

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 985 – 7th October 2013**

Table of Contents

985.1	Friends of the Roddens	<i>Presentation</i>
985.2	Condolences	<i>Mr Mervyn Rankin</i>
985.3	Congratulations	<i>Dunloy & Vow Accordion Bands</i>
985.4	Declarations of Interest	<i>Chief Executive – CRCS 418.11.1</i>
985.5	Minutes of Council Meeting No 984 – 2 nd September 2013	<i>Adopted</i>
985.6	Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 251 – 18 th September	
	6.1 Town Marketing & Events (251.6)	
	6.2 Adoption of Minutes	<i>Adopted</i>
985.7	Minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 252 – 30 th September	<i>Adopted</i>
985.8	Minutes of Consultation Committee meeting No 89 – 16 th September 2013	<i>Received</i>
	8.1 Clanmill Housing Association (89.1)	<i>Write to CE of Housing Executive</i>
985.9	Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 409 – 17 th September	
	9.1 Glebeside Outdoor Recreational Facilities Project: Tender Report (409.16)	<i>Accept lowest tender from MP Coleman Limited</i>
	9.2 Ulster in Bloom (409.3)	
	9.3 Adoption of Minutes	<i>Adopted</i>
985.10	Minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No 394 – 24 th September	
	10.1 Matters arising	<i>Adopted</i>
	10.2 Adoption of Minutes	
985.11	Minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 418 – 23 rd September	<i>Adopted</i>
985.12	Resources Task Group Meeting No 52 – 30 th September 2013	<i>Adopted</i>

985.13	Seal Documents	<i>Affix seal of Council</i>
985.14	Notice of Motion – Human Trafficking	<i>Motion carried</i>
985.15	Statutory Transition Committee	<i>For information</i>
985.16	Local Government Reform	<i>For information</i>
985.17	Annual Remembrance Services	<i>Attend wreath laying at Ballymoney and Dervock & Remembrance Service, Ballymoney</i>
985.18	Roads programme – Autumn Consultations	<i>18th November 2013 at 6.30 pm</i>
985.19	Future of DVLA	<i>For information</i>
985.20	Altaveedan Wind Farm – Application D/2010/0356/F	<i>For information</i>
985.21	Charity Commission Consultation	<i>For information</i>
985.22	Modernisation of EU Procurement Directives	<i>For information</i>
985.23	Reports	<i>For information</i>

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 985 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 7th October 2013 at 6.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay, Mayor

PRESENT:

Aldermen
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE
B Kennedy

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
R Halliday
R McAfee
T McKeown
C McLaughlin
E Robinson, MBE
M Storey, MLA

APOLOGIES:

Councillors
A Cavlan
P McGuigan
I Stevenson, Deputy Mayor

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services
Director of Central & Leisure Services
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Business Support Officer

Friends of the Roddens (Item 1)
Mrs G Blair, Secretary
Mrs A Paul, Treasurer

Press x 2

985.1 FRIENDS OF THE RODDENS

The Mayor welcomed Mrs Blair and Mrs Paul to the meeting to give a presentation to Members on the current situation at the Roddens where admissions to permanent beds are being eroded to accommodate respite clients from outside the borough.

Addressing the meeting on behalf of the Committee of Friends of the Roddens, the Secretary Mrs Blair said they were most grateful for the opportunity to address Council regarding the present and future status of the Roddens Residential Home, a cherished and valued facility, proudly opened by Mrs Molly Holmes well over forty years ago, a lady who is still a faithful patron and who is anxious for its survival as a residential home for the people of Ballymoney. She introduced her colleague Mrs Anne Paul, Treasurer, and apologised that the Chairman, Mr Johnny Dunlop could not be in attendance.

In her address, Mrs Blair tabled a letter from Mr Dunlop in which he said that the Committee have made several submissions to the Trust together with signatures objecting to the proposal and thanked the Council for their tremendous support and interest. The Roddens has played a very important role in this community in providing care for those senior citizens who are no longer capable and have not the help to care for their daily needs. The Roddens has provided this help for many years now and can be proud of an excellent record in the care of its residents, this being due to the diligence of the excellent staff.

Commenting on the current unsatisfactory situation at the Roddens Home Mrs Blair said that the Committee is aware that changes may be required in the administration and layout of homes and that the Roddens plays a major role in this area when residents from Rathmoyle Home in Ballycastle are being accommodated in the Roddens while the Ballycastle home is being replaced.

Stating that the closure of any home is going to incur considerable expense, she questioned if this cost could not be directed to the Roddens in adapting it to any updating that may be required. She expressed concern that homes are not running at full capacity at present but this is as a result of a directive that long stay residents are no longer to be admitted and only respite care patients are accommodated in the homes.

Mrs Blair said about two years ago, the Health & Social Care Board produced the document to give some background on Transforming your Care and answer some of the questions most frequently asked about Transforming your Care, the brain-child of the Minister for Health. The very last question in this document asks; "Does Transforming your Care mean that my local residential/nursing home will be closed?" Part of the answer to that question states; "The demand for residential care is already falling, despite an increasingly elderly population."

She said the Committee, Councillors and citizens of Ballymoney are entitled to ask the Health & Social Care Board to qualify that statement with hard evidence. She asserted it was simply not good enough to be told demand is falling when there is no evidence to back it up and the Committee know for a fact that it is not true in the case of the Roddens, where people who have asked for full time residency have been told there

are no permanent places available and have never been told why. She said there was a grave and urgent responsibility to make the people of this borough aware of exactly what is at stake and to stand together and stand firm to resist this stealthily enforced closure of our home.

The HSC answer to the question of closure of our state-run residential homes continues; "This, coupled with support for people who want to live at home longer, means that we are likely to close half of the state-run homes. Some of these are already in the process of closing following local consultation; there are others which have yet to be identified."

Mrs Blair quoted from a speech made by the Minister for Health, Edwin Poots, in the Assembly on 9th October 2012; "In many Trust-provided homes, more than half the beds are currently unoccupied, due in part to the efforts of Trusts to support more people in their own community. It is expected that demand will continue to fall."

She suggested that the process of local consultation never happened and that, in fact, closures were, and are, being forced by something that Minister Poots failed to mention in his speech – namely the fact that he, as Minister for Health, had already directed all managers of all state-run residential homes, months before he made that speech, not to admit any more full-time permanent residents and that, rather than falling demand, his directive was, and is, the undeniable reason for empty beds in our state-run residential homes.

Mrs Blair and her colleague Mrs Paul advised of first-hand experience of the changing nature of the status of the Roddens, a controlled change of status as a result of that directive from the Minister for Health, many months before they were ever heard of how he was going to "transform our care" from the cradle to the grave! The Friends of the Roddens noticed gradually that as residents died or were moved to nursing care, they were not being replaced by new, permanent residents. Up until that point, the Roddens would perhaps have used two rooms for respite care. Now, as each room becomes vacant, it is being used for respite care. As the months wore on, it became clear that not only were there considerably more respite residents but it was evident that the Roddens was now being used to alleviate bed-blocking in the local hospital by using beds for patients requiring home-from-hospital recuperation, now known as intermediate care and it was blindingly clear that the rooms being used for respite and intermediate care would soon outgrow those being given to new permanent residents.

This is where the Roddens are right now, she said. There are presently 14 full time residents. The other 15 rooms are being used for respite and intermediate care patients. The Minister for Health actively reduced the demand for full time residency in the Roddens by his unpublished directive for full-time residents not to be admitted to state-run homes.

Returning to the original question posed in this document, Mrs Blair said she feared that its authors are not too familiar with the workings of any residential homes as part of the answer states; "This (residential care) is different to nursing home care which provides 24 hour care with a qualified nurse on duty." The inference is that 24 hour care is not given in residential homes and that the lack of a qualified nurse on duty demeans the level of care given.

The Friends of the Roddens do not find that attitude surprising since they were present at a meeting in Coleraine when the, then Chief Executive of the Northern Trust, Mr Sean Donaghy, revealed that residential care was, in his opinion, surplus to requirements since he considered that the residents were not ill in the true sense of the word and therefore did not require that level of care. Tell that, Mrs Blair said, to the night staff and day staff of the Roddens who are keeping hospital beds or trolleys available for others who are being convinced that it is better to (the new term is 'reabled'), lie in what are often scary, lonely, cold, possibly wet (or worse) conditions because someone thinks they are not ill enough and they want to 'transform their care' so that they definitely will become ill enough to fill that waiting trolley in A&E. The Department of Health can then boast that it has cut the number of newly referred older people needing domiciliary care by up to 45%, as it boasts in this document.

The Roddens was opened over 40 years ago. En-suites were not the order of the day but Minister Poots has stated publicly that he would have no relative of his in a residential home which had no en-suite facilities. Mrs Blair said she thought a man of his discernment would have valued the standard of care before the location of a toilet when making such an important decision about the 24/7 care of a vulnerable elderly person. If the Minister valued quality above quantity he would have made it his business to visit, in person, those caring facilities he is so obviously trying to get rid of before he makes a critical decision from which there will be no return.

Mrs Blair posed a question – supposing the private providers, with the en-suites, decide to pack up shop for one reason or another, financial or otherwise, leave town and their residents homeless, how will the Trusts provide alternative accommodation and care when the Department for Health has privatised state-run residential care as a job lot and we are left with the faded features of elderly people painted on the boarded-up windows of our beloved Roddens while those who will need care will be staring out on unfamiliar faces from the windows of homes in Cookstown or Portadown? It doesn't bear thinking about and we can't and won't let it happen.

Mrs Blair also shared with members, emailed responses from Claire Scullion, External Communications Manager at Northern Health & Social Care Trust to questions put forward by Friends of the Roddens.

In conclusion, Mrs Blair said "We have a burden of care on our shoulders and I know they are broad enough to take on the challenge and win the day to keep the Roddens for the people of this borough and the benefit of our elders, both present and future. I have heard that Rathmoyle is being rebuilt because of the uproar caused by the people and Council of Ballycastle and I suggest that if we have to roar to keep the Roddens, then let it be so! I have had the pleasure of attending many talks given by Alex Blair when he heralds the indomitable spirit of the people and the leaders of this borough and we are certain that with the support of you, our Mayor and Councillors, we will live to fight another day and we will win and we will keep the Roddens."

Members commended the excellent care provided at the Roddens and agreed that everything should be done to ensure that the facility remains secure to provide permanent care facilities for residents in the local community and the staff who are employed there. Councillor Storey recorded thanks to the Friends of the Roddens for the work done to date and the manner in which concerns had been raised on behalf of those with an interest in and a long term association with the Roddens. While accepting that arrangements had to be made to accommodate residents of Rathmoyle he said this should not be done at the expense of residents from Ballymoney. He expressed concern at the risk that the facility could be lost and assured the Friends of the Roddens, staff and residents that the Council will get behind the case to retain the Roddens facility. Other members supported this view and unanimously indicated their support for lifting the ban on admission and for retention and enhancement of the Roddens and the maintenance of employment there.

The Chair thanked the representatives for their presentation which concluded at 7.20pm. Mrs Blair and Mrs Paul left the meeting at this time.

- * **Councillor Robinson and Councillor McLaughlin joined the meeting at 6.35 and 7.40 pm respectively during the presentation.**
- * **Councillor Atkinson left the meeting during the presentation at 7.10 pm and returned at 7.20pm.**

985.2 CONDOLENCE, MR MERVYN RANKIN

It was with sadness that the Mayor recorded the passing of Mervyn Rankin, former Chief Executive of our neighbouring borough of Ballymena. He extended Council's deepest sympathy to his wife and family circle.

He said that Ballymoney Borough Council had had a close working relationship with Mr Rankin in his capacity as Chief Executive of Ballymena Borough Council as that Council was, for many years, the employer Council for environmental health staff and lead Council for the Northern Group Environmental Health Committee. Mr Rankin retained an interest in local government affairs following his retirement. He was currently Chair of the Northern Ireland Local Government

Staff Commission and a Board Member of the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. Mervyn was greatly respected by all who knew him and will be sadly missed.

Councillor Robinson concurred with the Mayor's remarks. Councillor Storey associated himself with the Mayor's remarks, having worked closely with Mr Rankin in his work with the Parade's Commission. He suggested and it was agreed that Council also write to Ballymena Borough Council and SOLACE extending sympathy to them on the loss of a much respected former Chief Executive and colleague.

985.3 DUNLOY & VOW ACCORDION BAND

The Mayor congratulated members of Dunloy & Vow Accordion Bands who took part in the annual Tattoo in the City of Belfast on 27th & 28th September. He stated that the bands brought great distinction to the borough and he will be holding a reception in the near future to celebrate their achievement.

985.4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive declared an interest at Corporate & Central Services Meeting No 418, item 11.1 relating to the recruitment process for filling Chief Executive's posts as a result of Local Government Reform.

985.5 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO 984 – 2ND SEPTEMBER 2013

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

that the minutes of Council Meeting No 984 – 2nd September 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

985.6 MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 251 – 18TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Councillor Storey presented the report.

Matters Arising:

6.1 Town Marketing & Events (251.6)

Councillor Finlay welcomed the decision to support the World War I commemoration event.

6.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the Minutes of Development Committee No 251 – 18th September 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

985.7 MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 252 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Alderman Kennedy presented the report.

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

that the Development Committee No 252 – 30th September 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

985.8 MINUTES OF CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 89 – 16TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Alderman Cousley presented the report.

The minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 89 – 16th September 2013, as circulated, were received.

Matters Arising:

8.1 Clanmill Housing Association (89.1)

Councillor Finlay referred to the current lack of social housing facilities in Balnamore expressing the view that there is a need for more social housing in that area.

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

that Council write to the Chief Executive of the Housing Executive requesting advice on the future provision of social housing in Balnamore.

985.9 MINUTES OF LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 409 – 17TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Alderman Campbell presented the report. The Director of Borough Services reported on item 409.16 of the minutes as set out at 9.1 below.

Matters Arising:

9.1 Glebeside Outdoor Recreational Facilities Project: Tender Report (409.16)

Given the tenders received work was undertaken to look at how the scheme could be realised whilst ensuring its integrity. As a consequence a Bill of Reductions was issued to the five contractors who submitted tenders

for the project. Taking account of the Bill of Reductions, the amended tender figures, in ascending order, are –

M. P. Coleman Ltd., Brigh Quarry, Stewartstown	£341,995.87
Northstone (NI) Ltd., Shinny Road, Macosquin	£349,833.28
F. P. McCann Ltd., Knockloughrim Quarry, Magherafelt	£351,723.92
Crawford Group, Woodside Road, Ballymena	£361,227.82
Earney Contracts Ltd., Comber Road, Lisburn	£427,151.69

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council accept the lowest tender received taking account of the bill of reductions, that from M. P. Coleman Limited, Brigh Quarry, Stewartstown, in the sum of £341,995.87; subject to the proviso that the contract would be let when the written assent of the Statutory Transition Committee has been given.

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

that Council accept the lowest tender received taking account of the bill of reductions, that from M. P. Coleman Limited, Brigh Quarry, Stewartstown, in the sum of £341,995.87; subject to the proviso that the contract would be let when the written assent of the Statutory Transition Committee has been given.

9.2 Ulster in Bloom (409.3)

Councillor Storey, congratulated the Director and local contractors, on the 'Best Station Award' of the Ulster in Bloom competition. He, however, advised that whilst the new bridge has been approved by the Disability Action organisation as compliant with all the recommendations in relation to people with disabilities, concerns had been raised about the suitability and safety of the bridge, an issue which he had raised with Translink. Councillor McKeown concurred with Councillor Storey's comments and referred the matter to Borough Services Director to pursue.

Councillor Robinson recorded thanks to staff for their efforts which had achieved third place for Ballymoney Town in the small town category. The Mayor indicated that he was arranging a reception to mark the achievement.

9.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the Minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 409 – 17th September 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

985.10 MINUTES OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 394 – 24TH SEPTEMBER 2013

The report was presented by Councillor Atkinson.

10.1 Matters Arising:

Councillor Robinson drew attention to and questioned the Director of Borough Services in respect of items 394.6 (Crosstagherty Landfill), 394.8 (Consultation Paper – Ban on Landfilling Food Waste), 394.9 (NWRWVG Bio-Waste Contract), 394.12 (Workplace Health & Safety) and 394.13 (Transfer of MVR Premises). The Director responded and advised that a copy of the Council Interim Closure Plan could be made available.

10.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the Minutes of Health & Environmental Services Meeting No 394 – 24th September 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

985.11 MINUTES OF CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 418 – 23RD SEPTEMBER 2013

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

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

that the Minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee No 418 – 23rd September 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

985.12 MINUTES OF RESOURCES TASK GROUP NO 52 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2013

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

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

that the Minutes of Resources Task Group No 52 – 30th September 2013, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

* **The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central & Leisure Services left the meeting at 8.00 pm.**

985.13 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to:

- 1. Ballymoney Grave Certificate numbers 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1347 and Rasharkin Grave Certificate number 0021.*
- 2. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Council and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Forest Service, to facilitate collaborative working in relation to the provision of trails and associated recreational facilities within forest service lands within the borough.*

98514 NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Kennedy proposed the following motion, in accordance with the notice given.

This Council:

- 1. Recognises that human trafficking and exploitation is a growing problem in Northern Ireland;*
- 2. Believes that existing statistics regarding the number of people trafficked into Northern Ireland do not reflect the scale of the problem and are only the “tip of the iceberg” in regard to the scale of the problem;*
- 3. Believes that no human being should be subjected to: sexual exploitation, enforced labour or domestic servitude and condemns those who engage in human trafficking;*
- 4. Believes that more action should be undertaken to support those who have escaped from exploitation and to punish those who exploit them and, accordingly;*
- 5. Calls upon the Northern Ireland Assembly to endorse the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provision and Support of Victims) Bill.*

Speaking in support of the motion, Alderman Kennedy stated that the Bill will strengthen Northern Ireland's response to human trafficking in awareness-raising, protecting and assisting victims and in prosecuting traffickers. It will enable Northern Ireland to meet its international obligations under the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive and the Council of Europe Convention on Human Trafficking.

If the Northern Ireland Assembly passes this law it will lead the way in combating trafficking in the UK, becoming the first country to have a focused Human Trafficking Bill.

Alderman Kennedy also stated that it is hard to know exactly how many people are trafficked into Northern Ireland. Many people are kept in fear and slavery and so

may never be discovered. The number of trafficked people in Northern Ireland is recorded in Government statistics over the past few years but because of the problems associated with measuring trafficking, it is probably only the tip of the iceberg.

The Bill will ensure that a judge, when deciding what sentence to apply to someone who has been convicted of a human trafficking or slavery offence, will consider aggravating factors such as whether the offence was committed against a child or a vulnerable adult, or where serious violence was used. The Bill also introduces a minimum sentence for these offences, requiring that a court must set down a custodial sentence of at least two years in such cases unless exceptional circumstances justify not doing so.

This was seconded by Alderman Campbell and **unanimously AGREED**

that this Council:

- 1. Recognises that human trafficking and exploitation is a growing problem in Northern Ireland;***
- 2. Believes that existing statistics regarding the number of people trafficked into Northern Ireland do not reflect the scale of the problem and are only the “tip of the iceberg” in regard to the scale of the problem;***
- 3. Believes that no human being should be subjected to: sexual exploitation, enforced labour or domestic servitude and condemns those who engage in human trafficking;***
- 4. Believes that more action should be undertaken to support those who have escaped from exploitation and to punish those who exploit them and, accordingly;***
- 5. Calls upon the Northern Ireland Assembly to endorse the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Further Provision and Support of Victims) Bill.***

985.15 STATUTORY TRANSITION COMMITTEE

The Chief Executive advised that the minutes of the last meeting have not yet been issued but that the STC considered its budget from August to June next year and it is expected that the timetable will go ahead as planned. The approved budget will come before Council for consideration and will be tabled at a meeting of the Corporate and Central Services Committee at their October meeting.

985.16 LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM

A flyer giving details of NILGA Engagement Events regarding the Local Government Bill has been copied to all Members. Anyone wishing to register their attendance please contact the Office of the Chief Executive.

[a] LGR Programme timetable

The Department of Environment has forwarded an updated programme timetable, which has also been updated on the website www.doeni.gov.uk/reform_timetable. A copy was circulated.

[b] At the Regional Transition Committee (RTC) meeting on 25th September 2013, it was confirmed that the Minister's responses to both the Public Service Commission (PSC) and Association of Local Authority Chief Executives (ALACE) would be circulated to all councils as well as STC chairs and members. A copy of the Minister's response of 19th September 2013 to the PSC was circulated. The Minister's response to ALACE is not yet available.

[c] NILGA Engagement Events on the Draft Local Government Bill, on 28th and 29th October. The events will examine the key issues around the future of local government as defined and detailed within this new Bill, which represents the most significant change for local government in over 40 years. The provisions will have major impact on how Councils operate, including a choice of governance arrangements, methods for selecting positions of responsibility and public access to meetings. The Bill also contains major proposals on key topics such as: ethical standards and code of conduct for elected members; a new community planning duty; a new performance improvement regime; a wide ranging general power of competence and establishment of a political partnership panel.

Councillor Robinson and Alderman Cousley indicated that they wished to register to attend the event in Cookstown on 28th October.

985.17 ANNUAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICES

An invitation has been received from the Royal British Legion, Ballymoney Branch, to Mayor, Members & Chief Executive to attend the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Ballymoney War Memorial on Sunday 10th November and the Annual Service of Remembrance at 3.00 p.m. in First Ballymoney Presbyterian Church.

An invitation has been received from the Royal British Legion, Dervock Branch, to attend the Annual Remembrance Wreath Laying Ceremony at Dervock on 10th November.

It is Council's practice to attend the Annual Remembrance Service and that robes be worn; that the Mayor & Chief Executive lay a wreath at Ballymoney War Memorial and the Deputy Mayor and a Director attend the Dervock Ceremony.

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

that members attend the Annual Remembrance Service and that robes be worn and that the Mayor & Chief Executive lay a wreath at Ballymoney War Memorial and the Deputy Mayor and a Director attend the Dervock Ceremony.

985.18 ROADS PROGRAMME – AUTUMN CONSULTATIONS

Roads Service have requested to attend Council during the period 1st – 29th November 2013 to give an update on the current years' work and to consult the Council about priorities for next year's programmes before they are finalized.

Arrangements have been made for the Roads Service representatives to attend the Consultation Committee at 6.30 p.m. on 18th November.

985.19 FUTURE OF DVLA

In response to Council's correspondence to MPs, responses have been received from Lady Hermon MP (copy of Minister's response was circulated; Rt Hon Jeffrey Donaldson, MP, who has made a written submission to the consultation; Sammy Wilson, MP, MLA, who has contacted the Minister and will work with other Westminster Colleagues to make sure that the case for retaining jobs in Coleraine is put forward with vigour; and Mark Durkan, MP, who has lodged a submission with the Transport Minister against the government plans.

Correspondence has also been received from Connor Murphy giving his assurance that that he has raised concerns about the loss of jobs in Coleraine.

985.20 ALTAVEEDAN WIND FARM – APPLICATION D/2010/0356/F

Mr E McBride, Altnahinch Road, Armoy, has written reference the meeting with Councillors on the above application when reference, he states, was made to Slieveanorra Mountain battle; plane crash on side of Orra and presence of Curlews on Orra. He has asked that his letter and letter, 28/8/13, from NIEA be copied to members.

985.21 CHARITY COMMISSION – CONSULTATION

The Charity Commission for NI has opened a public consultation on the interim reporting requirements for all registered charities. Letter 23/9/13 was circulated for information. The matter will be listed for Consultation Committee but members are asked to note the consultation events to take place in October and November. Anyone wishing to register their attendance please contact the Office of the Chief Executive.

985.22 MODERNISATION OF EU PROCUREMENT DIRECTIVES

A copy of Discussion Paper on UK Transposition of New EU Procurement Directives entitled "The New "Light Touch" Rules Regime for Health, Social and

Other Services” , published by the Cabinet Office, has been circulated by the Central Procurement Directorate, who will issue discussion papers in batches between now and December. (a copy of the current discussion paper, which is the first round of consultation, was circulated).

Deadline for response is close of play 21 October 2013. Responses will help policymakers to identify the balance of arguments and inform decision-making on the preferred options. Questions about the policy issues raised in the discussion papers themselves should be addressed to: newregsni.cpd@dfpni.gov.uk

The three new directives on which consultation will take place are:

- i. Public Procurement (replacing Directive 2004/18/EC);
- ii. Procurement by Entities Operating in the Water, Energy, Transport and Postal Services Sector (replacing Directive 2004/17/EC); and
- iii. The Award of Concession Contracts. Currently these are only partially regulated at European level.

The UK government’s policy on transposition is to stick very closely to the text of the EU directives and avoid the addition of further detail or requirements. The only exceptions are those instances where the directives permit a policy choice for Member States on whether or how to implement a particular provision. It is these choices that will be the focus of this consultation process.

In the interests of realising the added value value/benefits of the new directives, the Cabinet Office has determined that, rather than producing a public consultation document followed by a 13 week formal consultation this consultative process will take the form of short questionnaires focusing on the policy choices and legislative options, grouped by subject matter. There are 9 groups and requests for comment will issue to stakeholders on a rolling basis over the course of the next three months. It is hoped that this approach will minimise the administrative burden on stakeholders. In the absence of a final published version of the agreed text of the new directives the detail of the options will be made clear in each communication.

The 9 groups of options and the provisional timetable are set out below.

- The award of contracts under the “light touch” regime. (Formerly Part B services including health, social and cultural) - August/September
- SME provisions – August/September
- Strategic Use of Procurement - August/September
- Forms - September/October
- Procedures and eProcurement - September/October
- Exclusion and anti-corruption - October/November
- Tender assessment - October/November
- Sub-contracting – October/November
- Concessions contracts – October/November

There will be a parallel release of each of the on-line questionnaires to consultees across England, Wales and Northern Ireland during the duration of the consultation period.

985.22 REPORTS

A schedule of reports was circulated for members' information.

Councillor Robinson requested an update on ICE latest briefing. This matter has been referred to Corporate & Central Services Committee and the Chief Executive advised that there is to be a consultation document on the way forward. He had recently received a copy of presentation on the briefing and will copy to members.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 8.20 pm.