

**Ballymoney Borough Council  
Council Meeting No 938 – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011**

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*Mr Jonny Blair*

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**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Council Meeting No 938, held, *in committee*, in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2011 at 7.00 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor B Kennedy, Mayor

**PRESENT:**

**Aldermen**  
H Connolly  
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor  
J Simpson

**Councillors**  
A Cavlan  
J Finlay  
M McCamphill  
P McGuigan  
T McKeown  
C McLaughlin  
A Patterson  
E Robinson

**APOLOGIES:**

**Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
R Halliday

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive  
Director of Borough Services  
Head of Central & Leisure Services  
Head of Corporate & Development Services

**938.1 CONDOLENCE**

The Mayor said that it was with great sadness that he learned of the sudden and untimely death on Saturday past (29<sup>th</sup> January) of Jonny Blair, Building Control Officer, and on his own behalf and on the behalf of the Members, Officers and staff of the Council he offered deepest sympathy to his wife, baby son and family circle.

Continuing he said, "Jonny, who commenced employment with Council in June 2008 fulfilled an important role in the administration and enforcement of Building Regulations and other statutory responsibilities of our building control service. He was a popular officer, greatly respected by all who knew him and will be fondly remembered as a dedicated public servant."

Other members associated themselves with the Mayor's remarks.

Councillor Finlay advised that Councillor Storey and Councillor Halliday had suffered a family bereavement. The Mayor conveyed condolences to his Council colleagues and the family circle.

## 938.2 RATES 2011/12

The Chief Executive explained that this extra rates meeting in advance of the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> February to strike the rate had been arranged to receive responses to questions tabled by a member, the responses had been emailed to members and a copy was on members desks. He explained that since version 4 of the rate estimates book had been considered by Council further work had been done by management to refine estimates and the revised summary sheet produced by directors and before the meeting summarises the different changes made, with the rate now standing at a 2.99% increase. Referring to the official inflation measure used by government he indicated that this consumer price index had increased from 3.3% in November to 3.7% in December.

The Mayor then turned to the summary of version 5 of the Rate Estimates Book, circulated, together with analysis of proposed budget revisions to version 4 of the book (copy of analysis attached as appendix A) and invited comments. Members' attention was also drawn to papers circulated on contributions to outside bodies and loan charges included in rate estimates book version 4. The Director of Central & Leisure Services took members through the details of the individual saving/increase in budget lines referring to the explanatory notes and officers responded to members' questions.

Specific issues which engaged members' attention were:

- Street cleaning and waste collection plant/vehicle costs, members being advised that the aged fleet contributed to additional costs and there was need to consider replacement vehicles for this statutory service. Contract hire of vehicles had been examined but was not a lesser cost option, also a cost comparison with other cluster councils had revealed that council repair and maintenance costs were lower. A member suggested that leasing/contract/ purchase options be placed on the agenda for committee to review the issues identified by the director.
- **Councillor Storey joined the meeting during discussion on the above item (7.40 p.m.)**
  - Current reserves and level recommended by auditor;
  - Causeway Museum Service and benefits to Council and its museum of membership;
  - Community hall provision, recommended by to be tendered by Leisure & Amenities Committee, the Director pointing up the fact that for the various amenities projects to be delivered during the course of 2011/12 Council had yet to make any provision as to how the facilities would be operated and how revenue costs were to be funded.
  - Cost of operating the various models of community facility provision and the current review of various arrangements which operate between Council and management committees, in respect of which the Director of Borough Services had undertaken, at the request of Resources Task Group, to prepare a principles paper.
- **Councillor Stevenson joined the meeting during discussion on the above item (8.10 p.m.)**
  - Waste collection, disposal and haulage costs and the current procurement exercise underway by the regional waste management group, the prospect of rising costs of these service elements, the Director of Borough Services pointing out to the meeting that with the apparent removal of SWIF funding that the Council

would bear the whole cost as to whatever the new gate fee would be when it began to send its waste via the regional waste management infrastructure;

- Recycling measure and costs and reduced waste collection income;
- Connect2 major infrastructural project and the associated works required to Riverside park path following the removal of the unmanned level crossing;

The following changes to budgets suggested by Leisure & Amenities Committee and included in the information circulated and by members during the meeting for further consideration at the next meeting, with any additional suggestions by members to be advised to the Chief Executive to allow management to consider these prior to the next meeting. These were:

- North West 200 additional contribution of £1,000
- Leisure contributions -£1000 Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club
- Community Support Grants +£?
- Good Relations – OFMDFM budget reduction -£
- Waste Disposal charges – effect of loss of custom -£
- Twinning Grant +£1,000
- Civic Visits/Twinning +£1,000
- Bilingual signs to cover all applications agreed +£
- Reduction or removal of Causeway Museum Service contribution -£
- Revenue costs of community facilities +£
- Loan charges savings - memorial garden project- £3097

Following discussion it was agreed that members consider the various issues requiring to be addressed in advance of the next meeting and the Mayor reminded members to let the Chief Executive have notice in good time before the next meeting of any additional items they wished to be addressed.

The Mayor closed the meeting at 9.35 p.m., thanking members and officers for their contributions to the debate.

**Rates Estimates 2011/2012 - Version 5****Analysis of Revision to Version 4, Rates Estimates**

Page			<u>Saving/ Increase</u>	<u>%</u>
	<b>Rates Increase in Version 4</b>	Approved by Council		<b>2.31</b>
1	Loan Charges	Loan charges on existing loans	-	
		recalculated - saving	2,328	-0.04
			<hr/>	
5	Town Hall	Rates	11,897	-0.21
		Income	5,000	-0.09
7	JD Leisure Centre	Heating Oil	5,000	-0.09
9	Sports Grounds Parks & OS	Contribution to Milk Cup	5,500	0.10
		Connect 2 Project	3,700	0.06
11	Tourism	Contribution to CC&G RTP	2,336	0.04
13	Advice Services	Hire of Town Hall	5,000	0.09
16	Environmental Health	Computerisation	500	0.01
		Bio-Diversity Officer project	4,382	0.08
21	Street Cleaning	Plant/Vehicles	3,000	0.05
22	Waste Collection	Plant/Vehicles	36,000	0.63
		Trade Waste income reduction	39,000	0.68
23	Waste Disposal	Landfill Tax	9,184	-0.16
		Haulage costs	17,346	-0.30

			-	
		Disposal charges	18,580	-0.32
		WH/T Facility operating costs	2,500	0.04
23	Waste Disposal - Recycling	Households	2,840	-0.05
		Green waste/Brown Bins	2,347	-0.04
		Builders Rubble	2,400	0.04
		Timber	6,300	0.11
		Soil	3,750	0.07
24	Health & Env Services Support	DPP Support staff costs recovery	10,600	-0.18
25	Building Control	Group Demand	300	-0.01
30	Official/Courtesy Visits/functions	Freedom of Borough Ceremony	7,500	0.13
32	Corporate Management	NAP Consultancy	12,500	-0.22
		Corporate Planning	4,000	0.07
		Corporate Training	10,000	0.17
37	Contributions to Other Bodies	Specified Bodies	950	0.02

**Proposed Rates Increase - V. 5****2.99****Notes**

Provisional Actual Penny Product 2010/11 - Land & Property Services have recalculated the Rates Income due to the council for 2010/11 based on up to date data at 31 December 2010. The recalculation indicates an overestimation of rates income for the year and hence there will be a clawback of the income. At 31 December the clawback amounts to £9,552 including the BT repayment. The finalisation for the year will not be known until June 2011.

Community Relations - the OFMDFM has indicated that there is likely to be a 5% reduction in their budget for 2011/12. I will review the proposed community relations programme and adjust the expenditure and income accordingly.

- Matters referred from Leisure & Amenities Committee to the Council Rates meeting for consideration -
- North West 200 - request for continued sponsorship of race in the amount of £11,000 for 2011 and a 5% increase for a further 2 years. LAC recommended that individual parties bring their recommendation on the level of the increase to the Rates meeting.  
£10,000 budget included in Version 5 of 2011/12 Rates Estimates.
  - Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club - request for continued sponsorship for the 2011 Road Race.  
£1,000 included in Version 5 of 2011/12 Rates Estimates
  - Community Support Grant Scheme - council to consider setting a budget for a grant scheme in 2011/12.  
No budget included in 2011/12 Rates Estimates