does not heat up as much. In view of the increasingly high temperatures, this solution was considered particularly worthwhile. Additional work has also been planned for the electricity connection by Creos, connection to the drinking water network and redesign of the ground around the tennis courts. A modern LED lighting system, dividing nets and ball-stop nets have also been installed. It also includes roofing work on the canopy, a new water distribution system and waste bins for separate waste collection. The costs of publishing the tender and inaugurating the facility are also taken into account. The additional work was defined in cooperation with the tennis club in order to create an optimal, modern playing infrastructure. Overall, the additional work results in extra costs of around 150,000 euros including VAT compared with the original budget. A special credit of 155,000 euros is therefore proposed to cover these additional costs. This brings the total volume of the project to around 1.25 million euros including VAT.

Councillor Schares states that these are worthwhile investments. She asks who decided on the colours.

Mayor De Smet replies that blue/green was chosen because of the contrast. The municipality did not impose any requirements in this regard.

The Municipal Council unanimously adopts this item.

08. Projects

A. Cost estimate for the preliminary planning of the new care home in Bertrange: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns the preliminary design (Avant-Projet Sommaire, APS) for the new 'A Schwalls' care home. Approval of the APS will provide the basis for the further development of the detailed design (APD). There is no doubt that this is the largest investment project in the history of the municipality of Bertrange. The project is intended not simply as an investment in a building but, above all, in people, in older citizens, their families and future generations, as well as in the attractiveness and future of the municipality. The need for the project was justified in particular by demographic trends and growing demand for high-quality elderly care and nursing facilities. The existing infrastructure now only partially meets the requirements of a modern care facility. For this reason, the aim is not merely to renovate the existing structures but to comprehensively redesign the 'A Schwalls' neighbourhood. The objective is to create a facility that can also serve as a benchmark at national level. The concept provides for a care home with a total of 201 care places. Eleven smaller residential units are planned, each with 17 to 19 single rooms, together with a day centre for 12 people, a restaurant and cafeteria, communal rooms for various activities and administrative areas. The entire neighbourhood is also to be reorganised and complemented by a car park and redesigned outdoor areas.



Mayor De Smet states that the project places particular emphasis on designing the new care home primarily as a living environment rather than merely as a care facility. Residents are to live in manageable residential units that create a homely atmosphere. The concept is based on the philosophy of 'Humanitude', which places the individual and their dignity, personal history and autonomy at the centre. Specifically, the aim is to ensure individual care, preservation of independence, resident participation, close involvement of families, intergenerational activities and the highest possible quality of life. The planning has taken account not only of modern care and living conditions but also of the challenges posed by climate change and stringent energy-efficiency requirements. Protection against increasingly frequent heatwaves was already considered as an important criterion during the planning phase. As older people are among the groups particularly at risk during high outdoor temperatures, the building design is intended to ensure a high level of comfort in the long term as well. The building is therefore to feature a modern energy concept based on several pillars. Plans include high-performance thermal insulation, optimal building orientation to make use of solar energy in winter while limiting overheating in summer, efficient sun-shading systems, natural and mechanical ventilation concepts, sustainable heating and cooling technology and an energy supply designed to meet the future requirements of a climate-neutral infrastructure. The architecture is also intended to help improve the microclimate. Existing green spaces and valuable tree stock are to be largely preserved or supplemented. The landscaped outdoor areas are intended to reduce heat build-up while also enhancing the quality of life of residents and staff. The aim is therefore to create an infrastructure that meets not only today's requirements but also the climatic requirements of 30 or 40 years from now.

Mayor De Smet points out that the building is to be designed consistently around the needs of the individual. Each residential unit is to have direct access to terraces or loggias. Lots of natural light, views of the surrounding nature, atriums, gardens and a variety of outdoor spaces are intended to help residents feel at home as much as possible. The building will have four storeys and will connect harmoniously to the existing CPA – Centre pour Personnes Âgées – building. At the same time, the existing character of the site is to be preserved. The existing traditional orchards and valuable green spaces are to be largely retained.

From a technical perspective too, this is an extremely demanding project designed for long-term use. Plans include a basement, four above-ground levels, a modern concrete structure, the highest fire-protection standards and high energy efficiency.

Mayor De Smet notes that the scale of the project reflects its ambitious nature. The current APS budget framework provides for construction costs of 97.9 million euros excluding VAT. A further 8.7 million euros is included for miscellaneous and unforeseen costs and 10.7 million euros for price increases. This results in a total budget of 117.3 million euros excluding VAT, or 137.2 million euros including VAT. It is therefore the largest investment project ever approved by the municipality of Bertrange. At the same time, he emphasises that the project does not have to be financed entirely by the municipality. According to current calculations, state aid of 79.1 million euros can be expected. This reduces the municipality's effective share of the costs to around 58.1 million euros. The 'A Schwalls' care home is thus intended to become a symbol of a municipality that assumes responsibility, plans for the long term and is prepared to invest substantially in the well-being of its citizens. Work is currently underway on the detailed design (APD), which is due to be

completed in May next year. The project will then be reviewed again by the competent ministry before a corresponding draft law can be prepared.

In conclusion, Mayor De Smet highlights the good cooperation between all the planning offices involved in the project, the relevant municipal employees and officials from the Ministry of Family Affairs. He describes the ministry's support as constructive and open. He reiterates that work on this important project is to continue at full speed in order to move the next project phases forward without delay.

Councillor Colabianchi adds that everyone is pleased that the starting signal can finally be given for this project, even though it will still be some time before the first excavator gets to work. The project is well thought through and coherent, but its financial implications should not be underestimated. The new care home alone will cost 137 million euros, a record sum for the municipality, which will, however, also receive a record subsidy of 79 million euros. The municipality is under no obligation to build infrastructure of this kind, but it has nevertheless taken on the task, which deserves explicit praise. He briefly wants to remind those present why so much time has passed. It is a complex, multifaceted project. New geriatric care facility, car park, park, demolition of the old care home, renovation of Villa Schwall, apartments along Rue de Mamer, etc. However, he also wishes to stress that this had not originally been planned and that the municipality had unexpectedly received a plot of land as a gift. This made the new 'A Schwalls' neighbourhood possible in the first place, but required the original plan to be completely reconsidered. It is now also necessary to consider how to proceed and draw up a long-term plan setting out when to tackle which elements and with what resources. It must also be assumed that the 137 million euros currently budgeted for the new care home alone will not be sufficient. Experience shows that costs rarely decrease between an APS and an APD; they are more likely to increase. However, he has complete confidence in the new College of Aldermen in this complex undertaking.

Mayor De Smet agrees with Councillor Colabianchi. A long-term view is required here. The available open spaces must be included in the planning. The care home is the priority; the other projects will only be tackled afterwards.

Councillor Rauchs wishes to make a few comments. He and his group support this project without reservation. They have always been interested in the project. It is about planning for the future. He wishes to contribute strongly to the organisational side in his new role as a member of the Board of Directors. During the presentation, several details were mentioned which he hopes have not been subject to cost-cutting. He also wishes to address the size of the rooms. These are relatively small, in line with the applicable standards. At present, it is not known how many people will want to use the day centre. The possibility of increasing this number should be kept in mind. The project has been presented in several stages. However, the Board of Directors was not involved. He proposes changing this as soon as possible.

Mayor De Smet replies that all the important elements have been retained and nothing has been changed in this regard. The room sizes comply with the applicable legal requirements. The planned sizes have also been reviewed and approved by the competent ministry. They were also developed in consultation with the management and technical department of the care home. The number of people for the day centre is based on a reference figure. Adjustments can be made here if necessary.

Councillor Glober states that the municipality can be proud to have an energy-efficient building design featuring photovoltaics and a green roof. The architecture will also play an important role in the day-to-day operation and

make many things easier. The associated traffic concept is also significant. Future rental costs must be kept in mind as well.

Mayor De Smet adds that there is no intention of becoming the most expensive care home in the country. The aim is not to recoup the expenditure as quickly as possible. The operator will have to establish an appropriate room rate, and the municipality reserves the right to have a say in this. From the outset, it has been important to speak to many different stakeholders and gather opinions, in order to obtain a better overall picture of the entire project.

Councillor Schuster wishes to briefly address a few points. This is an important project for Bertrange and its residents. The existing home is showing its age. A great deal has gone into the planning; this is a complex project that cannot be developed overnight. She welcomes the fact that measures to address future heatwaves are already being incorporated. Prices for future citizens must remain affordable. The overall project must be coherent, and this should always be kept in mind. She and her group fully support the project and will continue to do so in future.

Mayor De Smet adds that the municipality will also have to deliver other projects alongside this one over the coming years.

Alderman Lang highlights the financial aspect. The aim is to implement everything as effectively as possible and deploy financial resources where they are needed. However, he points out that, sooner or later, they will not be able to avoid taking out a loan.

This item is unanimously adopted.

B. Additional cost estimate for the redesign of four tennis courts: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item has already been discussed and is now merely being put to the vote.

This item is unanimously adopted.

C. Cost estimate for the redesign of Rue de Mamer: Approval

Mayor De Smet explains that the detailed design (Avant-Projet Détaillé, APD) for the redesign of Rue de Mamer is now being presented. The project was already presented at the most recent Municipal Council working session. It is an important mobility and infrastructure project and at the same time another step in the consistent implementation of the municipality of Bertrange's mobility strategy. For several years, the municipality has pursued a clear strategy whereby through-traffic is to be concentrated on the higher-level road network – particularly the N6, N5, N34 and N35 – while municipal roads are increasingly designed as safe, traffic-calmed residential streets. Planning for Rue de Mamer began in November 2024 with a citizens' workshop. Local residents were given the opportunity to contribute their ideas and suggestions. The main issues were road safety, speed, improved pavements, cycle links, greening and parking facilities. Many of these suggestions have been incorporated into the current design.

Mayor De Smet explains that the project is based on three main pillars. First, mobility and road safety are to be significantly improved. The speed limit along the entire Rue de Mamer is to be set at 30 km/h. The road will be designed in such a way that this speed is actually observed. Various traffic-calming measures are planned for this purpose, including raised sections, raised junctions, continuous pavements and redesigned entrances to the 30 km/h zone. At the same time, continuous and significantly more

comfortable routes are to be created for pedestrians and cyclists in line with the country's modern planning guidelines. Second, the public space is to be significantly upgraded. The current appearance of Rue de Mamer is largely dominated by asphalt and sealed surfaces. The new project is intended to fundamentally change this. More than 30 new trees are to be planted, together with additional planting and wildflower meadows. This is intended not only to improve the streetscape but also to promote biodiversity. A new approach is also to be adopted for rainwater management. In future, the water is no longer to be discharged immediately but allowed to infiltrate into the green spaces at numerous points. The trees are to be planted according to the so-called 'Stockholm principle', a sponge-city concept in which water is stored and provides the trees with better growing conditions even during dry periods. Third, the project is to be implemented consistently in accordance with accessibility criteria. Both bus stops will be adapted in accordance with the legal requirements for persons with reduced mobility (PRM). All pedestrian crossings are also to be designed so that they can be used easily by persons with reduced mobility, people with disabilities and parents with pushchairs. This is also intended to ensure that the project meets the statutory requirements that must be fulfilled by 2032.

Mayor De Smet continues by explaining that, in addition to the surface design, the project also includes numerous technical infrastructure works. The public lighting network is to be renewed, new reserve ducts installed and the road drainage system modernised. Further measures are also planned to make the road more resilient to extreme rainfall events. The total cost of the project amounts to around 3.515 million euros including fees and VAT. A further meeting with the affected owners is also planned after the summer break, at which the outcome of the planning will be presented and discussed with them.

This item is unanimously adopted.

D. Cost estimate for the renovation of the 'Änneschte Bësch' chalet: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item has already been discussed and is now merely being put to the vote.

This item is unanimously adopted.

09. Hiermesweiher retention basin

A. Notarial exchange agreement: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item is the final piece of the puzzle needed to implement the 'Hiermesweiher' project. As part of the project, two municipally owned plots of land acquired at the time for the implementation of the project are to be exchanged for another plot required for the construction of the dam. As the municipality is transferring a larger area of land than it is receiving in return, an equalisation payment of 41,115 euros in favour of the municipality has been provided for. As with the other land transactions carried out as part of the project, a value of 1,500 euros per are was used. He thanks the owners concerned for the straightforward handling of the land exchange. At the same time, he emphasises that they recognised the importance of the project and showed solidarity.

This item is unanimously adopted.

B. Easement agreement: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns an initial agreement as part of the municipality's flood-protection project. The agreement marks another

important step towards the implementation of the project. The agreement provides for a flood easement to be established over the plots of land concerned. Certain uses and activities will be prohibited on the affected land. In particular, these include new structures, including garden sheds and agricultural buildings, planting trees or establishing woodland, filling, deep excavation, storing environmentally hazardous substances or materials, and permanently parking vehicles. In principle, all measures that could obstruct water drainage or impair the function of the retention area are to be excluded. He points out that most of these restrictions are already largely in line with the applicable provisions of the PAG (General Development Plan), as the land concerned is located in a green zone. Compensation of 1,800 euros per hectare per year will be provided for the granted easement. In this specific case, the annual compensation therefore amounts to 2,114.28 euros.

In return, the municipality will bear all costs arising in connection with work on the dam. Among other things, this includes dismantling and reinstating fences, replacing damaged material and removing and disposing of driftwood or other material that may remain on the plots concerned after flooding. The municipality will also bear in full the costs associated with registering the easement. The easement will be established for an indefinite period and will enable the municipality to also use the corresponding flood-protection infrastructure sustainably over the long term.

Mayor De Smet explains that this agreement creates the necessary legal basis for implementing the project in the public interest and further improving flood protection in the municipality.

Councillor Weirich asks for clarification, as Mayor De Smet said that this was the final piece of the puzzle. Does the municipality now have all the land it needs, and how many landowners are involved?

Mayor De Smet replies that a distinction must be made between two different areas. One concerns the construction of the dam. For this, the municipality must own the land, which is now the case. The dam will not be built as originally planned, but instead has been shifted slightly towards the village. The agreement does not concern the construction of the dam. The owners of the surrounding land can sign it to receive the compensation.

The Municipal Council unanimously adopts this item of the agenda.

C. Additional cost estimate: Approval

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns an additional cost estimate as part of the flood protection at 'Hiermesweiher' project. The Municipal Council approved the original cost estimate of 588,692 euros including VAT on 29 November 2024. Following completion of the detailed planning, the updated total cost estimate now amounts to 1,100,000 euros including VAT. This results in an additional funding requirement of 511,308 euros including VAT.

Mayor De Smet emphasises that the increase in costs does not reflect any fundamental change to the project. Rather, the project was developed in significantly greater detail between the feasibility study and detailed design stages. All of the technical parameters were incorporated into the planning, including the findings of the geotechnical study, the existing infrastructure, water pipes, access routes and the applicable environmental requirements.

The planned flood-protection dam was shifted slightly compared with the original project in order to adapt it optimally to local conditions and take account of the various technical and ecological requirements. He cites the main causes of the cost increase as including a more complex construction-site access route with additional costs of around 26,000 euros, larger quantities



of excavated material that cannot be reused on site because of the findings of the geotechnical study, resulting in additional costs of around 40,000 euros, and a more complex dam structure with additional fill material and erosion-protection measures costing around 50,000 euros.

Mayor De Smet adds that further additional costs arose from taking existing water pipes into account, which must be relocated or replaced depending on the situation, at around 63,000 euros, a more complex hydraulic structure at around 44,000 euros and the creation of riparian buffer strips ('bandes rivulaires') as an ecological compensation measure at around 56,000 euros. There is also the general increase of around 5% in construction prices and the construction price index.

The total amount also includes the cost of acquiring the required plots, as the overall project budget is to be submitted to the Water Management Authority when applying for a state subsidy. The objective of the project remains unchanged. In the event of flooding, the planned infrastructure is intended to temporarily retain water and thereby significantly reduce the risk of flooding in the lower-lying areas of Bertrange. The facility is being designed for a flood event with a statistical return period of 200 years.

This item is unanimously adopted.

10. Town planning

A. Subdivision of two plots of land located in Bertrange on Rue de Luxembourg into three plots

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns two plots of land located on 'Rue de Luxembourg' in Bertrange. These are to be split into three plots.

This item is unanimously adopted.

11. Regulations

A. Regulation on the award of merit grants to particularly high-achieving pupils and financial assistance to disadvantaged pupils in post-primary and post-secondary education

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns a new regulation on education grants, which is intended to replace the current regulation of 13 May 2019. The aim of the new regulation is to better align the municipal grants with today's education system and to recognise the achievements of pupils and students in a more targeted way. A key change is the distinction between a 'merit grant' (Prime de mérite) and an 'encouragement grant' (Prime d'encouragement). The merit grant will continue to be awarded to secondary-school pupils. In addition, a one-off encouragement grant of 200 euros is to be introduced for successfully completing secondary school or vocational training (CCP, DAP or equivalent qualifications). This grant may be combined with the merit grant. For students in higher education, the existing system is to be simplified. Under the previous regulation, a grant of 250 euros was awarded for each successfully completed year of study. Under the new regulation, a grant of 1,000 euros will instead be awarded upon successful completion of the first cycle of study, such as a Bachelor's degree or BTS qualification, and a further grant of 1,000 euros upon completion of the second cycle of study, such as a Master's degree or equivalent qualification.

Mayor De Smet adds that the social components of the previous regulation are to be retained. Support for pupils from financially disadvantaged

families will remain unchanged at 50% of the state aid. The provisions on checking applications and possible repayment obligations in the event of false information will also remain unchanged. The new regulation is intended to create a more modern and transparent system which better reflects progression through secondary and higher education and, in particular, rewards successful completion of the individual stages of education. During the discussion, it was also proposed that the amounts of the 'Prime de mérite' in secondary education be increased. The previous amounts of 75 euros, 100 euros and 150 euros are to be increased to 125 euros, 150 euros and 200 euros respectively.

Councillor Schares notes that grants are provided for Bachelor's and Master's degrees. The amendment is intended to replace the annual grant of 250 euros with a grant of 1,000 euros for successfully completing the qualification. But what about those completing a doctorate? She believes that something should also be provided for these particularly hard-working and motivated students, likewise in the amount of 1,000 euros. Just as the College of Aldermen has now proposed during the meeting, although this was not yet reflected in the documents available to her group, they had also wanted to propose adjusting the amounts of the 'Prime de mérite' at secondary level. She would also like to know how many applications are received each year for secondary-school qualifications and how many for higher-education or university qualifications. What amount is budgeted for this each year, or what are the actual annual expenses in this area?

Mayor De Smet replies that these figures will be provided at a later date. It is also proposed that the grant for doctoral degrees be included in the regulation.

This item is unanimously adopted.

B. Regulation on the granting of subsidies to local clubs/associations: Amendment

Mayor De Smet explains that this item concerns a specific amendment to the regulation on subsidies for local clubs/associations. Article 5, which governs the calculation of the ordinary subsidy, is to be amended. The aim of the amendment is to give greater recognition to the work of clubs/associations with children and young people while also promoting the quality of this support. For this purpose, the existing 'Travail éducatif' category is to be expanded. In future, any local club/association that engages at least one qualified supervisor or qualified person in charge for at least five hours per week to look after children under the age of 16 will receive an additional flat-rate amount. The amendment is intended in particular to recognise the professional commitment and qualifications of supervisors. He emphasises that many clubs/associations already invest considerable time and financial resources in high-quality youth work and that this important contribution should be recognised accordingly. The remaining provisions of the regulation remain unchanged. This is therefore a targeted amendment intended to support local clubs/associations while also providing positive impetus for youth work in the municipality.

This item of the agenda is unanimously adopted.

C. Internal rules of procedure and organisation of the Education and Childcare Service: Amendment

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns a specific amendment to the SEA's internal rules of procedure. The changes are based on practical experience and are intended to clarify the regulations, align them with the current organisational structure and simplify various administrative procedures.



Article 2 is to simplify the enrolment arrangements. Various forms that are no longer required will be removed from the list of documents to be submitted. At the same time, a complete enrolment file is to be introduced, bringing together all required documents. In Article 7, the passages on Chèque-Service Accueil and state participation will be deleted. These areas are already governed by law and can therefore be adapted in line with legislative changes, meaning that detailed provisions in the municipal regulation are no longer considered necessary. In Article 8, the existing email address info@sea.bertrange.lu will be deleted. In future, communication is to take place via the two site addresses beiestack@sea.bertrange.lu and gemeng@sea.bertrange.lu. In Article 15, the wording concerning the DIMMI application will be simplified. It is specified that DIMMI is the main means of communication between the SEA and parents, without referring to a particular school year. These amendments are intended to make the internal regulation clearer, more up to date and more practical. At the same time, details already governed by statutory provisions or administrative procedures are to be removed, as they do not necessarily need to form part of a municipal regulation.

Mayor De Smet adds that, in connection with the summer holidays, it has also been specified that childcare costs will be capped at three hours for two weeks, in accordance with the ministry's requirements. Holiday activities are to be offered during this period.

Councillor Schares asks whether enrolment could be carried out online in future, so that existing data can be transferred and parents need only check and supplement it. She also questions the rule under which siblings may not attend the SEA while one parent is on full-time parental leave. She can understand the basic rationale, but considers a complete exclusion too restrictive. One option would be a limited allocation of hours or classification as a non-priority family, allowing occasional childcare to remain possible. This would enable parents to spend dedicated time with the newborn child or attend necessary appointments. Finally, she asks about the current capacity utilisation of the SEA, the places still available and whether the block that remained unused last year is now fully operational.

Councillor Moro replies that online enrolment will be possible in future, but not yet. There has been considerable abuse in connection with parental leave. What Councillor Schares said is absolutely right, but it must be possible to set some parameters. She also wishes to emphasise that no child is left unsupported and every effort is made to accommodate everyone. Some children spend almost their entire day at the day-care facility, including many of the youngest children.

Councillor Schares asks whether an hourly arrangement might be possible.

Councillor Moro states that she will put this proposal to those responsible for the SEA.

Mayor De Smet adds that there have also been isolated cases in which Friends-day was used in a way that did not correspond to the actual purpose of the offering. Parents therefore also need to take greater responsibility. With regard to parental leave, the matter will be discussed again with those responsible and by the SEA Committee. There are currently enough places available, so it is not necessary to have waiting lists. In principle, the municipality relies on the information provided by parents for organisational purposes.

Councillor Schuster adds that parental leave is a sensitive issue, particularly for single-parent families. She too supports Councillor Schares' request to discuss this point again.

Councillor Moro replies that decisions are made on a case-by-case basis.

Mayor De Smet adds that the matter will be discussed again with those responsible for the SEA. In general, too much responsibility is being shifted onto the SEA. These services are valuable and important, but parents must also be aware of their own responsibilities.

Councillor Schares states that she will abstain from voting on this regulation because she considers it simply too strict, even though it has been said that no one would be left in the lurch. She proposes reconsidering the issue. This has nothing to do with the SEA or the valuable work carried out by the entire team. It concerns only this one point on parental leave, which she considers too strict.

Councillor Smit-Thijs replies that, in such cases, a discussion should first be held with those responsible, even if this is what the regulation states.

This agenda item is approved by ten votes in favour and two abstentions.

D. Emergency regulation relating to the water shortage

Mayor De Smet explains that this item concerns the introduction of an emergency regulation due to the ongoing water shortage. The prolonged drought and high temperatures are putting increasing pressure on the country's water supply. There is a risk that drinking-water reserves could reach their limits in the coming weeks unless water consumption is reduced. For this reason, on the basis of the applicable statutory provisions, the College of Aldermen adopted an emergency regulation for the orange alert level. It provides for certain uses of drinking water to be temporarily prohibited. Prohibited uses include washing vehicles anywhere except professional car washes, cleaning pavements, garages, courtyards and façades, filling or refilling private swimming pools, and using high-pressure cleaners. The operation of fountains is also prohibited unless they use a closed water circuit, as is cooling food or drinks under running water. Watering meadows, parks, cemeteries and sports grounds is also prohibited, although newly established planting is exempt from this restriction. He emphasises that the measures are temporary and will apply only for as long as required by the current water situation. The aim is not to unnecessarily restrict the citizens, but to ensure responsible use of the valuable resource of drinking water.

Councillor Weirich asks whether people may nevertheless water their flowers. This is not clear from the regulation. How long will the regulation remain in force?

Mayor De Smet replies that this is not prohibited. The regulation will remain in force until the provision is officially lifted.

This item is unanimously adopted.

12. Regional Museksschoul Westen

A. Provisional school organisation of the 2026/2027 courses of the 'Regional Museksschoul Westen'

Councillor Smit-Thijs explains that this item concerns the provisional organisation of music lessons for the 2026/2027 school year and the corresponding agreement with the UGDA music school. The provisional organisation of music courses for the municipality of Bertrange was already approved on 5 June 2026. A total of 98,425 minutes of music tuition are planned for the music school as a whole for the coming year. Last year, the figure was 86,450 minutes, so there has been a significant increase. The costs amount to around 11.3 million euros. She will present the final figures in the autumn. In the 2024/2025 school year, the municipalities themselves bore 38.7% of the costs.



The current figures will also be presented in the autumn. This is a cautious organisational plan because of the changes that need to be implemented.

This item is unanimously adopted.

13. Municipal staff

A. SEA: Reduction in the provisional service of a municipal employee – correction

Mayor De Smet states that a seven-month reduction in a municipal employee's provisional service was approved at the previous municipal council meeting. The competent ministry subsequently drew the municipality's attention to an error, meaning that the permissible reduction initially amounted to only six months. The ministry subsequently informed the municipality that, in future, only the length of service, rather than the employee's working hours, would be taken into account, in line with the approach applied by the state. This means that the originally planned seven-month reduction can be retained.

No vote is therefore required on this item.

B. Municipal staff: Reduction in the provisional service of a municipal employee

Mayor De Smet states that this item likewise concerns a reduction of the induction period of a municipal employee. The reduction amounts to 12 months.

This item is unanimously adopted.

C. Municipal staff: Creation of three positions for employees in intellectual roles

Mayor De Smet explains that this item concerns the creation of three positions for employees in career paths A2, B1 and C1 for administrative purposes. This step is intended to create greater flexibility in recruitment. For example, it should make it possible to appoint suitable candidates even if they have not yet passed the required examination. It should also make it possible to respond quickly to suitable applicants where a corresponding position first needs to be created to meet a particular requirement. He emphasises that this is primarily intended as a transitional solution. Priority should continue to be given to appointing staff with employee or civil servant status.

The Municipal Council unanimously adopts this item.

D. Municipal staff: Creation of a position for a municipal employee

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns the creation of a position in career path A2 for the municipal treasury. The position was recently advertised and a suitable candidate has already been found. The corresponding appointment is to be put to the vote at one of the forthcoming municipal council meetings. Thus, for the time being, only the creation of the position in career path A2 is being considered.

This item is unanimously adopted.

14. Advisory Committees

A. SEA Advisory Committee: Change in composition

Mayor De Smet states that this item concerns an adjustment to the allocation of duties and work within the SEA. In this connection, the composition of the competent committee also needs to be adjusted. The change results from the new organisational structure and is intended to ensure that responsibilities are clearly defined. The previous designation 'Responsable de site' will be replaced by 'Responsable de cycle'. At the same time, an additional member will be added to the committee.

B. SEA Advisory Committee: Appointment of a member

Mayor De Smet states that one person still needs to be appointed to the vacant position on the committee. Gioia Bettini is unanimously appointed to this position.

C. Sports Committee: Replacement of a member

Mayor De Smet states that Philippe Goeres has been unanimously elected as a member of the Sports Committee. He replaces Arlette Weiland-Promme.

D. Committee for Intercultural Coexistence: Replacement of an alternate member

Mayor De Smet states that Monique Faber has been unanimously elected as a substitute member of the Committee for Intercultural Coexistence. She replaces Ramya Srinivasan.

15. Traffic

A. Confirmation of emergency traffic regulations: Approval

Alderman Miller explains that this item is about a temporary traffic regulation in Rue Langert that will be applicable from 6 July to 7 August 2026.

Alderman Miller explains that this item is about a temporary traffic regulation in Rue Langert that will be applicable from 24 June to 10 July 2026.

Alderman Miller explains that this item is about a temporary traffic regulation in Rue des Aubépines that will be applicable from 12 June to 31 July 2026.

Alderman Miller explains that this item is about a temporary traffic regulation in Rue des Chênes that will be applicable from 3 July 2026 to 1 January 2027.

B. Temporary traffic regulation: Approval

Alderman Miller states that this concerns a traffic regulation relating to the renewal of the sewerage system and the stormwater main. The roads affected include Rue de Strassen, Rue des Romains and Rue de l'Industrie. The traffic regulation enters into force on 24 August and will remain in place until the work is completed, which is expected to be in April 2027.

This item is unanimously adopted.



C. Amendment to the traffic regulation scheme: Approval

Alderman Miller explains that this concerns various amendments to the traffic regulation affecting a number of parking spaces with charging stations. Rue de Longwy will also be opened to cyclists turning left from the supermarket car park. On Rue Hiel/Rue am Pesch, one parking space for persons with disabilities will be removed, as there is no longer a need for two spaces here.

This item is unanimously adopted.

16. Miscellaneous

A. Acknowledgement of the statutes of a local association

Mayor De Smet states that the 'Les Amis de la Pétanque' association has amended its statutes to comply with the new legislation governing ASBLs and that these have now been submitted.

The Municipal Council takes note of the new statutes.

B. Aid for victims of the natural disaster in Venezuela and emergency aid in response to an Ebola outbreak

Mayor De Smet states that this item is about the municipality showing solidarity with people affected by humanitarian crises in recent weeks and months. First, a donation of 5,000 euros is to be made to 'Médecins du Monde Luxembourg' to support emergency aid in connection with the Ebola outbreak. The organisation has been active in the affected regions for years and focuses in particular on providing medical care to the population there. In addition, support of 10,000 euros for 'UNICEF Luxembourg' is proposed for victims of the earthquakes in Venezuela. The aid is intended to benefit in particular children and families who have lost their homes or schools as a result of the natural disaster or who no longer have adequate access to drinking water and medical care. He emphasises that, although the municipality's financial support cannot solve the existing problems, it can help ensure that assistance is provided quickly and efficiently where it is needed most urgently.

The Municipal Council unanimously adopts this item.

Councillor Weirich asks Mayor De Smet for the floor. This is his final Municipal Council meeting. He will step down from office with effect from 24 July. After eleven and a half years on the Municipal Council, halfway through his term of office and at the age of 77, he feels that this is the right time to step down. It took considerable persuasion in 2011 before he was willing to become politically active here in Bertrange. But now he has to say that he would not have wanted to miss those years any more than other periods of his life – the positive experiences have far outweighed the negative ones. The commitment was worthwhile. He hopes that a new representative will bring fresh impetus to his group and that it will continue its work in the interests of the municipality with the same high level of commitment. He hopes that the entire College of Aldermen and Municipal Council will continue to make the right decisions for Bertrange for the benefit of all citizens. This requires forward-looking planning – particularly with regard to the two very large projects: the 'A Schwalls' neighbourhood and the project in the Helfent triangle. Whether he will still be around to see the redevelopment of the Helfent triangle is beyond his control, but he hopes that a large green recreational

area will also be planned where future generations can enjoy spending time and recharge their batteries. At this point, he would also like to thank all those who have repeatedly placed their trust in him, everyone on the Municipal Council for having managed throughout this time to pull together in the best interests of Bertrange, and all municipal employees. He has witnessed a great deal of commitment to Bertrange on their part and would also like to thank them for this. He wishes everyone a pleasant summer.

Mayor De Smet thanks Councillor Weirich for the good working relationship, including their work together on Bayota. His work has always been constructive and well prepared. He will certainly be missed on the Municipal Council, but he can also be proud of the work he has done. Councillor Weirich has always been concerned with the well-being of Bertrange's citizens and has never put his own interests first.

Councillor Schares adds that Councillor Weirich never took the floor simply for the sake of speaking; his comments were always well considered. Culture and social affairs in particular have always been close to his heart. Citizens are the lifeblood of a municipality, and they have always been his main focus. His contributions were often peppered with quotations from German literature, something that will be missed in future. She has therefore made the effort to find such a quotation herself and came across Goethe. The quotation hits the nail on the head and describes Councillor Weirich and his way of working:

'What is to touch the heart must come from the heart'. On behalf of the CSV party, she would like to thank him and wish him good health and plenty of time for everything he still plans to do.

On behalf of the DP party, Councillor Colabianchi thanks Councillor Weirich for his many years of commitment. Although he is leaving the political stage, other interesting projects undoubtedly lie ahead. Councillor Colabianchi is certain of this. Councillor Weirich was always well prepared, made stimulating contributions to discussions and highlighted key points with precision. He deserves sincere thanks for his contribution.

Alderman Miller thanks Councillor Weirich on behalf of his party. Councillor Weirich's knowledge and approach were always characterised by his focus on what really mattered.

Councillor Schuster says that it is a shame she has only been able to work with Councillor Weirich for three years. She thanks him for the good working relationship and wishes him all the best for the future.

End of the meeting: 13:30 a.m.



