

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 958 – 5th March 2012**

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 958 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 5th March 2012 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor T McKeown, Deputy Mayor

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE
B Kennedy

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
P McGuigan
C McLaughlin
E Robinson

APOLOGIES: I Stevenson, Mayor
M Storey, MLA

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

Press

958.1 MINUTES – MEETING NO 955 – 6th FEBRUARY 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 955 – 6th February 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

958.2 MINUTES – MEETING NO 956 – 6TH & 8TH FEBRUARY 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 956 – 6th & 8th February 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

958.3 MINUTES – MEETING NO 957 – 13TH FEBRUARY 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 957 – 13th February 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

958.4 MINUTES OF CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 70 – 20TH FEBRUARY 2012

Councillor Cavlan presented the report.

The minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 70 – 20th February 2012, as circulated, were received.

Matters Arising:**4.1 Loughgiel Shamrocks**

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

that Council write to Loughgiel Shamrocks GAC wishing them success in the All Ireland Club Finals at Croke Park on 17th March.

958.5 MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 232 – 15TH FEBRUARY 2012

Councillor Finlay presented the report.

5.1 Tourism Area Plan – Consultation

Members' attention is drawn to an invitation to a consultation event on the new Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Plan to be held in the ECOS Centre, Ballymena on 7th March 2012 at 10.00 am (details circulated).

5.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 232 – 15th February 2012, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved including addendum as set out at 5.1

958.6 MINUTES OF LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 392 – 21ST FEBRUARY 2012

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

Matters Arising:

6.1 Non Corporate Buildings & Facilities working Group (392.6)

Alderman Campbell presented a report following a further meeting of the group (Meeting No 5 held on 5.3.12)), held earlier in the evening (attached as Appendix 1).

6.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 392 –21st February 2012, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, together with the minutes of the Non Corporate Buildings & Facilities Working Group No 5 – on 5th March.

6.3 Use of Stranocum Community Hall

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised members that a letter has been received from an individual wishing to use facilities at Stranocum Community Hall as a base for a new activity business with effect from 26th April. The Chief Executive advised that this timescale should be achievable providing that the Management Company, which was being progressed, had its legal status in place and formal agreement with Council signed, Council having agreed the lease document at 6.2 above. At the request of Alderman Kennedy, he advised the use of all three new Community buildings was contingent on the agreement being in place with the Management Companies.

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

that Council write to the individual advising of Council's expectation that Stranocum Community Hall would be available for use by 26th April and that the applicant should also seek assurance from the prospective Management Company representatives.

958.7 MINUTES OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MEETING NO 378 - 28TH FEBRUARY 2012

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 378 – 28th February 2012, as circulated, be approved and the recommendations therein approved.

Matters Arising:

7.1 Building Control Fees for Loft Insulation (378.14)

Councillor Robinson advised members that 10 Councils are not charging fees and that 16 Councils are.

958.8 MINUTES OF CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES MEETING NO 402 – 27TH FEBRUARY 2012

Alderman Cousley presented the report.

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Alderman Kennedy and
AGREED:

that the minutes of Meeting No 402 – 27th February 2012, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

Matters Arising:

8.1 Somme Association (402.3)

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

that this item be deferred to the next meeting of Committee.

958.9 MINUTES OF RESOURCES TASK GROUP MEETING NO 39 – 27TH FEBRUARY 2012

Alderman Cousley presented the report.

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Alderman Connolly and
AGREED:

that the minutes of Meeting No 39 – 27th February 2012, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

958.10 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of Council be affixed to;

- 1. Grave Registration Certificate numbers 1279, 1280, 1281, 1282, 1283.**

2. Partnership Agreement for the North East Peace III Partnership 2011, between Coleraine Borough Council, Ballymena Borough Council, Coleraine Borough Council, Larne Borough Council, Limavady Borough Council and Moyle District Council and Social Partners (11 no).

- * **The Director of Central & Leisure Services and the Deputy Director of Borough Services left the meeting at 7.35 pm.**

958.11 ROADS SERVICE

11.1 PROPOSED SPEED LIMIT MULLANS ROAD, FINVOY

Roads Service and the PSNI have agreed to the introduction of a new 40mph speed limit to the developed section of Mullans Road off Finvoy Road. The request for the new speed limit came via Councillor Atkinson on behalf of the local residents. A plan detailing the extent of the proposed limit was circulated.

It was **AGREED:**

that Council support the proposal.

Councillor Atkinson thanked PSNI and Roads Service for this initiative.

11.2 PROPOSED 40MPH SPEED LIMIT FINVOY ROAD, BALLYMONEY

Roads Service and the PSNI have recently reviewed the existing speed limit on Finvoy Road Ballymoney following a request from Councillor Mervyn Storey MLA to consider the introduction of a 40mph limit on entry to the existing 30mph section of road. The section in question has a frontage development to an extent that would now support a 40mph limit. A plan detailing the existing 30mph speed limit and the proposed 40mph was circulated. Comments are invited.

It was **AGREED:**

that Council support the proposal.

Councillor Finlay and Councillor Atkinson welcomed this proposal. Councillor Finlay thanked Councillor Storey for his work in instigating this initiative.

958.12 REVIEW OF SIZE OF ASSEMBLY AND NUMBER OF DEPARTMENTS

On 14th February the Assembly and Executive Review Committee agreed the Terms of Reference (TOR) for its immediate Review of Pars 111 and IV of the Northern Ireland act in the context of reviewing the size of the Assembly and the number of NI departments.

Council is invited to submit views, using the Call for Evidence pro forma (which includes the TOR for the Review), for the Committee's consideration. (Copy of pro forma circulated).

The deadline for the return of the Call for Evidence is Wednesday 28th March. Phase 1 and 2 of the Review must be completed by early June 2012.

958.13 APPLICATION TO RENEW A ROAD SERVICE LICENCE

The Department of Regional Development has received an application, to renew the Road Service Licences of the following named operators.

B527 James Rogan T/A Newcastle Coach Hire, 16 Meadowvale Avenue, Newcastle, Co.Down, BT33 0UF

The licence details and services have not changed from the previous licence . Any representations should be made before 7 March 2012.

B638 – James Wray, T/a Top Tours Ireland, 7 Abercorn Place, Derry, Co Londonderry BT48 6SD

B1002 – Brendan Quinn, 54 Battleford Road, Armagh, BT61 8BR

The licence details and services have not changed from the previous licences. **Any representations should be submitted by 29th March.**

No comments were offered.

958.14 SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERING – A LEGACY FOR THE EUROPEAN YEAR 2011

As part of the celebration of the EU Year of Volunteering, Volunteer Now is keen that Councils endorse the role of volunteers in community life. It has therefore developed a sample statement to enable Councils to underline and support the important role volunteers play in developing and sustaining local communities.

Council is invited to support the following statement on behalf of Ballymoney Borough Council as part of the finale for the European Year of Volunteering in Northern Ireland, providing a real legacy for the Year in building local support for volunteering in the future.

“Ballymoney Borough Council values the positive contribution made by volunteers to creating a vibrant community life and recognizes that such civic engagement empowers individuals and develops communities.”

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

that Council endorse the role of volunteers in community life and support the statement by Volunteer Now as set out above.

958.15 SCHOOLS – THEFT OF LEAD AND METAL

At a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee of the North Eastern Education and Library Board held on 7th February, members requested that information relating to lead and metal theft at schools and other Board properties should be forwarded to the appropriate Councils. The following table gives details of the property, the date and the cost arising from such incidents.

Property	Date	Cost
St Patrick's Primary School Rasharkin	October 2011	£951.71

958.16 NATURAL GAS PRICES

Following recent announcements in the press about the price of natural gas, Firmus Energy has written to reassure Council that their oil price commitment to continue to be cheaper than the average price of home heating oil in the firmus energy network area, including the Ballymoney area remains in place.

They point to their unique commitment to remain cheaper than the average price of home heating oil across the previous year for domestic customers in these 'new' gas towns. Last year, on average prices were 27% cheaper than home heating oil and it has committed to keep prices frozen until October 2012. This 12 month price freeze has allowed customers to budget with confidence for their natural gas and once installed, could help deliver savings of up to £237 per year for an average sized home using natural gas compared to oil.

A copy of their press release and explanatory paper was circulated.

958.17 APPOINTMENTS TO THE AGRI-FOOD STRATEGY BOARD

The Department of Enterprise Trade & Investment (DETI) and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) are seeking applications for members of the new Agri-Food Strategy Board (AFSB). Details have been provided to members. The closing date is 20th March 2012.

958.18 DIGITAL SWITCHOVER

Digital UK have offered to give a brief presentation to members about the digital switchover. Their public information campaign kicks-off in April and they want to ensure all local authorities are briefed before the campaign begins as members may have a vital role to play over the coming months giving advice to constituents who may need some additional reassurance.

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

that Digital UK be invited to the next meeting of Council (2nd April) to give a presentation to members about the digital switchover.

958.19 PLANNING – EXTENSION OF STREAMLINED SCHEME

The new Area Planning Manager, Helena O'Toole, will attend the next Consultation Committee meeting to introduce herself and to discuss the extension of the streamlined scheme with members.

958.20 REPORTS

The Chief Executive referred to the schedule of reports, circulated, which are available from the Office of the Chief Executive.

958.21 NILGA REPORTS & UPDATES

The Chief Executive referred to the schedule of reports, circulated, which are available from the Office of the Chief Executive.

Councillor Robinson encouraged members to consider NILGA's press release dated 28th February 2012 relating to the potential cost to Council of local government reform, estimated to be £118M which Council was expected to meet. Alderman Kennedy concurred with Councillor Robinson expressing the view that should the cost of RPA have to be borne by Council, there will be a subsequent impact for ratepayers.

* **Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 7.50 pm.**

958.22 ROADS SERVICE

Members discussed the following roads issues. Councillor McLaughlin advised that his party MLA is currently discussing the issue of speed restrictions in Rasharkin with Roads Service.

- Traffic calming at school crossing at St Patrick's Primary School in Rasharkin (Councillor Halliday)
- Unsatisfactory reinstatement of Finvoy Road in the vicinity of the petrol station following works by Water Service (Councillor Atkinson)
- Unsatisfactory reinstatement of Tullaghans Road following works by utilities (Councillor McGuigan).
- Poor condition of Coolkeeran Road and Glenshesk Road (Alderman Kennedy).
- Cleaning of road signs in the borough, many of which are currently difficult to read due to algae as a result of weather conditions (Alderman Campbell)

It was **AGREED:**

- a) ***that the Chief Executive write to Roads Service on the representations put forward by members***
- b) ***that condition of road nameplates be referred to amenities section.***

The meeting closed at 7.55 pm.

Appendices Attached:

Appendix 1 Report from Non Corporate Buildings & Facilities Working Group (5.3.12)

APPENDIX 1

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL NON-CORPORATE BUILDINGS & FACILITIES WORKING GROUP

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5.1	Draft Agreement	<i>Recommendations agreed</i>
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**LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE
NON-CORPORATE BUILDINGS & FACILITIES (NCB&F) WORKING GROUP
NO. 5 – 5th March 2012**

A meeting of the Non-Corporate Buildings & Facilities (NCB&F) Working Group was held in Riada House on Monday 5th March 2012 at 6.30 p.m.

Present: Alderman F Campbell (Chair)
Councillors: J Finlay, C McLaughlin, E Robinson,
I Stevenson (Mayor)
In Attendance Director of Central & Leisure Services, Head of Corporate &
Development Services
Apology: Director of Borough Services

1. Draft Agreement

The Director of Central & Leisure Services referred to the draft agreement circulated and advised on the issues clarified with Council's Solicitor. She also advised that a minimum five year lease term was required by funding bodies for small grants and that the impending RPA proposals also had a bearing on the term of lease council should be recommended to enter into. It was noted that the Leisure & Amenities Committee had considered the matter of fee at its last meeting and was making a recommendation to Council later in the evening that the fee be fixed at a nominal amount of £5.00.

It was **agreed**: to recommend that

- a) The term of lease be five years;
- b) The draft lease be approved, subject amendment of condition at 5.2 to provide for tenant to be responsible for cost of interior decoration, with the Council as asset holder being responsible for outside decoration, both on the fifth year of the lease period;
- c) That arrangements for interior decoration be subject to discussion with the tenant and approval of Council, with works requiring to be completed to Council's satisfaction.
- d) Council to be the bill holder for utility bills (Electricity, water & sewage services and telephone).
- e) Council to provide a telephone line to the premises

This being all the business the meeting closed at 7.00 p.m.