

COUNCIL MEETING

Minutes of proceedings of Coleraine Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Cloonavin on Tuesday, 25th July, 2006 at 7.45 p.m.

Convened: As per Notice attached

Present: The Mayor, Councillor W. A. King, in the Chair

Aldermen

E. T. Black (Mrs.) M. T. Hickey (Mrs.)
W. T. Creelman

Councillors

C. S. Alexander (Ms.) S. Gilkinson
(Items 1.0 – 19.0) N. F. Hillis
D. D. Barbour E. A. Johnston (Mrs.)
J. M. Bradley G. L. McLaughlin
O. M. Church (Mrs.) R. A. McPherson
A. S. Cole A. McQuillan
T. J. Deans

Officers in Attendance:

Town Clerk and Chief Executive, Director of Environmental Health, Director of Technical Services (Items 5.4 – 20.2), Head of Development Services, Head of Administrative Services, Principal Environmental Health Officer, Leisure Services Officers and Administrative Assistant

Apologies: Alderman McClarty and Councillor Leonard

1.0 MAYOR'S THANKS

The Mayor thanked members for their co-operation with the rescheduling of the Planning Committee and Council Meetings, due to the funeral of the late Jim Watt.

2.0 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Council Meeting of 27th June, 2006 were confirmed and signed.

3.0 LEISURE SERVICES REPORT

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Leisure Services (previously supplied).

Matters arising:

3.1 Regional Museum

The five design practices which had been shortlisted in this competition had now been interviewed and it was proposed by Councillor McQuillan, seconded by Councillor Barbour and agreed:

That Council endorse the recommendation of the Museums Working Group, supported by the RIBA, to appoint O'Donnell and Tuomey (Dublin) as lead Architects for the project.

Thanks were extended to the Museums Officer and representatives from RIBA for their work on this project.

Members noted that the Education and Library Board would now be expected to formalize its participation in this project.

3.2 Garvagh Sports Hall - Naming

In response to a member's query, it was agreed that this item be considered at a future meeting of the Leisure and Environment Committee.

4.0 DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Development Services (previously supplied).

Matters arising:

4.1 Tender for Good Relations Strategy

Six tenders had been received and scored for this project viz:

Company	Ranking based on scoring	Price (inc. VAT)	Price (ex. VAT)
Rubicon Consulting	1 st	£11,045.00	£9,112.25
Hollywell Consultancy	2 nd	£11,430.00	£9,429.75
Vision Management Services	3 rd	£11,696.00	£9,649.20
Red Hat Consulting	4 th	£11,911.56	£9,827.03
Derrick Matthews Associates	5 th	£10,800.00	£8,910.00
HRD Consulting	6 th	£10,375.00 (not VAT registered)	£10,375.00

Recommended:

That Rubicon Consulting, Belfast be appointed to carry out the work.

4.2 Trade Development Programme: "Think BIG...Think Trade"

Five tenders had been received for this project; a recommendation would be brought to Council in due course.

Noted.

- 4.3 Expressions of Interest for Metropole Park and Recreation Grounds, Portrush Members noted information on this topic, as contained in the report.
- 4.4 Ulster Military Vehicle Club Annual Show Consideration was given to a request for support from the Ulster Military Vehicle Club and it was proposed by Councillor McQuillan, seconded by Councillor McPherson and agreed:
- That Council contribute the use of the field on the Coast Road at Portstewart, subject to appropriate insurance cover, along with £1,000 deficit funding.
- A reference made to Council further promoting this event in 2007 was noted by the Head of Development Services.
- 4.5 Fern Festival 2006 Consideration was given to a request for additional assistance from the organisers of the Fern Festival and it was agreed:
- That Council contribute a further £410 to help cover costs associated with the Festival.
- 4.6 Multimedia Citizenship – A Proposal to Engage in Local Democracy Week 2006 Consideration was given to information on this event which would take place on 16th – 20th October, 2006.
- Any members interested in attending were asked to contact the Community Development Manager.

5.0 TECHNICAL SERVICES REPORT

Consideration was given to the Report of the Director of Technical Services (previously supplied).

Matters arising:

- 5.1 Cloonavin – Natural Gas Conversion Consideration was given to information on this topic, as contained in the report.
- Options put forward by Firmus Energy for supply of gas to Cloonavin were discussed and it was proposed by Councillor McPherson, seconded by Alderman Mrs. Hickey and agreed:
- That Council accept the two year option offered by Firmus Energy.

A request by Councillor Ms. Alexander that the possibility of installing solar panels in the building be explored, was noted by the Director of Technical Services.

5.2 Ballymoney Borough Council – Waste Disposal Tender

It was proposed by Councillor McPherson, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Johnston and agreed:

That Council submit a tender to Ballymoney Borough Council for the acceptance of waste for a two and a half year period from 1st November, 2006.

5.3 Surveillance Cameras

Members noted that the cost of surveillance equipment to address the problem of flytipping in the Borough had been estimated at £3,000 per unit and, following discussion, it was agreed:

That Council approve the purchase of four units for use within the Technical Services and Environmental Health Departments.

5.4 DRD Roads Service – Disabled Parking Bay

Council endorsed the proposal by Roads Service to provide a disabled parking bay adjacent to 30 Nursery Avenue, Coleraine for the use of residents of the property.

5.5 Entertainments Licence Garvagh Sports & Social Club, 95 Main Street, Garvagh

An application for the grant of an Entertainments Licence had been received from Mr. B. Smyth.

Agreed:

That an Entertainments Licence be granted subject to satisfactory completion of fire safety works and compliance with any other requirements of Council's Licensing Department.

6.0 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REPORT

It was agreed that the Report of the Director of Environmental Health be heard 'In Committee' at the end of the meeting.

7.0 LAND AND PROPERTY

Consideration was given to the Report of the Head of Administrative Services on land and property (previously supplied).

Matters arising:

7.1 The Hermit's Cottage, 93 Ballyreagh Road, Portrush

Members noted information on the landscaping of the area around the Hermit's Cottage by the owner of the property. Much of the landscaping was being carried out on Council land, contrary to Council's instruction in 2005 that Council land around the edges of the building site at this property should be returned to its natural appearance.

The Head of Administrative Services expressed concern that Council owned land at this location could, over a period of time, come to be regarded as private ground if the landscaping went unchallenged.

During the period of discussion which ensued, the principle of not condoning encroachment on Council land was endorsed.

It was then proposed by Councillor Bradley, seconded by Alderman Mrs. Black and agreed:

That Council support the Head of Administrative Services in proactively addressing this landscaping encroachment onto Council land.

8.0 WATER REFORM NORTHERN IRELAND

Members noted the contents of the following documents (previously supplied).

- (a) Proposal for a Draft Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 – Explanatory Memorandum.
- (b) Consultation on the Charges for Connections to the Water and Sewerage Networks.

9.0 DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - ALL IRELAND FREE TRAVEL SCHEME FOR OLDER PEOPLE - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Members noted that this consultation document would be tabled for consideration at the August meeting of Council.

10.0 DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - PORTS POLICY - POWERS, STATUS AND GOVERNANCE OF PUBLIC TRUST PORTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND - CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Members noted that this consultation document would be tabled, along with a draft response, for consideration at the August meeting of Council.

11.0 PORTBALLINTRAE SEWAGE DISPOSAL ARRANGEMENTS

Read letters from Water Service, 7th July, 2006 and Departmental Private Secretary to David Cairns MP, 14th July, 2006, in which Water Service's position was restated and Council's request for a meeting declined.

Noted.

12.0 DRD ROADS SERVICE - LETTER DATED 19TH JULY, 2006

Read letter from Roads Service apologising for disturbance caused by early morning grass cutting and advising that this would not recur.

Noted.

13.0 DOCUMENTS FOR SEALING

Resolved:

That the following documents be sealed:

1. Cemetery Titles

Grant of Right of Burial Deeds
Register Nos. 3221 – 3230 (inclusive):

Agherton	1
Ballywillan	-
Coleraine	3
Kilrea	1
Portstewart	5

Advanced Deeds – Register Nos. 0141 – 0142
(inclusive):

Agherton	-
Ballywillan	1
Coleraine	-
Portstewart	1

2. Car Loan Agreement

Mr. D. Kenny, Building Control Officer

**14.0 DONATIONS IN LIEU OF FLOWERS -
IN MEMORY OF THE LATE JIM WATT**

Members agreed to forward individual donations to the Town Clerk and Chief Executive, for presentation as a corporate donation.

15.0 REVISED WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Members noted that this plan had now been presented to the Department for determination.

**16.0 RIVER BANN - VOLUNTARY CODES OF
CONDUCT**

Members noted that a report on voluntary codes of conduct applying to the River Bann would be presented at a future meeting.

17.0 TRANSLATION OF COUNCIL INFORMATION

In response to concerns regarding a lack of understanding by people with limited English about the blue bin system, the Director of Technical Services advised that translation of Council literature on this and other topics was being pursued.

18.0 MATTERS FOR REFERRING TO PSNI

In response to public complaints/concerns on the following issues, the Town Clerk and Chief Executive advised that he would raise same with the PSNI:

- (i) Illegal/underage drinking at the playing fields, Rugby Avenue, Coleraine.
- (ii) Traffic congestion on bridges resulting from a trailerload of hay catching fire – is there any contingency plan to prevent a recurrence of such congestion.
- (iii) Parking problems caused by caravanettes parking in Portstewart.
- (iv) Portstewart Summer Theatre – sound disturbance from bands playing in the street outside.

**19.0 PORTRUSH TOWN HALL -
SOUND SYSTEM**

Reference was made to a complaint from a member of the public regarding the quality of the sound system in Portrush Town Hall. Councillor McQuillan would contact the Leisure Services Officer (Facilities) to discuss the problem.