

Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 1004 – 3rd November 2014

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BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 1004 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 3rd November at 6.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman B Kennedy, Mayor

PRESENT: **Alderman**
H Connolly, Deputy Mayor
C Cousley, MBE

Councillors
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
R McAfee
P McGuigan
T McKeown
C McLaughlin
A McLean
E Robinson, MBE
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: **Alderman**
F Campbell
Councillors
J Atkinson

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

Church of Ireland
Rev Frances Bach

Press x 2

1004.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

1004.2 HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The Mayor welcomed his Chaplain Reverend Frances Bach, former Rector of Armoy, Loughguile and Drumtallagh, Diocese of Connor, who was undertaking an investigation into the extent of human trafficking in Northern Ireland at the invitation of Reverend Terrie Robinson, Anglican Communion Office, London. He said Council had supported his motion on the subject earlier in the year and he would be pleased to receive a report on Reverend Bach's work to date.

Reverend Frances Bach, Church of Ireland, addressed members on the subject of human trafficking.

"Mr Mayor, Aldermen, Councillors, ladies and gentlemen, I am very grateful to the Mayor for allowing me to come and address you on human trafficking, particularly as I am sure some of you know more about it than I do.

So, why should the Mayor's Chaplain be talking to you about human trafficking? Church of Ireland, Church of England, Episcopal, Church of Scotland, all sister churches all around the world, are together called the Anglican Communion. I have been asked to report back to the Anglican Communion headquarters in London on human trafficking in Ireland.

Globally, human trafficking is the 2nd most lucrative crime there is. Many countries are involved as countries of origin, transit or destination with victims from Asian, American, Africa and Eastern Europe. However, this not only affects just poorer countries with some victims of human trafficking having been born and bred here, victims who look just like us. Human trafficking is not necessarily crossing borders, taking someone from somewhere to somewhere else; It can be next door. Paramilitaries do a good trade in taking girls from one house to another for sex. PSNI find kids drugged or drunk up to their eyeballs on streets - actually drugged or made drunk deliberately; victims of child sexual exploitation.

It is easier to get into the UK via a land border rather than through England's south coast sea ports, or airports. Once in the UK, people can be moved freely across the Irish Sea in both directions and as victims are frequently moved, this makes it a lot harder for them to escape or be rescued.

You have probably seen human trafficking victims in places such as car washes or nail bars as cheap labour and particularly on farms. If you have group of foreign men working on your farm, you could be paying them £150pw; their gang master is taking £100 for rent (they may be squashed in a caravan or a house in dreadful conditions) and £25 for food; Do they even get last £25?? Romanian women are trafficked here from Donegal each day to work on the streets selling magazines. There are also many sex workers. For all our church-going – or maybe because of it – prostitution in NI is among one of the highest rates in Europe.

If all this human trafficking goes on in NI, why do we not hear of more prosecutions? Because quite often, human trafficking is one part of a bigger

operation; you don't want to catch the small guys at end of line but go for 'Mr Big' at the centre. Human trafficking is part of a large network of drugs and money-laundering. In Romania the mafia-type boss in the village decides what each family or individual will do i.e. money laundering; begging; prostitution. The PSNI are involved in JITS – Joint Investigative Teams, including internet police operations. Their aim is to rescue victims here but they do not prosecute gang masters; instead they work with police in the country of origin to catch 'Mr Big' who goes to court in whichever country has the more severe punishment with the exception of the death penalty, e.g. Singapore.

What happens to victims when they are rescued? No one can guarantee a perfect ending but at least once free, victims do have a chance. They are taken to a place of safety and given 45 days to recover; they may be called to appear as witnesses in a court case. Ultimately, many have to be deported otherwise traffickers would start 'trafficking' their own families to live here permanently. A Charity called Migrant Help believes that Romanians now get a worse deal than before Romania joined the EU.

Lord Morrow's Bill, which I believe Council sent a submission to, includes, amongst others, clause 6 which aims to make it a crime to **use** prostitutes, rather than it to be a crime to **be** a prostitute. Lord Morrow wants a better deal for victims of human trafficking and a flagship for the rest of UK and Europe eg prosecution and not to depend on victims as witnesses. Victims forced to carry out crimes will not be prosecuted for them and will be given a longer time of rest and recuperation – 90 days after the end of any connected court case. If you haven't read Lord Morrow bill, or forgotten it – look it up on the Stormont website.

NI is already better than the rest UK in one important aspect – the number of anti-trafficking charities here have a consultancy role at Stormont and are part of an Engagement Group at the Department of Justice who meet every 2 months, a fact which many charities in the UK are most envious of.

Against this more hopeful outlook, cuts in police budget are extremely worrying. There is a fear that human trafficking victims will become the losers and will be seen as peripheral. It is a measure of civilised society how it treats people at the bottom of the pile and slaves are always at the bottom of the pile. What can you do?

- 1) You can be the eyes and ears in your area. In a recent Lurgan case, 20+ Romanian men, dressed in little more than rags were found living in 3-bed house and were extremely frightened. Did no-one think something was wrong?? Start looking round and begin to recognise human trafficking. If you think it's happening, report it, whether it's on your farm or down your street. If you don't want to go to the police, go to Victim Support NI.
- 2) You can tell others about human trafficking. Pass on what you've learned. Get speakers about it for the groups you belong to. I will speak anywhere.

- 3) Support organisations directly concerned in NI, e.g. Barnardo's (carers for trafficked children); Women's Refuge Belfast (females); Migrant Care (males); and NMT (No More Traffik) who go into NI schools & teach children and young people how not to be trafficked. Also support organisations stopping human trafficking at source, directly or indirectly - those empowering women and children, by educating or training them and giving them the means to earn a living.

At the same time as I speak in freedom and you listen in freedom and we can all go home later in freedom, there are children, women and men in this area who are trafficked; slaves; totally without freedom and they are being treated appallingly.

Human trafficking has to be stopped."

Reverend Bach responded to members questions on rescue and places of safety and Councillor Finlay said he hoped the Bill before the Assembly would be effective.

The Mayor thanked Reverend Bach for her informative presentation. He said he was pleased to hear of the work of Victim Support and the Charities helping children, women and men and of the work of NMT (No More Traffik) in schools.

The presentation concluded at 6.50 pm. Reverend Bach left the meeting at this time.

* **Councillor McAfee joined the meeting at 6.55 pm**

1004.3 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING NO 1003 – 6TH OCTOBER 2014

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

that the minutes of Council Meeting No 1003 – 6th October 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

1004.4 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE MEETING NO 101 – 20TH OCTOBER 2014

Councillor McLean presented the report.

the minutes of Consultation Committee Meeting No 101 – 20th October 2014, as circulated, were received.

1004.5 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 422 – 21ST OCTOBER 2014

Councillor Finlay presented the report in the absence of the Chair Alderman Campbell who was absent from the meeting due to ill health. Councillor Finlay and members of the Council wished Alderman Campbell a speedy recovery.

- * **Councillor McGuigan joined the meeting at 7.00 pm.**

Matters Arising:

5.1 Ballymoney Cemetery (422.13)

Councillor Finlay stated that he is unhappy with the extent of bollards at the cemetery. He said that he was in favour of the barriers to control access to the cemetery but at the time of discussion, he was unaware of bollards being installed at paths within the burial ground which means that disabled access is restricted. He hoped the matter would come back to Committee.

5.2 Riverside Park Improvement Scheme (422.4)

Councillor Stevenson advised of his understanding that Council has £1.34M available to spend on capital projects which had been provided for in the rates, providing that these projects each do not exceed the threshold of £250,000. He said that he had spoken to the Chief Executive of Causeway Coast & Glens Council who seemed favourable to the notion, that if this were the case, the projects could be considered. Councillor Stevenson also indicated that those DUP members on the Causeway Coast & Glens Shadow Council had also indicated their support for the projects when these are brought to the Shadow Council for consideration. He was of the view that Killyrammer Social Centre, Edward Street Social Centre and Crosstagherty Transfer Facility should be brought to the relevant Committees for speedy consideration and that projects currently under consideration at Riverside Park Improvement Scheme be progressed.

The Mayor said he would not take a proposal on these matters as they were matters for Leisure & Amenities Committee and Health & Environmental Services Committee and this is where the matters should be raised.

5.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 422 – 21st October 2014, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

1004.6 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING NO 261 – 15TH OCTOBER 2014

Councillor Finlay presented the report.

Matters Arising:**6.1 World War One Legacy Programme (261.5)**

Councillor Finlay placed on record his thanks to the Head of Corporate & Development Services for the excellent and well organised dedication event which took place on Saturday 1st November to mark the unveiling of a bronze statue of a soldier at the War Memorial. The statue, to commemorate those from the borough who lost their lives in the Great War, was paid for by Council and the citizens of the borough. He also extended thanks to Sammy McClements and Noel Anderson, Ballymoney Cultural & District Heritage Society, for their hard work in raising the funds to enable the purchase and installation of the statue. He also thanked the Mayor and his Chaplain for their roles on the day.

Councillor Robinson concurred with Councillor Finlay's remarks stating that the statue leaves a lasting and moving tribute in the town to those who lost their lives. She also thanked the officer for marking the event with a medallion which had been presented to those in attendance. Councillor McKeown added his congratulations on the success of the event. The Mayor stated that this had been a moving service for the family of Sergeant McClusky, whose name had been added to the Memorial and a memorable visit by the Mayor of Rhenen and historian Toon Blokland.

6.2 Revitalisation Programme (261.4.3.2)

Councillor Finlay congratulated local businesses and Council's Project Steering Group who are doing a tremendous job to help improve shop fronts and the overall look of the town streetscape with the assistance of the Revitalisation programme. He welcomed completion of the first scheme and advised that there were many more in the pipeline. Councillor Stevenson concurred with these remarks.

In response to Councillor McKeown, the Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that re-introduction of the LOTS initiative is being considered but has not yet been confirmed.

6.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the Development Committee Meeting No 261 – 15th October 2014, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

1004.7 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 427 – 27TH OCTOBER 2014

Alderman Cousley presented the report. The Mayor indicated that he wished to raise the matter of Committee meetings.

Matters Arising:**7.1 Annual Remembrance (427.11)**

The Mayor advised that due to other commitments, he will be unable to attend the wreath laying ceremony at Ballymoney War Memorial on Sunday 9th November at 10.30 am but would be attending the service at 3.00 pm. It was agreed that Councillor Finlay would lay the wreath on behalf of the Mayor. Alderman Campbell was nominated to attend the Service in Dervock in the absence of the Deputy Mayor.

7.2 Cemetery Memorials (427.9)

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Finlay and **AGREED**

that Council 'move into Committee' to discuss item 7.2.

*** Members of the press left the meeting at 7.20 pm.**

Councillor Finlay concurred with Councillor Robinson that the correct decision had been taken by recommending Motion 2 to recommend that this matter be referred back to Committee. Members discussed issues arising from the options and implementation.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor McLean

that Council accept the recommendation as put forward at Motion 1:

to recommend that council proceeds to implement the cemetery rules by securing removal of all unauthorised surrounds and as a fair compromise, permit the relocation of moveable memorials, flowers, mementoes etc to the newly designated areas of graves within the lawn cemeteries; that the rules are amended in the two Ballymoney borough cemeteries as set out in appendix 1 and that all affected grave plot owners are advised of the revised arrangements allowing for a period of time to remove/relocate.

A vote was taken with three members voting in favour and five members voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion lost.

7.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 427 – 27th October 2014, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

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

that Council 'Move out of Committee' to continue the business of the meeting.

It was proposed by Alderman Kennedy, seconded by Councillor Cavlan

that the recommendation at 427.10 be implemented in that no committee meetings will be held during December 2014-March 2015.

A vote was taken with seven members voting in favour and three members voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

Councillor Stevenson recorded his disappointment at the decision.

1004.8 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING NO 403 – 28TH OCTOBER 2014

The Director of Borough Services presented the report including addendum as set out at 8.1. He also referred to essential drainage and maintenance work at Crosstagherty Waste Site as set out at 8.2.

8.1 Application for Approval of Stand-Alone Meat Products Premises under EC Regulations 853/2004

Application for Approval/Conditional Approval of Premises under EC Regulation 853/2004

Application for Approval

An application for approval under Regulation 853/2004 was received on 29th October 2014 from the following stand-alone meat products premises within Ballymoney Borough Council area:

Simply Scrumptious, 27 Main Street, Ballymoney, BT53 6AN.

An approval inspection was subsequently conducted on 3rd November 2014 by this department, at which time it was assessed that the premises fulfilled the structural /equipment requirements of the Regulations.

RECOMMENDATION:

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Ballymoney Borough Council **conditionally approve Simply Scrumptious** for the following activities:

Production of sausage rolls

The reason for recommending **conditional** approval as opposed to full approval, is to allow the business to implement and demonstrate compliance with requirements under Article 5 of Regulation EC 853/2004 namely HACCP procedures and record keeping.

The Approval Code number allocated to this premises is **UK ZS014 EC**

IT IS FURTHERMORE RECOMMENDED that both the applicant and the Food Standards Agency be informed of this conditional approval.

8.2 Crosstagherty Waste Site

The Director advised that tenders for essential drainage and servicing work at Crosstagherty Waste Site will be tabled for consideration at the November meeting of Committee.

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

that Council Powers be granted to the November meeting of the Committee to deal with the tenders.

8.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Committee Meeting No 403 – 28th October 2014, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved including 8.1 and 8.2 as set out above.

1004.9 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING NO 33 – 14TH OCTOBER 2014

The report was presented by Alderman Connolly.

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

that the minutes of Audit Committee Meeting No 33 – 14th October 2014, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

- * The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central & Leisure Services left the meeting at 7.40 pm.
- * Councillor McKeown left the meeting at 7.40 pm.

1004.9 SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that the Seal of Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate numbers 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406 and 1407.

1004.10 CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS SHADOW COUNCIL

No report was given. The Chief Executive advised that members can access minutes on Causeway Coast and Glens website at <http://www.causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/140828-Shadow-Council-minutes.pdf>.

Copies will also be available in the Members' Room.

1004.11 UNISON NORTHERN IRELAND

Correspondence has been received from Unison Northern Ireland who has requested an opportunity to give a presentation to Council on the NJC pay claim 2014/15. Their correspondence states that Local Government pay and conditions are currently the worst in the public sector and with the threat of an increase in interest rates, they believe that Councils should take a stand and support the lowest paid public sector workers.

The Chief Executive advised members that there has been a withdrawal of strike action and matters are continuing to be discussed. This may have an impact on Unison's request for speaking rights at the moment.

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

that an invitation be extended to UNISON to give a presentation to Council should this be required.

- * Alderman Connolly left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

1004.12 INSOLVENCY (AMENDMENT) BILL

The Committee for Enterprise, Trade & Investment will commence Committee Stage of the Insolvency (Amendment) Bill after the second stage of the Bill on 10 November 2014.

The Committee would welcome Council's views on the proposed Bill and requests that you submit written evidence by e-mail to committee.eti@niassembly.gov.uk or by post to the address on the bottom of this page.

Written submissions should be structured to address specific clauses of the Bill. Information regarding the Bill can be obtained from the Assembly's website – <http://www.niassembly.gov.uk/Assembly-Business/Legislation/Primary-Legislation-Current-Bills/Insolvency-Amendment-Bill/>

Closing date for comments is 01 December 2014.

1004.13 NILGA RESPONSE TO THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT CONSULTATION ON GUIDANCE ON PLANNING ELEMENT OF COUNCILLOR'S CODE OF CONDUCT

The response, circulated, has been drafted by NILGA in response to the Department of the Environment's consultation on Guidance on the planning element of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.

This draft will be considered by the NILGA Executive Committee prior to finalization and submission by the Department by the 21st November closing date. Any comments, additions or amendments to this draft should be forwarded to NILGA before 7th November if possible or by 13th November at the latest.

Members were invited to consider the draft response.

1004.14 PREPARATIONS FOR SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS

The Minister for the Department of the Environment, Mr Mark Durkan, has written to Council requesting that, in accordance with its usual practice, Council is in a position to carry out its key role on responding to civil emergencies such as severe weather conditions.

Mr Durkan states that the winter period will include the change of responsibilities arising from Local Government Reform and urges Council to ensure that this change does not impact negatively on its response capabilities to ensure essential local services are sustained to meet the needs of citizens, including the most vulnerable.

1004.15 REPORTS

A schedule of reports was circulated for members' information.

1004.16 HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Councillor McAfee thanked officers and all involved in the development and delivery of the Halloween events, particularly the street party which had a very good attendance and the Myths and Legends events and movies, all of which received favourable feedback. The Mayor said he had also received good reports.

The meeting concluded at 7.52 pm.