BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING NO 943 – 18th May 2011

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18th May 2011 CM 943 (AGM)

Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No. 943 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Wednesday 18th May 2011 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor B Kennedy (Items 1-2)

Councillor I Stevenson (Items 3-7)

PRESENT: Aldermen:

> F Campbell **H** Connolly C Cousley, MBE

Councillors:

J Atkinson W Blair A Cavlan J Finlay R Halliday I McAfee P McGuigan C McLaughlin

T McKeown, Deputy Mayor

E Robinson M Storey, MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive

Director of Borough Services

Head of Corporate & Development Services

Committee Clerk

Press

943.1 MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor issued the following address:

"Fellow Councillors.

May I first of all congratulate each of the former members present this evening upon their re-election to the new Council. I am satisfied that each of us has learned much over the previous terms and our presence will do much to ensure continuity of debate and decision in the interests of our people.

It would be remiss of me to let this meeting pass without expressing thanks, on your behalf as well as my own, to those members who either did not offer themselves to the electorate this time or who were unsuccessful in their efforts.

The contribution of Malachy McCamphill, James Simpson and Audrey Patterson to the well-being of our community is gratefully acknowledged by those of us who worked with them. The contribution of Councillor Daithí McKay, who resigned his seat during the term to be replaced by Councillor Cathal McLaughlin, is also acknowledged.

To the newly elected members, Jason Atkinson, William Blair and Iain McAfee, I would say, you have been chosen by your fellow citizens in the respective electoral areas to be representatives on this Council for the next four years.

I hope you will use the talents with which you have been endowed to engage in discussion and debate on behalf of the community of this borough which you have been elected to serve.

I wish to take a few moments to reflect on the year that has passed.

Condolences

The year saw the passing of two people closely associated with the work of this Council. It was with sadness that we learned of the sudden and untimely death of Jonny Blair, our Building Control Officer.

Douglas Borough Councillor and Twinning Committee member, Dorothy Pitts, who devoted much of her time to developing the link between our two boroughs will also be sadly missed.

We record our appreciation of their service, in different ways, to the Ballymoney community.

Charity Fundraising

I want to express thanks to all those who supported my charity fundraising events during the year, including the volunteers from the local groups concerned. This enabled me to raise over £5000.

Macmillan Cancer, The Ballymoney Hospice Support Group and The Community Rescue Service benefitted from the proceeds of the charity events, which included the screening of the award winning Cup Cake Movie, filmed in the town, to a sell out audience in the Town Hall.

Recognition

It is always nice to see local residents recognised for services to the community.

Local resident, Nessie Blair, who was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in recognition of her services to Healthcare and Respiratory Services in Northern Ireland.

Stranocum resident Margaret Elliott was awarded Tesco magazine Courageous Mum of the Year. – first out of 18 finalists across the UK. Margaret overcame her own

personal grief to help others through the community rescue service in Northern Ireland. Margaret is now the Unit Commander of an all-female search group in Stranocum.

Retirements

Leisure Centre staff Robert Downey and Linda McCluggage and Jack Taylor from the refuse collection team retired having worked for the Council for 29, 26 and 22 years respectively. I record our thanks for their service and wish them a long and happy retirement.

Racing Legend Remembered

Friday 25th March was a proud, but highly emotional day for the Dunlop family as Brother Jim and Son Michael unveiled the statue of Robert. The statue now has pride of place in the memorial garden, complementing the granite plaques provided by council which record Robert's Achievements.

I pay tribute to the family and the sculpture committee, headed by Liam Beckett, for their magnificent achievement in raising the funds to commission the statue. This is a fitting tribute to a very remarkable citizen.

Town Centre Regeneration

Our efforts towards development of the town centre received a major boost with the announcement yesterday by the Heritage Lottery Fund of a first round pass for our funding application.

This brings a development grant of £50,000 to Ballymoney Regeneration Company to fully develop plans to secure funding of £1.34M, through the Heritage Lottery Funds Townscape Heritage Initiative.

This funding will deliver a five-year restoration and regeneration programme within the conservation area.

Led by Ballymoney Regeneration Company, working in partnership with the Council, Planning Service, Environment Agency and Housing Executive the proposed Ballymoney THI will preserve and enhance the special townscape character of our historic town centre.

Ballymoney Connect2 Project

The proposed bridge at Ballymoney Railway Station/Riverside Park received planning approval on 14th October. This achievement represents a significant milestone in the realisation of this important and imaginative scheme involving Roads Service, Sustrans, Translink and Council.

It is envisaged that the scheme will be realised early in the new Council term.

Ulster in Bloom 2010

There was more positive news for the town when Ballymoney achieved a very credible joint third placing in the 'town' category of the Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition.

Village Renewal

Council has committed match funding to support five rural villages to develop village action plans approved under the village renewal measure of the Rural Development Programme.

I commend the village groups for their own financial and resource commitments to taking the plans forward.

We are also working towards support two village projects in association with local villages and the rural development programme.

Challenging times

We faced challenging times during the past year.

A difficult economic climate for both businesses and the local communities, coupled with adverse weather conditions, including the loss of essential electricity and water supplies caused hardship to many of our citizens.

It is difficult for Council to be prudent with setting rates and keeping services going in the current climate.

However during my term of office, just ended, we made further progress in the development of services and facilities.

Investing in Community facilities

We faced rising costs for major increases in fuel, energy and waste disposal tax, coupled with a drop in income from services and central government grant. Despite this the Council managed, in setting the rates for this year, to protect and retain essential services and also make provision for new community schemes.

It is pleasing to report that the essential work to replace the flood damaged path at Riverside Park, Ballymoney has been completed.

Contracts to the value of £878,475 to provide new community halls for Balnamore and Stranocum; together with a major renovation of the Ballybogey community hall have been let. All three new community buildings are expected to be ready for use by the end of this year 2011.

Funding of some £60,000 was also obtained from Sport NI to provide much needed spectator safety infrastructure and equipment at the Council's prestigious Riada Stadium. This work had to be undertaken within the very exacting timeframe imposed by the funding body.

Cloughmills Incredible Edible Project

The Borough Services Directorate through the Community Safety Partnership assisted in the development, funding and delivery of the Incredible Edible Cloughmills project.

The original aim of the project was to address anti-social behaviour through a community engagement programme with a focus on local food production and

consumption. The project emphasising the health and environmental benefits of growing food within the community.

The success of the project has warranted a ministerial visit, regional press and TV coverage, and a number of awards –

- Winner of the sustainable Ireland award for the most inspiring project by Young people.
- Winner of the Impact Ireland award under the people's choice community (senior) section.
- Winner of the Michael Cole Award 2011 for significant contribution to environmental health practice or knowledge,
- It also contributed towards Cloughmills success in being named as the Environment category Winner in the 2010 Calor Village of the year Awards.

International Links

The Mayor of Vanves and a delegation from the town visited Ballymoney from 15th -18th October last year for a business meeting to advance a schools project.

As a result of this meeting the Twinning Association welcomed 18 pupils and 4 teachers to Ballymoney for a four day visit in May 2011, spending time in Dalriada School, Ballymoney High School, and Cheers Youth Centre.

Sporting Achievement

In this borough we are fortunate to have many talented individuals and clubs who have achieved success at provincial, national and international level.

They bring credit to themselves and their borough and we are proud of them.

Each year the Annual Sports Awards recognise sporting achievement.

I was pleased to host a reception to recognise achievements of a number of individuals who achieved success in their sport at national and international level in 2010.

I was also pleased to host receptions to recognise team success –

- Beckets Soccer Academy who picked up a league title in their first ever season. A tremendous achievement for the young team;
- Ballymoney Rugby Football Club's First XV's on their Powerade Town's Cup win;
- Loughgiel Shamrocks on their County Antrim Championship win;

I was pleased recently to hear that Ballymoney Hockey Club's 1st XI were crowned Premier League Champions and have also won the Ulster Shield.

I am sure now that the Council will want to recognise this great achievement by the Ballymoney Girls.

Supporting community

There are also many community, voluntary and business organizations and government agencies who work with us to make a valuable contribution to the progress we are able to make during the year.

I acknowledge their contribution to our work in developing the borough and to the well-being of our citizens.

Positive Relations Awards

Volunteering is an important way of making a positive impact in the local area. It is also an important expression of citizenship and democracy, and a demonstration of an active community.

Our Building Positive Relations Awards event in the Town Hall on 26th March acknowledged a number of community activists from within the Borough. These people are dedicating their time to helping improve community relations within their area.

Making a Difference

I was pleased to have the opportunity, with the assistance of Land and Property Services, Warm Homes and Access to Benefits, to host a 'Making A Difference' event in the Town Hall.

This event brought together people who work with the elderly and vulnerable to tell them about help with rates, access to benefits, warm homes, fuel poverty and keeping safe at home and how service providers can be contacted.

The Council itself is actively involved in relation to assistance for elderly and vulnerable citizens.

Over the past five years, the Council has worked in partnership with a range of statutory, community and voluntary organisations to tackle fuel poverty and to promote energy efficiency and safety in the home.

Our Home Accident Prevention Group and Warmer Homes Group have delivered initiatives, most notably, Hazard House Resource Centre which allows visitors to learn about dangers in and around the home.

The Ballymoney oil stamp scheme enables residents to budget for a fill of oil. This scheme has sold almost £410,000 of stamps since its launch in September 2006, with £134,500 alone in 2010-2011, an increase of almost 60% on the previous year.

The basis of the scheme, which has its origins in Ballymoney, now provides a model which has been replicated across Northern Ireland. Its success is borne out by both stamp sales and the numbers of retailers and suppliers participating locally.

Council hosts the Northern Investing for Health Partnership's Fuel Poverty Coordinator and has two officers, shared with Moyle and Coleraine Councils.

The Officers handle enquiries about energy efficiency and home safety, give talks to local community groups and make referrals to grant schemes.

Since late 2007 over 851 home safety inspections have been completed in the Ballymoney area with approximately £65,000 of equipment distributed and fitted.

Since 2006, approximately £260,000 of insulation and heating measures have been installed through the Northern Ireland Sustainable Energy Programme. Another 200 homes have been referred to Warm Homes Scheme.

Ballymoney Rethinks Waste

Waste Management continues to engage our attention.

During the course of the year significant funding was obtained under the DoE's Rethink Waste Programme 2010 for both the Council itself and to assist the Cloughmills Action Team.

The funding obtained contributed to the continuing imperative that Council reduce the amount of waste it disposes off by landfill and improve its recycling rate year on year. Both of these targets were again achieved in the past year.

Improvement, Collaboration & Efficiency

The Development of the ICE "Case of Change" is now complete.

Now Local Government, during this period of challenging economic constraints, is faced with the challenge of meeting citizen expectations to deliver continually improving, value for money services.

Designed and led by local government through NILGA and SOLACE the ICE programme presents opportunities for councils to meet these expectations.

Cluster Collaboration

Following consideration of key potential collaboration opportunities the Causeway Council Transition Committee has agreed a framework for collaboration and terms of reference.

The Change Manager post, funded by the cluster councils, is progressing the collaboration agenda.

Local Government Reform

Policy proposals to reorganize local government, is again engaging the attention of the newly reconstituted assembly Executive.

The proposals are wide ranging and their impact on councils and councillors will be profound. They include proposals on governance arrangements and an ethical standards regime and will, if implemented, result in new methods of taking decisions in councils.

A new council led community planning programme and additional powers to councils, together with a new service delivery and performance improvement framework is also proposed.

Thanks

Success in any organization depends primarily on the people who run it.

I thank my fellow Members, my Chaplain, Rev. Frances Bach, the Chief Executive, Officers and all staff for their support and their service.

I also thank the local press, journalists and photographers, who attend our meetings and events and play a vital role in communicating to our citizens and to the wider community covered by their publications."

943.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

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

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

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

Councillor Stevenson assumed the Chair and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. He thanked Councillor Kennedy for his services to Council during his term of office stating that his hard work and dedication had been appreciated. He welcomed new members and wished them every success in their term ahead. Councillor Stevenson extended thanks to outgoing members Councillor McCamphill, Councillor Patterson and Alderman Simpson for services given to Council and wished them every success for the future.

943.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor Kennedy, seconded by Alderman Cousley

that Councillor McKeown 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 11 votes being received for Councillor McKeown and 4 votes for Councillor McLaughlin.

The Mayor declared Councillor McKeown elected Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Councillor McKeown assumed his position as Deputy Mayor and signed the declaration of acceptance of office.

943.4 ELECTION OF ALDERMEN

The Chief Executive advised that 4 nominations had been received for the office of Aldermen.

NOMINATION

Councillor F Campbell Councillor C Connolly Councillor C Cousley Councillor B Kennedy

Their being no contest, the Mayor declared the nominated members elected as Aldermen.

At the request of Councillor Finlay, the Chief Executive clarified the rationale for the election of Aldermen stating that the opportunity to elect Aldermen had been presented as a result of Ballymoney becoming a Borough Council and that the number of elected Aldermen was based on the size of the Council.

943.5 ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Report on decision making structures was presented by the Chief Executive, copy circulated, deferred at the meeting of Council on 4th April (CM942)

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

that the existing Standing Committees comprising all members of Council, remain unchanged ie:

- Health & Environmental Services
- Leisure & Amenities
- Corporate & Central Services
- Development
- Consultation

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

that the time of the Consultation Committee be changed to 7.00 pm.

The timing of the Development Committee will be tabled for discussion at the next meeting of Committee.

The Chief Executive suggested the following dates for meetings of Committees during the month of May 2011 to facilitate the election of Chairs and Vice Chairs prior to the meeting of Council on 6th June.

Development Committee
Leisure & Amenities Committee
Corporate & Central Services Committee
Health & Environmental Services Committee
Consultation Committee

Monday 23rd May at 4.00 pm Tuesday 24th May at 7.00 pm Wednesday 25th May at 7.00 pm Tuesday 31st May at 7.00 pm, No business to discuss in May

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

that Committees will meet on the dates indicated above.

943.6 ELECTION TO OTHER COMMITTEES

6.1 Audit Committee

It was agreed that Parties would confirm the names of their nominees to the Chief Executive – DUP-3, SDLP-1, SF-1, TUV-1, UUP-1. Mayor and Deputy Mayor are ex-officio

6.2 Resources Task Group

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

that nomination to the Resources Task Group be deferred until election of Chair and Vice Chair of CRCS following which, parties would confirm the names of their nominees to the Chief Executive – DUP-3, SDLP-1, SF-1, UUP-1 (Chair and Vice Chair are ex-officio).

943.7 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:

Committees	Nos	Appointments	
Appointment to Join	Appointment to Joint Committees		
Causeway Museum	3	Councillor Atkinson	
Service		Alderman Connolly	
		Councillor Robinson	
Causeway Coast &	5	Appointment by d'Hondt formula. (DUP-3; SF-1; UUP-1)	
Glens District		Parties to advise CE	
Council Transition		SF nominee – Councillor McGuigan	
Committee			
	_		
North East	3	(cross-community & gender balance required across the	
Partnership Interreg		partnership)	
IVA Joint Committee		***1 Officer nominee (HCDS)	
		Alderman Campbell	
		Councillor Cavlan	
		Councillor Finlay	
North Foot Door - III	0 **	(annua annuarity 0 annuary balance magnifical	
North East Peace III	2 **	(cross-community & gender balance required across	
Joint Committee		partnership)	
		Councillor Cavlan	
		Councillor Robinson	

Committees	Nos	Appointments	
North East Peace III Partnership	2 **	(cross-community & gel partnership) Councillor Cavlan Councillor Robinson	nder balance required across
North East Rural Development Joint Committee	3 **	(cross-community & gen partnership) – 3 to be sele Councillor Blair Councillor Cavlan Alderman Campbell	nder balance required across ected Alderman Connolly Councillor Robinson Councillor Stevenson
North East Rural Development Partnership LAG	3 **	(cross-community & gend partnership) – 3 to be sele Councillor Blair Alderman Campbell Councillor Cavlan	der balance required across the ected Alderman Connolly Councillor Robinson Councillor Stevenson
North West Regional Waste Management Group	2	Alderman Cousley Councillor Robinson	
Northern Corridor Railways Group	3	Alderman Connolly Alderman Cousley Councillor Finlay	
Northern Group Building Control Committee	2+1 sub	Alderman Campbell Alderman Kennedy Councillor Finlay (Sub)	
Northern Group Environmental Health Committee	2+1 sub	Councillor Atkinson Councillor Robinson Alderman Cousley (Sub	p)
Appointment of Directors to the following Boards			
Acorn The Business Centre	2	Alderman Cousley Councillor Storey	
Ballymoney Regeneration Company	3	Alderman Campbell Alderman Kennedy Councillor Storey	
Ballymoney Town Centre Management	1	Councillor Finlay ***1 Officer Nominee Development Services)	e (Head of Corporate &

Committees	Nos	Appointments	
Causeway Coast & Glens Regional Tourism Partnership	1 **	Alderman Connolly ***1 Officer Nominee (Head of Corporate & Development Services)	
Coleraine Citizens'	1	Councillor Blair	
Advice Bureau			
Appointment to othe	r Comr	nittees	
Ballymoney Borough Arts Committee	3	Councillor Atkinson Councillor McAfee Councillor Robinson	
Ballymoney Borough Fuel Poverty Steering Group	3	Councillor Cavlan Councillor Halliday Councillor Stevenson	
Ballymoney Borough Home Accident Prevention Group	8	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 Atkinson Councillor Blair Alderman Campbell Alderman Connolly	Alderman Cousley Councillor McAfee Councillor McKeown Councillor Robinson
Ballymoney Borough Sports Advisory Committee	6	Alderman Campbell Alderman Cousley Councillor Finlay	Alderman Kennedy Councillor McLaughlin Councillor Robinson
Ballymoney Community Safety Partnership	9	Alderman Campbell Alderman Cousley Alderman Connolly Councillor Halliday Councillor Robinson	Councillor McAfee Councillor McLaughlin Councillor McKeown Councillor I Stevenson
Ballymoney District Policing Partnership	10 **	Appointment by d/Hondt formula DUP-6; SF-2; SDLP-1; UUP-1. The Policing Board has confirmed that the lifespan of the existing DPPs is extended until PCSPs are commenced in late 2011. Councillors who were members of the DPPs before the election day in 2011 and who were re-elected remain in membership; councillors who were not re-elected cease to be members and the resulting vacancies are not filled.	

Committees	Nos	Appointments	
1	•		
Appointment to Com	munity	Associations	
Ballybogey Community Association	3	Alderman Campbell Alderman Kennedy Councillor Robinson	
Balnamore & District Community Association	3	Councillor Atkinson Councillor Halliday	
Carnany Community Association	3	Alderman Cousley Councillor McAfee Councillor Stevenson	
Castle Community Association	2	Alderman Cousley Councillor McAfee Councillor Stevenson	
Cloughmills Community Action Team	4	Councillor Atkinson Councillor Finlay Councillor Halliday Councillor McLaughlin	
Druckendult Community Association		This association is no longer operating	
Dunloy Development Association	1	Councillor McGuigan	
Glebeside Community Association	2	Councillor McAfee Councillor McKeown Councillor Stevenson Councillor Storey	
Killyrammer & Dunaghy Community Association	2	Alderman Campbell Councillor Robinson	
Stranocum & District Community Association	2	Alderman Campbell Councillor Robinson	
Appointment to Community Association Management Committees			
Killyrammer Community Centre Management Committee	3	Alderman Campbell Alderman Connolly Councillor Robinson	

Committees	Nos	Appointments
Rasharkin Community Centre Management Committee	4	Councillor Atkinson Councillor Blair Councillor Halliday Councillor McLaughlin
Appointment of Rep	resenta	tives to other bodies
Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Group (ADHD)	1	Councillor Atkinson
Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association	4	Alderman Campbell Alderman Cousley Alderman Kennedy Councillor Finlay
Forum for Local Government & The Arts	1	Councillor Robinson ***1 Officer Nominee (Cultural Services Officer) 1 Arts Committee Nominee
Local Government Staff Commission Champion for People with Disabilities	1	Councillor Stevenson *** 1 Officer Nominee (Head of Human Resources)
National Association of Councillors	4	Councillor Cavlan Alderman Cousley Alderman Kennedy Councillor Robinson
Northern Ireland Housing Council	1 **	Councillor Finlay
Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)	4	(appointment by d'Hondt formula) DUP-3, SF-1. Councillor Atkinson Councillor Cavlan Alderman Cousley Councillor Robinson
NILGA Local Government 2012 Committee	1	Alderman Campbell *** 1 Officer Nominee (Head of Corporate & Development Services.
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for NI	1	Alderman Cousley

Committees	Nos	Appointments
The Somme Association Advisory	1	Councillor Finlay
Committee		
The William Keown Trust	1	Councillor Robinson

943.8 NORTH EASTERN EDUCATION BOARD

The Chief Executive reported receipt of correspondence from the Department of Education that, as a result of the local government elections in May, the Department of Education has been considering the implications for the membership of the Education and Library Boards (ELBs).

With regard to councillors who are currently ELB members and who have been reelected to the Council, in the May elections, the relevant legislation provides that those councillors can continue to be members of the ELB until the end of their ELB appointment term is reached. This is subject to the agreement of the Minister for Education and confirmation by the Council that it does not wish to change its nomination.

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

that Council's nomination to the board, Councillor E Robinson, remains unchanged.

943.9 NE PEACE III PROGRAMME - LEADERSHIP IN A SHARED SOCIETY

This programme ended last autumn but a further, short programme is being delivered in which councillors and community leaders come together. The programme will include a number of workshops and a visit to Fife in Scotland to look at their success in community planning involving council, community and statutory agencies. The programme has already started and will finish at the end of June. Due to the timing of the contract, Council has been requested to consider the re-election of those members nominated to the previous programme.

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

that Alderman Campbell and Councillor Robinson be re-elected to the programme.

943.10 REVISED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY 2011 CONSULTATION EVENT

A Local Government Consultation Event "A Sustainable Transport Future" will take place on Wednesday 15th June 2011 at Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown from 9.30

am - 1.00 pm. Applications to attend should be made to the Chief Executive before 10^{th} June 2011.

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

that interested parties submit their nominees to the Chief Executive.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.