

Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 951 – 3rd January 2012

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 951 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 3rd January 2012 at 7.00 pm

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor I Stevenson, Mayor

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

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
P McGuigan
T McKeown, Deputy Mayor
C McLaughlin
E Robinson
M Storey, MLA

APOLOGIES: Alderman B Kennedy

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

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951.1 MINUTES – MEETING NO 950 – 5TH DECEMBER 2011

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 950 – 5th December 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

951.2 MINUTES OF CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 68 – 19TH DECEMBER 2011

Councillor Cavlan presented the report.

The minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 68 – 19th December 2011, as circulated, were received.

Matters Arising:**2.1 Draft Integrated Risk Management Plan 2012-15 - NIFRS Consultation (68.14)**

The Chief Executive advised that contact has been made with the Fire Brigade Union who advised that no specific plans or proposals have been identified for the downgrading of stations. Concerns were expressed by members about the potential for stations in its area to be downgraded with reduction in number of appliances and about the budget issues in the background. There was a previous proposal to downgrade Ballymoney Station and if such a process was to be identified by the NI Fire & Rescue Service Council considered there is a need for further public consultation.

Councillor Storey reported that he had met the Chief Fire Officer in relation to the matter and other issues relating to the fire service.

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

that Council respond to the consultation document, endorsing the comments set out above.

* **Councillor McKeown joined the meeting at 7.10 pm.**

951.3 MINUTES OF DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 230 – 21ST DECEMBER 2011

Councillor Finlay presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 230 – 21st December 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

3.1 World Short Mat Bowling Championship 2012 (230.7.1)

Councillor Finlay welcomed the competition stating that this will be an excellent opportunity for increased tourism numbers and revenue to the borough. Councillor Robinson concurred with his remarks commending bed and breakfast accommodation in the borough and highlighted the need for investment in hotel accommodation.

951.4 MINUTES OF LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 390 – 20TH DECEMBER 2011

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 390 –20th December 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:**4.1 Drumbolcan Park, Rasharkin (390.9)**

The Director of Borough Services advised that the meeting with representatives of Rasharkin Community Association has been arranged for Monday 9th January 2012 at 7.30 pm at Rasharkin.

4.2 Ballybogey, Balnamore & Stranocum Community Buildings (390.13)

Councillor Robinson, on behalf of members, thanked the Director of Borough Services for the opportunity to visit the facilities. She stated that these are excellent and complimented the standard of workmanship carried out.

951.5 MINUTES OF HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES MEETING NO 376 - 22ND DECEMBER 2011

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 376 – 22nd December 2011, as circulated be confirmed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

5.1 Christmas/New Year Holiday Arrangements (376.3)

Councillor Finlay commended the work of the refuse operatives in maintaining the service over the holiday period. Councillor McKeown concurred with his remarks stating that a constituent of the borough had requested that thanks be extended to Borough Services for their diligence.

5.2 Emergency Plan Implementation (376.20)

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

that this matter be referred back to the next meeting of Committee.

5.3 Policing and Community Safety Partnership (376.22)

Members nominated for PCSP membership who are to sit on the interviewing panel for independent PCSP members were identified by party leaders as Councillor Stevenson, Councillor Robinson, Alderman Campbell (DUP) and Councillor McGuigan (SF). The Director of Borough Services advised that the training session for the interview panel will take place on 13th January from 9.30 am to 16.30 pm at the ECOS Centre, Ballymena. Detailed information relating to shortlisting for interviews will be sent to nominated members who should attend the training session on the same date.

5.4 Waste Transfer Station, Crosstagherty Site

The Director of Borough Services advised that work is progressing with the loss adjustor for the damage caused to the waste transfer station at Crosstagherty Waste Handling & Transfer Facility as a result of the wheeled loading shovel going on fire in the building on 5th October 2011. He **recommended** that a select list of applications from contractors in respect of the repair of the station be invited for consideration by Council's Consultant.

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

that a select list applications from contractors in respect of the repair of the station be invited for consideration by Council's Consultant.

951.6 MINUTES OF CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 400 - 21ST DECEMBER 2011

Alderman Cousley presented the report.

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 400 – 21st December 2011, as circulated
be confirmed as a correct record.*

951.7 CONDOLENCES

7.1 Mr E Hasson

The Mayor expressed condolences to the family of Mr Hasson who lost his life in a farming accident at Townhill Road, Portglenone on Saturday.

7.2 Mr B Morrison

It is with sadness that the Mayor recorded the passing of Ballymoney Born Playwright and Actor, Bill Morrison, son of the late Hugh Morrison who was headmaster of Ballymoney Model Primary School.

A former pupil of Dalriada School he excelled himself in sport and drama activities and went on to make a valuable contribution to the arts at home and abroad.

Bill's acting career began in the 1960's in Belfast. He went on to write scripts for theatres, radio and television at home and abroad. He moved to Liverpool in 1977 as resident writer at the Liverpool Everyman, later becoming artistic director. He served as Chair of the Theatre Writers Union and the Writers' Guild.

The Mayor extended condolences to his family circle.

7.3 Mr C McLeister

The Mayor extended condolence to the family of Mr McLeister, aged 48, from Coleraine, who died at the Playhouse Entertainment Complex on Sunday, 18 December 2011.

951.8 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of Council be affixed to:

- a) ***Grave Registration numbers 1272 and 1273***
- b) ***Deed of Registration Chestnutt and Council – Stranocum Community Hall Project.***

- * **The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central & Leisure Services left the meeting at 7.30 pm.**

951.9 ROADS SERVICE

9.1 Private Streets Act

Department of Regional Development, Roads Service has given notice that the following streets have been adopted.

- Streets at Moorefields, Ballymoney, stage 1 (developer Adrian & Eamon Barkley T/a Barkley Bros)
- Streets at Greenshields View, Ballymoney, stage 1 (developer Sheerin Homes Ltd)

9.2 Proposed Zig-Zag Markings at North Road, Ballymoney

Roads Service has advised of representations about problem of cars parking on top of advisory zig-zag markings outside Ballymoney Model Primary School at North Road. In order to resolve the issue Roads Service intend to start the legislation process in order for the markings to be enforced. This will not only have a positive impact of the flow of traffic but also keep the frontage of the school clear and provide a safer environment for children and parents to cross the road. As it is considered that it would not be possible to enforce the length of markings currently in place it proposes to shorten the markings to cover the frontage of the school only.

Councillor Finlay welcomed the proposal.

951.10 NI HOUSING EXECUTIVE – CONTACTS AND ADVICE

The Housing Executive has issued tenant contact details for reporting repairs through its 24 hours repair line, its website and its out of hours emergency email. It has also published cold weather advice to tenants in its annual newsletter to tenants.

It has also put in place a priority telephone line for public representatives, emergency services and the main utilities. This will be put into operation and will

be emailed to members if an emergency is triggered. A copy of NIHE circular was circulated.

951.11 COMMUNITY PHARMACY

NILGA has been asked to seek the views of Councils on the proposed £38m cuts to funding for community pharmacy.

A copy of the correspondence to NILGA from Cllr Brian McMahon, Chairperson of Strabane District Council, to the Health Minister, highlighting his concern and opposition to these cuts was circulated.

Views are invited by 27th January.

Councillor Storey expressed the view that Council should seek clarification from the Department following Judge Tracey's view that the consultation was flawed, raising the question of what process the department follow in relation to this. Councillor McGuigan concurred stating that this action should not deter Council from responding to the consultation prior to the deadline indicated.

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

that Council endorse the representations made by Strabane District Council to the Health Minister opposing the cuts and seek clarification from the Minister relating to the status of the consultation as put forward by Councillor Storey.

951.12 COST OF CAR INSURANCE IN NI – OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING REPORT

As the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) on 14th December, 2011, published the results of its investigation into the car insurance market in the UK, the Consumer Council has issued a press statement saying that the high cost of car insurance in Northern Ireland (NI) must be tackled. The OFT report shows that in 2010, consumers living in rural areas of NI paid between 30 and 70 per cent more for their car insurance, compared to consumers in rural areas of GB.

In August 2011 the Consumer Council launched a campaign to reduce the high cost of car insurance in NI. Car insurance premiums here have risen by 73% in the last two years and the average yearly premium is now £923.90.

The campaign consisted of a formal submission to the OFT to enable it to examine the car insurance market here; a meeting with the Department of Justice and the Justice Committee to examine the impact of the costs associated with claims here; a meeting with the Environment Minister to ask for practical initiatives to support younger drivers and launching an online petition for consumers to pledge their

support to the campaign and to hear their stories of how the high cost of car insurance affects them. Consumers can sign up at www.consumercouncil.org.uk

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

that Council write to the Consumer Council commending them for the work undertaken to reduce the high cost of car insurance in NI.

951.13 COUNCILLORS' SEVERANCE PAYMENTS

The National Association of Councillors (NAC) has written conveying to its members increasing concern that there is no clear agreement about the award of severance payments to those councillors who will be displaced by the proposed reduction in the number of local councils in 2015. The Environment Minister has advised the NAC that he is not minded to approve severance payments. The NAC suggested that the Minister be pressed for a clear commitment to the award of severance payments on the same basis as those council officers who may also be displaced by the restructuring.

Councillor Robinson clarified the NAC's position in seeking support for its concerns that a commitment made by the previous Minister was not being honoured.

951.14 REPORTS

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

951.15 NILGA REPORTS & UPDATES

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

Councillor Robinson reminded members that the NILGA Annual Conference and Exhibition will take place on 23rd February 2012 in the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick.

The meeting closed at 7.40 pm.