

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING NO 963 – 21st June 2012

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No. 963 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Thursday 21st June 2012 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor I Stevenson (Items 1-2)
Councillor E Robinson (Items 3-7)

PRESENT:

Aldermen:
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE

Councillors:
J Atkinson
W Blair
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
P McGuigan
C McLaughlin
T McKeown

APOLOGIES: Alderman B Kennedy
Councillor M Storey

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Corporate Project Officer

Press

963.1 MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor invited members to stand in silent tribute to all who had died during the year. The meeting observed a minute's silence.

The Mayor addressed the meeting as follows:

"I welcome everyone to the Council's 31st Annual Meeting and want to take a few minutes to reflect on my year in office and highlight some key achievements and activities during the year.

Supporting Local Groups and organisations

Over the past 12 months I have been pleased as Mayor to receive visitors from all walks of life. I was also delighted to accept invitations from schools, clubs, voluntary and charitable organisations to attend events. I held 50 receptions to recognise achievements of local groups, charities and individuals in the borough.

Charity Fundraising

My charity fundraising events in aid of Macmillan Cancer , St Vincent dePaul & the Salvation Army and the NI Cancer Fund for Children raised over £2500 for these charities.

Condolences

It is with sadness during the past year that I learned of the passing of two former members of this Council, William Gracey and Robert Dickie. Both served on this Council and made a valuable contribution to public service.

Another former colleague, Roy Wilson, lost his Mother and Councillor Finlay's Father passed away during the past year. We record our sympathy on their bereavements.

We were all shocked at the terrible tragedy in Norway in July 2011 when almost 100 people were killed. A book of condolence was opened to allow citizens of this borough to show their sympathy. The book was sent to the Mayor of Oslo. I hope that it was of some comfort to the citizens of Norway that the thoughts of citizens of this community were with them.

Two motorcycle road racers, Adrian McFarland from Plumbridge and Wayne Hamilton from Portadown lost their lives in crashes. Their deaths are a great loss to the sport.

Council was also deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death of The Reverend Warwick Smart. A native of South Africa, he came to Ballymoney as Minister of First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church in 2009. He used his youth and experience in becoming actively involved in its many spheres and preaching in his own unique manner. He certainly did much in his short life and seemed to put his all into everything he did.

Local elections

Local residents went to the polls on 9th May and elected 16 members to the borough's three electoral areas. I welcome three new members now sitting with us in the

Chamber, Councillor William Blair, Councillor Jason Atkinson and Councillor Roma McAfee. I hope you have enjoyed your term to date and look forward to your continued contribution to our work and activities.

A reception recognized the dedicated public service of retiring members, Councillor Audrey Patterson, Alderman James Simpson and Councillor Malachy McCamphill.

Awards & Achievements

- Cloughmills won the Calor Environmental Village of the Year 2011, for the 2nd year in a row. This was a significant achievement as the village was competing against villages across NI and the judges said there was very stiff competition for this particular award.
- The Community Action Team picked up a People's Millions Award for £60,000 and will use a portion of this to help develop the Old Mill site, owned by Council. This is a great example of what can be achieved when Council works with community partners.
- The group also picked up a Village SOS grant for £30,000 to develop sustainable local enterprises connected to the Happiness Project.
- Council also collected the Michael Cole Award for the project, again a major achievement as the winner is voted for by people from Councils across NI.
- Patrick Frew was nominated for a and selected as the first ever winner of the National Trust's Octavia Hill Awards in the 'Growing Hero' category. He was the only person from Northern Ireland to make the final shortlist of 18 from 170 nominations and the first ever NI winner in his category. He received almost 1500 of the 7000 online votes cast across all the categories.

Engaging with young people

To mark Democracy Week Pupils from P6 & P7 Rasharkin Primary School presented their 'manifesto' to the Mayor and a panel of councillors from the main political parties chaired by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Joan Christie, DL.

International Links

Activity with our twin towns of Vanves and Douglas has continued with the support of the twinning association and fund raising activities.

A local cross-community soccer team travelled to Vanves recently to take part in youth football tournament. They were very successful, winning all four of their matches in the tournament and bring home the trophy to Ballymoney.

Rates 2012/13

In difficult economic times Council made difficult decisions to get the rate down and I am pleased that we are able to progress provision of community facilities at Dervock, essential improvements to the town's Riverside Park facilities, stage events to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the arrival of the Olympic Torch.

Regiment Honoured

In May Council conferred the Freedom of the Borough, the highest honour it can bestow, on the Royal Irish Regiment. I was honoured to preside over this occasion and to witness the support for the soldiers on parade from the people of Ballymoney.

New Initiatives & Successes

2012 is an exciting year for Ballymoney Borough, with special projects and events. We mark this year 60 years of the Queen's reign with a Diamond Jubilee programme of inspired events celebrating an history and culture of the period and an historic moment in the town's history when the Royal Couples visited in 1953 on their coronation visit to Northern Ireland.

We also supported celebrations in local communities through our diamond jubilee grants programme and lit a beacon on Long Mountain, one of 2012 beacons across the United Kingdom and commonwealth. Local schools and community groups also made Tribute Triangles to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee which were erected in the Town Centre.

2012 also marks the centenary of Kennedy K McArthur's victory in the marathon at the 1912 Olympic Games. We celebrate this magnificent achievement of the former postman from Dervock with a festival of culture and sport, including a new play on his life and a centenary marathon in his memory. It was fitting that his home village was included on the London 2012 Olympic torch relay route on 3rd June. This was a magnificent spectacle with some 3,000 lining the route.

Ballymoney Borough Council and Dervock & District Community Association submitted a joint application for the prestigious Inspire mark and both were delighted when the plans for the K.K. McArthur Centenary become part of the growing network of exciting events and activities linked to the London 2012 Games.

During the year three new community halls were handed over the newly formed management committees – in Ballybogey, Balnamore and Stranocum.

Townscape Heritage Initiative

We welcome the proposal for a townscape heritage initiative and the prospect of a substantial financial injection in excess of £2M into the heart of the town.

The heritage-led regeneration, within the Ballymoney Conservation Area, received a first-round pass from the Heritage Lottery Fund last year was developed by Ballymoney Regeneration Company, aided by a consultancy group led by WDR & RT Taggart. We look forward to implementing this scheme later in the year.

This, coupled with some £1.3 public and private investment in the new bridge at the Railway Station is a vote of investment confidence in Ballymoney.

Local Government Reform

We are again moving into a period of change with the decision to take forward proposals for the review of public administration and will continue to work in the best interests of Ballymoney as this programme moves forward.”

In his personal comments on his year in Office the Mayor thanked The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Tom McKeown for his assistance to me throughout the year and the members and his parents for their support during his term. Commenting on the number of events he had the pleasure of attending and hosting he recorded thanks for the help and support he had received, the courtesy with which he had been received by all he met and his particular enjoyment in attending school events. He recorded gratitude to all who had supported his efforts to raise money for charity during his term through a number of events. He expressed satisfaction at the new projects council had delivered and the contribution he was able to make in terms of good relations, making particular mention of Rasharkin and Loughgiel. He also acknowledged the valuable contribution to the economy through attraction of major events to the area. He was pleased to provide a Bible and the Councillors Psalm (Ps.15) for the Parlour. He said he always took time to listen and give advice, while being assertive in standing up for the welfare of the borough and had taken opportunities to raise awareness of the Council's work and activities and the history of the Council and the area and to take opportunities to lobby Government Ministers on issues which impact on the borough and its citizens. Looking forward he hoped that politicians would continue to work with others to help find solutions and make things better and the relative peace in society would continue.

963.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

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

that Councillor Robinson be elected to the office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor Robinson assumed the Chair and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. She thanked Councillor Stevenson for his dedication to the office of Mayor during his term of office stating that his hard work and dedication had been appreciated. She indicated that she would make further comment at the end of the meeting.

963.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor Atkinson, seconded by Councillor Finlay

that Alderman Cousley be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor Cavlan

that Councillor McLaughlin be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

A vote was taken with 9 votes being received for Alderman Cousley and 4 votes for Councillor McLaughlin.

The Mayor declared Alderman Cousley elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Alderman Cousley assumed his position as Deputy Mayor and signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked those who had elected him and promised to work for all in the borough.

963.4 ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

4.1 Audit Committee

Following clarification from the Chief Executive that the DUP allocation on the committee was 3 members and not 4 as originally noted in papers issued for AGM, it was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Atkinson

that the membership of the Audit Committee be increased to 11 members – 4 DUP; 1 IND, 1 SDLP, 1 SF, 1 TUV, 1 UUP plus Mayor & Deputy Mayor ex-officio.

Councillor McGuigan proposed an amendment to the proposal, seconded by Councillor McLaughlin

that all members of Council sit on the Audit Committee.

The Mayor invited members to vote on the amended proposal.

7 members voted against and 5 members voted in favour.

The Mayor declared the amended proposal lost.

The Mayor then invited members to vote on the original proposal .

7 members voted in favour of the proposal.

The Mayor declared the proposal carried.

Nominations were confirmed as:

DUP – Alderman Campbell, Councillor Atkinson, Councillor Halliday, Councillor Stevenson

IND – Councillor McAfee

SDLP – Alderman Connolly

SF – Councillor McGuigan

TUV – Councillor Blair

UUP – Councillor McKeown

4.2 Other Standing Committees

A list of existing membership on Standing Committees was circulated.

It was **AGREED:**

that all members of Council be nominated to sit on Consultation Committee, Corporate & Central Services Committee, Development Committee, Health & Environmental Services Committee, Leisure & Amenities Committee.

4.3 Resources Task Group

Nominations were confirmed as follows:

DUP – Alderman Campbell, Councillor Finlay, Councillor Robinson

SF – Councillor McGuigan

SDLP - Alderman Connolly

UUP - Councillor McKeown

Chair & Vice Chair CRCS committee ex-officio.

963.5 STANDING COMMITTEES – ELECTION OF CHAIRS AND VICE CHAIRS

To ensure these places are filled before the next meeting of council, the Chief Executive suggested that a meeting of each committee is held immediately before the 7.00 pm Council meeting on Monday 2 July, 2012 as follows: -

6:45 pm	Consultation Committee
6:50 pm	Development Committee
6:55 pm	Leisure & Amenities Committee

Council is asked to confirm its agreement to this arrangement.

It was **AGREED**:

that meetings of the above committees be held on Monday 2nd July as detailed above.

963.6 APPOINTMENT TO JOINT COMMITTEES, DIRECTORS OF BOARDS AND COMMITTEES, COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS, COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES TO OTHER BODIES

Appointments were agreed as follows:

Appointment to Joint Committees		
Causeway Museum Service	3	Councillor Jason Atkinson Alderman Harry Connolly Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Knockagh Monument Joint Committee	1	Councillor John Finlay
North East Partnership Interreg IVA Joint Committee	2	<i>(cross-community & gender balance required across the partnership)</i> ***1 Officer nominee (HCDS) Councillor Anita Cavlan Councillor Evelyne Robinson
North West Regional Waste Management Group	2	Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Northern Corridor Railways Group	3	Alderman Harry Connolly Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor John Finlay
Northern Group Building Control Committee	2+1 sub	Alderman Frank Campbell Alderman Bill Kennedy Councillor John Finlay (sub)
Northern Group Environmental Health Committee	2+1 sub	Councillor Jason Atkinson Councillor Evelyne Robinson Alderman Cecil Cousley (sub)
Welfare of Animals Joint Committee <i>(April 2012)</i>	2+1 sub	Councillor Jason Atkinson Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor Evelyne Robinson (sub)
Appointment of Directors to the following Boards		
Acorn The Business Centre	2	Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor Mervyn Storey

Ballymoney Regeneration Company	3	Alderman Frank Campbell Alderman Bill Kennedy Councillor Mervyn Storey
Ballymoney Town Centre Management	1	Councillor John Finlay ***1 Officer Nominee (Head of Corporate & Development Services)
Coleraine Citizens' Advice Bureau	1	Councillor William Blair
Appointment to other Committees		
Ballymoney Borough Arts Committee	3	Councillor Jason Atkinson Councillor Roma McAfee Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Ballymoney Borough Fuel Poverty Steering Group	3	Councillor Anita Cavlan Councillor Robert Halliday Councillor Ian Stevenson
Ballymoney Borough Home Accident Prevention Group	9	Councillor Blair Alderman Campbell Alderman Connolly Alderman Cousley Councillor Halliday Councillor McAfee Councillor McKeown Councillor Robinson Councillor Stevenson
Ballymoney Borough Road Safety Committee	8	Councillor Jason Atkinson Councillor William Blair Alderman Frank Campbell Alderman Harry Connolly Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor Roma McAfee Councillor Tom McKeown Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Ballymoney Borough Sports Advisory Committee	6	Alderman Frank Campbell Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor John Finlay Alderman Bill Kennedy Councillor Cathal McLaughlin Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association	4	Alderman Frank Campbell Alderman Bill Kennedy Councillor John Finlay Councillor Ian Stevenson
Appointment to Community Associations		
Ballybogey Community Association	3	Alderman Frank Campbell Alderman Bill Kennedy Councillor Evelyne Robinson

Balamore & District Community Association	3	Councillor Jason Atkinson Councillor Robert Halliday
Carnary Community Association	3	Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor Roma McAfee Councillor Ian Stevenson
Castle Community Association	2	Alderman Cecil Cousley Councillor Roma McAfee Councillor Ian Stevenson
Cloughmills Community Action Team	4	Councillor Jason Atkinson Councillor John Finlay Councillor Robert Halliday Councillor Cathal McLaughlin
Dervock & District Community Association	2+2 subs	Alderman Bill Kennedy Councillor Robinson Alderman Connolly (sub) Alderman Campbell (sub)
Dunloy Development Association	1	Councillor Philip McGuigan
Glebeside Community Association	2	Councillor Roma McAfee Councillor Tom McKeown Councillor Ian Stevenson Councillor Mervyn Storey
Killyrammer & Dunaghy Community Association	2	Alderman Frank Campbell Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Stranocum & District Community Association	2	Alderman Frank Campbell Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Appointment to Community Association Management Committees		
Killyrammer Community Centre Management Committee	3	Alderman Frank Campbell Alderman Harry Connolly Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Rasharkin Community Centre Management Committee	4	Councillor Jason Atkinson Councillor William Blair Councillor Robert Halliday Councillor Cathal McLaughlin
Appointment of Representatives to other bodies		
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Group (ADHD)	1	Councillor Jason Atkinson
Causeway Older People's Active Strategic Team (COAST)	1	Alderman Cecil Cousley
Forum for Local Government & The Arts	1	Councillor Ian Stevenson ***1 Officer Nominee (Cultural Services Officer) 1 Arts Committee Nominee (Mr Mac Pollock, Chair)
Local Government Staff Commission	1	Councillor Ian Stevenson

Diversity Champion		*** 1 Officer Nominee (Head of Human Resources)
National Association of Councillors	4	Councillor Anita Cavlan Alderman Cecil Cousley Alderman Bill Kennedy Councillor Evelyne Robinson
North Antrim Village Forum	1	Alderman Bill Kennedy
Regional Governance Group (RGG)	1	Councillor Ian Stevenson Councillor John Finlay (sub)
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for NI	1	Councillor John Finlay
The Somme Association Advisory Committee	1	Councillor John Finlay
The William Keown Trust	1	Councillor Jason Atkinson

963.7 MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor expressed her gratitude to those who had elected her to the office of Mayor and her delight that Alderman Cousley had been elected to office of Deputy Mayor. She spoke of the previous Mayor's achievements and congratulated him on his term of office. Concluding, she thanked all present and looked forward to the year ahead.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.