

Meeting	Council
Date and Time	25 February 2014 at 6.50pm
Location	Council Chamber, Cloonavin
Chair	The Mayor, Councillor D Harding
Present	Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Fielding Aldermen W Creelman, P Fielding, N Hillis and J McClure Councillors C Archibald, D Barbour, Y Boyle, T Clarke, S Cole, G Duddy, B Fitzpatrick, R Holmes, W King, M Knight-McQuillan, R Loftus, W McCandless, S Quigley and C Sugden
In Attendance	Town Clerk and Chief Executive (Items 1.0 – 12.2.1), Corporate Director of Environmental Services (Items 1.0 – 12.2.1), Corporate Director of Leisure and Development (Items 1.0 – 12.2.1), Head of Finance (Items 1.0 – 12.2.1), Senior Environmental Officer (Items 1.0 – 5.2.1), Principal Administrative Officer (Items 1.0 – 12.2.1), Business Support and Administration Manager and Acting Business Support Assistant

1 APOLOGIES

An apology was recorded for Alderman Hickey.

2 CHAIR'S BUSINESS

2.1 Appointment of Chief Executive to Causeway Coast and Glens District Council

The Mayor extended congratulations to Mr David Jackson, Chief Executive elect of the Causeway Coast and Glens District Council. He paid tribute to Mr Jackson's work with Coleraine Borough Council and wished him all the best in his new position. Members echoed these remarks and expressed their eagerness to work with Mr Jackson.

The Mayor, on behalf of Council, thanked Members of the Causeway Coast and Glens Statutory Transition Committee for their work to date, especially those involved on the Interview Panel for the appointment process.

Agreed: That a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr Jackson.

2.2 Resignation of Town Clerk and Chief Executive

The Mayor paid tribute to Mr Roger Wilson on his last meeting as Chief Executive of Coleraine Borough Council and wished him future success in his personal life and his appointment as Chief Executive of Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council. The Mayor and Members expressed their thanks for Mr Wilson's hard work and years of service on behalf of Council and the Borough and noted that he would be warmly remembered for the achievement of the first zero rates increase in the history of Council.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor declared an interest in item 15.1 of the Environmental Services' Committee Report in relation to Legal Proceedings.

4 'IN COMMITTEE'

It was agreed to take a number of items 'In Committee' at the end of the meeting.

5 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council meeting of 28 January 2014 were confirmed and signed.

6 COMMITTEE REPORTS

6.1 Planning Committee

The Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 28 January 2014 were proposed by The Chairman, Alderman Creelman, seconded by Councillor Boyle and agreed.

6.2 Environmental Services Committee

The Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of 4 February 2014 were proposed by The Chairman, Councillor Archibald and seconded by Councillor Duddy.

The Corporate Director of Environmental Services gave a summary of the topics contained in the Committee Report and answered questions on various issues.

6.2.1 Presentation – Severe Weather Preparations Contingency Plan

The Senior Environmental Health Officer delivered the presentation to Members and drew attention to a booklet 'Emergency Planning – Severe Weather', which contained 24 hour contact details for emergency planning (circulated).

The Committee Report was subsequently agreed.

6.3 Corporate Affairs Committee

The Minutes of the Corporate Affairs Committee meeting of 5 February 2014 were proposed by The Chairman, Councillor Duddy and seconded by Alderman Fielding.

The Chief Executive gave a brief summary of the topics contained in the Committee Report and answered questions on various issues.

6.3.1 Review of Governance Arrangements – Committee Structure

The Deputy Mayor spoke on the current Committee system, the six-month trial for which was at an end and expressed concerns about certain aspects including lack of information and the perceived exclusion of Members, press and public.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor: that Council revert to the original Committee structure which was in place prior to December 2013.

Councillor McCandless referred to the volume of business transacted at Committees and the forthcoming changes which would take place following election of the Causeway Coast and Glens District Council.

It was then proposed by Councillor McCandless and seconded by Councillor Sugden: that Council retain the current Committee system with the proviso that press and the public be allowed access to all non-confidential matters.

As the proposal put forward by the Deputy Mayor had not been seconded, the proposal by Councillor McCandless became the substantive Motion.

Councillor Cole then seconded the Deputy Mayor's proposal, which was taken as an amendment.

On being put to the meeting, the amendment was lost with 8 Members voting in favour and 11 Members voting against.

Agreed: With 11 Members voting in favour and no Members voting against, that Council retain the current Committee system with the proviso that press and the public be allowed access to all non-confidential matters. Further, that these arrangements be effective immediately.

The Mayor advised that the new Chief Executive of Council might invite Members to a workshop to discuss Committee arrangements.

The Committee Report was agreed subject to the amendment.

7 NOTICE OF MOTION

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor Archibald and seconded by Councillor Loftus:

"That this Council notes with concern the legal ruling which resulted in a 0% transfer rate from Pillar 1 to Pillar 2 of the Rural Development Programme and is concerned that the court ruling which quashed the decision by the Agriculture Minister could have a detrimental impact on the Going for Growth strategy, the environment and funding for rural communities; and calls on the Council to write to OFMDFM and the Finance Minister to ensure the necessary funding is found to address this."

Discussion followed during which a number of Members voiced their varied opinions on the sentiments expressed in the Motion and the likely effectiveness which letters from Council might have.

Councillor Knight-McQuillan asked that it be noted that the court case involving the Agriculture Minister was in relation to procedural matters only.

Agreed: On being put to the Meeting and with 4 Members voting in favour and 9 Members voting against, that the Motion fail.

8 LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES' REPORT

Consideration was given to the Report of the Corporate Director of Leisure and Development (previously supplied).

8.1 Somerset Trees

Members' attention was drawn to the various options contained in the 'SWOT' Analysis attached to the Report, which had previously been presented to residents of the Somerset area during two information sharing evenings in December and February. The favoured recommendation of the residents was for Option 5.

The Corporate Director of Leisure and Development reported, however, that Planning Service had now placed a Tree Preservation Order on the entire tree belt at Somerset and that a meeting had been arranged with them to address this development. He advised that work would be undertaken in autumn 2014 subject to consultation with Planning Service.

Agreed: That Council approve Option 5 at a cost of £17,750 viz: to fell all trees adjacent to the fence up to a maximum of half the width of the tree belt or a tree length from a house and repeat for the other half once replacement trees have been established.

A number of Members thanked the Corporate Director of Leisure and Development and the Outdoor Recreation Manager for their work on this issue.

9 CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted the following correspondence (previously supplied);

- Letter dated 30 January 2014 from Big Lottery Fund re legacy investment
- Letter dated 18 February 2014 from Londonderry Area Electoral Office re Registration and ID Clinic
- Letter dated 18 February 2014 from The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority re Independent Expert-Led Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Northern Ireland
- Forecast of Events
- Documents for Tabling
- Consultation Documents

10 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

Resolved:

That the following documents be sealed:

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | <u>Transfer of Land (In Triplicate)</u> | Council to Mr Elliott – 99 Dunluce Road, Portrush |
| 2 | <u>Contract (In Duplicate)</u> | Council and JPM Contracts Ltd – Kilrea Environmental Improvement Scheme 131063 |
| 3 | <u>Contract (In Duplicate)</u> | Council and Sugar Rush Creative – Design and Supply of Project Alchemy CRM Website Ref DSU-Alchemy CRM/1/14 |
| 4 | <u>Agreement (In Duplicate)</u> | Coleraine Rugby Football Club to Council – Land at Rugby Avenue, Coleraine |
| 5 | <u>Cemetery Titles</u> | Grant of Right of Burial – Deeds Register No. 4091– 4098 inclusive:

Coleraine 4
Ballywillan 3
Agherton 0
Portstewart 1
Kilrea 0 |

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Thanks

The Mayor extended thanks to Mr Milne Rowntree and students from the University of Ulster for their attendance and expressed the hope that they were now more informed about Council procedures.