

**Ballymoney Borough Council  
Council Meeting No 956 – 6<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012**

**Table of Contents**

**956.1** Estimates of Income and Expenditure

***Approved.***

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of Council Meeting No 956 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2012 at 8.05 pm and Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February at 6.00 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor I Stevenson, Mayor

**PRESENT:****Aldermen**

F Campbell  
H Connolly  
C Cousley, MBE  
B Kennedy

**Councillors**

J Atkinson  
W Blair  
J Finlay  
R Halliday  
R McAfee  
P McGuigan  
T McKeown, Deputy Mayor  
C McLaughlin  
E Robinson  
M Storey, MLA

**APOLOGIES:** Councillor A Cavlan

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

**956.1 ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE 2012/13**

The following documentation, circulated for meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012 to be further considered:

- Rates Estimates 2012/13 V.4
- Analysis of additions/savings
- Programme of Capital expenditure
- Variance reports month 8
- Schedule of OCE possible increases to 2011/12 budget

The Chief Executive advised that decision on revenue budgets was required to enable a rate to be calculated before the meeting scheduled for 13<sup>th</sup> February. Additional matters noted in report referred from LAC, and Capital programme for 12/13, requires decision.

Issues discussed included wages bill, Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre and substantial loss of some £20K on Centre restaurant, level of reserves at 31.3.11 (£373,589.00), Capital receipts, (reserve £127,449.00) and Capital fund (£2.1M), trend of falling income generally.

The Chief Executive pointed to financial position at 8 months where surplus less positive than same period last year and the local government Auditor requirement that Council fund gap in Capital provision of landfill site (£200K). In response to request, he explained Council powers on borrowing and some members expressed concern at having to meet landfill funding gap in one year.

\* **Councillor Atkinson left the meeting at 8.50 pm.**

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Alderman Kennedy

***that the meeting be adjourned to 6.00 pm on 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012 to consider the following:***

- 1. V4 of Rates Estimate book**
- 2. Optional items - LAC (p4 Analysis Paper)**
- 3. Optional Items – OCE**
- 4. Capital programme**

**The meeting adjourned at 9.15 pm and reconvened at 6.00 pm on 8.2.12.**

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor I Stevenson, Mayor

**PRESENT:**

**Aldermen**  
H Connolly  
B Kennedy

**Councillors**  
J Atkinson  
W Blair  
J Finlay  
R Halliday  
R McAfee  
T McKeown, Deputy Mayor  
C McLaughlin  
E Robinson  
M Storey, MLA

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

The Chief Executive opened the meeting stating “On Monday night when it was agreed to adjourn the meeting to today, members were reminded of the need to reach decisions tonight. The decisions we need are:

- a. The revenue budget;
- b. The detailed Capital budget for 2012/13;
- c. The value of the Capital budgets in the following 2 years; &
- d. Which of the optional items are to be included.

I must stress again that these decisions are needed tonight if we are to set a rate on Monday night.

Version 4 of book has an increase of 3.47%. If all the optional items from OCE and CLS were included that would rise to 4.62%. That is within the target of under 5% set by council. It is also less than December’s RPI inflation (4.8%) and just over CPI inflation (4.2%).

As Chief Financial officer I am required by the new LG Finance Act to report to council on the robustness of the estimates. I understand the term robustness to mean that the estimates are sufficient to allow services to be delivered in normal circumstances.

I do have concerns that there is little slack in many of the budgets in the book but at the level of version 4, I would contend that there is a reasonable prospect that we will be able to deliver services to an acceptable level. If there are significant cuts to the figures in version 4 I will need to reconsider and take advice from the directors and my head of service whether I need to review my opinion.”

The Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that under the new financial regulations Council, when setting rates for incoming year, is required to approve minimum revenue provision (MRP).

Council agreed the policy on Monday but need decisions on Capital spend to allow MRP to be calculated.

Council is also required to approve Treasury Management Policy indicating how Council plans to finance Capital expenditure and where investments will be placed. Securing of public funds is a critical matter at this time..

Schedule of 2012/13 rates information (OCE) possible increases 2011/12 budget (total £63,750) was considered and following budget lines agreed, proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Halliday:

Tourism (p11)	Events	£20,000
	Product Development	£30,000 (inc £22,500)
Economic Development (p28) - Social Enterprise		£1,250
Official/courtesy Visits (p30) - Contribution to Twinning Association		£1,000
Corporate Management (p32) – Consultancy		£2,000

\* **Councillor Storey joined the meeting at 6.20 pm.**

Members discussed V4 revisions (30.1.12) Capital programme.

\* **Alderman Cousley arrived at 6.30 pm.**

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Halliday

***that the meeting adjourn at 6.30 pm to allow parties to consult.***

***The Mayor agreed to a further adjournment at 7.20 pm.***

Amendments to Capital programme were put forward for consideration.

\* **Councillor Blair retired from the meeting at 7.30 pm.**

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

***that Capital programme, as published, Appendix A, be approved with following revisions, subject to review in year:***

- ***Director of Borough Services to prioritise first six items providing for maximum of £20K loan charges.***
- ***Megaw Park Phase I and Phase II to be moved to year 2 (2013/14).***
- ***Resurfacing cemetery entrance to be removed.***
- ***Director of Central & Leisure Services to select either wet and dry ducts or tables/chairs at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre.***
- ***IT equipment to be removed.***
- ***Loan charges of £15K to be provided for community infrastructural projects to be delivered by Council and supported by grant programmes.***
- ***Amendments provide for total loan charges of £60K.***

The matters referred from LAC to council rates meeting for consideration, listed on p4 of V4 analysis were discussed and agreed as follows for inclusion in the draft estimate:

- NW200 – ***no increase*** = £11,000
- Armoy Motorcycle Road Racing Club 2012 race + **£500** = £1,500
- Community Support Grant = £5,000
- Borough Arts – ***no increase*** = £10,000

The Director of Central & Leisure Services referred to the need to budget for the £200K landfill provision, a known liability at this stage. Arising from discussion on landfill issue, the Director of Borough Services advised that Council was moving forward with two parties and seeking clarity on non-timebounded funding promised by the Minister, in correspondence following legal advice. He would report to HESC this month to make progress. The understanding was that money could be borrowed for works to close the site but the operation is such that there may be on-going revenue costs which could be in the region of £25K per year.

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

***to approve the all budgets in V4 of rates book (27.1.12) and additions referred to earlier in meeting (page 4) - total £245,422 – 3.48% and cushion rate by applying 1% balance.***

It was **AGREED:**

***that at the next meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2012, a summary of general estimate of rates be provided with the detailed rates to follow afterwards.***

**The meeting closed at 8.00 pm.**

Appendices attached:  
Appendix A – draft Capital programme

### Proposed Capital Expenditure 2012/2013

	cost	grant, other income	borrowing	asset life	mrp	interest	2013/14 charge
	£	£	requirement £	years	£	£	on rates £
Replacement Vehicles - Env Services	211,000		211,000	10	21,100	5,434	26,534
Essential Drainage Improvements @ Crosstagherly CA Site	12,500		12,500	10	1,250	322	1,572
Essential Resurfacing Work @ Knock Road CA Site & Depot	17,500		17,500	10	1,750	451	2,201
Essential Resurfacing Work @ Crosstagherly WHTF & CA Site	27,000		27,000	10	2,700	695	3,395
Extension to Waste Transfer Building @ Crosstagherly	90,000		90,000	30	3,000	2,870	5,870
Replacement Plant/Vehicles - Amenities	75,000		75,000	10	7,500	1,931	9,431
Dervock Community Facilities Phase 1	500,000		500,000	30	16,667	17,601	34,268
Dervock Community Facilities Phase 2	850,000		850,000	30	28,333	29,923	58,256
Megaw Park Upgrade Phase 1	500,000		500,000	20	25,000	16,125	41,125
Megaw Park Upgrade Phase 2	550,000		550,000	20	27,500	17,737	45,237
Glebeside Play Area Upgrade	95,000		95,000	25	3,800	2,913	6,713
Resurfacing Cemetery Entrance	15,000		15,000	20	750	440	1,190
Fence Re-instatement/essential repairs	50,000		50,000	20	2,500	1,466	3,966
Bus Shelter provision	20,000		20,000	15	1,333	556	1,889

Temp Partial Repairs to Wet & Dry Ducts in Swimming Pool	40,000		40,000	10	4,000	1,030	5,030
Replacement Tables & Chairs in JDLC	25,000		25,000	10	2,500	644	3,144
IT Equipment	55,000		55,000	4	13,750	1,123	14,873
Scenic route/trails	100,000	75,000	25,000	20	1,250	733	1,983
Drumaheglis Watersports facility	514,000	494,000	20,000	30	667	637	1,304
Biodiversity Riverside Park Cloughmills	76,000	56,000	20,000	20	1,000	586	1,586
Village regeneration projects	45,000	33,750	11,250	20	563	329	892
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,868,000</b>	<b>658,750</b>	<b>3,209,250</b>		<b>166,913</b>	<b>103,546</b>	<b>270,459</b>

4.55  
on rates  
assuming  
same  
EPP