

Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 1003 – 6th October 2014

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 1003 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 6th October 2014 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman B Kennedy, Mayor

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

Councillors
W Blair
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
P McGuigan
T McKeown
C McLaughlin
A McLean
E Robinson, MBE
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: **Councillors**
J Atkinson
A Cavlan

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services
Director of Central & Leisure Services
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Business Support Officer

Planning Service (Items 1-2)
J Lundy – Planning Officer

Press x 2

1003.1 CONGRATULATIONS

The Mayor extended congratulations to Loughgiel Shamrocks Senior Camogie Team who won the County Championship finals for the 17th time and the intermediate and junior teams who also won their sections of the competition.

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

that Council host a reception for Loughgiel Shamrocks Senior Camogie team.

The Mayor said he would be pleased to receive the team.

1003.2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor McLaughlin declared an interest In Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting No 421.7.2 as a member of a club requesting financial assistance.

1003.3 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

3.1 New Applications

Item 1 was considered and the opinion of the Planning Service accepted except where stated otherwise.

The content of the objections were summarised to members and may be viewed on public access at:

http://epicpublic.planningni.gov.uk/PublicAccess/zd/tdc_home.aspx

ITEM NO	APPLICATION NO D/2013/0171/O
APPLICANT	Mr & Mrs Clarke, 78 Lisboy Road, Ballymena
AGENT	N/A
LOCATION	Between 78 and 82 Lisboy Road, Ballymena
PROPOSAL	Replacement dwelling
OBJECTIONS (2)	Validity of replacement dwelling and access
Issues checked and application now found to be acceptable.	

3.2 Deferred Applications

Items 1-3 were considered and the opinion of the Planning Services accepted except where stated otherwise.

D1	APPLICATION NO D2012/0210/O – REFUSAL
Councillor Finlay expressed disappointment with the decision to refuse the application.	
It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Campbell and AGREED:	
<i>that Council write to the MP and Area Planning Manager requesting a meeting to discuss the application.</i>	
D2	APPLICATION NO D/2013/0189RM – REFUSAL
The Planning Officer advised that additional information has recently been	

received. The application will be brought back to Council at the next meeting for approval.

D3	APPLICATION NO D/2014/0012/F APPROVAL
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Councillor Finlay welcomed the decision to approve the application.

3.3 Streamlined Planning Applications

A schedule of decisions issued from 1.8.14 – 31.8.14 was circulated for members' information.

* **The Planning Officer left the meeting at 7.07 pm.**

1003.4 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO 1002 – 1ST SEPTEMBER 2014

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

that the minutes of Council Meeting No 1002 – 1st September 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

1003.5 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 100 – 15TH SEPTEMBER 2014

the minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 100 – 15th September 2014, as circulated, were received.

1003.6 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 420 – 9TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

Matters Arising:

6.1 Killyrammer Community Centre (420.10)

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Director of Borough Services clarified that the two recommendations made, revised proposals for Killyrammer and capital projects workshop, had to be adopted at the Council meeting before they could be progressed.

6.2 Megaw Park (420.4)

Councillor Finlay commended Council and the Director of Borough Services for bringing forward and delivering the project which has proved to be an

outstanding success and is a credit to the borough. The Mayor concurred with Councillor Finlay's remarks.

6.3 Draft Bicycle Strategy for NI (420.17)

Councillor McGuigan advised that a consultation meeting will be taking place in Ballymoney Town Hall on 7th October and suggested that Council consider information from that meeting prior to responding to DRD on the draft strategy. It was agreed that this matter will be tabled for discussion at the Consultation Committee on 20th October to enable any comments to be provided by the closing date of 21st October.

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

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 420 – 9th September 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

* **Councillor McLaughlin left the meeting at 7.20 having declared an interest in item 7.2 as a member of one of the club's applying for funding (1003.2).**

1003.7 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 421 – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2014

Alderman Campbell presented the report. The Director of Central & Leisure Services presented addenda at 7.1 and 7.2 and the Director of Borough Services presented tender reports at 7.3 and 7.4.

7.1 Good Relations (421.5)

A meeting of the Good Relations Sub Committee will be held on Tuesday 14th October 2014 at 7.00 pm, in Riada House.

7.2 Grants (421.7)

	2013/14	2014/15
Good Relations Grants Paid	77	69
Value of £350 each	£26,950	£24,150
Community Support Grants Paid	46	47
Value of £200 each	£9,200	£9,400

Under the Good Relations Grant Scheme Groups could apply for 2 grants per year. Around 30 groups received 2 grants in the year.

An analysis of the Good Relations Grants paid in 2013/14 and 2014/15 shows that 24 Groups received grants in 2013/14 but not in 2014/15.

An analysis of the Community Support Grants paid in 2013/14 and 2014/15 shows that 9 Groups received grants in 2013/14 but not in 2014/15.

Cost to provide these grants is £10,200.

Councillor Finlay thanked the Director for her working in bringing forward the report. He reiterated his view that if funding for the two applications received after the closing date is granted, then the fund should be open to any future applications received. The Director advised that applications are received on a daily basis and a third request has already been received this week.

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

that an amount of £12,000 for Good Relations funding be set aside and the grant scheme opened for applications to include the two applications reported at LAC 421.7, and defer setting of the criteria to the Good Relations Committee, including the exclusion of existing groups who have received their quota.

This was seconded by Councillor Stevenson.

The Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that if the matter is referred to Good Relations Committee, any decision made will not be ratified until November's Council meeting. She suggested that only one grant would be available per group between now and end of January so that funding can be expended and vouched for by 31st March.

* **Councillor McLaughlin re-joined the meeting at 7.30 pm.**

7.3 Tender Report - Ballymoney Town Hall Decoration

Copy of report from Council's Consultants, Earl Lewis, was presented by the Director of Borough Services.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor McLean and **AGREED**

that the tender for redecoration of Ballymoney Town Hall be awarded to Dolan Decorating Limited in the sum of £58,880.00.

7.4 Tender Report - Riada House Decoration

Copy of report from Council's Consultants, Earl Lewis, was presented by the Director of Borough Services.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor McLean and **AGREED**

that the tender for redecoration of Riada House be awarded to Dolan Decorating Limited in the sum of £36,350.00.

7.5 Causeway Coast & Glens Leisure Strategy (421.9)

The Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that notice has been received from the consultants that information meetings will be taking place on 13th October from 11.00 am -12.30 pm, 1.30 pm – 3.30 pm and 6.30 – 7.30 pm at the Joey Dunlop Centre. All members are encouraged to attend. A further session for members of the Shadow Council will be held at the Flowerfield Arts Centre, Portstewart on Wednesday 15th October from 2.00 – 4.00 pm and 6.30 – 8.30 pm.

7.6 Bus Shelter at Drones Road/Knockahollet Road

Responding to Alderman Kennedy on status of this project, the Director of Borough Services advised that a report on the work to be undertaken will be brought to the next Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting.

7.7 Festive Lighting Scheme (421.13)

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

that the Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting in October be granted Council powers to deal with the report and recommendation to be brought to Committee arising from minute reference 421.13.

7.8 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 421 – 16th September 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record and that Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting on 21st October 2014 be granted Council powers to settle Good Relations grant criteria agreed by the Good Relations Committee (7.2 above).

1003.8 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NO 260 – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2014

The report was presented by the Head of Corporate & Development Services.

The Mayor commented on the Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Wider Tourism Structures and information received from NITB on withdrawal of Tourism Event Funding in 2015/16 at 8.1.

8.1 Review of the Northern Ireland Tourist Board and Wider Tourism Structures (260.12)

The Mayor referred to the concern voiced by members of the Development Committee should the contributions to the tourism growth fund require a larger proportion of contribution from Councils than was the case for tourism project funding heretofore. The use of the word “jointly funded”, he said, indicates that councils might be expected to finance projects on a pound for pound basis with NITB in future. The immediate difficulty with this is the issue of rates convergence, as it is anticipated that new councils will be trying to limit rate increases in the first few years. He said that rather than having to find new money through leverage of additional finance through rates he expected councils will want to accommodate the delivery of new functions and projects within existing budget limitations and the transferring in budgets. Concluding the Mayor said, “I trust that this concern will be addressed during the consideration of the comments subjected under the recent review exercise”.

He said, however, he wanted to convey the great concern which has been articulated to him, on the impact on events, tourism numbers and spend which is likely to be a consequence of the recent tourist board’s recent announcement that **“due to ongoing budgetary pressures across Government, the Tourism Events Fund for 2014/16 will not go ahead.”** As he understands it the international tourism events fund will not open to new applications and the one-year tourism events national sponsorship scheme will not operate for 2015/16.

He said this is disastrous news for Northern Ireland tourism and tourism providers who benefit from spin off from events. It is particularly disappointing coming as it does after the magnificent results from 2012 going forward when signal events were successfully staged in the province. Indeed the Tourist Board has been encouraging more events.

The Council, itself, supports such events as the North West 200, Milk Cup, and the Armoy Road Race and its own evaluations demonstrate that these revenue-generating festivals provide significant returns for the local economy and the promotion of the Causeway Coast & Glens region, as do other events e.g. the Maritime Festival in Ballycastle. Benefits flow throughout the region through the provision of accommodation, entertainment and hospitality during the period of the events. The takings of many of the eating establishments and public houses are also significantly boosted during that period, he concluded.

The Mayor then proposed:

that Council write to the Tourism Minister to secure an urgent review of this decision by the Tourist Board on the funding of events.

Seconding the motion Cllr Finlay said that Ballymoney has had a longstanding connection with the road-racing sector and the road racing fraternity, particularly the link with the Armoy Armada and its world famous and most successful road racer of all time, Joey Dunlop.

He also referred to Council's support over many years for the world premier road race at the North West for some years and more recently, with its neighbours in Moyle, Council have supported the Armoy Road Races. This race on the famous Armoy circuit has built itself into a popular event attracting international visitors and it has a spin off for Ballymoney with visitors to the memorial gardens, the museum and the town itself. Councillor Finlay said it would be a crying shame if the economy in the town and beyond was to be adversely affected by the impact of the withdrawal of funding. He went on to lay the blame for the reduction in funding across Northern Ireland departments with Sinn Fein, stating that their procrastination in moving forward with welfare reform cuts has had a direct influence on government budgets including tourism.

Responding, Councillor McGuigan stated that these cuts have nothing to do with Welfare Reform which has not yet taken place and that the British Conservative Government has not raised the amount of money coming to Northern Ireland for the last four years. Negotiations relating to Welfare Reform are taking place at the moment and both parties should adopt a sensible attitude towards a resolution.

A copy of the consultation response document finalised after the Committee meeting was circulated.

8.2 Jobs Fair (260.4)

Councillor Finlay expressed the view that the jobs fair was a tremendous success with 800 jobs on offer and people from all walks of life attending. He hoped it would bring some benefit to people and get them into employment. He commended everyone involved in the event. The Mayor concurred and congratulated Minister Storey on his appointment as DSD Minister and on his contribution to delivering this successful and informative event.

8.3 Revitalisation Investment for Town (260.7.2)

Councillor Finlay congratulated the officer on the work undertaken to revitalise the town with the Social Development Minister having announced funding of £200,000 for the project. He stated that coupled with Council's

input of £50,000, this funding brings real investment and positive help to the traders in the town.

8.4 Transport Assessment – Ballymoney & Ballycastle (260.7.4)

The Chair advised that as Moyle District Council had confirmed that they could provide funding of £20,000 to match Council to enable the delivery of this project in the absence of DSD funding, it is recommended that council confirm its funding of £20,000.

8.5 WW1 Legacy Fund (260.10)

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that the fund has now reached its target and that the fundraising organisation should be congratulated on the work they have done to achieve this.

8.6 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the Development Committee Meeting No 260 – 17th September 2014, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved including approval of funding of £20,000 for the Transport Study (8.4.)

1003.9 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 426 – 22ND SEPTEMBER 2014

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

that the minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 426 – 17th September 2014, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

1003.10 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 402 – 23RD SEPTEMBER 2014

The Environmental Services Report was presented by the Director of Borough Services.

10.1 Re-think Waste (402.8)

In response to Councillor Robinson, who stated that the fund might still be available, the Director of Borough Services advised that the information received and provided by him in the minute with regard to the withdrawal

of the offer made by Rethink Waste is factual. He agreed to clarify this matter with the Group and will advise the member accordingly.

Councillor Robinson stated that it would be a pity if Council did not have access to the £250,000 for food waste and if the offer was made it should be honoured.

10.2 Renaming of StreetS (402.3)

In response to Councillor McGuigan as to whether a consultation had been undertaken with residents of the street, the Director of Borough Services advised that this is a policy matter. He said that Council could act in the same manner as other authorities in the Province and take the view that Council has the power to rename the street based on the wider interpretation of the 1832 Act. The next step would be to have some discussion with other Councils in the cluster. Any move forward would require an amendment of the policy and in accordance with the policy, renaming of the street would follow.

10.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No 402 – 23rd September 2014, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

- * **The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central & Leisure Services left the meeting at 8.15 pm.**

1003.11 SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson seconded by Councillor McLean and **AGREED:**

that the Seal of Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate numbers 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398.

1003.12 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS SHADOW COUNCIL

No report was given.

1003.13 CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

A current list of consultation documents was circulated.

13.1 ETHICAL STANDARDS FRAMEWORK – APPORTIONMENT OF COSTS CONSULTATION

DoE consultation document, 1/8/14, on the apportionment of costs in relation to the new ethical standards framework, previously circulated, is attached for convenience. Comments are invited from Councils, NAC and NILGA on the preferred option on how the costs associated with the ethical standards framework should be apportioned and the proposed review in 2017/18. The deadline for comments is 1st October 2014.

The Chief Executive advised that the deadline for comments has been extended until 31st October 2014.

1003.14 ROADS PROGRAMME – AUTUMN CONSULTATION

Arrangements have been confirmed for Transport NI Senior Management Team to attend the Consultation Committee meeting on 17th November to present their Autumn Consultation report to members and outline their priorities for next year's programme.

1003.15 PRIVATE STREETS ORDER

Transport NI have advised that the development at Finvoy Road (known as Millbrooke Manor), Ballymoney has been adopted.

1003.16 DOE CONSULTATION ON GUIDANCE ON PLANNING ELEMENT OF COUNCILLORS' CODE OF CONDUCT

The Department of the Environment has issued a consultation paper on guidance on the planning element of the councillors' code of conduct.

As part of local government, the majority of planning functions will transfer to the new 11 councils on 1st April 2015. The Local Government Act (NI) 2014 introduced a new ethical regime to local government. As part of this regime, the Department of the Environment issued a Code of Conduct (the Code) for councillors, which was approved by the Assembly on 27th May 2014. Part 9 of the Code, which contains the planning element, is not due to take effect until 1st April 2015.

The consultation paper is available on the Planning NI website at http://www.planningni.gov.uk/de/index/news/news_consultation/draft_guidance_planning_element_of_councillor_code_of_conduct.htm

The closing date for receipt of comments is 21st November 2014.

Councillor Robinson referred to the appeal structure within the Code of Conduct and advised that she had confirmed that if arbitration was not acceptable the ultimate appeal would be judicial review.

1003.17 NILGA CONSULTATIONS

The following consultation responses have been received from NILGA and are available on request.

- NILGA submission on Review of NITB and Wider Tourism Structures
- Draft NILGA response to draft Waste Management Licensing
- Draft NILGA response to consultation on use of Health and Social Care information

1003.18 LET'S BE CLEAR AT 800

Digital Mobile Spectrum Limited has written to advise that mobile phone operators are now rolling out 4G networks in this area which will provide super-fast wireless broadband. The 800 MHz frequencies used by some 4G services are next to the frequencies used for Freeview. There is a small chance this may cause disruption to Freeview services.

1003.19 FIRMUS ENERGY

Following consultation with the Utility Regulator, the Department of Enterprise Trade & Investment (DETI) and the Consumer Council, Firmus Energy has confirmed that its natural gas prices will remain unchanged this winter for domestic and SME users.

1003.20 REPORTS

A schedule of reports was circulated for members' information.

The meeting concluded at 8.20 pm.