

Ballymoney Borough Council

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 870 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 3rd December 2007 at 7.00 pm

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman H Connolly, Deputy Mayor

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
C Cousley
J Simpson

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

APOLOGIES: **Councillors**
J Finlay, Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services (items 1-12)
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Head of Leisure Services (Items 1-12)
Head of Finance & IT (Items 1-12)
Committee Clerk

Press

870.1 CONDOLENCES

The Deputy Mayor expressed condolence to the families of those who were killed in road traffic accidents over the weekend in Northern Ireland. The Deputy Mayor said "This past weekend has seen terrible loss of life as a result of road traffic accidents. On behalf of Council I wish to pass our condolences to all the families bereaved. We are shocked and saddened by each of these tragedies. In our borough, I would like to convey particular sympathy to the family of Mrs Marjorie Joan Kerr. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time."

870.2 JOB LOSSES – REID TRANSPORT

The Deputy Mayor referred to the news that Reid Transport, having gone into liquidation with the loss of 200 jobs, has come as a shock to the local community. He said "This is devastating news for Cloughmills and the borough.

The Mayor has written to the Economy Minister asking him to look at measures to bring new jobs to the borough and has also asked for a meeting with the Minister. We hope that the workers involved are helped as much as possible during this time.”

Councillor Stevenson expressed thanks to the Mayor for his involvement in representing the interests of the workforce and seeking a meeting with the Minister.

870.3 APOLOGIES

The Deputy Mayor advised members that the Mayor had apologised for his absence from the meeting due to a prior commitment to attend the switching on of Christmas lights in Balnamore and also the hospitalisation of his mother in Belfast.

870.4 MINUTES – MEETING NO 868 – 5th NOVEMBER 2007

Matters Arising

4.1 Acknowledgement of Success (868.2)

Councillor Stevenson advised of the recognition achieved by Dunloy Accordion Band in being invited to the Lord Mayor’s Parade in London again this year.

4.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 868 on 5TH November 2007, as circulated, be adopted.

870.5 MINUTES – MEETING NO 869 – 7TH NOVEMBER 2007

Matters Arising

5.1 Condolence

The Chief Executive thanked members and staff for the recent messages of sympathy he had received on the death of his mother. He said that he and his family had been greatly comforted by the many people who had written or called and that he appreciated the support given.

5.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 869 on 7TH November 2007, as circulated, be adopted.

870.6 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to Grave Registry Certificate numbers 1084 – 1092 inclusive.

870.7 STAFF MATTER

Councillor McCamphill, on behalf of the Mayor, Councillor Finlay, advised members that he wished to raise a staff matter.

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

that the meeting move 'into Committee' to receive a report on a staff matter.

* **The Press left the meeting at 7.08 pm.**

Councillor McCamphill advised that the Mayor had received a letter of grievance from a staff member. The matter has been referred to Council's Solicitor and the Local Government Staff Commission.

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

that legal and other costs involved should be met by Council.

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

that the meeting 'move out of Committee'

* **The Press re-joined the meeting at 7.08**

870.8 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 21 – 19TH NOVEMBER 2007

* **Councillor Cavlan arrived at 7.10 pm.**

Councillor Wilson presented the report

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 21 – 19th November 2007, as circulated be adopted.

870.9 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 188 – 19TH NOVEMBER 2007

- * **Councillor Kennedy and Councillor Patterson arrived at 7.12 pm.**

The report was presented by Councillor Stevenson.

Matters Arising**9.1 Thanks**

Councillor Stevenson thanked the Mayor for hosting a reception for his relatives who have recently moved from the Borough to live in New Zealand.

9.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 188 – 19th November 2007, as circulated be adopted and the recommendations therein be approved.

- * **Councillor Patterson joined the meeting at 7.12 pm.**

870.10 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 337 – 20TH NOVEMBER 2007

Alderman Campbell presented the report and addendum as set out at 10.1 below.

**10.1 Briefing Paper on Community Support Plan
Executive Summary**

In December 2006, Council awarded Vision Management Consultancy, the contract of developing a Community Support Plan, which would act as a catalyst for Community Development Services within the Borough.

The audit involved wide spread consultation with a range of key stakeholders including:

- Community Groups
- Senior Management Team within Council
- Householder surveys
- Research into existing scoping exercises i.e. Good Relations Programme

Each year the Department of Social Development (DSD) award Council a grant of approximately £30,000. However in comparison with other district councils, this grant is particularly low. Discussions have taken place with DSD to lobby for additional money, however as Ballymoney is an area of little deprivation Council is unable to secure an increase in funds. Although our grant is minute in comparison with other Councils, it still contributes to much needed service provision within the Borough.

Through the grant aid secured from DSD, Council are able to provide a satellite advice service to the people of Ballymoney three days a week from the Town Hall. This service is vital to the community with just under 1,000 queries taken each year and approximately £70,000 of benefit support secured for those with additional needs.

The Community Services budget within Council amounts to approximately £137,000 to undertake direct community support activities i.e. management, provision of community centres, community development support, grant giving to community groups and advice agencies. Council receive a yearly grant from the Department of Social Development (DSD), with this year's total grant anticipated at approximately £31,000. This will fund:

- Coleraine and District Citizens Advice Bureau a grant of approximately £18,000 per year plus in kind donation for hire of room in Town Hall 3 days per week.
- £5,000 Small Grants Programme (£100 per community/voluntary group)
- Remainder of funding to contribute to management of community centres, which brings the total budget for community facilities to approximately £100,000:
 - Rasharkin
 - Ballybogey
 - Killyrammer
 - JDLC
 - The Social Centre

What is a Community Support Plan?

The Community Support Plan will help identify the community support needs of local communities within the Ballymoney Borough. In identifying local need it is important to recognise that a wide range of existing organisations are already active within the sector. The purpose of this Community Support Plan is to bring together those organisations and agencies that can contribute to meeting the needs of local communities. The Support Plan will enable communities to benefit through better assessment of their need, better targeting of resources, improved use of community facilities and increased support for local community groups.

How Council already contributes to Community Support

Although the Central and Leisure Services Directorate through its Good Relations Officer primarily manages the Community Support Plan, it does have a core function both within the Office of the Chief Executive and the Borough Services Directorate.

Ballymoney Borough Council believes that through its core functions of Community Development/Community Support and Community Services it illustrates the importance of engaging with the local community and developing the capacity of all individuals, thus ultimately improving the quality of life for those living within the Borough.

Community Services within all three Directorates, incorporates the following elements:

- Advice Centre Funding
- Events and Festivals Grants
- Good Relations
- Community Development
- Grant Assistance to the Voluntary and Community Sector.
- Community Sport
- Community Arts Service
- Museums Programme
- Economic Development
- Local Strategy Partnership
- Community Safety
- District Policing Partnership
- Management of Community Centres
- Amenities
- Training/Capacity Building Programmes

Resources needed to implement the Community Support Plan?

Due to no increase in funding support from DSD the Community Support Plan will continue to be co-ordinated by the Good Relations Officer within the Central and Leisure Services Directorate. The Community Support Plan objectives are already being achieved by all three Directorates within Council on the current level of funding received from DSD. Therefore the Community Support Plan will continue to utilise current staff resources.

Members are invited to adopt the Community Support Plan 2007-09 and associated Action Plan, a copy of which had been circulated. A copy of the full plan is available in the Members' room and further copies are available on request.

Matters Arising

10.2 Refurbishment of Killyrammer Community Centre – Tender Report

The Director of Borough Services advised that tenders for the above scheme were invited from the following contractors:

1. JS Dunlop, 48 Kirk Road Ballymoney
2. Piperhill Construction, Unit 14 Acorn Business Centre, Ballymoney
3. John Gamble, 29 Moneycannon Road, Ballymoney
4. WH Arbuthnot, Station Works, Upperlands, Maghera

Tenders were received as follows:

- | | | |
|----|---|------------|
| 1. | JS Dunlop, 48 Kirk Road, Ballymoney | £79,810.00 |
| 2. | Piperhill Construction, Unit 14 Acorn Business Centre. Ballymoney | £78,500.00 |
| 3. | WH Arbuthnot, Station Works, Upperlands, Maghera | £72,563.00 |

No tender was received from John Gamble.

Council's consultant is of the view that the tender submitted by WH Arbuthnot represents a suitable basis to develop a contract.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the lowest tender from WH Arbuthnot in the amount of £72,563.00 be accepted and the matter be referred back to Committee on 18th December for further consideration.

In an ensuing discussion, Councillor Robinson stated that Council had agreed in July 2006 to fund the project in its entirety. At that time, the amount required was £25,000, with Killyrammer Community Association securing grants of £15,000 towards the cost of the project, to be expended before the end of 2007/08. This proposed scheme now calls for an additional funding of £35,000.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Cavlan

that Council honour its commitment to Killyrammer Community Association and provide an additional £35,000 from reserves to enable implementation of the project within the period 2007/08.

At the request of Councillor Kennedy, and Councillor McGuigan, the Director of Borough Services clarified Council's previous decision to provide funding to realise its completion. He confirmed that the grants were time bound and had to be commenced by 31st March 2008.

Councillor McGuigan referred to cuts in budgets and deferral of projects and stated his belief that the contribution should have been considered at the 2007 rates meeting. Alderman Simpson agreed and recorded his concern at the use of reserve monies, as he regarded this as an unsatisfactory way to control financial management.

* **Councillor McKeown joined the meeting at 7.32 pm.**

Councillor Kennedy suggested that the matter be discussed at the rates meetings to be held in January 2008.

The Deputy Mayor then put the motion to the meeting.

A vote was taken with 10 members voting in favour and none voting against.

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion carried.

The Director of Borough Services invited members to consider his recommendation on tenders, set out above.

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

that the lowest tender from WH Arbuthnot of £72,563.00 be accepted for the refurbishment of Killyrammer Community Centre.

10.3 2007 Supervalu Best Kept Towns, Villages & Housing Areas Translink Ulster in Bloom 2007 (337.20)

At the request of Councillor Kennedy, the Director of Borough Services confirmed his intention to provide feedback in writing to unsuccessful candidates of the competition.

10.4 Kilraughts Road Roundabout (337.22)

Councillor Stevenson thanked the Director of Borough Service for the commencement of work to landscape the roundabout.

10.5 Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards (337.6)

Councillor Cavlan requested Council reconsider its decision to reserve a table for 10 at this event at a cost of £600.00 plus VAT. Councillor Kennedy recorded his view that nominations should be made by Council to the Awards. Councillor McKay expressed the view that this expenditure was not in ratepayers' interests.

It was proposed by Councillor McKay, seconded by Alderman Simpson

that Council note the event.

A vote was taken with 5 members voting in favour and 8 members voting against.

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion lost.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor McKay

that the of a table of 10 be met from conference budgets of the members attending.

Alderman Campbell indicated he was willing to pay the full cost from his conference budget as he did not intend to spend it.

A vote was taken with 5 members voting in favour and 6 members voting against.

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion lost.

10.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting 337 – 20th November, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved together with the Addendum as set out in 10.1 above.

870.11 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 334 – 27TH NOVEMBER 2007

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

11.1 Warmer Ways to Better Health (NIE energy Efficiency Programme) 2007/08 (334.36)

Councillor Robinson referred to the proposed 50% reduction in funding the scheme, which has proved to be of great benefit to the residents of the Borough. She stated that if cuts were implemented, waiting lists for assistance would increase from one to two years, which she felt to be unacceptable. She pointed out that Council's contribution of £7,000 had resulted in benefits of £123,111 to the Borough.

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

that Council decries any cut in the funding of this initiative and urges the Minister to increase the monies set aside for the project.

11.2 NILAS Working Group (334.15)

Councillor Robinson thanked the Director of Borough Services for the information circulated in the minutes of the NILAS Working Group held on 14th November. She urged members to encourage residents in the use of correct receptacles provided for the disposal of waste, particularly over the festive period and that the use of plastic bags be kept to a minimum. She also commended the increase in recycling, up 9.2% overall, and in the amount of waste going to landfill which was going in the right direction.

11.3 Erection of Street Nameplates in a Language other than English (334.1.1)

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Patterson that:

that Council amend its policy so that signs, as well as being in English and Irish, include the addition of names in Ulster Scots.

The Chief Executive advised members that the current policy allows for the erection of signs in 'a language other than English', which includes Irish and Ulster Scots, should an application be received which meets the criteria outlined in the policy. There could be difficulties if Council were to attempt to change a policy which had been the subject of an Equality Impact Assessment. The Director of Borough Services advised that no applications have been received for the erection of nameplates in Ulster Scots language in respect of the estates in question. The Chief Executive urged caution in making amendments to the policy without giving the matter proper consideration and without considering Equality Impacts. It was Councillor McGuigan's view that the proposal set out at 334.1.1 be implemented.

A recorded vote was taken at the request of Councillor McKay.

Voting was recorded as follows:

FOR (2)	AGAINST (5)	ABSTENTION (7)
Councillor Wilson Councillor Patterson	Councillor McGuigan Councillor McKay Councillor Cavlan Councillor McCamphill Alderman Connolly	Councillor McKeown Alderman Simpson Councillor Kennedy Alderman Cousley Alderman Campbell Councillor Stevenson Councillor Robinson

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion lost.

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Patterson

that the font size of the name place in English on nameplates have a font three times the size of the Irish name.

The Chief Executive illustrated the manner in which the names would appear – both being the same length requiring the longer name (Irish) to be in slightly smaller font).

Voting was recorded as follows:

FOR (3)	AGAINST (5)	ABSTENTION (6)
Councillor Wilson Councillor Patterson Councillor Stevenson	Councillor McGuigan Councillor McKay Councillor Cavlan Councillor McCamphill Alderman Connolly	Councillor McKeown Alderman Simpson Councillor Kennedy Alderman Cousley Alderman Campbell Councillor Robinson

The Deputy Mayor declared the motion lost.

* **Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 8.20 pm.**

11. Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 334 – 27TH November 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

- * Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 8.22 pm.

870.12 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES MEETING NO 360 – 26TH NOVEMBER 2007

Alderman Simpson presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 360 – 26th November 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

- * **The Director of Borough Services, the Head of Finance & IT and the Head of Leisure Services left the meeting at 8.25 pm.**

870.13 BOARD FOR MENTAL HEALTH & LEARNING DISABILITY

The Chairman, Professor Roy McClelland has written to announce the establishment of the Board for Mental Health & Learning Disability and to advise of the Board's Terms of Reference:

- To advise and challenge on the approach and pace of implementation of the recommendations arising from the Bamford Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability.
- To provide knowledge and experience, including that of service users and carers, regarding the key issues which require to be addressed in implementing a major programme of change in mental health and learning disability services.
- To be exponents for the development, reform and modernization of mental health and learning disability services across Northern Ireland, including joined-up action and excellence in practice and outcomes.

The Board can be contacted at boardformhld@dhsspsni.gov.uk or Room D3.21, Castle Buildings, Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 3PP

870.14 NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE: DRAFT INTEGRATED RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008/09 – A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

The NIFRS Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP) for 2008/09 is now available for consultation. NIFRS will be consulting on the key proposals contained within the Draft IRMP from 1 November 2007 – 31 January 2008. The 4 key proposals are:

- Analysis of Wildland Fires, Flooding and other incidents resulting from climatic change conditions.
 - Heritage Risk Assessment (including historic buildings and sites of natural beauty.)
 - Road Traffic Collision Response Standards
 - Provision of Enhanced Medical Skills for NIFRS personnel
- A copy of the Draft IRMP is available from the Office of the Chief Executive or it can be downloaded from www.nifrs.org and click on Consultation.

870.15 PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF PARKING AREA AT KILLAGAN ROAD, CLOUGHMILLS

Roads Service plans to abandon the above parking area and as the bed and soil is not in the Departments' ownership it would revert back to the landowner. Council has been asked to indicate if any equipment is located in the area affected by the proposal.

- * **Councillor Cavlan, Councillor McKay, Councillor Robinson and Councillor Patterson left the meeting at 8.26 pm.**

870.16 BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL

At Ballymena Borough Council's monthly meeting held on 5th November, the undernoted Resolution was passed, which has been referred to Council for attention.

"This Council supports the Royal British Legion in calling on Government to honour its life-long duty of care to those making a unique commitment to their country, serving in the Armed Forces. This Council believes –

1. *there should be a just compensation scheme which recognises the commitment and sacrifices made when serving the Nation.*
2. *there should be a greater commitment to support the physical and mental health of Service people and their families.*
3. *there should be more support for bereaved Service families.*

This Council also supports all Service personnel throughout the World, especially the Royal Irish Regiment full-time and part-time personnel, as they prepare for deployment to Afghanistan, in the coming year."

Ballymena BC has also written to the Northern Ireland Assembly, all MPs, The Ministry of Defence, the Secretary of State for Armed Forces and all District Councils.

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

that Council supports Ballymena Borough Council's resolution to support the Royal British Legion in calling on Government to honour its life-long duty of care to those making a unique commitment to their country, serving in the Armed Forces.

870.17 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 8.30 pm.