

**BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL  
RESOURCES TASK GROUP**

**MONDAY 25<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2013**

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## RESOURCES TASK GROUP

Minutes of Resources Task Group Committee held on Monday 25<sup>TH</sup> March 2013 at 2.00pm in the McKinley Room, Riada House.

<b>IN THE CHAIR</b>	Councillor I Stevenson
<b>PRESENT</b>	<p><b>Aldermen</b> H Connolly</p> <p><b>Councillors</b> J Finlay    E Robinson, Mayor</p>
<b>IN ATTENDANCE</b>	<p>Alderman C Cousley, MBE Alderman B Kennedy Head of Corporate &amp; Development Services Committee Clerk</p>
<b>APOLOGIES</b>	<p>Alderman F Campbell Chief Executive</p>

Head of Corporate and Development Services advised correspondence had been received by the Chief Executive from Alderman Campbell and Councillor Robinson, which would be read at item 3.

### 47.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

### 47.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 46 – 28<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2013

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

***to recommend that the Minutes of Meeting No 46 – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2013, as circulated, be approved.***

### 47.3 CLERICAL SUPPORT – COUNCIL SERVICES

The Chair has asked that this item be placed on the agenda for RTG to consider as he is concerned about resource issues in Building Control given the discontent recorded by the Director of Borough Services (as set out below) at the meeting when Council concluded its consideration of the rates “*that funding for Building Control Clerical support had been removed resulting in his service being treated differently from all other service areas in Council*”.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services read letter, 21/3/2013, from Alderman Campbell to the Chief Executive registering his concern that the Borough Services Directorate (Building Control service) was being treated differently from other council departments as regards clerical support and expressing his desire for a resolution to this matter. A letter from Councillor Robinson, to the Chief Executive, received, 26/3/2013, was also read, registered concern that any employee should experience difference in treatment and concern that an officer should put the matter in the public domain. She requested that

the matter be fully investigated by an independent consultant and so proposed, indicating her wish to confer with the Chief Executive as regards the remit of the assignment.

In response to comments from the Officer the Chair confirmed that the matter had been placed on the agenda at the request of the Chair. He advised that he only become aware of the record in the minute when he was reading the minutes of the said meeting and to allow a fuller explanation on the statement on this resource matter he was seeking a full written report for the group's next meeting.

Alderman Kennedy pointed out that he too was concerned about the apparent different treatment with regard to clerical support and drew attention to his comments at the meeting when the rate was struck on 11<sup>th</sup> February and other members had also expressed concern.

A wide ranging discussion ensued with regard to various issues and revisions to some budgets during the rate process. There was particular discussion on possible NILAS fines, on which comment had also been made at the rates meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> February with regard to the amount planned for compliance and the removal of the budget provision in the current year. During the debate on this matter the Mayor advised that since changes to provision recommended by the officer was being put forward by the Chair to the rates meeting she had secured various advices from DoE, NWRWVG and the Minister from which she concluded it was clear that there would be no NILAS fines on Councils in 2013/14, particularly so in this region where measures had been taken by NWRWVG.

Arising from comments with regard to the additional clerical resource sought in the draft estimate presented, the Officer confirmed the role of RTG with regard to filling of vacancies and that while the issue had not been addressed by RTG it had nevertheless, as part of the rate process, been addressed and agreed by management for inclusion in the draft rate estimate presented to members. She recommended caution in considering this matter in the absence of a report from management and suggested that committee may wish to refer the matter to the Chief Executive in the first instance.

\* **Councillor Finlay left the meeting at 2.20pm.**

Arising from discussion on Councillor Robinson's letter and in the absence of a motion, she indicated that she would seek an interview with the Chief Executive to discuss the matter.

The Chair invited members to consider this request, as set out above, for a report to the next meeting.

After further deliberation it was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Stevenson and **AGREED:**

***to recommend that the matter before RTG be referred to the Chief Executive to seek clarity on the statement made at the rates meeting and a report be brought to the next meeting.***

Chair put the motion to the meeting. Two members voted for the motion and two abstained.

Alderman Cousley indicated his support for the motion.  
Councillor Robinson requested to be recorded as not agreeing with the proposal.  
Alderman Kennedy said he was not in favour of the motion.

**This being all the business the meeting closed at 3.02pm.**