

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 968 – 1st October 2012**

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 968 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 3rd October 2012 at 6.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor E Robinson, Mayor

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
T McKeown
C McLaughlin
I Stevenson
M Storey, MLA

APOLOGIES: **Aldermen**
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor
B Kennedy

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

Ecar Project
Mr Gregor Kerr

Press x 2

967.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

967.2 ECAR PROJECT

The Mayor welcomed Mr Kerr to the meeting to give a presentation to members on the current status of NI Direct.gov.uk/ecar Consortium and the projected benefits and progress of the scheme to introduce a charging infrastructure across Northern Ireland and Ireland. A copy of Mr Kerr's presentation is attached as Appendix 1. The scheme to join the Consortium runs until March 2013 with a cost to each Consortium member of £10,000 providing a minimum of five fixed cable charging points at identified locations representing an investment of £55,000. Mr Kerr responded to questions from members relating to:

- Estimated savings in fuel and maintenance costs
- Reduction in emissions
- Charging times, charging options available and lifespan of batteries
- Charges regulated by NI Regulator
- Performance of the ecar in winter driving conditions
- Home charging facility
- Precautions in case of battery failure
- Vehicles currently unsuitable for electric use
- Commercial option to increase charging infrastructure
- Current purchasing costs of electric vehicles

Councillor Finlay and Councillor Atkinson expressed their support for the scheme. It was noted that to date, 18 Councils had signed up for the scheme.

The Mayor thanked Mr Kerr for his presentation which concluded at 7.05 pm. Mr Kerr left the meeting at this time.

* **Councillor McAfee joined the meeting at 6.55 pm during the presentation.**

967.3 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO 966 – 1ST SEPTEMBER 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 966 – 1st September 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

967.4 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO 967 – 3RD SEPTEMBER 2012

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 967 – 3rd September 2012, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

967.5 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 77 – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Councillor Finlay presented the report.

the minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 77 – 17th September 2012, as circulated, were received.

* **Councillor Storey joined the meeting at 7.15 pm.**

967.6 MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NO 238 – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Councillor Blair presented the report.

The Chief Executive presented an addendum as set out at 6.3.

Matters Arising:**6.1 International Links (238.10)**

Councillor Finlay expressed the appreciation of parents for Council's reception for the football team visiting Vanves. The Mayor said she was pleased to welcome such a well behaved group of young people and said they were great envoys for the borough. Councillor Stevenson concurred with Councillor Finlay's remarks.

6.2 A26 Dualling (Glarryford to Drones Road) Vesting Order and Public Inquiry (238.9)

The Chief Executive advised members that since the Committee meeting, Chief Executive's had met with the Consultant retained by Ballymena Borough Council on infrastructure project. He explained that the timescale for commencement of the public inquiry (5th November) does not provide an opportunity for Council to agree a draft submission at its Council meeting on that date. It is therefore **recommended** that the Development Committee be authorised to make a decision on behalf of Council to accept a draft submission to the inquiry. Councillor Finlay and Councillor Storey urged caution in arguing the case why the A26 scheme should go ahead as there were some unresolved issues with landowners. The Chief Executive explained that the case for the scheme going ahead would, in principle, be argued on the basis of benefits to the social economy, tourism and other factors and not on individual cases.

6.3 Northern Regional College Campus Amalgamation Project (238.4)

Councillor Stevenson suggested Council make representations to the Minister regarding the retention of existing campus, or a new campus in

Ballymoney. The matter was referred to the next Development Committee meeting.

6.4 Interreg V Lobby Paper

A draft of the lobby paper was presented to Development Committee at its meeting No. 235 on 20th June 2012. A copy of that minute is attached as Appendix 2.

North East Partnership is now keen to have the lobby paper endorsed by all constituent councils. A final version is attached. It is **recommended** that Council formally endorse the lobby paper.

The paper proposes that each cross border group would develop strategic plans for their area and that these would receive a pot of funding and we could get on with delivery; as opposed to having to lodge individual applications for every project. This is essentially going back to the idea of the multi-annual plans - as was supposed to happen under INTERREG IV.

The key recommendations to the Minister are:

1. That the Minister considers adapting the use of Article 28 for the inclusion of the Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups in the INTERREG VA Programme.
2. That the Minister invites the five Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups to develop strategic INTERREG VA Plans and that these are named in the N. Ireland Partnership Contracts in December 2012.
3. That the Minister invites the five Local Authority Led Cross Border groups to present the above model to the DFP Committee at Stormont.
4. That the Minister ensures that the five Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups are represented on the INTERREG VA Development Committee
5. That the Minister considers taking these proposals forward with his counterpart in the Republic of Ireland, Minister Brendan Howlin.

6.5 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 238 – 19th September 2012 be adopted and the recommendations therein approved including addendum as set out at 6.3.

968.7 MINUTES OF LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 398 – 18TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Alderman Campbell presented the report including addendums as set out at 7.1 and 7.2

AMENITIES

7.1 Select List – Drumaheglis Access & Multi-Purpose Building

To satisfy funder requirements CPD selection procedures were used to compile a short list of contractors who would be invited to tender for the above scheme. The scheme was advertised locally and in the ROI using the e-tender website.

Twenty-one returns were assessed under the Chairmanship of Councillor Frank Campbell assisted by Head of Amenities and Melita Bloomfield (R Robinson & Sons). The process was monitored by a representative from CPD.

The following 6 no. contractors were the top ranked who satisfied the selection criteria:

McLaughlin & Harvey Ltd, 15 Trench Road, Mallusk, Newtownabbey BT36 4TY

GEDA Construction, 36 Moor Road, Coalisland, BT71 4QB

Martin & Hamilton Ltd, 46 Doury Road, Ballymena BT43 6JB

Lowry Bros, 91 Drumquin Road, Castlederg BT81 7RQ

P & K McKaigue Ltd, 90 Main Street, Maghera BT46 5AF

PRH Construction, 90 Kilrea Road, Portglenone BT44 8JL

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council appoint the above named 6 no. contractors to form its select list for the Drumaheglis Access & Multi-Purpose Building Project.

LEISURE

7.2 Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre - Electricity Contract.

A competition exercise under the Local Government Collaborative Procurement Procedure for the supply of electricity to the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre has been conducted. Five companies were invited to

tender, with four being returned within the agreed time frame from Airtricity, Electric Ireland, Energia and PowerNI. Of the four companies who returned tenders the most competitive tender was received from PowerNI as they demonstrated the most competitive price over the various time bands during which the leisure centre operates.

It is **recommended** that the contract be awarded to PowerNI for the supply of electricity to the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre for one year commencing 2 October 2012.

Matters Arising from Minutes:

7.3 Cloughmills Bio Park Project (398.5)

Councillor Finlay welcomed the project and congratulated officers for their hard work in taking the scheme forward. Councillor Atkinson concurred with these remarks.

7.4 Good Relations Councillors Sub Committee (398.18)

Councillor Finlay referred to the political make-up of the committee expressing the view that appointments should have been based on proportionality. Councillor Stevenson expressed the view that all members should be nominated to the committee. The Mayor stated that the matter will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting of Leisure & Amenities.

7.5 Projects

Councillor Stevenson expressed the view that the projects at Riverside Park and Glebeside should be progressed. Councillor Finlay concurred stating that these community schemes were a priority for local residents.

7.6 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 398 – 18th September 2012 be adopted and the recommendations therein approved including addendums as set out at 7.1 and 7.2.

968.8 MINUTES OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 383 – 10TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No 383 – 10th September 2012 be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

968.9 MINUTES OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 384 – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

Matters Arising:

9.1 Household Mixed Dry Recyclables Promotion (384.21)

Councillor Finlay congratulated the Director on the initiative, using stickers, to promote the extended use of blue bin waste from the cessation of the brown bin collection service at the end of October, while Councillors recorded thanks to the Director for work on the landfill tender which will see significant savings accruing to Council.

9.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No 384 – 27th September 2012 be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

* Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

967.10 MINUTES OF CORPORATE AND CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 407 – 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012

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

that Council 'move into Committee' to discuss the report.

* Members of the press left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

Councillor Stevenson presented the report.

Matters Arising:

10.1 Post Entry Training (407.8.1)

At the request of Councillor Finlay, the Chief Executive clarified the rationale and operational procedure for the loan scheme to facilitate participation by staff in post entry training. He also outlined the arrangements operating in the past two years for delivery of mandatory training only due to budgetary restraints.

A discussion ensued following which, it was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

that the matter be referred back to committee for further consideration.

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

that Council 'move out of Committee' to continue the business of the report.

* **Councillor Atkinson left the meeting at 8.10 pm during discussion of item 10.1**

10.2 Corporate Planning Workshop (407.17)

Due to commitments by a number of members to external meetings the Corporate Planning session was postponed.

10.3. Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 407 – 24th September 2012 be adopted and the recommendations therein approved with the exception of recommendation at 407.8.1.

968.11 MINUTES OF RESOURCES TASK GROUP MEETING NO 43 – 24TH SEPTEMBER 2012

Councillor Stevenson presented the report.

Arising from comments, initiated by Councillor Stevenson, on the variance report it was noted that a revised report would be tabled at the next meeting of the group.

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

that the minutes of the Resources Task Group Meeting No 43 – 24th September 2012, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

969.12 SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor McKeown and
AGREED:

that the Seal of Council be affixed to grave registration numbers 1299, 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304.

969.13 MAYOR'S BUSINESS

13.1 Condolences – Spence Family

The Mayor invited all members to sign the book of condolence opened to express the Council and the borough's sympathy at the family's loss.

13.2 Coffee Morning

The Mayor extended an invitation to members to attend her coffee morning on Friday 5th October in aid of Macmillan Cancer Relief's world's biggest coffee morning. This will take place from 10.00 am – 11.30 am in the McKinley Room, Riada House.

13.3 NAC/NILGA AGM

The Mayor advised that the Minister attended both meetings confirming RPA was on track for implementation in 2015 and gave updates on planning and community planning, severance, transition committees discussed at the meetings.

969.14 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

14.1 Transition Committee Minutes 05/07/2012 (circulated).

14.2 Revised Date of Transition Committee Meeting

Following postponement of meeting on 20th September, the new date for the Transition Committee to meet with the Minister is Thursday 8th November 2012 commencing at 4.30pm in Coleraine Borough Council.

969.15 SILVER SAVER CAMPAIGN

At Council's August meeting members' were given details of the Age Sector Platform 'Silver Saver' campaign that calls on food retailers to introduce pensioner discounts to help older people afford a balanced and healthy diet. Details were circulated to members together with a campaign postcard to provide members with an opportunity to support the campaign.

Some Councils have already taken the step to support the campaign formally be considering the following motion.

"That this Council recognizes the concerns of the older population in meeting their weekly grocery bills; acknowledges that older people spend a higher proportion on food than any other age group; and supports Age Sector Platform's call to food retailers to introduce a pensioner 'Discount Day' to help older shoppers cope with the rising cost of living and enable them to maintain a balanced and healthy diet."

The motion is presented for Council's consideration.

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

that Council support the motion.

969.16 RTPI NI – COUNCILLOR EVENT – PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The first in a series of capacity building programmes organized by the Royal Town Planning Institute Northern Ireland, supported by NIGLA and DOE will be held over lunchtime on Wednesday 24th October 2012. A flyer giving details is attached. The cost is £25 per person.

Council is invited to submit the names of 3 delegates to attend.

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

that any member wishing to attend should submit their name to the Office of the Chief Executive

969.17 ROADS SERVICE – THE PRIVATE STREETS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1980 DEVELOPMENT AT MILLBROOKE MANOR, BALLYMONEY STAGES 1&2 DEVELOPER: McAlister Construction Limited

The streets at the above development have now been adopted by Roads Service. A plan is available to view in Office of the Chief Executive.

969.18 A26 DUALLING SCHEME

In response to Council's letter dated 22nd August 2012 the Minister for Regional Development has responded to advise as follows.

"As previously explained the earliest timescale for the construction of this scheme is 2015/16.

The development of the scheme commenced in 2006 and has been progressed by the Department to its current point, with the draft Orders and Environmental Statement being published on 20th March 2012. The publication of these draft Orders and Environmental Statement commenced the formal consultation period for the scheme which ran until 11th May 2012. A number of objections were received and consequently the Minister announced that a Public Inquiry should be held. This Public Inquiry will be held at the beginning of November 2012.

Current allocations are insufficient to allow construction to start in this budget period (to 2015). However, if there were no financial constraints, the earliest the scheme could start on site, irrespective of other priorities, would be 2014/15."

The DFP Minister, to whom Council also made representations regarding funding for the A26, has indicated that as the prioritization of individual roads projects is a matter for the DRD Minister it would not be appropriate for him to comment.

969.19 NORTHERN IRELAND PRISON SERVICE CONSULTATION ON EARLY REMOVAL SCHEME FOR FOREIGN NATIONAL PRISONERS

The Northern Ireland Prison Service has decided to extend the consultation period into the above matter to 26th October 2012.

969.20 ROYAL MAIL GROUP

The Director of Royal Mail for Northern Ireland has written to explain some changes that are made to services in Ballymoney covering BT53 postcodes. As fewer letters are posted Royal Mail needs to organize its delivery routes to be as efficient as possible. New equipment has also been introduced to reduce the risk of injury to postmen and women from carrying heavier mail bags.

The changes have been made in line with the agreement with the Communication Workers' Union and they will mean that:

- Royal Mail will continue to deliver in the morning and for a longer period during the day. Many customers will continue to get their mail by lunchtime.

- The time customers receive mail will depend on where they live on the new delivery route. This may be later or possibly earlier than current delivery times.
- When mail volumes vary, we may need to adjust delivery arrangements and times.

Royal Mail has written to every address in Ballymoney about these changes and this includes households, businesses and other organisations. If customers have any queries after they have received a letter, they can call the Customer Services Team on 0845 601 1399. Deaf and hard of hearing customers can use Textphone: 0845 600 0606.

Councillor Storey advised Members that, having spoken to Royal Mail, he had been assured that there would be no staff implications in the changes. He also indicated that there had been investment in facilities.

969.21 ROADS SERVICE LICENCES

A schedule of licence applications is attached.

961.22 ST BRIGID'S GAC, CLOUGHMILLS

Councillor McLaughlin congratulated St Brigid's GAC Cloughmills for their win, by one point, in the County intermediate hurling championship which took place on 22nd September in Casement Park, Belfast. The win comes in their 20th year of junior hurling and is their best ever achievement, beating Belfast opposition in the semi-final and final matches to secure their win.

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

that Council write to St Brigid's GAC congratulating the team on their success.

969.23 REPORTS

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

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

APPENDIX 1



Ecar Project
Presentation

APPENDIX 2**DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MINUTE EXTRACT. No. 235 on 20th JUNE 2012****Interreg V Lobby Paper**

It is reported by NEP that an INTERREG V working group, involving the 5 managers and Chairs of the cross border groups along with a council Chief Executive and / or county manager from each, was set up to produce a lobby paper regarding what the new INTERREG V programme might look like.

After various meetings with DFP officials regarding the draft EU regulations around community led economic development (Article 28) and the national procedures which need to be implemented before the funding streams can be finalized (the Partnership Contracts) and much internal discussion, a lobby paper was developed. The paper was tabled and would be circulated to members.

The paper proposes that each cross border group would develop strategic plans for their area and that these would receive a pot of funding and we could get on with delivery; as opposed to having to lodge individual applications for every project. This is essentially going back to the idea of the multi-annual plans - as was supposed to happen under INTERREG IV. There would also be flexibility built in, so that the Partnership could also apply directly to SEUPB for say larger capital build projects (depending on what 4 of the following 11 eligible themes the Operating Programme focuses on):

Eligible themes:

1. Research & innovation
2. Information and communication technologies (ICT)
3. Competitiveness of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs)
4. Shift towards a low-carbon economy
5. Climate change adaptation & risk prevention and management
6. Environmental protection & resource efficiency
7. Sustainable transport & removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures
8. Employment & supporting labour mobility
9. Social inclusion & combating poverty
10. Education, skills & lifelong learning
11. Institutional capacity building & efficient public administrations

It should be noted that tourism infrastructure is not on the list of eligible themes.

The lobby paper was presented to the Minister for Finance on the 7th June and each of the 8 NEP Council Chief Executives given a copy for comment. The conclusions and recommendations from the paper are as follows:

Conclusion

The five Local Authority led Cross Border Groups fully recognise that the European regulations and budgets for the period 2014-2020 have yet to be finalised. The INTERREG V Programme will reflect four of the eleven proposed ERDF thematic priorities but as yet these are to be determined by the Managing Authority, SEUPB and the Accountable Departments North and South. NEP will ensure that Strategic Plans will mirror the selected themes and investment priorities, in turn tying our proposed impacts to the EU2020 priorities and targets. The national and local strategies and priorities of both jurisdictions will also be reflected.

Recommendations

1. That the Minister considers adapting the use of Article 28 for the inclusion of the Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups in the INTERREG VA Programme.
2. That the Minister invites the five Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups to develop strategic INTERREG VA Plans and that these are named in the N. Ireland Partnership Contracts in December 2012.
3. That the Minister invites the five Local Authority Led Cross Border groups to present the above model to the DFP Committee at Stormont.
4. That the Minister ensures that the five Local Authority Led Cross Border Groups are represented on the INTERREG VA Development Committee
5. That the Minister considers taking these proposals forward with his counterpart in the Republic of Ireland, Minister Brendan Howlin.

Essentially it was felt that number 4 was the key recommendation, as being members of the development committee, would ensure that the cross border groups were genuinely involved in the development of the INTERREG V Programme, in conjunction with SEUPB.

Unfortunately, the Minister was not able to give us any assurance at this stage that NEP would be represented on the development committee, but he did promise that NEP would be consulted at various levels. In addition he commented that other groups / organisations were in competition with NEP to represent the local dimension – namely NILGA. Whilst NILGA have been very active recently in trying to position themselves as the conduit point for local government's interaction with every EU issue – as was pointed out to the minister - NILGA have no remit in the Republic of Ireland and therefore are not the appropriate body to represent cross-border economic development issues.

Further to the meeting with The Minister it has come to light that SEUPB suggested to him that the councils should make their own individual applications under the INTERREG V programme. That they could compete under each call and manage each project themselves. If this were to happen the result would be that the cross border groups would no longer be necessary. Furthermore it is believed it would mean that a few councils with a larger resource base would dominate this scenario and therefore it could quickly lead to

many becoming entirely disillusioned and ceasing all involvement in cross border co-operation.