

871.13	Quarry Products Association – Roads Maintenance Funding	<i>For information</i>
871.14	Private Streets	<i>For information</i>
871.15	Motor Vehicles (Compulsory Insurance Regulations (Northern Ireland (SR 2007 No 455)	<i>For information</i>
871.16	RPA – Framework To Underpin Decisions On The Location Of Public Sector Jobs Resulting From The Review Of Public Administration.	<i>For information</i>
871.17	Community Foundation – One Small Step Campaign	<i>For information</i>
871.18	Appointment of Sheriffs 2008	<i>For information</i>
871.19	Royal Mail	<i>For information</i>
871.20	Post Office – Network Change Programme	<i>Extend invitation to meet with Council</i>
871.21	Resolution - Limavady Borough Council	<i>Noted</i>
871.22	Resolution - West Lothian Council	<i>Investigate implications for Council</i>
871.23	Resolution - Ballymena Borough Council	<i>Noted</i>
871.24	Reports	<i>For information</i>
871.25	NILGA Reports/Updates	<i>For information</i>

Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 871 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 7th January 2008 at 7.00 pm

IN THE CHAIR: Ald H Connolly, Deputy Mayor (Items 1–2)
Cllr J Finlay, Mayor (Items 3-25)

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
C Cousley
J Simpson

Councillors
A Cavlan
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
A Patterson
E Robinson
I Stevenson
M Storey, MLA

APOLOGIES: B Kennedy
D McKay, MLA
T McKeown
R Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services (Items 1-11)
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Head of Leisure Services (Items 1-11)
Committee Clerk

Press

871.1 MINUTES – MEETING NO 870 – 3RD DECEMBER 2007

The Deputy Mayor took the chair in the absence of the Mayor.

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

that the minutes of meeting No 870 on 3rd December 2007, as circulated, be adopted.

871.2 SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor McGuigan and
AGREED:

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to Grave Registry Certificate numbers 1093, 1094 and 1095.

- * **Councillors Storey, Councillor Robinson, Councillor Stevenson, Alderman Campbell and Alderman Cousley joined the meeting at 7.05 pm**

871.3 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 22 – 17TH DECEMBER 2007

Councillor Cavlan presented the report

- * **Councillor Finlay, Mayor, joined the meeting at 7.07 pm and assumed the Chair.**

Matters arising:

3.1 Presentations (22.8)

The Chief Executive, at the request of Councillor Robinson, advised members that dates would be arranged in the near future for the presentations to take place.

3.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 22 – 17th December 2007, as circulated, be adopted, subject to Councillor McGuigan being added to attendances, prior to consideration of planning applications.

871.4 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 189 – 17TH DECEMBER 2007

The report was presented by Councillor Stevenson.

4.1 Disposal of Land at Townhead Street, Ballymoney (189.4)

At the request of Alderman Simpson, the Chief Executive clarified the recommendation made to obtain valuations for the sale of the land and that on receipt of the information, the matter will be tabled for further discussion prior to a sale taking place.

4.2 Police Station (189.12)

Councillor Storey raised concerns relating to provision of police station and reduction in service provision to Ballymoney. The Mayor concurred with Councillor Storey.

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

that Council write to PSNI inviting the District Commander for North region to give a presentation to Council setting out plans to reduce police building and service delivered by PSNI in Ballymoney Borough.

4.3 Job Losses (189.13)

At the request of Alderman Simpson, the Mayor confirmed that the Minister for Trade & Investment has agreed to meet with Council to discuss the issue of job losses. He would be in contact with his office to arrange a mutually convenient date.

4.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 189 – 17th December 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein be approved.

871.5 CONDOLENCES

The Mayor expressed condolences on the death of former colleague Robert McComb, stating "It was with sadness that I learned of the passing of our former colleague, Robert McComb, or Bob as he was affectionately known. He worked in local industry in Ballymoney, for some 45 years until his retirement and was the longest serving member of Ballymoney Borough Council, having joined the Ballymoney Urban District Council in 1960, as an independent member, representing the town. On the reorganisation of local government in 1973, he was elected to the new district council covering the whole of Ballymoney Borough.

He Served on all Council's committees and was Chairman of the Environmental Health Committee for many years and also ably represented the Council's interests on a range of external bodies. Bob demonstrated at all times, a constructive interest in the welfare of the local community. He retired from the Council in 2001.

Bob had a keen interest in the promotion of sport, particularly football. He also had a deep interest in health services and was a strong supporter of the retention of local hospitals.

I would convey, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Members, Officers and staff of the Council, our deepest sympathy to the family circle".

Members stood to observe a minute's silence in memory of former Councillor Robert McComb.

The Mayor extended Council's sympathy to the families of two local residents who have been recently bereaved in tragic circumstances. Darren Murphy, a resident of Stranocum, who died following an incident in Armoy, and Dunloy resident Eamon Hyndman who lost his life in a road accident in the Glens of Antrim.

Condolences were also extended by the Deputy Mayor on the death of a resident from Loughgiel in a road traffic accident and by Alderman Campbell on the death of Joe Rice and Sean Dunlop, both residents of Ballymoney who were well known for their involvement in the sport of football. Council extends its sympathy to the bereaved families.

871.6 CONGRATULATIONS

The Mayor conveyed congratulations to Mr Mervyn Dunlop, a local resident of this borough who has been recognized in the New Year Honours List through the award of the MBE for services to Cheers Youth Centre, Ballymoney. The Mayor said "It is pleasing that Mervyn's public service has been so suitably recognized by Her Majesty".

The Mayor also conveyed congratulations to two local government colleagues. Fred Cobain MLA and Mrs Rachael Rea and the Rev. David Selwoode Graham, former Chairman of the North Eastern Education and Library Board who has been recognised for his service to education.

871.7 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 338 – 18TH DECEMBER 2007

Alderman Campbell presented the report together with the minutes of the Town Hall Working Group, Meeting No 17 held on Friday 4th January 2008, attached as Appendix 1.

Matters Arising

7.1 Town Hall Working Group Costings (338.3)

Alderman Simpson queried the cost for items outlined in Security Issues of the minutes. The Mayor clarified that all costings outlined in the minutes of the Town Hall Working Group had been included in the budget provision. (£55,000)

Alderman Simpson also expressed the view that the matter of acoustics should receive attention and so maximum use of the Town Hall be available.

Councillor Stevenson referred to the defective signs on the public toilets adjoining the Town Hall and access to disabled toilets, requesting that consideration be given to addressing these matters.

7.2 Ballymoney Drama Festival (338.20)

Ald Campbell advised that the cost of hire of the Town Hall for the festival had been checked and it was recommended that Council make a contribution of up to £1370 to cover the hire cost of the Town Hall for the duration of the festival.

7.3 Study Tours (Museum Project Management Team Meeting 338.21.1)

Alderman Campbell advised that all members are invited to take part in the proposed study tours, dates to be finalised.

7.4 Milk Cup Presentation (338.1)

Councillor Stevenson thanked Council for arranging the presentation by representatives of the Milk Cup Organising Committee, stating that this was a worthwhile event.

7.5 Christmas Lights (338.12)

Councillor Storey and Councillor Stevenson reported a number of complaints received that some of the lights in Victoria Street, Dervock Road and Queen Street had been out of commission, on occasions, during the festive period and requested the Director of Borough Services to look into this matter.

7.6 Core Funding for Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust 2008/09 (338.19)

It was suggested by Alderman Simpson that the Chairman of the Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust be invited to attend the presentation to be made to Council by Helen Noble, Trust Director, as a matter of courtesy. This was agreed.

7.7 St Mary's GAC Rasharkin (338.13)

Councillor Storey requested careful consideration be given to the development of a policy for dealing with requests for contributions to other bodies, towards capital projects, referring to Council's current commitments to its own development projects in the borough and the limited life expectancy of Council.

Councillor McGuigan expressed the view that the formulation of such a policy may be beneficial to Council, as would the commitment of groups to take a leading role in sports facility provision.

7.8 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting 338 – 18th December, as circulated, and the minutes of the Town Hall Working Group Meeting No 17, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, subject to revision of recommendation 338.20, as set out above.

871.8 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 335 – 19TH DECEMBER 2007

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

Matters Arising

8.1 Emergency Management for Elected Members (335.16)

Nominations were made by parties to attend this event on 11th February 2008 as follows:

- Councillor Robinson (DUP)
- Councillor Cavlan (SF)
- Councillor McCamphill (SDLP)
- Alderman Simpson (UUP)

The Director of Borough Services will ascertain if a further place is available, given that Councillor Robinson has been nominated by Northern Group Systems and if so, the Mayor will provide a further nomination.

8.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 335 – 19TH December 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

871.9 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES MEETING NO 361 – 20TH DECEMBER 2007

Alderman Simpson presented the report.

* **Alderman Cousley left the meeting at 7.42 pm.**

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 361 – 20th December 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

871.10 AUDIT COMMITTEE NO 3 – 13TH DECEMBER 2007

The Mayor presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 3 – 13th December 2007, as circulated be adopted.

871.11 RESOURCES TASK GROUP 07 – 20TH DECEMBER 2007

Alderman Simpson presented the report and advised that the group had met again on 4th January 2008 and he would report further at the next Council meeting.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 3 – 13th December 2007, as circulated be adopted.

- * **The Director of Borough Services and the Head of Leisure Services left the meeting at 7.45 pm.**

871.12 DRAFT BUDGET & INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2008-2018

Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service has forwarded for members' attention, its response to the Draft Budget and Investment Strategy, a copy of which was circulated.

- * **Councillor Cavlan left the meeting at 7.50 pm**

871.13 QUARRY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION – ROADS MAINTENANCE FUNDING

The Quarry Products Association, which represents those involved in the supply of materials construction and maintenance in Northern Ireland today has written regarding Roads Service press releases in the local papers stating levels of investment in local roads which the industry do not see evidence of on the ground.

They suggest that Council request from the Divisional Roads Manager, information detailing what is actually being spent on local roads in terms of resurfacing, minor works and other infrastructure improvements and maintenance as follows:

- What value of road surfacing work has been awarded since last quarterly meeting?
- What value of road surfacing work has been completed since our last joint quarterly meeting?

Noted.

871.14 PRIVATE STREETS

Roads Service has advised of the adoption of the following streets:

- Church Hill, Cloughmills, Stage 99
- Church Hill, Cloughmills, Stage 1
(developer John D Greer)

871.15 MOTOR VEHICLES (COMPULSORY INSURANCE) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND (SR 2007 NO 455))

The Department of Environment has made the Motor Vehicles (Compulsory Insurance) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 on 29/10/07, which came into operation on 11/12/07.

The purpose of the Regulations is to amend the Road Traffic (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 to revise the minimum level of motor insurance cover for property damage from £250,000 to £1,000,000 to comply with the requirements of the 5th Motor Insurance Directive (2005/14/EC).

871.16 RPA – FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN DECISIONS ON THE LOCATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS RESULTING FROM THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

Recognising that decisions around the future location of public sector jobs could have important implications for communities throughout Northern Ireland, the Executive Committee has agreed to adopt a two-pronged approach.

- To put in place a framework to provide a robust process for decision-making on the location of Review of Public Administration related bodies; and
- To undertake a time-bound review of policy on the location of public sector jobs in Northern Ireland.

The first element – the Framework to Underpin Decisions on the Location of Public Sector Jobs resulting from the Review of Public Administration has been published.

An executive summary of the framework was circulated. The full version can be downloaded at <http://www.rpani.gov.uk/index/cross-cutting-themes/estate-issues.htm>

The framework will be examined as part of the review of policy on the location of public sector jobs and therefore may change as a result of the final outcome. However, in the interim it should be applied to any decisions being made about the location of RPA-related bodies.

The terms of reference for the review are due to be considered by the Executive shortly. Subject to Executive approval, we hope to get the review underway as soon as practicable. Further information will appear on the RPA website in due course.

871.17 COMMUNITY FOUNDATION – ONE SMALL STEP CAMPAIGN

Notice has been received of the Community Foundation event “Opportunity in a Peaceful Environment – an economic reflection and discussion” (Donation £200).

The event, sponsored by Belfast Harbour Commissioner and Belfast Telegraph will be held in the Belfast Harbour Commissioner’s Office on Friday 18th January 2008.

No nominations received.

871.18 APPOINTMENT OF SHERIFFS 2008

The NI Office has published details of the Secretary of State's Appointment of Sheriffs for 2008. The Sheriff for Co Antrim is Lady Juliet Clare Frazer. Councillor Stevenson congratulated Lady Frazer on her appointment and at his request, the Chief Executive will provide further details on the role of the Sheriff.

871.19 ROYAL MAIL

Royal Mail advised that the industrial dispute involving the CWU has ended with a strong vote by postmen and women in favour of the deal we have agreed with the union leadership. It offers sincere apologies for any disruption the strike caused to business. The backlog of mail has been cleared and Royal Mail is now focused on delivering the best possible service to customers.

Royal Mail has agreed with its shareholders, the Government, a £1.2 billion package at commercial rates to replace obsolete equipment and deploy much more technology to give it greater capabilities in handling mail. The challenge facing it is to begin spending money wisely and at pace and to return its quality of service to the record levels of the last two years and build on that. Its goal is to make Royal Mail a more flexible, more efficient and more competitive company by ensuring that it consistently offers its customers a world-class service.

871.20 POST OFFICE – NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME

Post Office has previously advised of the Network Change Programme and are now keen that Local Authorities are engaged in the process of change.

They advise that representatives of the Network Change team will be in the area until the middle of February 2008.

The Programme team are prepared to meet with Council during this period to allow members to share with them information relevant to the development of plans for the area.

Members were requested to consider such a meeting and, at the suggestion of Councillor Storey, it was **AGREED:**

that Council extend an invitation to representatives from Post Office to meet with Council to outline their proposed development programme.

871.21 LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL

At its monthly Planning & Services Committee meeting on 6th December 2007, Limavady Borough Council agreed the following Notice of Motion:

“This council calls on local government councils, which have failed to incorporate all-inclusive proportionality mechanisms for the purposes of filling civic positions on Council to immediately do so. We call on all political parties to ensure that discriminatory and exclusionary practices are ended as a matter of urgency to meet the expectations of the new political dispensation we are now in. We further call on the Minister of the Environment, Arlene Foster, to ensure that the new local government councils, established under the RPA, are statutorily obliged to abide by principles and practice of power-sharing and proportionality to ensure maximum public confidence.”

Limavady Borough Council have requested from the Minister of the Environment, assurance that proportionality will be built into Councils post RPA and are requesting the support of all district Councils in this respect.

871.22 WEST Lothian COUNCIL

West Lothian Council, at its meeting held on 6th November 2007, unanimously agreed the terms of an urgent motion, which stated the following:

“West Lothian Council notes with extreme concern that Her Majesty’s Revenue & Customs are imposing a tax change in VAT regulations which will add a substantial tax burden upon West Lothian Leisure, and all other ‘not for profit’ trusts providing leisure services, by requiring VAT to be levied on membership packages which include the use of health suite facilities such as saunas and steam rooms.

Council notes that as a direct result of these VAT changes, West Lothian Leisure are facing an increased tax bill for the 2007-08 financial year of approximately £250,000 and that demands for repayment of past years’ tax could escalate this figure towards £1,000,000.

Council notes that West Lothian Leisure has acted to reduce this potential tax burden by withdrawing the use of health suite facilities from their membership packages, with effect from 31st October, and has also been forced to introduce a separate, additional charge for the use of these facilities.

Council asserts that these tax changes are a direct attack on attempts to increase sports participation and will seriously undermine the development of a healthier, leaner and fitter society, with, in particular, those who are in the lower socioeconomic groups, being adversely affected.

Council therefore condemns the imposition of these tax changes, calls for the removal of this additional tax burden and resolves to:

- 1. Write to the Prime Minister and chancellor demanding the removal of this additional tax burden.*
- 2. Write to West Lothian’s MPs seeking their support for the position of this council.*
- 3. Write to the First Minister requesting the support of the Scottish Parliament for the removal of this additional tax burden.*

4. *Circulate this motion to all local UK authorities seeking their support for the position of this council.*
5. *Write to COSLA requesting their support for the position of this council"*

In accordance with point (4) of the motion, West Lothian Council seeks the support of this council in its position.

The Chief Executive advised members that this matter would be further investigated to ascertain the implications of a tax change on VAT regulations on Council.

871.23 BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Draft Programme for Government 2008/11; Draft Budget 2008/1; and Draft Investment Strategy 2008/18

Ballymena Borough Council expresses disappointment that the Braid Valley Health and Care Centre project was not directly listed for funding within the Draft Budget 2008/11 and seeks support for Council in lobbying for additional funding in this regard.

871.24 REPORTS

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

871.25 NILGA REPORTS & UPDATES

NILGA's December update and RPA Ministerial Meetings update were circulated to members. Councillor Storey advised that a meeting of the Strategic Leadership Board will take place on 8th January 2008 to look at RPA and that an interim report may be made available following this. He would forward any report to the Chief Executive to bring to Council.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Appendices Attached

Appendix 1 - Town Hall Working Group Minutes of Meeting No 17, 4th January 2008.

APPENDIX 1**TOWN HALL WORKING GROUP****Minutes Meeting No.17
Held on Friday, 4th January 2008 at 3.30pm in Riada House**

Present	Alderman F. Campbell (Chair) Alderman C. Cousley Alderman J. Simpson Councillor J. Finlay
In Attendance	R. Hunter, R. Robinson & Sons (Consultants) Director of Borough Services Head of Amenities
Apologies	Alderman H. Connolly Councillor A. Patterson

1. In-Use / Contractual Issues

Mr Richard Hunter from the Councils consultants – R. Robinson & Sons explained that there were a number of issues he had investigated [only one of which could strictly be regarded as contractual, namely the discolouration] as follows –

(a) Acoustics

Mr Hunter advised that this issue had not been raised with him in the original project brief as a matter which needed to be addressed. He explained that the work required to deaden sound transmission between the auditorium and ground floor rooms would not be straightforward, would be costly and would require EHS agreement. Members noted the Director of Borough Services comments that it was therefore more cost effective to manage the issue by screening bookings but that this meant that useage of and therefore income from the various town hall rooms could not be maximized.

(b) Floodlighting Bell Tower

It had been suggested by a Member [Councillor Storey] that it would enhance the building to floodlight the bell tower. Mr Hunter advised that the cost estimate for this was £3,500.

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

to recommend that the town hall bell tower be floodlit at a cost of £3,500.

Alderman Simpson wished to be recorded as abstaining.

(c) Auditorium Heating/Ventilation

Mr Hunter explained that the renovated town hall part of the building did not have an air conditioning system but a heating management system had been installed. The meeting was advised that occasionally complaint was received that the auditorium was too warm. Members noted that when such a situation arose it was difficult to reduce the temperature quickly. One possible solution proposed by the M&E consultants was that dampers could be fitted to the existing roof vents [currently closed off] which when opened would allow cold air from the roof space into the auditorium. This solution could cause cold spots in the room and the cost estimate was £8,000. **It was agreed** meantime to continue to monitor the situation and continue to regulate the temperature making use of the heating management system.

(d) Glazing

Members noted that glare and solar gain were being experienced as regards the ground floor reception area. The glazing specification had been the responsibility of Pilkington Glass Mr Hunter advised. Had a tinted glass been specified originally this would have been double the cost paid. After discussion with Calderwood Glass (reps for Pilkingtons) the problems could be resolved by applying a tinted film to the outside face of the glass to the main entrance side of the building. The film is guaranteed for 5 years and according to Calderwood it should last 10. The cost estimate for supply and fitting is £3,700.

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

to recommend that a tinted film be fitted to the glazing to the main entrance side of the town hall building at a cost of £3,700.

(e) Discolourisation

Mr Hunter advised that due to the discolouration, thought to be caused by possible impurities in the lead flashing used, he had not issued either a Making Good Defects Certificate or the Final Certificate in respect of the Town Hall project. The cause of the discolouration was still under investigation by the main contractor from whom a report was awaited.

2. Security / Disability Issues

Mr Hunter made reference to reports received in respect of museum security and the possibility of Council obtaining the Arts and Disability Equality Charter, together with officer comments regarding both security and disability issues.

(a) Security Issues

Mr Hunter advised that the cost estimate for the necessary work in order to provide the security measures sought for the museum was as follows –

1. door upgrade	£19,800
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2. window restrictors	£500
3. security lighting & CCTV	£6,400
4. door bell	<u>£1,500</u>
	£28,200

(b) Disability Issues

Members were advised by Mr Hunter that to improve disability friendliness the cost estimate for the work required was as follows –

1. main entrance door railings	£3,000
2. floor tiles	£6,300
3. additional signage	<u>£6,150</u>
	£15,450

He explained that the erection of railings at the main entrance door would direct the public to the push button which opens the automatic door and also would prevent the doors opening more than 90°. Whilst the tiles were non-slip it would be possible to enhance their slip resistance by applying a proprietary product which had a 5 year guarantee.

The Director advised that £55,000 had been included in the 2007-2008 budget by Council and that Mr Hunter had agreed with the main contractor that any additional work at the town hall would be undertaken at the contract rates and that this represented very advantageous terms for Council.

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

to recommend that the security and disability issues work detailed above be undertaken at a cost of £43,650.

Alderman Simpson mentioned the need to look at possible tile wear and Alderman Campbell drew attention to the need to protect the stained glass windows abutting High Street. Mr Hunter undertook to investigate both matters and report at the next Working Group meeting which it was agreed would be held after 14th February 2008, with the actual date being set at the January Leisure & Amenities Committee meeting.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 4.50pm.