

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING NO 848 – 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006**

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**Ballymoney Borough Council**

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting No 848 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006 at 7.00 pm.**

**IN THE CHAIR:** J Finlay, Mayor

**PRESENT:** **Aldermen:**  
F Campbell  
H Connolly  
C Cousley, Deputy Mayor

**Councillors:**  
A Cavlan B Kennedy  
M McCamphill P McGuigan, MLA  
D McKay E Robinson  
M Storey, MLA

**APOLOGIES:** **Alderman**  
J Simpson  
**Councillors**  
T McKeown  
A Patterson  
I Stevenson  
R Wilson

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

**Press**

**848.1 NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR B KENNEDY**

Councillor Kennedy proposed the following motion, as set out on the agenda, in respect of which notice had been given.

*“That the Freedom of the Borough be conferred on Dr. Robert Dunlop in recognition of the great honour brought to the borough through the exceptional ability, determination and sportsmanship by which he achieved over 100 national and international motorcycle road racing victories, with a historic 15 wins on the North West 200 Circuit.”*

This was seconded by the Mayor, Councillor Finlay.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor Kennedy stated:

*“Since Robert started racing in 1979, he has had an illustrious career. Achieving outstanding success throughout Ireland and on the international scene, he has over 100 national and international motorcycle road race victories. An amazing record.*

*Robert is a great all-rounder on the track. He has had wins in a whole range of classes – 125, 250, 350 and Superbike. In the 125, he won the British Superbike Champion in 1991 and European Championship in 1993. He also has a string of wins in the Isle of Man TT, the Ulster Grand Prix and the Dundrod 150.*

*Robert returned this year to the road racing circuit after taking a year out from competition after an operation on the leg he injured in a crash in the Isle of Man TT in 1994. He met adversity with determination to regain his fitness and was back in the saddle this year. It was many happy returns as Robert brought the fans to their feet with an electrifying finish at the North West 200. Everyone was waving their programmes willing him on. It reminded me of the story of another great sportsman, Kennedy McArthur, who when he reached the packed stadium at the 1912 Olympics, he heard a voice from the crowd urging him on a familiar accent “Come on Antrim, come on ye boy ye”. Robert has a large following and there is no doubt that at this year’s North West 200, the crowd were willing Robert to win.*

*Scoring a historic 15 wins on the North West Circuit, Robert is the most successful North West Racer of all time. Robert has skill, courage and determination in no small measure. He is an inspiration to many, a true sporting hero and a great ambassador for this Borough.*

*He was honoured earlier this year with the award of Doctor of the University Degree in recognition of his excellence in the field of motorcycling and services to charity.*

*A legend of Irish Road Racing, it is fitting that his hometown should give him the highest honour that it can bestow – admitting him as an honorary freeman of the Borough of Ballymoney.*

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting, 11 members voting in favour and none voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

**This being all the business, the meeting closed, the time being 7.10 pm**