

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 935 – 4th January 2011**

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 935 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Tuesday 4th January 2011 at 7.05 p.m.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor B Kennedy, Mayor

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE, Dep Mayor
J Simpson

Councillors
J Finlay
R Halliday
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
T McKeown
C McLaughlin
A Patterson
E Robinson
I Stevenson
M Storey, MLA

APOLOGIES: **Councillors**
A Cavlan

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

Press

NI Milk Cup Committee (Item 1)
V Leonard
Jim Weir

935.1 PRESENTATION NI MILK CUP COMMITTEE

The Mayor welcomed Mr Leonard and Mr Weir, representatives from NI Milk Cup, in attendance to give a presentation.

Mr Leonard thanked Council and voiced his appreciation to Council for the use of their football grounds during the Milk Cup tournaments and said he was looking forward to 2012 when the tournament would be 30 years old.

Mr Weir read from a booklet distributed to each of the members which recorded the history and statistics of the NI Milk Cup tournament. He stated that they hoped Council would reconsider the level of grant which they had contributed last year. He hoped that a donation of £15,000; equivalent to 4.34% of the cost of running the

tournament, could be reinstated. He advised that the secondary spend by spectators was unknown but was substantial. He also highlighted the media benefits of over £3million. The electronic media in 2 days had had 4 million hits. He added that Ballymoney Borough Council first sponsored the NI Milk Cup in 1988.

In response to Councillor McCamphill's question in relation to inducements paid to the superior football clubs from England, the representatives explained that the tournament enables local people to play football with some of the top players from around the world. Also the clubs from England receive a large volume of invites from around the world and are customarily well accommodated.

Mr Leonard and Mr Weir gave further information on response to comments from members.

A number of councillors expressed their thanks to the representatives and praised the organizers of the NI Milk Cup tournament. They applauded the work done for this prestigious event.

Mr Weir stated that he would forward a DVD of the presentation to each member in order that they could view it at another time.

***The representatives left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.**

The Mayor indicated that the matter of the contribution to the event would be dealt with by Leisure and Amenities Committee.

935.2 IT SYSTEM FAILURE

The Mayor thanked the Head of Corporate & Development Services and her staff for their work in getting minutes and report on recommendations produced despite the recent problems with the IT system.

Councillor Finlay expressed concern regarding the delay in receiving the Planning Meeting Schedule owing to the Outlook system being disrupted. While he would speak with and explain the matter to the applicants prior to the Planning Meeting and hoped that they would be able to attend the forthcoming meeting at short notice, he pointed to the need for flexibility if some agents/applicants could not attend.

The Chief Executive advised that his office would contact the Planning Service and ask for their tolerance in this instance.

935.3 MINUTES – COUNCIL MEETING NO 932 – 14TH DECEMBER 2010

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

that the minutes of meeting No 932 – 14th December 2010, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

***Councillor McKeown left the meeting at 8.05 p.m.**

935.4 MINUTES – COUNCIL MEETING NO 933 – 13TH DECEMBER 2010

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

that the minutes of meeting No 933 – 13th December 2010, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

935.5 MINUTES - CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 57 – 20TH DECEMBER 2010

Councillor Patterson pointed to item number 57.3 and clarified that she had been present from the beginning of the meeting.

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

that the minutes of meeting No 57 – 20th December 2010, as circulated, be received.

935.6 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 379 – 21ST DECEMBER & 22ND DECEMBER 2010

Alderman Campbell presented the reports.

6.1 Local Government and 2012 – Deputy Elected Member (379.8)

Alderman Simpson indicated that Councillor Stevenson should be appointed as a Deputy member taking into consideration his work over a number of years regarding the 2012 Olympics.

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

that Councillor Stevenson be appointed as Deputy elected member to represent the Council in the event of Alderman Campbell being unable to attend meetings.

6.2 Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club (AMRRC) 379.4

The Chairman referred to the request for a copy of the accounts of Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club (AMRRC). He noted that while CAB had also been asked to produce accounts others, eg, NI Milk Cup and NW 200, had not and he hoped that all organizations who have sought financial assistance would be treated in a fair and equitable manner. There was some discussion around this matter and Councillor McGuigan suggested that it should become standard practice to request a copy of accounts from all the organizations seeking financial assistance from the Council.

Councillor Finlay asked to be recorded as being unhappy that the Mayor was dealing with an issue where he had an interest.

The Mayor asserted he had no pecuniary interest in the issue he raised, he was simply seeking to clarify the Council's process and to ensure all applicants received fair and equitable treatment. During consideration of the Club's application at Committee he had absented himself from the meeting.

6.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of meeting No 379 – 21st December (Leisure) and 22nd December (Amenities), as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

935.7 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 391 – 21st DECEMBER 2010

Alderman Simpson presented the report on recommendations.

7.1 Industrial Tribunal (391.11)

The Chief Executive advised members that the application for Industrial Tribunal has been dismissed following its withdrawal.

7.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of meeting No 391 – 21st December 2010 be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

935.8 HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 366 – 22ND DECEMBER 2010

The report on recommendations was presented by Councillor Robinson.

Matters Arising:

8.1 Welfare of Animals Bill (366.23)

Councillor Robinson advised that NILGA have asked that Members reconsider this matter and are encouraged to represent their views to respective political parties.

8.2 Severe Weather Conditions

Councillor Finlay praised the Council employees for their work during the snow and paid tribute to the tremendous work carried out on clearing snow and ice from footways and collection of refuse bins in very extreme conditions. Councillor Robinson advised that the Members had spoke with the Director and had asked him to convey their thanks to the various members of the Council. The Mayor and other members endorsed the words of thanks.

8.3 Directors Report (366.3)- Planning Application D/2010/0122/RM – 6 no. apts & Parking Area at 1,3,5 Henry Street, Ballymoney

Councillor Stevenson said he supported Environmental Health recommendation for refusal and expressed concern this was not brought to Council by Planning Service when it was asked to consider this application.

8.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No 366 on 22nd December 2010, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

935.9 COUNCIL RESPONSE TO EMERGENCY SITUATION OVER CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR

The Chief Executive advised members that on Thursday 23rd December the Local Government Emergency Management Group Chair contacted council Chief Executives and asked them to be prepared to put in place humanitarian centres if requested, due to Minister Poots's concerns over the number of properties without "heat, water or electricity". Arrangements were made that, over Christmas and beyond, the Leisure Centre could be opened if required by any of the lead agencies. Such a request never came.

Updates on the developing situation were received by e-mail and telephone on a daily basis from LGEM from 23rd onwards. Initial fears of significant damage to power lines were replaced by the reality of massive disruption to water supplies. Council was asked to make showers available to those without hot water in their homes and last week around twenty people availed of this facility. We were also asked to offer possible sites for locating water tanks, which were secure and under council supervision. One site at JDLC was identified but not used by NI Water. Other locations in Dunloy and Armoy was identified by local councillors and tanks were delivered there. These were due to be recovered today. Bottled water was also made available by NI Water at the JDLC and in Dunloy.

As the emergency comes to an end a review of how local government responded has begun. I am aware that many of the councillors here were involved in helping constituents deal with their problems, by lobbying for provision of tanks and bottled water and by distributing water to people in their homes. They deserve the thanks of the community for their work. I would like to thank the managers and staff of the council who made themselves available outside working hours and when on leave, to take phone calls and e-mails, attend meetings and assist with the distribution of bottled water. Councils were not the lead agency for dealing with either snow on footpaths or with water supplies, but in both cases the situation would have been much worse without their involvement.

The Mayor paid tribute at this point to the managers and staff within the council who assisted at this time.

A discussion ensued and the members agreed in commending the work of the local staff and officers in helping and assisting NI Water during the emergency. They also agreed that it appeared that NI Water had no proper system in place and that their reaction to the emergency was abysmal, they had not dealt with the matter in a proper manner and there had been much frustration over the lack of information and the difficulty in making contact with NI Water on the emergency phone line. Councillor Storey suggested that there is a need to look at the way information was disseminated both by NI Water and the Housing Executive and that a proper system needs to be put in place for future emergencies.

The Mayor also expressed concern at the extent of faults on recently laid water pipes and flooding in vacant houses.

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

that NI Water be invited to present to Council.

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

that Housing Executive be invited to present to Council.

In answer to Councillor McCamphill's question regarding who is responsible in future for cleaning the footpaths in the event of a further snowfall, Councillor Robinson advised that the DRD Minister have written to NILGA to suggest a meeting to discuss the matter further. DRD wishes to work with local government to secure a proper policy is put in place for clearing the footpaths during heavy snowfalls.

935.11 REQUEST TO PRESENT TO COUNCIL FROM THE DEMENTIA OUTREACH SERVICE

The Dementia Outreach Service has asked to present to Council on Alzheimers Disease Awareness, with particular regard to support for carers.

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

that the Dementia Outreach Service be invited to present to Council on Alzheimers Disease Awareness, with particular regard to support for carers.

***Councillor McLaughlin left the meeting at 8.37 p.m.**

***Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 8.47 p.m.**

***The Director of Central and Leisure Services left the meeting at 8.47 p.m.**

***The Director of Borough Services left the meeting at 8.47 p.m.**

935.12 ROADS SERVICE PROPOSED WAITING RESTRICTIONS

It has been brought to Roads Service attention that vehicles parking on a narrow section of road at Meetinghouse Street are obstructing the flow of traffic using the street. As a consequence Roads Service are proposing to introduce a section of double yellow lines to join the

existing waiting restrictions on Meetinghouse Street off Rodeing foot, Ballymoney. A plan of the proposal is available from the Office of the Chief Executive and members were asked to comment on this.

It was agreed that this matter be tabled for consideration at the Consultation Committee.

***Members of the press left at 8.50 p.m.**

935.13 PRIVATE STREETS ADOPTED

Road Service has advised of the following streets adopted under the Private Streets order:

Development at Tullyview, Corkey Road, Stage 1 – Developer DSB Developments Ltd
Development at Tullyview, Corkey Road, Stage 2 – Developer DSB Developments Ltd

935.14 HOUSING EXECUTIVE – HOUSING RESEARCH BULLETIN

The Housing Executive has published its 10th edition of its Housing Research Bulletin which looks at the state of Northern Ireland's housing market in 2009 – 10, the experiences of migrant workers in a local housing market, and how housing markets can be delineated in a meaningful way. The bulletin is available on the Housing Executive's website www.nihe.gov.uk/index/sp_home/research-2htm, or on request from the Office of the Chief Executive.

935.14 NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Council's support for the representations by North Down Borough Council to HM Government is sought for the following motion:-

"That this Council notes with grave concern leaked proposals to close Coastguard Co-ordination Centre at Bregenz House. We believe that such a decision will inevitably put lives at risk, as well as leading to a loss of jobs. This Council opposes this decision and calls upon HM Government to withdraw this dangerous proposal and also writes to all Councils in Northern Ireland seeking their support in or opposition to these proposals".

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

that Council support the representations by North Down Borough Council to HM Government.

***Councillor Finlay left the meeting at 8.52 p.m.**

The Mayor thanked the members for attending and the meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.