

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING NO. 837 – 2ND May 2006**

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No. 837 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Tuesday 2nd May 2006 at 7.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman C Cousley, Mayor

PRESENT: **Aldermen:**
F Campbell
J Simpson
H Connolly

Councillors:

J Finlay	B Kennedy
M McCamphill	P McGuigan, MLA
D McKay	T McKeown
A Patterson	E Robinson
I Stevenson (Deputy Mayor)	R Wilson

APOLOGIES: A Cavlan
M Storey, MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Financial & Administrative Services
Director of Health & Environmental Services
Corporate Services Officer
Committee Clerk

The Press were in attendance.

837.1 COUNCIL MEETING NO. 835 – 3rd April 2006

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

that the minutes of Council Meeting No 835 held on 3rd April 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

837.2 COUNCIL MEETING NO. 836 – 19th April 2006

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

that the minutes of Council Meeting No 836 held on 19th April 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

837.3 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to Grave Registry Certificate numbers: 1007, 1008 & 1009.

837.4 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 316 – 20th April 2006

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

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

that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Meeting No. 315 – 21st March 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

837.5 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE No. 341 – 24th April 2006

Alderman Connolly presented the Committee Report.

*** Councillor McGuigan arrived, the time being 7.40 pm.**

MATTERS ARISING**5.1 Absenteeism Report (341.11)**

Councillor Simpson highlighted the level of sickness absence, asking about the possibility of advice/additional measures to address this. The Chief Executive referred Councillor Simpson to the report tabled at the meeting, which gave an analysis of long term absences per department. He also advised Members that the Mayor will shortly be hosting a presentation to those staff with 100% attendance over the last 12 months. The figure (55) is significantly higher than in previous years and the Chief Executive commended those staff concerned.

5.2 Relocation of Area Electoral Office from Ballymoney to Ballymena (341.11)

Councillor Stevenson expressed concern about the relocation of the office to Ballymena. It was agreed that Council write to the Chief Electoral Officer expressing concern.

5.3 Ballymoney Bulletin (341.9)

Alderman Simpson enquired as to the progress of mailing out the latest Ballymoney Bulletin. He expressed concern that this would not be mailed by the deadline. The Chief Executive advised that he would advise Alderman Simpson of its progress at the earliest opportunity.

5.4 Marketing Sub-Committee – Memorial Window (341.9)

Councillor McKay requested further details as to whether Council were responsible for the cost involved to produce the framed photograph of the Memorial Window. At the response from the Chief Executive that Council would be responsible for making this payment, which he envisaged not to be excessive, Councillor McKay proposed that any Member wishing to obtain a framed copy should purchase it. This was seconded by Councillor McGuigan.

The Mayor put the matter to the vote with 2 Members being in favour and 7 against.

The Mayor declared the motion lost.

5.5 Council Decision Making Structures (341.8)

The Chief Executive responded to Members' questions regarding the proposed Consultation Committee and confirmed that Council were able to bestow powers to the Committee should the need arise for a decision on a matter which might be needed urgently.

Councillor Finlay proposed that the matter be deferred for one month for further discussion and this was seconded by Councillor Stevenson.

The Mayor put the matter of deferral to the vote with 8 members being in favour and none against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

5.6 Staff Matters (340.3.2)

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

that Council move 'into Committee' to consider this matter.

In committee, Members considered a number of points relating to the new posts, costs being a consideration, together with the rationale for the posts.

Officers at the invitation of Council, outlined the case for the posts required to meet current service demands.

* **Councillor McKay retired from the meeting, the time being 8.10 pm.**

* **Councillor McGuigan retired from the meeting, the time being 8.15 pm**

Following discussion, Councillor Finlay proposed that the matter be deferred for one month to enable further discussion. This was seconded by Councillor Stevenson.

* **Councillor McKay and Councillor McGuigan returned to the meeting, the time being 8.25 pm.**

The Mayor put the motion to defer for one month to Meeting, with 9 members voting in favour of deferral and 2 against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

5.7 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee Meeting No. 341 – 24th April 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved with the exception of 5.6 above.

The Council resolved itself 'out of committee' on the proposal of Councillor Finlay seconded by Councillor Stevenson

* **Members of the press returned to the meeting, the time being 8.30 pm**

* **Councillor McKay retired from the meeting, the time being 8.30 pm.**

837.6 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 315 - 25th April 2006.

Councillor Finlay presented the Committee report.

MATTERS ARISING**6.1 Proven Waste Management Technologies Seminar**

At the request of Councillor McCamphill, the Director of Health & Environmental Services advised that the programme had not been made available to date but was able to confirm that the venue will be the Galgorm Manor in Ballymena. Nominations to attend should be addressed to the Director

6.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No.315 – 25th April 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

* Councillor McKeown arrived at this stage, 8.35 pm.

837.7 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The following items of business, which have been received, require Council decision in advance of the next committee meeting scheduled to take place on 8th May. Alderman Simpson presented the items for approval

7.1 Contribution: Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association.

An application has been received from Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association for a contribution of £4,000. It has, through fundraising efforts, raised other funding.

During the past year, the Association hosted a student visit from Benbrook and sponsored a local group to participate in Vanves 'Music in the Park' event. Its plans for the current year include a student visit to Benbrook, hosting a delegation from Vanves and sponsoring a local music group to participate in the Vanves 'Music in the Park' event.

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

that a contribution of £4,000 be made to Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association.

7.2 Consultation on draft National Strategic Reference Framework

NILGA are hosting a consultation event on the draft National Strategic Reference Framework (NSRF) in conjunction with Derry City Council on Tuesday 9th May – 9.30 am – 12.30 pm in the Guildhall.

DTI has issued a consultation on the NSRF and it is hoped that the consultation event can collate the NILGA position on the Northern Ireland Chapter of the document and submit this to DTI.

The event is free to elected members and officers of Councils and this Council is invited to nominate four candidates to attend. The seminar will be of most interest to elected members and officers involved in EU funding policy development and economic development.

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

that four representatives from Council attend the Seminar on 9th May, namely the Chair and Vice Chair of the Development Committee, Councillor Robinson and the Corporate Services Officer.

837.8 NOTICE OF MOTION BY COMHAIRLEOIR D McKAY

Comhairleoir McKay presented the following motion, notice of which had been given.

“That this Council, as of today, is committed to meeting the six goals of Fairtrade and will liaise with the Fairtrade Group until these goals have been achieved.

The Council shall use Fairtrade products and will provide Fairtrade tea and coffee at all future Council meetings and in its offices and canteens.

The Council also commits itself to setting up a Fairtrade directory advising people where they can buy or find FAIRTRADE Mark products – both on paper, and on-line.

This Council will immediately establish a Steering Committee, if necessary within an existing Council Committee, to work towards making areas of the borough, where there is sufficient interest, into Fairtrade towns and villages. The Council commits itself to educating residents, shoppers and employers about Fairtrade and will arrange a Fairtrade Awareness Day for this purpose.

The Council also commits itself to lobby and assist local businesses, community groups, charities and churches that are interested in endorsing and promoting Fairtrade in their area.”

Comhairleoi McKay proposed the above be agreed and this was seconded by Councillor McGuigan.

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

that the Motion be referred to the Health & Environmental Services Committee for consideration.

Comhairleoir McKay requested an opportunity to speak on the matter and was informed by the Chief Executive that, in accordance with Council's Standing Orders, once an agreement had been reached to refer the Motion to the Health & Environmental Services Committee, further discussions on the subject could not take place but the Member would have the opportunity to speak on the Motion at Committee.

837.9 CONSULTATION ON ROADS PROGRAMME AND DRAFT SUB-REGIONAL TRANSPORT PLAN.

Council is invited to receive the Divisional Roads Manager, between 8th May and 30th June to present the draft roads programme and report. The Draft Sub-Regional Transport Plan has also been published for consultation and Roads Service will attend Council to explain the proposals.

It was agreed that Roads Service attend a meeting on Thursday 1st June 2006 at 7.30 pm.

*** Councillor McGuigan retired from the meeting, the time being 8.45 pm**

837.10 REMOVING PUBLIC CALL BOXES: A GUIDE TO THE RULES.

Ofcom (Office of Communications) has recently completed a review of the Universal Service Obligation (USO) which ensure that basic fixed line telecoms services are available at an affordable price across the UK. Following a consultation exercise Ofcom published a final statement, which is available on their website. (www.ofcom.org.uk)

With the growth of mobiles, some phone boxed are very rarely used. BT's revenues from call boxes have fallen by around 47% between 2000 and 2006. Ofcom has however concluded that local communities must continue to have the final say in decisions about keeping or removing the last phone box from particular location. They have

published a revised set of rules and guidance on “the local veto”. A copy is available and can also be downloaded from their website.

837.11 DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION.

The Environment & Heritage Service has advised of its intention to designate the following special areas of conservation in the Register of European Sites. This area has been designated because it contains habitat types and/or species which are rare or threatened with the European context – Active Raised Bogs

- Caldanagh Bog, Dunloy Bog and Frosses Bog
- Garry Bog

837.12 RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were noted:

1. North Down Borough Council

Water Charges and the 19% Regional Rates Rise

North Down Borough Council seeks support for the following resolution and requests Council to write to the Secretary of State.

“That this Council steps up its campaign of opposition to the introduction of Water Charges and the 19% Regional Rates Rise by starting a letter writing campaign to the Secretary of State”.

2. Derry City Council

Draft Planning Policy Statement 14: Sustainable Development in the Countryside.

Derry City Council has passed the following resolution:

“That, in the light of the announcement on Draft Planning Policy Statement 14 – Sustainable Development in the Countryside, and this Council’s grave concerns about the implications of this document for farming families, rural communities and the rural economy:

- a) This Council engages specialist planning opinion to formulate a response to the document.*
- b) This Council engages specialist legal opinion to scrutinise the document and the implications for the people of our district.*

That this course of action be undertaken in co-operation with other Councils in similarly based rural areas and in co-operation with NILGA”.

Derry City Council takes the view that the cost of obtaining specialist planning opinion and Counsel's opinion, if that be the case, should be shared between those Councils interested in possibly challenging this development.

Derry City Council inquires if Council intends to take a similar line and whether Council would be interested in proceeding on a co-ordinated, shared basis. Coleraine Borough Council has written in similar terms suggesting a collective challenge. The Rural Community Network has held several meetings on the subject and are inviting key stakeholder organisations to submit their views.

Coleraine Borough Council has written in similar terms suggesting a collective challenge.

The Rural Community Network has held a couple of meetings on the subject and they are inviting key stakeholder organisations to submit their views so that they can get an initial take on the views of stakeholders and consider its next step.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that Council have already retained the services of a Planning Consultant. It was agreed that Derry County Council, Coleraine Council and Rural Community Network be advised accordingly.

837.13 DEVELOPMENT MEETING – 8TH MAY

At the request of Councillor Finlay, it was agreed that the time of the above meeting be moved from 7.30 pm to 6.00 pm. It was also agreed, at the request of Alderman Simpson, that the Origin Market be placed on the agenda.

*** Councillor McKay retired from the meeting, the time being 8.50 pm.**

837.14 REPORTS

A schedule of reports, which are available, was tabled for information and the Chief Executive also referred Members to a report circulated at the beginning of the meeting concerning high hedges and the findings by the Department of Environment.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the time being 8.55