

Ballymoney Borough Council

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879.1 Condolences

Dr Robert Dunlop

Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 879 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 19th May 2008 at 1.30pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Cllr J Finlay, Mayor

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley
J Simpson

Councillors
M McCamphill
T McKeown
E Robinson
A Patterson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

A Cavlan
B Kennedy
P McGuigan
A Patterson
M Storey
R Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Corporate Project Officer

Members of the public (2)
Press

879.1 CONDOLENCES

After opening the meeting the Mayor made the following statement:

“Fellow Members,

I know, like me, you were all shocked at the tragic death of Dr. Robert Dunlop, an Honorary Freeman of this borough at last Thursday night’s North West practice.

It was devastating news and on Council's behalf I convey our deepest sympathy to Robert's wife Louise, his sons Michael, Daniel and William, mother May and the wider family circle.

Robert Dunlop had done everything in a meteoric road racing career, which saw him become the most successful rider at the North West 200. The North West was one of his favourite circuits and he hoped to chalk up his 16th win this year.

Robert also made his impact on the Isle of Man TT and the Ulster Grand Prix. He fought back with determination to return to road racing from serious injury in 1994.

Council granted Robert the Freedom of the Borough on 23rd April 2007 in recognition of the great honour he brought to the Borough through the exceptional ability, determination and sportsmanship by which he achieved over 100 national and international motorcycle road racing victories, with a historic 15 wins on the North West 200 Circuit.

In recognition of his outstanding contribution to the sport Robert was awarded an honorary doctorate by the University of Ulster.

Robert was a road racing legend, a great ambassador for the sport and for his hometown Ballymoney. Robert was highly respected and much loved by this community and far beyond as could be witnessed by the huge number of people who travelled to Ballymoney and lined the route from his home to his final resting place at Garryduff Presbyterian Church. Today the town is in mourning for a much loved and highly respected son. He will be sadly missed.

In recognition of Robert's status as an Honorary Freeman, and as a mark of respect, I, in consultation with the Chief Executive, made arrangements for:

- ❑ Flags to be flown at half mast at the Borough Offices, Town Hall and Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre;
- ❑ Books of condolence to be opened for members of the public to pay their respects, at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, Riada House and the Town Hall.
- ❑ Council to robe and form a guard of honour at the church, at the request of the family;
- ❑ Council leisure centre and town hall to be closed on the day of the funeral;
- ❑ The Town Hall to be open on the morning of the funeral to facilitate the signing of the condolence book;

Donations in lieu of flowers are to the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice a charity close to Robert's heart. I will make arrangements for receipt of contributions by members and staff of Council.

I wish to record thanks to Council staff in the Office of the Chief Executive who played a key communications and liaison role; Borough Services technical support staff for practical arrangements; the staff at the Town Hall who attended to facilitate the opening of the building to allow people to sign the book of condolence and leisure centre staff for operation of car parking at the facility.

Consideration on a fitting civic recognition of the life of the Honorary Freeman will be addressed by the Corporate & Central Services Committee in due course.

As a mark of respect for the passing of our Honorary Freeman, Dr. Robert Dunlop, and in accordance with the notice I have given on the agenda, I propose

- (1) ***that the meetings of the Consultation and Development Committee to be held this afternoon be adjourned to Friday 23rd May at 2.00pm and 3.30 pm respectively;***
- (2) ***that Council authorize any expenditure incurred in conjunction with the arrangements associated with the funeral. A report on this will be reported to Council in due Council.***
- (3) ***I would invite members to stand and observe a moment's silence.***

Before putting the motion, I open the floor to give any member who wishes an opportunity to say a few words."

Alderman Campbell concurred with the Mayor's statement and voiced his praise for the work of Council staff for their contribution to the funeral arrangements.

Paying tribute to Robert Dunlop's sportsmanship Alderman Cousley expressed his sadness at Robert Dunlop's death and offered his sympathy to Robert's family.

On behalf of the Ulster Unionist members in Council, Alderman Simpson concurred with the Mayor's remarks and expressed sympathy.

Councillor Stevenson expressed his wish to be associated with the Mayor's remarks and praised Dr Dunlop's son, Michael, for his win at the North West 200. He also praised Council staff for their work.

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman Connolly, associated himself with the Mayor's remarks and those of his fellow members and extended his sympathy to the Dunlop family. He also paid tribute to the contribution made by staff following Dr Dunlop's death.

Councillor Patterson expressed her sympathy and extended her condolences to the Dunlop family.

Councillor McCamphill associated himself with all the comments made by his fellow members and extended his sympathy to the Dunlop family.

Councillor Robinson extended her condolences to the Dunlop family and associated herself with all the comments made previously.

On behalf of the staff of Council the Chief Executive extended sympathy to the Dunlop family. He expressed his personal thanks to the staff involved in the funeral arrangements and thanked members for their kind comments.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Dot Pitts from the Borough of Douglas, Isle of Man, and her husband to the meeting. He then invited those present to stand and observe a moment's silence as a mark of respect to Dr Dunlop.

Following the silent tribute it was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Cousley and unanimously **AGREED:**

- (1) that the meetings of the Consultation and Development Committee to be held this afternoon be adjourned to Friday 23rd May at 2.00pm and 3.30 pm respectively;**
- (2) that Council authorize any expenditure incurred in conjunction with the arrangements associated with the funeral. A report on this will be presented to Council in due course.**

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 2.05 pm.