

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 939 – 7th February 2011**

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939.27	Regional Development Strategy	<i>Cllr Cavlan nominated</i>
939.28	Council's Financial Position	<i>No action</i>
939.29	Thanks to Chief Executive	<i>Noted</i>

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 939 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 7th February 2011 at 7.05 p.m.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor B Kennedy, Mayor

PRESENT: **Aldermen**

H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor

Councillors

A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
C McLaughlin
A Patterson
E Robinson
I Stevenson
M Storey

APOLOGIES: **Aldermen**
F Campbell

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

Press (2)

939.1 FUNDING TO YOUNG FARMERS CLUBS OF ULSTER

Addressing Council on this matter Councillor Kennedy said:

"I have an important matter which I wish to raise. I am greatly alarmed at a proposal by the Department of Agriculture to cut all funding to the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster at the end of this financial year. It is a hard blow in these hard pressed economic times. Agriculture and the rural economy is very important in this rural Borough. We are heavily dependent on farm enterprises which provide full and part-time jobs. This organization supports a network of local clubs run by young people, with others in our community providing leadership roles on a voluntary basis. The young farmers movement has some 50 active clubs in our Province. This structure serves the farming and rural community and makes a valuable contribution to economic, social and community life. Clubs such as Kilraughts and Finvoy in our area provide the opportunity

for young people to learn new skills and they also contribute greatly to our rich cultural through drama and debating.

I understand that the Young Farmers Clubs through its membership fees contribute to this provincial body but the support from central government is critical, this burden should not be shifted from central government to local level. I believe the Young Farmers' Clubs of Ulster is an important element of the young farmers' movement in Ulster. We must support our rural areas, support our young people and so support our future. I propose we write to the Agriculture Minister and call for her to review the proposal and to enter into full consultation with all the stakeholders on this important issue."

Councillor Robinson and Councillor Finlay acknowledged the current difficulties that the Young Farmers' Association are experiencing in particular young people leaving the farming industry, and the stringent stipulations set down to farmers from the larger supermarkets. Councillor Patterson agreed that it would be very unfair if this funding was withdrawn.

It was proposed by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Finlay and
AGREED:

that Council write to the Agriculture Minister asking her to review the proposal to cut all funding to the Young Farmers Clubs of Ulster at the end of this financial year and to enter into full consultation with all the stakeholders on this important issue.

Councillor Kennedy asked at this point for a show of hands in favour of the proposal:

FOR	AGAINST
8	0

Councillor Kennedy declared the motion carried.

939.2 CONGRATULATIONS – LOUGHGIEL SHAMROCKS HURLING TEAM

Alderman Connolly advised Council regarding Loughgiel Shamrocks Hurling Team's Semi Final – (All Ireland Club Championship's event) to be held on Saturday 19th February in Dublin. He asked Council to write a letter of support to the team. He also wished to express his thanks on behalf of the team for the recent hospitality shown by Council.

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

that Council write a letter of support to Loughgiel's Shamrocks Hurling Team regarding their forthcoming All Ireland Semi-Final Club Championship event to be held on Saturday 19th February in Dublin.

939.3 MINUTES – MEETING NO 934 (FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH) – 4TH JANUARY 2011

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Halliday and
AGREED:

that the minutes of meeting No 934 – 4th January 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

939.4 MINUTES – MEETING NO 935 – 4TH JANUARY 2011

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

that the minutes of meeting No 935 – 4th January 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

939.5 MINUTES – MEETING NO 936 – 10TH JANUARY 2011

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

that the minutes of meeting No 936 – 10th January 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

939.6 MINUTES – MEETING NO 937 (LANDFILL) – 19TH JANUARY 2011

The Chief Executive in response to Councillor Robinson's request for an update explained that the letter had been sent to the DOE Minister the day following the Council meeting, and to date there has been no response, however, it was anticipated that a response was imminent.

The Chief Executive also clarified in relation to Alderman Simpson's query that Council had agreed to work collaboratively with all five Councils.

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

that the minutes of meeting No 937 – 19th January 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

939.7 MINUTES – MEETING NO 938 – 1ST FEBRUARY 2011

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

that the minutes of meeting No 938 – 1st February 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

939.8 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 58 – 17TH JANUARY 2011

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

8.1 Traffic Calming Island in Main Street, Dunloy (58.13)

In response to a question by Councillor McCamphill, the Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that a response had not yet been received to Council's representations.

Councillor McGuigan advised that he had been made aware that Roads Service would be dismantling the Traffic Calming Island in Dunloy.

***Councillor Storey arrived at 7.20 p.m.**

8.2 Planning Bill Consultation Event (58.5)

Alderman Connolly advised that he had attended the Planning Consultation Event in Cookstown and had found it to be a very informative meeting. He had received a report and documentation regarding the proposed Planning Bill and suggested that members at the event sensed that a great deal of new rules and regulations were being pushed towards Councils at short notice. Councillor Robinson agreed with this and stated that any issues for Local Government should be addressed within an adequate timescale.

8.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

the minutes of meeting No 58 on 17th January 2011, as circulated, were received.

939.9 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 222 – 17TH JANUARY 2011

Councillor Finlay presented the report to Council together with Addendum as outlined at 9.4 below.

9.1 Plastic Bags Tax (222.9)

Councillor Storey advised Council that the second stage of the Bill had not been moved in the Assembly. It was awaiting a proposal document from the Department to go out for consultation.

9.2 Interreg Programme (222.15)

Councillor Robinson advised that the Interreg project on Inland Waterways was still active.

9.3 Geological Survey NI – Lignite (222.2)

Councillor Storey suggested that Council write to the Minister for an update regarding the current lignite position in relation to dNAP.

9.4 Committee Meetings

In recent months there has been an increasing number of presentations to Consultation Committee. The Development Committee, which follows on from the Consultation Committee on the third Monday of each month, has also had a number of presentations. This has led to difficulties in predicting timing for Development Committee presentations, coupled with a lengthy meetings session for members.

Following consultation with the Chair it is **RECOMMENDED** that the Development Committee move to the 2nd Monday of each month, commencing its business at 4.00 p.m.

The aim remains to have no more than one presentation at any Council/Committee Meeting.

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

that the Development Committee meeting will be held on the 2nd Monday of each month, commencing its business at 4.00 p.m. This will be on a trial basis for 3 months.

9.5 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 222 on 17th January 2011, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, including addendum 9.4.

939.10 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 380 – 18TH JANUARY 2011

The report was presented by Councillor Cavlan together with Addendum as outlined at 10.3 below.

* Alderman Cousley arrived at 7.40 p.m.

10.1 Cloughmills Play Area (380.3)

In response to Councillor McCamphill's question, The Director of Borough Services advised that the two representatives from Cloughmills residents would be chosen from within the immediate vicinity.

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

that meeting with Council representatives and Association representatives be arranged for 28th February – 3rd March or 8th March – 10th March 2011.

10.2 Dervock 2012 Olympic Initiative (380.7)

Councillor Robinson advised that the representatives from Dervock Community Association are very keen to see the 2012 Initiative moving forward as swiftly as possible. Councillor Cavlan stated that she would be hopeful that a meeting could be arranged this week with the Joint Working Group.

It was **AGREED:**

that the Director of Borough Services arrange a meeting of the Working Group during the period indicated at 10.1 above.

10.3 Good Relations Grants

The following application for grant has been received – Cloughmills Boys & Girls Football Club for assistance towards a cultural evening on 6th March 2011.

Amount requested £365.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that a grant of £350 is awarded to Cloughmills Boys & Girls Football Club.

10.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 380 on 18th January, 2011, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved including addendum at 10.3 above.

939.11 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 368 – 25TH JANUARY 2011

Councillor Robinson presented the report together with Addendum as outlined at 11.2 below.

Matters Arising:

11.1 Joint Council Bio-Diversity Officer (368.11)

The Director of Borough Services clarified that Council partner costs in year one would be approximately £2,000 and in year two approximately £6,500.

***Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 8.00 p.m.**

11.2 Static Compactor (February 2011)

Director of Borough Services presented addendum as follows:

Tenders were invited, by public advertisement, for the supply, delivery, unloading and installation of 1 no. static compactor. The closing date for tenders was 12.00 noon, Wednesday 2nd February 2011. The six tenders received were opened by the Head of Environmental Services, together with the Cleansing Supervisor, on Wednesday 2nd February 2011 at 12.15pm. The tender prices submitted are detailed in the table below. The static compactor being sought will be installed at Crosstagherty civic amenity site. Funding for same has been acquired through round 2 of the DOE Rethink Waste Capital Fund. Number of tenders received:- 6 (plus one tender received after the deadline)

Compliant Tenders (3)

Tenderer	Product Offered	Price including painting (£)	Warranty (months)	Delivery time from order (weeks)
Gradeall International Ltd 9 Farlough Road Dungannon	Gradeall G120	10,750	<u>12</u>	5
Apricot Environmental t/a NEC Distributors Unit 3 Rampart Road Greenbank Industrial Estate Newry	ACS 20T	13,500	<u>12</u>	4
H.R. Holfeld (Machinery) Ltd Unit 10 Blaris Ind. Estate Altona Road Lisburn	BRG SC2	14,550	12	5

Non Compliant Tenders (3)

Tenderer	Product Offered	Price including painting (£)	Warranty (months)	Delivery time from order (weeks)
NU-MAC Waste Systems Ltd Templehill Road Newry	Numac Static	11,500	<u>12</u>	4-6
Randall Fabrications Hoyle Mill Road Pontefract	Simpak 1800	20,950	<u>12</u>	6-8

Tenderer	Product Offered	Price including painting (£)	Warranty (months)	Delivery time from order (weeks)
Husmann UK Ltd 113 Worcester Road Hagley Stourbridge	MP 1300	23,983	12	6

IT IS RECOMMENDED that the Borough Council accept the tender from Gradeall International Ltd in the sum of £10,750 for the supply, delivery, unloading and installation of 1 no. static compactor, in accordance with the council's specification.

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

that the Borough Council accept the tender from Gradeall International Ltd in the sum of £10,750 for the supply, delivery, unloading and installation of 1 no. static compactor, in accordance with the Council's specification.

11.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No 368 – 25th January 2011, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, including addendum 11.2.

939.12 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 392 – 24TH JANUARY 2011

Alderman Simpson presented the report together with Addenda as outlined at 12.1 and 12.2 below.

12.1 Members' Conferences

An application has been received for attendance at the Royal Town Planning Institute NI "Place Matters" event on 24th February 2011 in Belfast. The theme "Place Matters" relates to improving quality of spaces which is key to promoting healthy and sustainable communities and the regeneration of our towns and cities. The event 9.30 am – 4.45 pm has a number of key speakers from the planning field and will examine the current policy framework in Northern Ireland, as well as a creative exploration of urbanism through the eyes of the famous modernist paradox "Less is More" to reflect on current issues. Cost £85. Budget provision is available.

It was proposed by Councillor Storey, seconded by Councillor Stevenson

that the following members be appointed to attend the Planning Event on 24th February:

***Councillor Finlay
Councillor Kennedy
Councillor Robinson
Alderman Simpson***

12.2 Tenders for Goods and Services 2011/12

Tenders for the supply of goods and services for the financial year commencing 1st April 2011 were invited by public advert with a closing date for receipt of same being 28th January 2011. 50 tenders were received.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that approval is granted to the Chair of Committee and the Head of Finance & IT to open the tenders.

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

that the Chair of Committee and the Head of Finance & IT open the tenders.

12.3 Civic Events (392.4)

Councillor McGuigan stated that he was strongly opposed to consideration being given to increasing the budget provision from £5,000 to £7,500 for additional cost associated with delivery of two freedoms

Other members expressed views in favour of the event and the additional budget provision.

A discussion ensued and there was a conflict of opinion between Councillors whether provision is made for £7,500 for the Freedom event which is to be included in the 2011/12 official visits budget.

12.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 392 on 24th January 2011, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved together with addenda as outlined at 12.1 and 12.2 above.

939.13 RESOURCES TASK GROUP MEETING NO 35 – 24TH JANUARY 2011

Alderman Simpson presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Resources Task Group Meeting No 35 on 24th January 2011, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

939.14 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of Council be affixed to Grave registration certificate numbers 1224, 1225, 1226 and 1228.

939.15 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**15.1 Fire Incident at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre**

A fire was discovered in the Sauna Cabin in the Health Suite at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre by staff at around 5.00 pm on Tuesday 18th January, 2011.

The building was immediately evacuated by the staff and 999 called to confirm that there was a fire. There were no injuries to any patrons or staff. Fire Service arrived within 15 minutes and took over responsibility of the building. The building was handed back to the council around 9.00 pm with the recommendation that a fire watch be maintained during the night. Two members of staff stayed in the leisure centre all night and undertook half hourly checks of the fire scene. The Fire Officer commended staff at the leisure centre on the efficient evacuation of the building and for the assistance provided to the Fire Service when they arrived at the scene.

The fire was contained within the Health Suite area which is extensively damaged. There was some smoke and water damage to the surrounding areas. The Leisure Centre was closed to the public on 19th January. The Council's insurers were informed and they appointed loss adjustors to undertake investigations.

The cause of the fire was accidental due to an electrical fault in the sauna cabin. Emergency works and extensive cleaning was carried out on Wednesday 19th January and the leisure centre reopened to the public on Thursday 20th January 2011. All facilities are operational, i.e. the fitness suite, sports halls, swimming pool, Treasure Island, meeting rooms and restaurant. The Health Suite i.e. sauna, steam room and Jacuzzi will remain closed.

Work has commenced to refurbish the Health Suite which will be met through the councils insurance. Further information will be tabled for the Leisure & Amenities committee in due course.

The Director of Central and Leisure Services advised that work has commenced to refurbish the Health Suite which will be met through the Council's insurance.

15.2 Improvement Collaboration and Efficiency (ICE) Programme – Consultation

NILGA have forwarded consultation papers on the Local Government Improvement Collaboration and Efficiency (ICE) programme.

1. The “Case for Change” consultation paper (copy of executive summary herewith)
2. Operational arrangements for Regional Governance Group and options for officer support – consultation paper (copy herewith)

Views on both documents are invited by 8th March.

To support the consultation presentation will be made to each of the five main political parties in NI and four regional consultation events will be held on the following dates:

- Monday 14th February – Magherafelt Council Offices
- Wednesday 16th February – Antrim Civic Centre
- Tuesday 22nd February – Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre, Limavady
- Thursday 24th February at Seagoe Hotel Portadown.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that members attend the event in our cluster area on 22nd February in Limavady – 1.30 p.m. – 3.30 p.m. Members are asked to indicate if they intend to be present at the event.

The Change Manager for Causeway Cluster, Stephen McMaw, will make a presentation to Corporate & Central Services Committee at 8pm on 28th February on collaborative working across the four councils.

It is **RECOMMENDED** that a Council Workshop be held in the Council Chamber on Tuesday 1st March, 10.00 a.m. – 12 noon to consider Council's response to the consultation questions (copy herewith). The workshop report will be presented to Council at its meeting on 7th March for adoption.

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

(a) that members be nominated to attend the ICE event on 22nd February 1.30pm – 3.30pm in Limavady, names to be passed to the Office of the Chief Executive this coming week.

(b) that Council workshop be held on 1st March to consider response to consultation questions.

15.3 Government Reform Policy Proposals

A public consultation on policy proposals to reorganize local government, once a date is agreed by the NI Executive to implement the 11 Council model, has been issued by the Environment Minister and will be tabled for consideration at the next meeting of Corporate & Central Services Committee.

NILGA are holding a briefing session on Local Government Reform Policy Proposals on Tuesday 22nd February 10.00 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. in Roe Valley Arts Centre Limavady. Members are asked to indicate if they plan to attend this event.

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

that members be nominated to attend the briefing session on 22nd February 10.00am – 12.30pm in Limavady, names to be passed to the Office of the Chief Executive this coming week.

- * Press left the meeting at 8.20 p.m.
- * The Director of Central and Leisure Services left at 8.20 p.m.
- * The Director of Borough Services left at 8.20 p.m.

Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Kennedy Councillor Robinson and Alderman Simpson indicated that they wished to attend the NILGA briefing session on ICE and Local Government Reform Policy Proposals on Tuesday 22nd February in Roe Valley Arts Centre, Limavady.

- *Councillor Storey left the meeting at 8.25 p.m.
- *Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 8.25 p.m.

939.16 PRESENTATION REQUESTS

16.1 SIPTU – Services Industrial Professional & Technical Union

SIPTU has requested the opportunity to meet with Council to advise of their campaign to protect the Community Sector, the service users and providers of vital services to the community.

The request was noted.

16.2 GM DESIGN ASSOCIATES – NORTHERN AREA PLAN, LAND AT TOWNPARKS, BALLYMONEY

Acting on behalf of a number of landowners who own substantial areas of land between Garryduff Road and Finvoy Road and are interested in working with

each other and Council to achieve potential development of these lands, GM Design has requested a meeting with Council.

*** Councillor Robinson apologized for the interruption and returned at 8.35 p.m.**

Following discussion on the merits of receiving such a presentation it was agreed that Council should remain neutral and not invite GM Design Associates to present to Council.

939.17 WATER MAINS REHABILITATION PROGRAMME

Lagan Construction Ltd is currently delivering replacing water mains on behalf of Northern Ireland Water within the Ballymoney Borough Council area. The work is part of a £100m programme to upgrade the water main infrastructure throughout Northern Ireland. The programme involves the replacement of 8km of water main within the Ballymoney area. Residents and businesses will be fully informed as works progress.

A more comprehensive presentation can be made to Council by NI Water, Atkins and Lagan Construction if members wish. A single point of contact is also requested for Lagan Construction within Council to ensure appropriate consultations at the planning and construction stages.

939.18 MEETING WITH NI WATER AND HOUSING EXECUTIVE

In response to Councillor McGuigan, the Chief Executive advised that Northern Ireland Water have agreed to meet with Council before its monthly meeting in March. There has been no response to date from Housing Executive.

939.19 NILGA EVIDENCE TO THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE ON THE PLANNING BILL

Members were in receipt of NILGA's written evidence to the Environment Committee in the Planning Bill as introduced to the Assembly in December 2010.

939.20 TRANSLINK CONSULTATION

In response to our enquiry about Translink's public transport political stakeholder update events at various venues in Northern Ireland, it has been advised that these were held in regions, as the timescale did not allow for events in each council area. The event for this region was in Ballymena on 16th December 2010. Some larger population areas had individual events. Translink has taken on board the comments and will endeavour to include all council areas in future planning. If councillors would like to meet the local managers or wish them to attend a council meeting they would do their best to organise this.

Councillor Stevenson asked that Translink present to Council regarding issues of work to be carried out in the Ballymoney area including signage. This was agreed.

939.21 POST OFFICE BALLYBOYLAND BRANCH

Ballyboyland Post Office closed on 22nd July 2010 because the subpostmaster resigned and withdrew the premises for Post Office use. There are no other suitable premises in the immediate vicinity from which a Post Office can be operated. The vacancy in Ballyboyland has also been advertised on our website but to date no formal applications have been received. If members have any suggestions that may help to restore a service locally or have any questions please write to: Mandy Donaldson, Field Change Advisor, Post Office Limited, National Consultation Team, PO Box 2060, Watford, WD18 8ZW or email consultation@postoffice.co.uk

*** Councillor Stevenson left the meeting at 8.45 p.m.**

939.22 RESOLUTION - REVENUE FUNDING FOR NEW RADIOTHERAPY CENTRE AT ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITAL

Correspondence has been received from the Chairperson of Strabane District Council asking Council to consider sending a letter to the Minister supporting the allocation of revenue funding for the Radiotherapy Centre at Altnagelvin Hospital.

It was proposed by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Finlay and
AGREED:

that Council send a letter to the Minister supporting the allocation of revenue funding for the Radiotherapy Centre at Altnagelvin Hospital.

939.23 BUDGET 2010 CONSULTATION

The Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure has published details of Spending Plans, Savings Delivery Plans and High Level Impact Assessment on its website on Friday 14th January 2011. These can be found at http://www.dcalni.gov.uk/index/quick-links/budget_2011-2015.htm

939.24 NEW CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF NILGA

Mr Derek McCallan has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, from 1st March 2011.

939.25 ROADS SERVICE**25.1 Consultation Meeting**

Letter was received dated 12/01/2011 from Divisional Roads Manager in response to matters raised by Councillors at Consultation Meeting on 15th November 2010.

Any issues arising should be referred to Office of Chief Executive.

25.2 WIDENING SCHEME AT THE CORNERS, BALNAMORE

The Chief Executive advised of a further letter from Roads Service in response to Council's comments for further works at this location.

Roads Service advised that the current proposal has been agreed i.e to widen the road in front of the shops and introduce a one way system. This is considered adequate for this location in that it would assist the traffic flow considerably and address many of the issues previously raised.

It should be noted that the provision of car parking for commercial premises is not a matter for Roads Service. Should additional parking be required then it is open to the owner to seek approval for this.

The scheme, as currently advised, is likely to attract the necessary funding before the end of the current financial year and work is planned to commence within the next few weeks. If the scheme does not proceed this year, there is no guarantee that funding will be available in subsequent years.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Halliday and **AGREED:**

that Council support the implementation of the scheme as planned.

939.26 RESOLUTION – MEDWAY COUNCIL

The following resolution was unanimously adopted on 13 January by Medway Council.

The Council notes, with indignation, that whilst Medway is facing a massive 11.9% reduction in its financial settlement in 2011/12, the UK 's contribution to the European Union (EU) is set to rise by 60% over two years.

This Council notes that, despite the opposition of some Conservative MPs, and Labour and Conservative MEPs, it is likely that the government will agree to a further 2.9% increase in the overall EU budget.

This Council believes the EU should be treated the same as the other tiers of government and in these austere times should share responsibility, along with central and local government, for public spending reductions. Sharing the burden would result in less severe cuts for local authorities, and give more assistance to councils to protect front line services.

This Council therefore urges Medway's three MPs not to support an increase in the EU budget.

The Chief Executive asked members if they wished to support this resolution.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson and
AGREED:

that Council write to MPs not to support an increase in the EU budget.

939.27 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Chief Executive advised that NILGA are holding an event for officers and members on Tuesday 1st March in the Old Court House, Antrim. Confirmation to be forwarded by the 25th February 2011.

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

that Councillor Cavlan will attend the NILGA event for officers and members on Tuesday 1st March in the Old Court House, Antrim.

939.28 COUNCIL'S FINANCIAL POSITION

Councillor Finlay raised the issue regarding a report published recently in a national paper that Ballymoney Borough Council is in debt to the value of £200,000. After discussion members agreed not to respond.

939.29 THANKS TO CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Councillor Robinson expressed her thanks to the Chief Executive who attended a DRD meeting on Wednesday 9th February to discuss issues re responsibility for clearance of ice and snow from footpaths, when he had made a valuable contribution to the debate. The Chief Executive thanked the member for her kind remarks.

****The meeting ended at 8.55 p.m.***