

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**Table of Contents**

422.1	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>
422.2	Minutes of Meeting No 422 – 23 rd December 2013	<i>Approved</i>
CENTRAL SERVICES		
422.3	Consultation on The Draft Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (NI) 2014	<i>Comment</i>
422.4	Apportionment of Shadow Council Costs – Guidance	<i>Information</i>
422.5	Overpaid Vat Claims – Trade Waste	<i>Revised claim £139,484.25 submitted</i>
422.6	Accounts for Payment	<i>£270,908.06 Revenue Account, £157,410.50 Capital Account, Period 10</i>
422.7	Ballymoney Cemetery Memorials	<i>Grant Permission</i>
CORPORATE SERVICES		
422.8	Staff Matters	<i>Deferred</i>
422.9	Statutory Transition Committee (STC)	
	9.1 Minutes	<i>Information</i>
	9.2 Funding for Change Managers	<i>Information</i>
	9.3 Transfer of Urban Regeneration and Community Development Budgets	<i>Information</i>
422.10	Amended Election Rules	<i>Information</i>
422.11	Unison	<i>Receive Unison at next Council meeting</i>
422.12	Conference	<i>Alderman Campbell and Councillor Robinson to attend at €305 each</i>
422.13	Civic Events Update	
	13.1 WWI Commemoration	<i>Host civic reception</i>
	13.2 Civic Service	<i>Provide hospitality</i>
	13.3 St. John's Ambulance – 75 th Anniversary	<i>Provide civic reception</i>
	13.4 Light It Up Blue Campaign	<i>Information</i>
	13.5 Launch of Facilities	<i>Note</i>
422.14	North Antrim Agricultural Association	<i>Invite to present at next meeting</i>

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 422 held in the McKinley Room, Riada House, on Monday 27th January 2014 at 7.00pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor E Robinson, MBE

PRESENT: **Aldermen**
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE
B Kennedy

Councillors
J Atkinson
W Blair
J Finlay, Mayor
R Halliday
R McAfee
A Mclean
I Stevenson

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive [Items 9-14]
Director of Central and Leisure Services [Item 1-7]
Head of Corporate & Development Services [Items 8-14]
Business Support Officer

APOLOGIES: Councillor A Cavlan

422.1 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

422.2 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 422 – 23RD DECEMBER 2013

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

AGREED:

to recommend that the Minutes of Meeting No 422 – 23rd December 2013, as circulated, be approved.

CENTRAL SERVICES

422.3 CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME REGULATIONS (NI) 2014

The Director advised the matter was deferred from last month's committee meeting.

The Department of the Environment (DOE) launched on 12th December 2013 a consultation on the draft Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (NI) 2014. The closing date for submitting comments is 7th February 2014.

The DOE propose that the new Pension Scheme will come into effect from 1st April 2014.

As the Local Government Pension Scheme Regulations (NI) 2014 are not yet made the Council will have a very short period of time to put the necessary systems in place to deal with the revised pension scheme and may incur additional expenditure to have the Payroll System updated to deal with proposed changes.

In addition the Council is unable to communicate the Pension Scheme changes to employees until the Regulations are finalised.

The proposed pension scheme changes are likely to increase employer costs but until the Regulations are finalised these costs are not fully known.

Finance staff are currently working on the implementation of Automatic Enrolment as the Councils staging date is 1st May 2014. The introduction of the new Pension Scheme from 1st April 2014 is likely to have resource implications for the Council.

Committee is requested to consider commenting based on the above information and including that the introduction of the new scheme is deferred to 1st April 2015.

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

to recommend that Council comment requesting implementation of the Scheme is deferred until April 2015, due to the very short period of time to put systems in place to deal with the revised pension scheme and due to the additional expenditure to have the Payroll System updated to deal with proposed changes.

422.4 APPORTIONMENT OF SHADOW COUNCIL COSTS – GUIDANCE

The Director advised the Department of the Environment has issued Guidance to Councils and Statutory Transition Committee on the Apportionment of New Council Costs during Shadow Period.

The Guidance indicates that "any costs incurred by a new council should be defrayed amongst the existing councils forming part of its district in proportion to the total population of the local government district of the existing council that will become part of the district of the new council".

The Guidance also indicates that this method of apportioning costs will be provided for in the Local Government Bill and the transitional provisions legislation made thereunder.

Councillor Stevenson stated the decision was reluctantly accepted at the STC meeting, Alderman Kennedy indicated that he would question the Minister at the next STC meeting on his decision.

422.5 OVERPAID VAT CLAIMS – TRADE WASTE

HMRC have sought supporting documentation for parts of the Council's claim. The documentation was produced from the Debtors Ledger system and submitted to HMRC. The Debtors Ledger reports produced a slightly different figure from the initial claim.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council note that a revised claim for overpaid VAT on Waste Collection Services in the amount of £139,484.25 has been submitted to HMRC.

The Director gave additional background information relating to the claim and responded to member queries.

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

to recommend that Council note that a revised claim for overpaid VAT on Waste Collection Services in the amount of £139,484.25 has been submitted to HMRC.

422.6 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Treasury advice schedules detailing payments for Period 10, 2013/14 drawn on the Council's Revenue and Capital Bank Accounts were made available to members prior to the meeting. The Director of Central and Leisure Services was in attendance and dealt with members queries.

***Payments made in period 10 amount to:
£270,908.06 Revenue account and
£157,140.50 Capital account***

422.7 BALLYMONEY CEMETERY MEMORIALS

The following applications have been received for the erection of memorials in Ballymoney Cemetery –

Section E2 No. 81

Mrs Pat Dougherty, 17 Macafee Place, Ballymoney
Black Granite 'OG' Design Headstone and Base

Section I4 No. 29

Mr K McCrellis, 23A Kirk Road, Ballymoney
Black Granite All Polished Headstone and Base

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Council grants permission for the erection of the above memorials.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and
AGREED:

to recommend that Council grants permission for the erection of the above memorials.

- * **Director of Central and Leisure Services left the meeting at 7.40pm.**
- * **Head of Corporate and Development Services arrived at the meeting at 7.40pm.**

CORPORATE SERVICES

422.8 STAFF MATTERS

JNC recommendations for consideration by Councils, who consider it appropriate to make a payment to their Chief Executive, for additional workload as a consequence of local government reform, was deferred from the committee's last meeting (min ref. 420.4). A further copy of the Annex was circulated. The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised on the incremental points as set out in the annex and on decisions to date by other Councils in the cluster.

This matter was deferred from the last meeting.

IT IS RECOMMENDED that Committee consider the matter and make a recommendation to Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and
AGREED:

to recommend that the matter be deferred to the committee's next meeting and information obtained on decisions of other councils.

- * **Councillor McLean left the meeting at 7.50pm during the above matter.**
- * **Chief Executive arrived at the meeting at 8.02pm.**

422.9 STATUTORY TRANSITION COMMITTEE (STC)

9.1 Minutes

Minutes of STC meeting of 12th December are circulated together with agenda for the next meeting on 23rd January. A copy is available for reference in the members' room, Chief Executive invited member questions.

9.2 Funding for Change Managers

DoE has written to advise that in order to avail of the Change Manager funding for the period April – December 2013 the Department should receive completed claim form and associated documentation by 31st January 2014. Similarly actual claims for the period January – March 2014 must be noticed to DoE by 14th March to ensure the Department accrues the correct amount for year-end accounts. The deadline for confirming Council's intention to avail of all or part funding is 31st January 2014.

9.3 Transfer of Urban Regeneration and Community Development Budgets

The DSD Minister has written to advise, following previous communication on the matter of proposed budget allocation model for the transfer of urban regeneration and community development budgets to the 11 new councils in 2015 that, in response to feedback and in response to a number of requests, the deadline for responses is now 28th February (previously 24th January). This matter will be considered by the STC.

422.10 AMENDED ELECTION RULES

The Local Election (NI) Order 2013 (No. 3156) was made on 11th December and comes into force on 12th December. A copy of the explanatory note was circulated. The full document may be accessed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk>. Chief Executive invited member queries and summarised the main changes and points of interest. A copy of the rules are available on request from Office of the Chief Executive.

In response to a question from Councillor Stevenson, Chief Executive confirmed Electoral Office for NI are organising a Voters Registration Seminar in Ballymoney, a date has not yet been communicated.

422.11 UNISON

Request from Unison for speaking rights at your next council meeting with regards to the NJC pay claim 2014/15. The Trade Union state that Local government pay and conditions are currently by far the worst in the public sector and with the threat of an increase in interest rates, it believes that councils should take a stand and support the lowest paid public sector workers within the constituency. Committee is invited to approve the request for Unison to present at the Council Meeting on 3rd February.

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

to recommend that Council receive representatives from Unison at the next Council meeting.

422.12 CONFERENCE

An application has been received from Alderman Campbell and Councillor Robinson respectively to attend the Clare County Council 25th Annual Tourism Conference on 'Folklore, Heritage & Tourism' on Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd February 2014. The cost will be approximately €305 each. Funding is available in the current budget.

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

to recommend that Council grant Alderman Campbell and Councillor Robinson respectively to attend the Clare County Council 25th Annual Tourism Conference on "Folklore, Heritage & Tourism" on Friday 21st & Saturday 22nd February 2014. The cost will be approximately €305 each.

422.13 CIVIC EVENTS UPDATE

13.1 WWI Commemoration

Council has lent support to the significant event, led by Ballymoney & District Cultural & Heritage Society, in Ballymoney to commemorate the 100th anniversary of WWI during the week-end 1st/2nd August. It is anticipated that this event will be one of the largest commemoration events in the province and will attract significant numbers of Royal British Legion branches, veterans and visitors to Ballymoney town. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that the Council host a civic reception in the Town Hall for key visiting officials.

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

to recommend that Council host a civic reception in the Town Hall for key visiting officials.

13.2 Civic Service

The Mayor, in association with the Mayor's Chaplain, has made arrangements for a Civic Service in Rasharkin Presbyterian Church on 23rd February to which business and community organizations in the borough are invited to attend. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council provide hospitality at the conclusion of the Service which will mark some 40 years of the current form of local government in the borough.

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

to recommend that Council provide hospitality at the conclusion of the Civic Service in Rasharkin Presbyterian Church.

13.3 St. John's Ambulance – 75th Anniversary

Recently Leisure and Amenities Committee agreed to mark the 75th anniversary on 26th June of the service to the public of Ballymoney Division of St John's Ambulance by designing a flowerbed. **IT IS RECOMMENDED** that Council mark the significant anniversary by hosting a civic reception.

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

to recommend that Council mark the significant 75th Anniversary of St John's Ambulance by hosting a civic reception.

13.4 Light it Up Blue Campaign

Members were reminded, Last year Council signed up to support the "Light It Up Blue Campaign", raising awareness of Autism. This year 2nd April is Autism Day.

13.5 Launch of Facilities

Members are requested to note that arrangements are in hand to mark Commonwealth Day on 10th March and for the launch of developments at Drumaheglis Marina and new community infrastructure.

422.14 NORTH Antrim Agricultural Association

2014 will see the 107th Ballymoney show in the Showgrounds. Each year the show attracts a large turnout of visitors from across the Province for its varied programme of events and exhibits. Council has made an annual contribution towards the running of the show. In recent years the contribution has been £1,200 in respect of the running costs of the show and sponsorship of the "Champion & reserve in Pony Classes".

The Association has requested the opportunity to make a presentation to committee. The Show Committee is planning for the 2014 show and are looking at ways the show can be developed and expanded for the benefit of the greater Ballymoney area. It wishes to seek additional funding from Council and suggests that Council increase its financial support to around £5,000 to assist with the extended plans for the show.

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

to recommend that Council invite representatives from North Antrim Agricultural Association to present to the next committee meeting and to consider the request for funding at the rates estimates meeting.

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