

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING NO. 835 – 3rd April 2006**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 835.1 Condolences – Mrs Sarah McIlhatton (Aunt of Councillor Mervyn Storey and wife of former Member Mr Bertie McIlhatton)**
- 835.2 Apologies – Councillor M Storey, Councillor T McKeown**
- 835.3 Council Meeting No 833 – 6th March 2006 – Adopted**
- 835.4 Council Meeting No 834 – 20th March 2006 - Adopted**
- 835.5 Seal Documents**
Grave Registry Certificate Numbers 992 – 1003 inclusive
- 835.6 Development Committee No. 169 – 13th March – adopted**
- 6.1 Visit to Vanves (169.4)
 - 6.2 Committee Meetings (169.10) - *Deferred*
 - 6.3 Adoption of Minutes
- 835.7 Leisure & Amenities Committee No. 315 – 21st March – adopted**
- 7.1 Community Relations Grant (315.7)
 - 7.2 Community Support Grant (315.8)
 - 7.3 Budgeted Projects – Play Areas Upgrade (315.9 – item 4)
 - 7.4 Practical Caravan Award (315.13)
 - 7.5 Budgeted Projects (315.9 – item 3) – *Recommendation agreed*
 - 7.6 Adoption of Minutes
- 835.8 Finance & General Purposes Committee No. 339 – 27th March 2006 – adopted**
- 8.1 Request for Additional Staffing Resources – (340.3.2) - *Deferred*
 - 8.2 Somme Pilgrimage (340.6)
 - 8.3 Timing of Committee meetings (340.4)
 - 8.4 Reports – Absenteeism (340.8)
 - 8.5 Staff Matters (340.3.2)
 - 8.6 Official Opening of Sports Stadium (340.9.3)
 - 8.7 Adoption of Minutes
- 835.9 Health & Environmental Services Committee meeting No. 313 – 28th March 2006 – adopted**
- 9.1 Public Consultation Event (314.2.3)
 - 9.2 District Council Consultation Event 27.4.06 (314.3)
 - 9.3 CCTV (314.2.21)
 - 9.4 Knife Amnesty (314.2.22)
 - 9.5 Adoption of Minutes

835.10 Notice of Motion by Councillor John Finlay – *Motion carried.*

835.11 Roads Service

11.1 Sub Regional Transport Plan (SRTP) Progress – *Update.*

11.2 Private Streets

835.12 Draft Planning Policy Statement 14 – Sustainable Development in the Countryside) – Council's Planning Consultant's Proposals for Response to Consultation and Workshops - *agreed*

835.13 NI Health & Social Services Council's Report of Joint Conference on Moving Towards a Patient Client Council.

835.14 Report on Innovative Ways of Providing Post Office Services in Rural Areas.

835.15 Resolutions

835.16 Reports

Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No. 835 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 3rd April 2006 at 7.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman C Cousley, Mayor

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

Councillors:

P McGuigan, MLA	J Finlay
M McCamphill	R Wilson
D McKay	A Patterson
A Cavlan	I Stevenson
B Kennedy	E Robinson

APOLOGIES: M Storey, MLA
Councillor T McKeown

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

The Press were in attendance.

835.1 CONDOLENCES

The Mayor expressed Council's condolences to the family of the late Sarah McIlhatton, wife of former Council colleague Bertie McIlhatton and aunt of Councillor Mervyn Storey. Council extended its deepest sympathy to Councillor Storey and conveyed Council's condolences to the family at this sad time.

835.2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor Mervyn Storey and Councillor Tom McKeown

835.3 COUNCIL MEETING NO. 833 – 6th March 2006

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

that the minutes of Council Meeting No 833 held on 6th March 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

835.4 COUNCIL MEETING NO. 834 – 20th March 2006

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

that the minutes of Council Meeting No 834 held on 20th March 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

835.5 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to Grave Registry Certificate numbers: 992, 993, 994, 995, 996, 997, 998, 999, 1000, 1001, 1002, 1003.

* Councillor Simpson jointed the meeting at 7.40 pm.

835.6 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 169 – 13th March 2006**MATTERS ARISING****6.1 Visit to Vanves (169.4)**

Alderman Simpson queried the number of delegates nominated to visit Vanves in June 2006. It was explained that the decision to nominate five delegates to attend had been taken at a previous Council meeting. Councillor McGuigan concurred with Alderman Simpson's remarks. Councillor McKay asked if it would be possible to change the decision at this point and reduce the number. Responding to these queries, the Chief Executive explained that the visit had been arranged in response to an invitation from the Mayor of Vanves and that the matter could be referred back to the Committee for further discussion if required. It was agreed, after discussion, that the original decision should stand. Councillor McKay suggested that in future, costs regarding official visits should be brought to the Committee/Council before decisions are made.

6.2 Committee Meetings (169.10)

Councillor Simpson queried the amendment to the timing of future meetings, taking into account the reference made to meeting times in the Finance & General Purpose minutes (item 340.4). As there was some confusion concerning the change of time of future Development committee meetings from 7.30 to 4.00 pm, it was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

to refer the matter of Development Committee meeting times back to the Committee for further discussion.

The Development Meeting scheduled to take place on 10th April therefore remains at the original time of 7.30 pm.

6.5. Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Development Meeting number 169 – 13th March 2006, as circulated, be adopted, and the recommendations therein approved, with the exception of 169.10.

835.7 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 314 – 21ST MARCH 2006

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

MATTERS ARISING**7.1 Community Relations Grant (315.7)**

At the request of Councillor McGuigan, regarding the new rules and regulations of the grant, the Director of Financial & Administrative services outlined the criteria for any group applying for grants. Following Alderman Simpson's queries concerning successful applications, the Director of Financial & Administrative Services outlined what needed to be demonstrated on the application form in order to qualify for the grant.

7.2 Community Support Grant (315.8)

In response to Members' queries, the Director of Financial & Administrative Services indicated that all decisions taken concerning awards were in accordance with the criteria laid down.

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

that this item be referred to Committee for further discussion.

7.3 Budgeted Projects (315.9)

Councillor Cavlan referred to the Play Area Upgrade (Balnamore, Magherahoney and Rockend) and requested clarification as to the plan for Ben Vista as this area had previously been identified as requiring an upgrade, as had Scally Park, Loughguile. The Director of Health & Environmental Services agreed to look into the matter and report to the next Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting.

7.4 Practical Caravan Award (315.13)

Councillor Stevenson congratulated Drumaheglis Marina and Caravan Park on its recent award from Practical Caravan Magazine.

7.5 Budgeted Projects – Replacement Changing Rooms – Dunaghy (315.3 – item 3)

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

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

The Director of Health & Environmental Services advised Council of additional information in relation to the proposed project timelines for the above. He advised that discussions had taken place with Council's architect to establish the feasibility of procuring changing blocks within the capital programme at two locations ie Dunaghy and Balnamore, budgeted over a two year period, rather than one block at Dunaghy. He highlighted the advantages to the Council in going to a select list and tender to incorporate two blocks in order to procure a fixed price when Council would then be informed more fully on the cost involved.

The Director of Health & Environmental Services answered several questions from members concerning locations for replacement changing rooms and whether more than two blocks should be considered, advising that there would be budget concerns should a decision be made to increase the number of blocks from two to three.

He also advised Members of the reasons for the suggestion that Balnamore be incorporated in the plan, as the work currently being carried out on that pitch was expected to be completed in Summer 2006

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

to proceed on the basis outlined by the Director of Health & Environmental Services and the other named location for a changing block should be Balnamore.

The council resolved itself out of 'Committee' on the proposal of Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson.

7.6 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of the Leisure & Amenities Meeting No. 315 – 21st March 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, with the exception of item 315.8.

* Councillor Kennedy retired from the meeting, the time being 8.35 pm

835.8 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE No. 340 – 30th March 2006

Alderman Connolly presented the Committee Report.

MATTERS ARISING

8.1 Request for Additional Staffing Resources (340.3.2)

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

that this matter be deferred to the next meeting for further discussion

8.2 Somme Pilgrimage (340.6)

Various members queried the number of delegates nominated to attend the Pilgrimage and the content of the visit. The Chief Executive outlined

the programme for the visit. It was proposed by Councillor McKay that only one member attend the Somme Pilgrimage.

The Mayor put the number of delegates attending to the vote with 3 members voting in favour of reducing the delegates to one and 8 members voting to retain the three delegates nominated.

The Mayor declared the proposal lost.

8.3 Timing of Committee Meetings (340.4)

In response to questions, the Chief Executive explained that, since the earlier recommendation from the Development Committee regarding the timing of its meetings was referred back, Council could now decide on the timing of all Committee Meetings by how it dealt with item 340.4

8.4 Reports – Absenteeism (340.8)

Councillor Simpson highlighted the non-circulation of the report relating to absenteeism and the Director of Financial Administrative Services advised that the report, broken down into departments, would be made available at the next Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting.

8.5 Staff Matters (340.3.2)

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Chief Executive explained that the Corporate Management Team had agreed the working titles of the restructured Directorates.

8.6 Official Opening of Sports Stadium (340.9.3)

Referring to the official opening of the sports stadium at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, Councillor Robinson queried why the Director responsible for the stadium was not involved in the sub-committee. The Chief Executive explained that the civic ceremony was being arranged by his office, but agreed that there was merit in using the civic event to promote the facilities at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and the Riada playing fields.

8.7 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of the Finance & General Purpose Committee Meeting No. 340 – 27th March 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

* **Alderman Connolly retired from the meeting, the time being 8.50 pm**

835.9 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO. 314 - 28TH MARCH 2006

Councillor Finlay presented the Committee report.

MATTERS ARISING

9.1 Public Consultation Event (314.2.3)

Councillor Finlay brought Members' attention to the Public Consultation Event regarding Council's proposed Waste Management Plan (item 314.2).

Councillor Simpson was concerned that the event had not been broadly publicised and was reassured that information relating to the event had appeared in the press on several occasions and that information stickers had been placed on all bins throughout the Borough. Further press coverage would also take place following the Council Meeting.

9.2 District Council Consultation Event 27.4.06

Councillor McGuigan questioned Committee's nominations to this event, commenting, that as places had been limited by DoE/NILGA to 8 per council, nominations should have been representational of all parties. Following discussion, the nominations remained as decided by Committee.

9.3 CCTV (314.2.21)

Councillor Stevenson recorded his support for the installation of CCTV within the town, should funding be made available. However, he felt this was unlikely, as Ballymoney has currently been named as the safest place in the UK.

9.3 Knife Amnesty (314.2.22)

Councillor Stevenson welcomed the proposed knife amnesty scheme and requested information as to what evidence could be provided that knives had been destroyed. The Director of Health & Environmental Services advised that the only information available at the moment was that locked containers would be provided at the Borough's civic amenity sites.

9.5 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No.314 – 28th March 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

*** The Director of Financial & Administrative Services and the Director of Health & Environmental services retired from the meeting, the time being 9.05 pm**

835.10 NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR JOHN FINLAY

Councillor Finlay moved the following motion, in respect of which notice had been given.

“That this Council notes the events of Saturday 25th February 2006 when several hundred citizens of the United Kingdom attempted to peacefully demonstrate in Dublin regarding the hundreds of innocent victims of terrorism, many of whom sought sanctuary and refuge in the Irish Republic; having obtained lawful permission from the Irish authorities to do so, this Council calls upon the Dublin authorities to pursue vigorously, those responsible for the disgraceful scenes of rioting and sectarianism that were carried out by Republic protestors witnessed by many independent observers, and restated the firmly held view of the greater number in Northern Ireland that all terrorist victims should be remembered and no disgraceful scenes such as those seen on Saturday must be allowed to deflect relatives from doing so.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Wilson.

Speaking in support of his motion, Councillor Finlay said:

“For many victims Saturday 25th February was a difficult journey in more ways than one. Belfast and Dublin are far apart in ways that cannot be measured in miles. For many, the difficulties were physical, dealing with a lifetime of injury and constant pain that make the smallest journeys and tasks a challenge. For others the journey evoked memories of why they went there. For many the journey to Dublin literally led past the site of their loved ones murders. For ALL it was difficult given the policy and practice of successive Irish governments towards Northern Ireland and its people.

Those who went did so as victims, members of a community that has suffered because they are a minority community on this island and they represented in physical terms the democratic expression of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland to remain part of the United Kingdom. It was not their choice to go to Dublin to make their case; it is the capital city of a country foreign to them. However that choice was made for them when Dublin was given a role in

our affairs. They took the clear message to the Irish government that their involvement in Northern Ireland is contrary to the wishes of the overwhelming majority of its citizens and is part of the problem rather than part of the solution. However, like all problems it must be addressed at its roots hence the reason for the trip to Dublin.

They went to Dublin to place on record before the world's media and the international community their continuing and growing opposition to the Republic of Ireland's interference in the internal governance of Northern Ireland, an integral part of the United Kingdom. It is a barrier to rather than a bridge for future reconciliation and good neighbourliness. The historic irredentist claims over Northern Ireland have long been a source of, and motivation for violent conflict and they went to Dublin as the human legacy of that conflict to force the Irish government and people to acknowledge and accept its role and responsibility for the events in Northern Ireland since 1969. The illegal constitutional claim as was enshrined in Articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution provided the necessary direction and legitimacy for the institutional collusion. Indeed the furtherance of the 'constitutional imperative' elements of the Irish government indeed encouraged, facilitated and created the Provisional IRA. The extent of this disgraceful chapter in the history of the Republic has never been fully investigated and the Victims legitimately called for a full independent International Inquiry into what the events surrounding what became known as the "Dublin Arms Trial Affair".

The historic legacy of the foundation of the Irish State created a climate where latent sympathy for Irish Republican terrorism translated into institutionalised collusion, both by acts of commission and omission. The latter is best exemplified by the legislative differential between two jurisdictions and the failure to co-operate on extradition matters that created a safe haven for terrorists south of the border. Victims expected the protection of the two states, of two armies and two police forces – in reality they received little. The failure to adopt a cross-border proactive anti-terrorist strategy is evidenced in the number of loved ones the victims had to bury. The failure of successive Irish Governments to deliver has left a bitter legacy amongst our people as it contributed to the extent, duration and gravity of the terrorist onslaught we faced in Northern Ireland. Victims of Republican terror conclude that the Republic of Ireland failed in its specific obligations under Article Two of the European Convention on Human Rights, both through acts of commission and omission. An explanation is now required which will begin to address the issue of truth and an apology that will pave the way to reconciliation.

For too long the Irish Government has demanded rights in regard to Northern Ireland, rights indeed that do not exist anywhere in the democratic world. They are a political construct born out of an historic and irredentist desire. However, in so doing, they ignore the real and legitimate responsibilities that do exist between nations and states. Responsibilities such as neighbourly co-operation in areas of mutual interest such as terrorism, security and stability. If the same resources were vested in living up to these real responsibilities instead of trying to exercise imaginary rights we would be making progress. For too long

interference in Northern Ireland has been a cost free exercise for the Irish Government in every sense of the word – this can no longer be the case. With rights come responsibilities and we must ensure that the Irish Government and taxpayer live up to these.

Victims and the loved ones they have laid to rest in the cold earth have given much to defend and promote democracy, security and justice. These aims must be shared by states and defended against democracy. Sadly we have seen little evidence of the same commitment to these ideals as we as a community have shown. Rather we have witnessed the facilitation and legitimisation of terrorism and its appeasement. This is difficult enough for victims to countenance yet it appears that the appeasement is done entirely at the cost of our community. The appalling double standards that have developed between what the Irish Government has advocated in Northern Ireland and what the Irish Government tolerates in the Republic is unacceptable. The policy of 'do as we say, not as we do' will not be accepted. The refusal to share power with Sinn Féin/PIRA in Dublin is admirable however victims are at a loss to see why then we should be forced to share power in Belfast. The Irish Government supported the release of terrorist prisoners in Northern Ireland yet refused to extend the same to the killers of Garda McCabe. Again an admirable adherence to principle however moral concerns seem to end at the border. Like many other things, the border appears to be an insurmountable barrier to reform. Perhaps the excise duty on police reform, the establishment of a police Ombudsman, the creation of a more effective Human Rights Commission has been too great and the export of such reforms from Northern Ireland has been stopped!

In every other area of policy and practise the Irish Government wishes to deconstruct the border yet when it comes to allowing the reforms that the Belfast Agreement created to flow over the border suddenly there are problems. Perhaps the language of equality, minority rights, accountability and transparency does not translate easily into Irish. Perhaps they are seen in the same light as diseased cattle that must be stopped at the border at all costs. It is clear that the border has been sealed to such innovations as Irish politicians and statutory bodies resist the same reforms they would force on Northern Ireland. While the Dublin government continues to champion the cause of the Nationalist minority in Northern Ireland they forget their own disgraceful record of discrimination against the Protestant minority in the Republic. Victims and their loved ones went to Dublin with a message: "Live up to your obligations and commitments under international law and in the numerous agreements signed with the United Kingdom since 1985. In terms of equality for our culture and language and ethos we will judge the Irish Government by their actions, not their words. It will be interesting to see how they address the minority community in their own jurisdiction before we in Northern Ireland accept any lectures on how our community should act."

Victims also issued a challenge to the Irish State to cast off the constitutional and institutional strait jacket of the past and to lay to rest the bloodthirsty ghosts of 1916. If they are to become a truly modern and pluralist state they

must address the legacy that has prevented that progression to date; before they can truly accommodate new minority ethnic groups they must visit and properly accommodate their oldest and most discriminated minority – the Protestant community. Victims are also dealing with the past whilst looking to the future and they can see hope. There now exists to unite both North and South to finally end Irish terrorism before it enters another temporary period of hibernation or evolves into a new menace of organised crime. The present Minister of Justice should be commended for his courageous and visionary stand against terrorism in all its forms and we should all exhort all political classes and society as a whole in the South to unite with him. Those who travelled to Dublin sought to warn their neighbours in the Republic: Do not allow the Trojan Horse of Sinn Féin/IRA within your city walls. For like the ancient Greek gift, the present Sinn Féin construction also contains an armed body of men concealed within it who are intent on destroying and taking control of government.

When the men and women of Ulster, our brightest and best, stood and often fell in the struggle against terrorism, they were not doing so to advance a sectarian cause but rather in defence of democracy and their families. Whilst that struggle may have been distant from many in the Republic who could sleep safely in their beds, make no mistake that their security was being bought at a high price North of the border. The fight against terrorism belongs to us all and we have all benefited from its success. Sadly much of the progress has been undone in the name of political progress and expediency; however it is not too late to ensure victory against terrorism. This is surely our uniting factor: a peaceful, stable future where no one is allowed to take up arms in the pursuit of their political objectives. That peace can only be built on justice and equality. Victims can see how flawed the current foundations are and both governments must address these issues now. In short, victims and the communities they come from continue to see the Irish Government as part of the problem rather than part of the solution.

The opinion was graphically illustrated on the streets of Dublin where a modern European state could not secure the basic rights of a minority group on the streets of its capital city. There are many questions to be answered least of which are the practical concerns around the security and policing of the day. Rather, the central concern is the inability or unwillingness of both governments to challenge and defeat the minority both North and South who continue to use violence to achieve their ends. It is the existence of that minority, that Republican rump that presents the single greatest threat to democracy in the island of Ireland. Just like Hitler's Brownshirts, they use street violence with the same ease as political posturing, they spread their ideology of hate amongst the baser elements of society and they stand poised to seize increasing political power.

It is to the most modern of National Socialist parties that we turn our attention. Like the rabble that took to the streets in 1916, Republicans on 25th February were a ridiculous and varied bunch, united by the most naked of sectarian hatreds. Inspired by Republicans to hate politics they bayed for the blood of the

victims. Had the parade proceeded as planned, the deadly mob would have descended on the innocent men and women and children of the Civil Rights rally. They had murder in mind as they organised their violence. This was not primarily anti-Orange hatred because the rally was not organised by, nor did it contain, men in Orange regalia. It was not about being offended by the bands, music or symbols because the scum who rioted could not have seen them from their positions. This was naked sectarian hatred motivated by an absolute need to silence the victims. You see, if victims are listened to in Dublin, they can, in five minutes, dispel the years of propaganda and spin that Sinn Féin/IRA has created. No matter how expensive the suits, how polished the words and messages or how plausible the party line, all it takes is for one widow or mother to ask – Why was your cause so important that it cost the life of my loved one? Do you condemn his/her murder and will you now say it was not and never will be justifiable to kill in the name of a United Ireland – the Sinn Féin silence is deafening.

Brendan O'Connor wrote in the Sunday Independent "Always remember that this is what they (Republicans) do and this is what they do best It is Republicanism, the violent tradition of Republicanism and indeed Republicanisms reverence for violence that allowed what happened yesterday to happen ... it is Irish Republicans twisted morality that made this acceptable ... This was about the sectarianism that is at the heart of Republicanism in this country. This was about a group of people who would deny another group the very right to exist. This is about one tradition's heartfelt need to wipe out another tradition, to ethnically cleanse Irish Unionists and Protestants and everything they believe in ..." O'Connor concludes by speaking to an Irish readership. "We should be disgusted at ourselves for allowing this culture to thrive, disgusted at what some of us have become, no more than animals. We should remember too that no matter how much peace they talk, Republicans at their heart will do whatever is necessary, shamelessly so, to deny their minorities their right to exist". That has been the tragic experience of our land for over 30 years. Sinn Féin/IRA has denied any involvement in the riots. Ordinary Nationalists who support these individuals at the ballot box should consider these points before believing this ludicrous claim:

- Sinn Féin/IRA told us they did not know the Colombia Three
- They DEFINITELY were not involved in the Northern Bank Robbery
- There were no Republicans involved in the murder of Robert McCartney.

The challenge to Sinn Féin now is to expel all those members of Sinn Féin/IRA who were involved in the riots. A second challenge is regarding the double standards they practice. We are told they are an all island party with a clear policy based on civil rights and equality for all. We saw what a Sinn Féin United Ireland would look like that Saturday in Dublin. However, despite the fact that Sinn Féin does not accept partition and have all Ireland policies, it would appear that when it comes to parades, they have one policy for the 26 unfree counties and quite another for Northern Ireland. Sinn Féin TD, Sean Crowe publicly stated that the parade should take place and he condemned those

responsible for the riots, trying as always to ensure that his party was not adversely affected by the bad publicity. Sinn Féin should apply the same recognition and policy to the rights of those wishing to parade in Northern Ireland. Perhaps Sinn Féin Cllr could show the same tolerance and support for parades in Dunloy and/or other areas in Northern Ireland or will we have to conclude that Sinn Féin is recognising partition by developing distinct policies for the two jurisdictions.”

Following Councillor McGuigan’s response, which questioned the relevance of Councillor Finlay’s comments to his motion, Alderman Simpson and Councillor McCamphill commented on the motion.

Exercising his right of reply, Councillor Finlay further proposed that the motion be sent to the Secretary of State requesting him to use his influence to ensure that the authorities in Dublin bring those responsible for the violence to justice.

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting, 8 members voting for and 3 members voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

- **Councillors McGuigan, McKay and Cavlan retired from the meeting, the time being 9.25 pm. The press also left the meeting at this time.**

835.11 ROADS SERVICE

11.1 Sub Regional Transport Plan (SRTP) Progress

Roads Service have advised that the task of confirming the additional schemes and measures, to align with the new financial levels in the Budget and Investment Strategy into the SRTP, has involved quite a bit more work than was originally envisaged.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Draft SRTP will be published in full by the end of March for consultation and is available on the Roads Service Website. Printed copies will be made available to Members as soon as possible. The Chief Executive advised that Roads Service have indicated their intention to meet with Council in April to explain their proposals further.

11.2 Private Streets

Roads Service has advised that development at Milltown Court, Ballymoney, Stage I (Developer: Lorac Developments Limited) has been adopted.

835.12 DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 14 – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

A copy of the public consultation document on the above subject, together with statement by the Minister of State for NI, Lord Rooker, on the subject was circulated.

The closing date for comments is 9th June 2006.

The Chief Executive outlined proposals and costs received from the Council's Planning Consultants to assist Council in formulating its response to dPPS14 in order to:

1. Meet the 9th June deadline for responses by drafting a response for Council's and presenting same at a workshop with Members.
2. Provide advice to Members on issues of particular concern regarding the policy at a workshop.

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

- 1. to accept the services of the Council's Planning Consultant as detailed by the Chief Executive.**
- 2. to write to the Minister to invite him to come to address Council, to explain his statement on dPPS14.**
- 3. to hold a workshop to provide Members with advice on issues of concern regarding dPPS14 on Thursday 13th April 2006 at 2.00 pm.**

835.13 NI HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL'S REPORT OF JOINT CONFERENCE ON MOVING TOWARDS A PATIENT CLIENT COUNCIL

A copy of the report arising from the conference on the above subject in January 2006 is tabled. The focus of the conference related to the announcement from the Health Minister in regard to the HPSS Structures envisaged under the Review of Public Administration whereby the four Health & Social Services Councils would become a more powerful Patient and Client Council.

835.14 REPORT ON INNOVATIVE WAYS OF PROVIDING POST OFFICE SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS

Royal Mail has published a report on innovative ways of providing its services in rural area. Government funding of £150M a year for rural Post Office

network runs until 2008 and the report aims to contribute to the decision on future funding beyond this date. The Post Office in NI has run and evaluated two rural pilots. The report considers the outcome of the pilot work. A link to the report can be found on the website www.royalmailgroup.com .

835.15 RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were noted:

1. Newry & Mourne District Council – Autism Northern Ireland Campaign

Newry & Mourne District Council has asked for Council's support for the Autism Northern Ireland campaign calling for:

An Autism Programme of Care
A Northern Ireland Strategy for Autism
A Northern Ireland Autism Act

“Autism is a developmental disorder that affects speech and language communication, social interaction and play and imagination. Presently there is evidence to show that there are now over 3,000 school age children and over 16,000 individuals in Northern Ireland with hundreds more either waiting for a diagnosis, misdiagnosed or simply slipped through the net.

At present, the southern Board has set up an Autism Strategy Group, bringing together health and educational professionals, voluntary organisations and parents to identify service needs and where services are not meeting needs and look at how to address these gaps. However, a similar strategy is not available in other Board areas. Newry & Mourne Council supports the development of a Northern Ireland Autism Strategy so that everyone, irrespective of their postcode, is entitled to the same help and provision of services.

The recent Review of Mental Health & Learning Disabilities recommended that organisation responsibility for Autism should reside within the Mental Health Programme of Care. Autism is not a mental illness but a development disorder. Therefore, both professionals and parent groups firmly believe the Mental Health Service is inappropriate to meet the needs of people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and has not the understanding or training to provide an appropriate programme of care.

Autistic Spectrum Disorder requires a clearly identifiable, unique programme of care with a strategic implementation of service development and this is what the proposed Northern Ireland Autism Act will seek to enshrine in legislation. The Act will protect the Human Rights of those with Autism as well as protect the roles of their carers.

Newry & Mourne Council strongly supports this campaign to promote equality for, and protect the human rights of this vulnerable group of citizens and would therefore call for immediate implementation of the demands of the Autism Northern Ireland campaign.

Newry & Mourne District Council has requested that Council give support to this campaign and write to the Secretary of State and Minister at the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety accordingly.”

2. Lisburn City Council – Review of Public Administration:

Lisburn City Council has advised that at the Council Meeting held on 28th February 2006, it was agreed that the undernoted decision taken by the Council at its Meeting on 24th January 2006 be conveyed to and seeking the support of all other Councils in the Province:

“Until further consideration, the Chief Executive and other officers of the Council be instructed not to get involved in any external discussions or actions relating to the implementation of the seven council model.”

3. Limavady Borough Council – Post Office Card Accounts:

The following Notice of Motion was carried unanimously by Limavady Borough Council at a meeting of its Support Services Committee on 8th March 2006.

“Limavady Borough Council strongly opposes the planned withdrawal by the British department of Works and Pensions of Post Office Card Accounts, used by those in receipt of Benefit to draw down their money in their own neighbourhood. Pensioners in rural areas where there is no bank or cash machine and very limited public transport will be particularly concerned and disadvantaged. At their local Post Office, they can conveniently and safely withdraw money as they need it, dealing with people with whom they are familiar and comfortable. If they have to travel to a bank, they are more likely to withdraw all their pension at once, creating for themselves a security risk at a time when robberies at the homes of the elderly are rampant. On behalf of our senior citizens we call on all Councils to campaign vigorously in support of the retention of Post Office Care Accounts and the maintenance of our invaluable community Post Offices.”

4. North Down Borough Council – Use of Plastic Bags:

The following resolution has been agreed:

“That Council writes to the Department of Environment stating the following – that plastic bag tax must be introduced in the very near future to help reduce this needless extravagance of modern-day living; that Council writes to all other Councils seeking their support on the matter and that Council writes to the Minister responsible, proposing that this tax must be brought in to tackle the increasing problems caused by plastic bags.”

835.16 REPORTS

A schedule of reports, which are available, was tabled for information.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the time being 9.40