

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 861 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 8th May 2007 at 7.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay (Mayor)

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

Councillors
A Cavlan
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
T McKeown
E Robinson
J Simpson
M Storey, MLA
R Wilson

APOLOGIES: **Councillors**
B Kennedy
D McKay, MLA
A Patterson
I Stevenson

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

Press

861.1 CONDOLENCES

The Mayor expressed condolences to Councillor Patterson on the death of her brother William. The Mayor and Chief Executive have visited Councillor Patterson to express their sympathy to her, William's wife and all other family members.

The Mayor also expressed condolences on the death of Mr George Dawson, MLA. Mr Dawson had been a senior officer at Arena Network, working for many years alongside Ballymoney Council.

861.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 859 – 2ND APRIL 2007

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 859 on 2nd April 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

861.3 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 860 – 23RD APRIL 2007

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 860 on 23rd April 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

861.4 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the seal of Council be affixed to:

(a) Grave Registration Certificate Numbers 1060, 1061 and 1062;

(b) Deed of transfer of land at Ballymoney Riverside Park to DRD Water Service.

861.5 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 12 – 16TH APRIL 2007

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

* **Councillor McGuigan arrived at 7.36**

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

that the minutes of Consultation Committee No 12 on 16th April 2007, as circulated, be adopted.

861.6 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 181 – 11TH APRIL 2007

Alderman Simpson presented the report in the absence of Councillor Stevenson, including addendum as outlined in 6.1 below

6.1 Consultation document on 'Guiding Principles for Location of Public Sector jobs in Northern Ireland'.

Development Committee – Addendum 1/5/07**Consultation document on ‘Guiding Principles for Location of Public Sector Jobs in Northern Ireland’.**

On 26th January, David Hanson M.P., Minister with responsibility for the Department of Finance and Personnel published a consultation document on ‘*Guiding Principles for the Location of Public Sector Jobs in Northern Ireland*’

This consultation document and the guiding principles set out therein were prepared by a Department-led RPA Estates Sub-Group chaired by John Hunter, Permanent Secretary of the Department of Finance and Personnel.

The RPA Estates Sub-Group has been set up as a DFP-led cross-sectional group reporting to the RPA Steering Group chaired by Nigel Hamilton, Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service. The Sub-Group has been given responsibility to:

- establish baseline profiles regarding the location of public sector jobs and other socio-economic data to inform location decisions;
- develop appropriate policies and guiding principles to use as a framework against which decisions on location can be taken; and
- collate the estates strategies and plans in the various RPA areas and to stimulate their effective coordination taking account of other reform programmes.

There is currently no Local Government representation on the Estates Sub-Group and, therefore, the proposals put forward have been developed in isolation from Local Government involvement.

It is anticipated that the proposed Guiding Principles, if adopted, will assist decision-makers in the management of the location of public sector employment and inform future (re)location decisions emerging from the Review of Public Administration process. Such key decisions will inevitably have a long-term impact upon the competitiveness and sustainability of both Belfast and Northern Ireland.

The Guiding Principles are categorised under nine thematic areas including:

- a) Improving Service Delivery
- b) Taking Account of Staff Interests
- c) Achieving Value for Money
- d) Effective Working
- e) Effective Asset Management
- f) Maximising Social and Economic Benefits

- g) Promoting Equality and Good Relations
- h) Sustainable Development

The Consultation document calls for the creation of a coherent and integrated public sector framework for Northern Ireland which incorporates current requirements, policies and guidance, and which is underpinned by a set of core principles. It suggests that the RPA process provides an opportunity, in the context of rationalising public sector organisations, to spread the benefits of public sector employment and secure greater equity across the region.

The future location of public sector jobs is a key area for consideration within the ongoing Review of Public Administration (RPA) process. The implementation of the RPA recommendations will result in the creation over time of a number of new public bodies across particular sectors, including health and education, and may necessitate the relocation of public sector jobs within Northern Ireland.

Under the RPA process a number of bodies which presently have headquarter premises situated throughout Northern Ireland will cease to exist. In relation to health the existing four Health and Social Services Boards are being abolished and replaced with a Strategic Health and Social Services Authority. The present eighteen Health and Personal Social Services Trusts are being reduced to five. The five support services agencies that currently work with the Trusts are being reduced to three. In education the four Education and Library authorities will be reduced to a single Education Authority. In addition, the proposal to reduce the number of the twenty-six Councils to seven will also result in a number of headquarter premises no longer being required.

The cumulative effect of the closure of headquarter or employment premises which will be caused by this rationalisation could have a significant detrimental impact on many district council areas.

It should be noted that recent relocation and dispersal policy developments in England, Scotland, Wales and the Republic of Ireland have primarily focused on the decentralisation of public sector jobs from the main capital cities of London, Edinburgh, Cardiff and Dublin.

Recommendation:

Members are asked to consider endorsing the following comments on the consultation document on "Guiding Principles for Location of Public Sector Jobs in Northern Ireland and submission to the Department of Finance and Personnel.

That

(1) – Council record its general agreement with the guiding principles for the location of public sector jobs in Northern Ireland;

(2) - Government (the Assembly) acknowledge the potential negative socio-economic impact on certain local communities as a result of radical relocation and restructuring;

(3) - The Council register concern at the absence of local government representation on the estates sub-group, a sector which will be significantly affected by RPA, and request that this be addressed.

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

that the minutes of Development Committee No 181 on 11th April 2007, as circulated and the addendum as set out in 6.1 above, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

861.7 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 330 – 17TH APRIL 2007

Alderman Campbell presented the report including the following addendum:

7.1 Financial Support for the Lower Bann Partnership & the Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committee (330.2)

That delegates from the Lower Bann Partnership be invited to attend the May Committee meeting at 2.00 pm at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre to give a presentation (light refreshments to be arranged), and that meetings be held at 7.30 pm on the 19th June or 21st August to facilitate presentations to be given by Lough Neagh and Lower Bann advisory committee. It was agreed that such presentations would be best served at the commencement of committee meetings where items relating to Amenities are tabled at the beginning of the agenda.

At the request of Alderman Simpson, Councillor Finlay advised that the request to change the time of the May meeting to 2.00 pm was due to his, Alderman Cousley and Councillor Wilson's unavailability for an evening meeting.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 330 – 17th April 2007, as circulated, and addendum as set out in item 7.1 be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

861.8 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 354 – 23RD APRIL 2007

Alderman Cousley presented the report in the absence of Councillor Patterson.

* **Councillor Storey left the meeting at 7.50 pm**

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 354 on 23rd April 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

* **Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 7.55 pm**

861.9 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 328 – 24TH APRIL 2007

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

Matters Arising:**9.1 Municipal Waste Options**

Councillor Robinson referred to the proposal for 3 members to visit the Isle of Man to look at incineration facilities and to an invitation extended to Council by ARC21 to visit facilities in England during the period 16th-18th May to look at recycling issues and the planning for waste which she had accepted as Chair of Health and Environmental Services Committee. Councillor Robinson relayed the programme of ARC21's forthcoming visit and requested Council authorise her attendance and 3 members to attend the visit to Isle of Man to look at their incineration facilities. Alderman Campbell concurred with Councillor Robinson stating the educational benefits to be gained by the visits.

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

that Council authorise the attendance of 3 members (Councillor Robinson, Councillor Finlay and Councillor Cavlan) to visit the Isle of Man incineration facilities and Councillor Robinson to undertake an ARC21 visit to England from 16th-18th May and that funding for these visits be made available from Council's reserve account.

9.2 Sweeping of Ballymoney Town Centre Car Parks (328.14)

Alderman Simpson reiterated his concern relating to the cleansing of town centre car parks and requested an update on the current situation. The Director of Borough Services advised that, to date, no further information has yet been received from DRD Roads Service relating to their cleansing regime. It is envisaged that further information will be available at the next meeting of the Committee. Councillor Robinson concurred with Alderman Simpson, stating the importance of the aesthetics of the town in attracting residents and tourists to the area.

9.3 Municipal Waste Returns (328.12)

Councillor Robinson requested further clarification relating to the decrease in mixed dry recyclable figures for March 2007. The Director of Borough Services agreed to look into this and report further to the committee meeting in May.

9.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 328 on 24th April 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

861.10 AUDIT MEETING NO 2 – 26TH APRIL 2007

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 2 on 26th April 2007, 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 8.08 pm.**

861.11 NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE BOARD – INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007/08

Following a period of extensive consultation, the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service Board has presented its Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2007/08. This was circulated to members for their information.

Alderman Campbell referred to the report querying the figures used in the plan which refer to 2005 and not the current year 2007.

861.12 ROADS PROGRAMME – SPRING CONSULTATIONS

Roads Service has written to request a date, between 8th May and 29th June 2007, to present the Roads Service Programme and Report to Council.

Dates suggested are Wednesday 30th May 2007 at 6.00 pm or Wednesday 6th June 2007 at 6.00 pm. These dates will be put to Roads Service and a date agreed accordingly.

861.13 NORTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

The Northern Health and Social Care Trust came into operation on Sunday April 1st. With the establishment of five new health and social care trusts one of the first changes following the Review of Public Administration, the Northern is an amalgamation of Causeway, Homefirst and the United Hospitals Health and Social Services Trusts. It will provide services in the local government districts of Antrim, Ballymena, Ballymoney, Carrickfergus, Coleraine, Cookstown, Larne, Magherafelt, Moyle and Newtownabbey.

Northern News, the Trust's first news bulletin has been placed in the members' room.

861.14 CONSUMER COUNCIL

The Consumer Council has formally been established in law as the champion to represent the interests of water consumers here and hold Northern Ireland Water Limited (NIWL) to account. To mark the occasion, the Consumer Council's Water Group held its first meeting as part of the organisation's new legal responsibilities for water that came into effect on 1 April 2007.

The Consumer Council will now represent the interests of consumers in two ways: handling complaints about NIWL and influencing the ongoing agenda and debate on how to make water charges fair, affordable and sustainable in an open and transparent way.

Complaints, queries or concerns about water and sewerage services can be made to the Consumer Council on 0845 601 6022, complaints@consumercouncil.org.uk or visit the website at www.consumercouncil.org.uk

861.15 ROADS SERVICE – COMBINED CYCLEWAY/FOOTWAY, FROSSES ROAD, BALLYMONEY

Roads Service has written to advise that work is to start shortly on continuing the combined cycleway/footway along Frosses Road (Ballymoney Bypass). This scheme will complete the link from Greengauge Lane to Semicock Road. A plan detailing the route was circulated. Roads Service has requested that any comments be notified to them. No comments were offered.

861.16 ROADS SERVICE – TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEMES – 2007/08

The following areas are being included for traffic calming measures for the financial year 2007/08.

- a) Clooneen Drive
- b) Castlehill Avenue

Draft proposals are being prepared and consultation with residents and local councillors will take place towards the end of April. Other sites within the borough were assessed for similar measures but were not successful in being included in the programme for 2007/08.

861.17 ROADS SERVICE – THE PRIVATE STREETS (NI) ORDER 1980

1. Development at Knockan's Park, Ballymoney Stage 1 – Developer Clady Timber Developments.
2. Development at Glebe Park, Ballymoney Stage 2 – Developer Charles Craig.

Roads Service has adopted streets at the above developments.

* **Alderman Campbell left the meeting at 8.15 pm.**

861.18 PATHOLOGY REVIEW – RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY

Copy correspondence to Councillor Storey from Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety regarding future of pathology services at Causeway Hospital was tabled.

Response from the Department offers "reassurance that the proposals in the Pathology Review will not affect the continuation of either A&E or maternity services at Causeway Hospital and these services will continue to be provided in Causeway Hospital.

The Pathology Review makes 23 recommendations aimed at securing quality pathology services which will ensure safe and responsive care for patients in all our hospitals. The Review Group recommended that the three smaller acute hospitals – Daisy Hill, Causeway and the new South West Hospital – should provide site essential, rapid response clinical biochemistry and haematology services 12 hours daily. Out of hours urgent samples would be transferred to the nearest large acute hospital. 24 hour blood transfusion services would be maintained, with out of hours cover from the nearest large acute hospital laboratory, and with electronic release of blood for patients who have been previously been cross-matched.

The consultation on the Pathology Review ended on 28 February and the Department is now considering the issues raised by the considerable number of respondents. The proposals in the review will be examined in light of the

comments received and recommendations will be announced later in the year.”

861.19 THE WILLIAM KEOWN TRUST

Customers including senior citizens and families where there is disability who have no bank account maybe surcharged by British Telecom if they do not pay by direct debit through a bank account. By next May British Telecom's 13,000,000 customers will be encouraged to settle their accounts by direct debit.

The William Keown Trust is supporting Help the Aged pointing to the fact that pensioners and others still prefer to pay by cheque or cash through the Post Office. Millions of people from all walks of life will be disproportionately affected by the new proposed method of payment.

The Trust seeks Council's support.

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

that Council support The William Keown Trust in refuting the new, proposed methods of payment to British Telecom.

861.20 CARRICKFERGUS BOROUGH COUNCIL – BT CHARGES NON DIRECT DEBIT CUSTOMERS

The decision taken recently by BT plc to charge customers who did not pay the company by direct debit or monthly payment plan was raised at the February meeting of the Support Services committee of Council. The committee proposed that Council oppose these charges.

Council's support is sought to oppose the charges proposed by BT.

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

that Council support Carrickfergus Borough Council in opposing BT's charges to non direct debit customers

861.21 ANIMAL AID – RUDDY DUCK SLAUGHTER – SUPPORT FOR NO CULL POLICY

Last May Council supported Animal Aid's policy opposing the government's decision to spend £8.5 million on the mass eradication of the UK's ruddy duck population.

Animal Aid has written to Council advising that Wigan Council has passed a unanimous motion requesting that DEFRA 'reconsiders its decisions permitting the culling of the ruddy duck population in Wigan and elsewhere in Britain.' The motion also calls for the 'implementation and completion of a proper examination of the validity of the claimed reasons for the cull and an

investigation of all the up-to-date scientific information, including the research and observations of internationally renowned bird expert Tom Gullick, Ornithological Societies, the RSPCA, Animal Aid and other wildlife organizations.'

Animal Aid asks Council to follow Wigan's lead and press government to stop this cruel and senseless exercise by asking DEFRA to assess all of the up-to-date scientific information and conduct a proper examination of the validity of the reasons for the cull.

861.22 ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL – POST OFFICE COUNTER NETWORK

Ards Borough Council's External Affairs & Planning Committee has resolved to support the Post Office Counter Network as it believes that any further reductions in the Post Office Network would be detrimental, both economically and socially, to community well-being. The Committee also resolved to write to the Post Office Ltd and the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Alasdair Darling, to express its views on the matter. It further resolved to seek the support of all other Councils in Northern Ireland.

861.23 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was agreed that the Annual General Meeting will take place on Thursday 14th June at 7.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Riada House.

861.23 BALLYMONEY HEALTH CENTRE

Councillor Robinson reported on problems being experienced by users of the Health Centre's new telephone system.

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

that Council write to the Health Centre management raising these concerns.

861.24 REPORTS

A list of reports was circulated for members' information. These can be obtained on request from the Office of the Chief Executive.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.22 pm.