

Ballymoney Borough Council

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 901 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 6th April 2009 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay, Mayor

PRESENT:

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

Councillors
A Cavlan
B Kennedy
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
D McKay, MLA
T McKeown
A Patterson
E Robinson
I Stevenson
M Storey, MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services **(Items 1- 13 inc)**
Director of Central & Leisure Services **(Items 1- 13 inc)**
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

Press

901.1 CONDOLENCES

Terrorist Action – Statement by Mayor

Referring to the recent terrorist attack in Antrim, the Mayor said “I was shocked at the callous and dastardly attack perpetrated by wicked and evil people which took place at Masserene Army Barracks on Saturday 14th March, resulting in the murder of two young soldiers and injury to civilians going about their business in the community.

The attack has been justly castigated by the community and I would add my condemnation. My thoughts and condolences go to the members of the regiment and the families of the two officers who lost their lives. Our best wishes for a full recovery to those citizens injured in the attack.

After the incident I wrote to the Adjutant at Masserene Army Barracks asking him to convey sincere sympathy to the family members and colleagues of those who lost their lives. I also wrote to the Mayor of Antrim offering our condolences for the loss of life in his borough and asking him to convey my best wishes for a full recovery to the citizens injured.”

The Mayor has received a letter of thanks on behalf of the Regiment

PSNI Officer Constable S Carroll, Craigavon

Referring to the death of PSNI Officer Stephen Carroll in Craigavon, the Mayor said, “It is with shock and sadness that I have to record a further tragic death in security forces, a PSNI officer, Constable Stephen Carroll, as he went about his duty in Craigavon on Monday 9th March following close on the murder of the two soldiers at Masserene Barracks, Antrim the weekend before. I have written to the PSNI conveying condolences to Constable Carroll’s widow, Kate, his son Shane and family circle and to his colleagues on their great loss. I have also written to the Mayor of Craigavon.”

Mr James Leslie

The Mayor said that it was also his sad duty to refer to the passing of James Leslie. “It was with great shock and sadness that I learned of the sudden death of James while on holiday.

During his public service James proved to be a valued member of Northern Ireland Assembly and of the various committees on which he served. He also ably represented the interests of the constituency and this borough in particular on a range of issues affecting the everyday lives of the community.

James demonstrated at all times a constructive interest in the welfare of the entire community. He was always ready to listen to the needs and concerns of his fellow citizens and to represent these to Government and other agencies.

He was greatly respected by all who knew him as a quiet, efficient and conscientious public representative. We remember him fondly and he will be sadly missed.

I have conveyed on my own behalf and on behalf of the Council to the Leslie family circle, our deepest sympathy on the sad loss they have sustained.”

Former Mayor Of Benbrook

The Mayor expressed condolences to the family of the former Mayor of Benbrook stating, "It is with sadness that I report the sudden passing on 1st April of Mayor Felix "Bear" Hebert.

Mayor Hebert was a great supporter of the Benbrook Sister Cities Programme and signed the Ballymoney agreement with Benbrook during his tenure as mayor. He was quite saddened when the current council chose to break the agreements, as his friendships with Ballymoney were very special to him.

I would, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Council, wish to mark his passing and to send condolences to his wife, the Mayor of the City of Benbrook and the President of Benbrook Sister Cities."

The Mayor also expressed condolences to the families of **Mr Richard Laverty** and **Mr Hugh Glass** who died recently as a result of accidents. He also extended sympathy to the family of **Mr B Barkley**, formerly of Kilraughts, who died tragically in the recent helicopter crash in the North Sea.

Members acknowledged these deaths by standing for one minute's silence.

901.2 CONGRATULATIONS

The Mayor extended congratulations to Ballymoney Literary and Debating Society on their recent successful play at Ballymoney's 70th Drama Festival.

901.3 MINUTES - MEETING NO 900 – 2ND MARCH 2009

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 900 on 2nd March 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

901.4 SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Alderman Cousley and **AGREED:**

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate numbers 1143, 1144, 1145, 1146 and 1147.

901.5 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 36 – 16TH MARCH 2009

Councillor Kennedy, Vice Chair, presented the report in the absence of the Chair.

the minutes of meeting No 36 on 16th March 2009, as circulated were received.

* **Councillor Storey arrived at 7.10 pm.**

901.6 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 202 – 16TH MARCH 2009

Councillor Stevenson presented the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor McCamphill and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 202 on 16th March 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services presented addendum as set out below:

6.1 Addendum – 31.3.09**6.1.1 Ballymoney Music Centre, 23 Charles Street, Ballymoney – Disposal**

Members will recall Council's interest in the above property in 2005 and its decision in 2007 not to progress the acquisition and conversion of the property as a proposed community hub. The Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) is again proceeding with a further public sector trawl of the land and property, which has been declared surplus to the owning Department's requirements. Council is asked to confirm, by 7th April, whether or not it has an interest in the property.

If the Council are to consider purchasing again and there is no other competing interest to acquire, DFP will require some written assurances that the Council are firstly in a financial position to acquire within a suitable time frame and secondly that they can fulfill the necessary criteria for a public sector transfer to occur.

The Ulster Scots Agency has expressed an interest in acquiring the property. If Council is not expressing an interest in its own right it may wish to consider lending support the Ulster Scots Agency's expression of interest.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Alderman Simpson and **AGREED:**

that Council lends its support to the Ulster Scots Agency's expression of interest.

6.1.2 Peace III (Programme update) (202.10)

The Peace III Partnership has submitted two documents for Council approval.

- [a] Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), drafted by Coleraine Borough Council Solicitor. The MOU is similar to that used by the NW Waste Management Group with a few amendments.
- [b] Standing Orders for Joint Committee

These documents will be presented to the next meeting of the Development Committee.

6.1.3 Streetscape Scheme, Main Street (202.11)

The consultation meeting with trade and residents on the proposed upgrading of Main Street (including the "Diamond" junction – Charlotte Street/High Street/ Main Street/ Church Street) and Seymour Street took place on 31st March. Committee has agreed to lend its support, in principle, to the concept of the Streetscape Scheme.

The Head of Corporate and Development Services updated members on the scheme stating that all businesses and residents in the commercial core of the town centre were invited to attend the consultation event. As advised at Development Committee the scheme, funded by DSD, involves the upgrading of Main Street (including the "Diamond" junction – Charlotte Street/High Street/Main Street/Church Street) and Seymour Street. The scheme is to be funded by DSD at an estimated cost of around £400,000.

The invitation also gave everyone the opportunity to view the draft plans which were exhibited in the main reception at Borough Offices and to submit comments in writing or by email by close of business on the day of the consultation event. No written communications were received.

Approximately 24 traders and five councillors attended the consultation meeting when DRD Roads Service Officials presented the draft proposals, including their plans for the connect2 railway bridge project, which aims to create a promenade from the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre to the town centre at Castlecroft, making use of the Riverside park green corridor along the way. The focus of the route will be a new railway bridge over the railway. It was reported that there were no plans to install gas in Main Street.

Roads Service officials and representatives from the appointed contract, Pat Bradley, responded to questions and provided clarification on the works proposed and the options for surfacing and delivery of the contract works.

No substantive changes are planned to the road and footway layout apart from minor adjustment to the footway extensions at crossing points.

A consensus was reached at the meeting on:

- [1] the concept plans presented, surfacing of roads and footways in asphalt with coloured brick features along kerb edge and at crossing points, incorporating a “raised table” at the diamond linking the remaining town streets into the scheme.
- [2] the programme of work commencing in late April/early May, with evening and week-end working the norm, allowing for the street to remain open during business hours and limited closing of street at week-ends, with no contract works taking place during NW200 week.

Issues raised regarding problems: tactile flags pose for wheelchair users and location of loading bays to be referred to Roads Service traffic branch and reported via the liaison committee.

TCM will act as liaison group during the period of the contract works, estimated at 12 weeks, and businesses will be kept updated via “townscene” and communication from Roads Service Officials.

The general public will be kept informed by way of information in the local press.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that Council endorse the scheme.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services responded to members’ questions regarding Council contribution and consultation process.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Alderman Cousley and **AGREED**:

that Council endorse the proposed scheme as presented by DRD Roads Service at the Consultation Meeting on 31st March 2009 and agreed by those who attended, in accordance with the details set out in (1) and (2) above.

6.1.4 PPS 21 Consultation

The final version of the Council’s agreed response to Draft PPS21 was circulated for members’ information. The response includes the further comment agreed at

Consultation Committee Meeting 36 on 16th March, ie *that where a farm is subdivided e.g. when it is left between two people in a will, the one receiving the portion which does not include the farm dwelling should be able to get an approval for a dwelling, where DARD confirm the viability of the portion of farm in question as a business and subject to the normal tests for integration, access etc. of the proposed dwelling.*

* **Councillor McKay arrived during the discussions at 7.23 pm.**

901.7 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 358 – 18TH MARCH 2009

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

Matters Arising:

7.1 Requests for Financial Assistance (358.17)

- a) Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club – National road races
- b) Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club – ‘Roon tha Toon’ event

Councillor Cavlan expressed the view that ‘Roon tha Toon’ will bring much needed visitors and revenue into Ballymoney while the Armoy event would have a spin-off for Ballymoney. At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Director of Central and Leisure Services advised that no specific budget had been set aside for this purpose and any contribution would come from the Leisure budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Cavlan, seconded by Alderman Campbell

that financial support in the amount of £1,000 each be granted from 2009/10 budget to the Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club for their national road races and the Japanese Vintage Motorcycle Club for their ‘Roon tha Toon’ event, both to be held in August 2009.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote with 10 members voting in favour and no member voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councillor Robinson requested that her abstention to the vote be recorded.

Councillor Kennedy stated that the Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club would welcome the contribution but expressed the view that where budget is not available, Council should advise groups of this fact in the first instance.

Councillor Robinson suggested that local businesses in Ballymoney be invited to extend their opening hours during these events to attract further business to the town.

It was **AGREED:**

that the suggestion be passed to the Chamber of Commerce.

7.2 April Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting (358.25)

It was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

that two separate meetings be held in April, on 21st April at 7.00 pm at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre (Leisure business) and the Amenities business taking place on Thursday 23rd April at 10.00 am in the Council Chamber (including presentation by Balnamore Association).

7.3 Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership (358.24)

During an ensuing discussion, Alderman Simpson and Councillor McGuigan expressed that view that whilst funding restrictions apply, presentations from Causeway Coast & Glens Partnership and the Lower Bann Partnership should be welcomed to provide an opportunity to update Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor McCamphill

that representatives from Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Partnership and the Lower Bann Partnership be invited to give a presentation to Council.

The Mayor put the motion to the vote with 9 members voting in favour and none voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

7.4 Presentation by the Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society (358.16)

At the request of Councillor McGuigan, Alderman Campbell confirmed the cost of room hire at the Town Hall for the period requested was £896.00. Councillor McGuigan referred members to a previous request at the time of the rates setting process to use unspent conference budgets in order to attract match funding for community relations programmes, which request had been denied. He expressed the view that submissions for the hiring of rooms in the Town Hall should be considered at the appropriate rate and that his party (SF) would not be supporting the request for free use of the facilities, which was contrary to Council policy.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor McCamphill

that the application for use of facilities at the Town Hall by the Kingdom of Dalriada Ulster Scots Society for their two day festival be considered at the current cost for hire of facilities in line with Council's policy.

At the request of the Mayor, voting was recorded as follows:

FOR (5)

Councillor McKay
Councillor McGuigan
Councillor Cavlan
Councillor McCamphill
Alderman Connolly

AGAINST (7)

Alderman Campbell
Councillor Storey
Councillor Stevenson
Councillor Patterson
Councillor Robinson
Councillor Finlay
Alderman Cousley

The Mayor declared the motion lost.

* **Councillor Storey and Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 8.00 pm.**

In response to an inquiry by Alderman Simpson, it was confirmed by the Director of Central & Leisure Services that a Councillor could not redirect money from his/her conference budget allocation for other purposes.

Referring to minute ref 358.16, Councillor Robinson advised that she was aware of the budget set for community funding at the rates setting process and that it was her belief that the amount of £63,000 set aside was adequate and that an additional £2,000 would have been better used elsewhere.

7.5 Cloughmills Community Facilities (358.8)

The Mayor welcomed progress on the Council's development.

* **Councillor Kennedy left the meeting at 8.05**

7.6 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Cousley and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 357 on 18TH March 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

- * **Councillor McGuigan rejoined the meeting at 8.05 pm.**

901.8 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 348 – 24TH MARCH 2009

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

Referring to revised opening times of neighbouring CA facilities, Councillor McGuigan requested clarification on impact and usage of CA sites at weekends. The Director advised that usage is monitored.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Connolly and
AGREED:

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Meeting No 347 on 24th March 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

- * **Councillor McKay and Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 8.10 pm.**

901.9 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 374 – 23RD MARCH 2009

Alderman Simpson presented the report including addendum as set out at 10.1.

9.1 Review Of Local Government Boundaries

Members will recall a Corporate & Central Services addendum report to Council on 2nd March (*min. 900.10.1*) that the Boundaries Commission had published his revised recommendations on 27th February and Public Notice was to be given in the three main daily newspapers – Irish News, News Letter and Belfast Telegraph – and in provincial newspapers. The report, for completeness of the minute record, was tabled at Corporate & Central Services Committee meeting on 23rd March and the matter will be listed for Council at its April meeting so that comments, if any, Council may wish to make can be settled for submission by the deadline of **Thursday 9th April.**

Copies of the revised recommendations, including maps, are available for public inspection at the Council Offices (main Reception area), the Electoral Office, Area Electoral Offices, all public libraries, the Office of the Electoral Commission and the Boundary Commissioner's Office. The report is also published on the Boundary Commission website – www.lgbc-ni.org.

The revised recommendations take account of written representations received in relation to the provisional recommendations and of the recommendations of the eleven Assistant Commissioners who held public hearings last November.

The reports of the Assistant Commissioners are also published on the Boundary Commission website.

On the closure of the consultation period, the Boundary Commissioner will consider the representations received and any further revisions, if required, and these will be reflected in the final report to be submitted to the Department of Environment by 30th June 2009.

Councillor Finlay referred to the Glens now being accredited as Causeway Coast and Glens but that Ballymoney is not mentioned as part of that despite being a major part of the new Council structure.

9.2 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 374 on 23rd March 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, including the addendum as set out in 10.1.

* **Councillor McKay rejoined the meeting at 8.17 pm.**

901.10 AUDIT COMMITTEE NO 12 – 10TH MARCH 2009

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Patterson and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Audit Committee No 12 on 10th March 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

901.11 AUDIT COMMITTEE NO 13 – 25TH MARCH 2009

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

Matters Arising:

11.1 Date of Next meeting (13.5)

The Transition Committee has arranged a workshop on the same date as the next meeting of the Audit Committee (21st April 2009). It was therefore agreed that the next meeting of the Audit Committee would take place on Wednesday 29th April at 10.00 am.

11.2 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Patterson and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Audit Committee No 13 on 25th March 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

* **Councillor McKay left the meeting during this item at 8.23 pm.**

901.12 RESOURCES TASK GROUP – 12TH MARCH 2009

Alderman Simpson presented the report.

It was proposed by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Resources Task Group on 12th March 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

Councillor Finlay requested consideration of a change in the date of future meetings to enable him to attend other pre-arranged commitments taking place at the same time.

* **The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central and Leisure Services left the meeting at 8.25 pm.**

* **Councillor McKeown left the meeting at 8.25 pm and returned at 8.30 pm.**

* **Councillor McKay and Councillor McGuigan returned to the meeting at 8.25 pm**

901.13 GENERAL CONSUMER COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND: APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

The Department is seeking to appoint three new members to fill vacancies on the Consumer Council Board with effect from 1 August 2009. The vacancies will be advertised in the News Letter and the Irish News on Thursday 2 April 2009 and in the Belfast Telegraph on Friday 3 April 2009. Details will be also placed on the Department's website www.detini.gov.uk

The deadline for receipt of applications is noon on Thursday 30 April 2009.

Any person interested in the post may register an interest with DETI's Public Appointments Unit.

Tel. 02890529506 Email pau@detini.gov.uk In writing DETI Public Appointments Unit, Netherleigh, Massey Avenue, BELFAST BT4 2JP

900.14 WOMEN'S AID WHITE RIBBON CAMPAIGN

An information leaflet and pledge certificate has been received from Councillor Storey. This was made available to Council members to sign.

900.15 CORRESPONDENCE FROM ANNE MCCORMICK, 178 BALLINLEA ROAD, STRANOCUM

The correspondent has written to request that the following points be raised with Council.

1. *"After approximately 2 years is there no sign of a signpost for our now very famous landmark known as the Dark Hedges with the tourist season fast approaching?"*
2. *Would it be possible to have the sign put up again for the 'Hawbank' estate? The Ambulance Service in particular had to go and knock someone up after midnight the other night to ask directions etc. It used to be on the end wall of No 4 Hawbank but was taken down and never resited.*
3. *Special words of thanks to Mrs Anita Cavlan, for the prompt and efficient work by her in securing the flashing lights at Bush valley Primary School. It has made a huge difference to the traffic and ultimately the safety of the pupils and those who walk on that route to and from the village and beyond. I recall from a newspaper article that Mr Frank Campbell was somewhat sceptical about the whole issue of speeding. Can I respectfully assure him that it was indeed a serious issue that had to be addressed. The road is now less like Brands Hatch and back to a normal country road – the difference the lights have made has been significant.*

Can I also reassure Mr Campbell that the slower moving traffic is in no way detrimental to the pupil's education. On the days in question when the pupils were going to look out the windows – they were in fact doing a project on tractors passing by etc and were doing so as part of their class work and with the authority of their teacher."

At the request of Councillor Cavlan, the Chief Executive advised that these requests would be passed on to the relevant department for action.

900.16 PROPOSED ONE WAY TRAFFIC SYSTEM, BALLYMONEY

Roads Service received a request to consider introducing a one-way traffic system to Armstrong Drive (between Alexandra Ave and Park View) and Hillview Avenue to improve traffic flows. At present the narrowness of each street together with the on-street parking can make it difficult for two-way traffic to negotiate these streets.

A survey showed over 600 vehicles each day using that section of Armstrong Drive (50% flow in each direction) with around 220 vehicles using Hillview Avenue. The introduction of one-way systems would help balance the traffic flows and improve conditions for through traffic and on-street parking. The proposed flow of traffic in Armstrong Drive would be towards Park View with Hillview Avenue flowing towards Alexandra Avenue. The right turn facility on Park View at Hillview Avenue would help with this movement.

Residents along these sections have welcomed the proposals and support was given at a recent meeting with the Glebeside Community Association.

Council's comments were requested regarding these proposals.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Cavlan and
AGREED:

that Council welcome and support the proposal to introduce a one-way traffic system as detailed above and that Roads Service be requested to advance the proposal as speedily as possible.

900.17 INCREASE IN WOMEN'S STATE PENSION AGE

A letter dated 30.3.09 from the Department for Social Development advising of legislation increasing the minimum age at which women can receive their state pension to 65 so as to equalise the position with that of men, to be phased in over a 10 year period from 2010-2020, was circulated.

900.18 CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

At a meeting of the Council held on 24th February, the Council passed the following Notice of Motion:

"This Council recognises the importance of meeting the needs of victims, regrets that the Consultative Group on the past has failed to produce recommendations capable of commanding broad consensus and condemns proposals which equate perpetrators of violence with innocent victims."

The support of the other 25 Councils is sought in this respect.

900.19 MOYLE DISTRICT COUNCIL

At a recent Council meeting, concern was expressed about the reconfiguration of ambulance cover in the area.

It was agreed that Council write to the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety requesting a guarantee that the Ballycastle Station would remain and that the current number of ambulances and shift patterns within the area would be retained.

It was also agreed that Coleraine, Ballymoney, Ballymena and Larne Councils would be asked to support this request.

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and
AGREED:

that Council supports Moyle Council in its representation to the Minister for Health, Social Services and Public Safety requesting a guarantee that the Ballycastle Station would remain and that the current number of ambulances and shift patterns within the area would be retained.

901.20 COMMUNICATION WORKERS UNION – NORTHERN IRELAND REGION

Council's support is sought for the campaign "Keep Royal Mail Public" via Early Day Motion 428, as submitted by Geraldine Smith MP.

Support for this EDM was endorsed by Newtownards Borough Council at their meeting last week and they will also be in contact asking for support.

The Communications Workers Union is totally convinced that the proposed introduction of privatisation by a foreign operator would not guarantee the necessary investment into the UK postal industry. The threat to the postal service and the knock on effect to rural communities and resultant job losses in Northern Ireland is of major concern, and it is widely accepted by the general public that there is a moral obligation on this Labour Government to protect the postal service.

901.21 REPORTS

A list of reports was circulated for members' information.

901.22 NILGA REPORTS & UPDATES

Councillor Robinson drew members' attention to information relating to RPA and the Transition Committee's plans for staff and members going forward in the transition process. She also advised that NILGA's response to PPS21 would be passed to the Head of Corporate and Development Services when received.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.