

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2 JUNE 2014

Minutes of the annual general meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady, at 7 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen M Coyle, J Rankin and A Robinson, Councillors O Beattie A Brolly, B Chivers, R Donaghy, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, G Mullan, D Nicholl, E Scott and E Stevenson.

IN ATTENDANCE:

Committee Clerk, Administration Officer and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES: - None.

REMARKS BY OUTGOING MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR:

Councillor G Mullan welcomed those seated in the viewing gallery to Council's Annual General Meeting.

Before seeking nominations for the position for Mayor for 2014/15, Councillor G Mullan took the opportunity to thank those who had helped him in any way to make his year in office memorable for himself and his family. He said it had been an incredible honour and privilege to represent the Borough as first citizen and sincerely hoped that he had not disappointed anyone as he had tried to reach out to as many people as possible, regardless of their creed or class, whilst at the same time representing the Borough in a favourable light in all situations, formal or informal.

Councillor Mullan highlighted that the role of Mayor was a fantastic experience for those fortunate enough to receive same. He thanked his SDLP colleagues for nominated him to the position but stressed that with this honour came the heavy burden of responsibility to be a good ambassador of the Borough and that he had tried to achieve this over the last 12 months. He added that it had been a hectic year due to the volume of mayoral receptions and other engagements but thankfully, the Deputy Mayor James McCorkell had helped out on numerous occasions. He also voiced his thanks to the shadow Mayor – Christopher Trainor who had accompanied him on many public appearances and hopefully he would

have benefited from the experience, gained knowledge of the work of Council, and may decide to follow a political path in the future.

Councillor Mullan thanked Council staff from the Caretaker to the Chief Executive who had all been kind & helpful without realising this and that their constant words of advice had been important to him during the year. He said that the girls in the engine room or Chief Executives' Office had been nothing short of amazing in ensuring that he was in the right place at the right time. He gave a massive thank you to Eithne, Denise, Edwina and Lynn and said that he would not have been able to have able to carry out his duties without them.

Councillor Mullan indicated that the press had reported on his duties in a sensitive and positive way, which had helped play a huge part in his successful election to the Causeway Coast and Glens Council. Lastly he thanked his family for their help encouragement & support, with them being a tower of strength to him as he carried out his role as Mayor.

In referring to important local issues, Councillor Mullan said that whilst he was happy at the outcome of the campaign to save Thackeray Place residential home, however, the same could not be said about the campaign to try and save over 300 jobs at the DVA centre in Coleraine in which he personally travelled to No 10 Downing Street with a huge petition.

Councillor Mullan stated that during the year he had lost a dear friend Oonagh McNickle who he said saw the good in everyone and had given so much to the community, whether as head teacher or as Chair of Limavady Twinning Committee.

In conclusion, Councillor Mullan wished all Councillors well for the future, whether elected or not to the new Council and said a lot of hard work and dedication had been carried out by members in the run up to the election.

The following points were made by elected members:

- The Mayor and Deputy Mayor for 2013/14 had worked well as a team
- Councillor Mullan was well respected from all sides of the community
- Relationships between elected members had improved significantly
- Councillor Mullan's generosity came across to young people

Councillor Mullan thanked members and said he was overwhelmed by the comments. He added that a particular highlight of his year had been the launch of the sculpture trail.

ELECTION OF MAYOR FOR 2014-2015:

Councillor Mullan sought nominations from the DUP for the office of Mayor for the year 2014/15.

Councillor Scott proposed, seconded by Councillor McCorkell that Councillor A Robinson be elected as Mayor for 2014/15. Agreed.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Councillor Robinson took the chair and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked his fellow party colleagues for nominating him as Mayor, the last ever Mayor of Limavady Borough in what seemed like a fairytale for the boy from Lower Roemill.

Councillor Robinson acknowledged the work carried out over the past year by Councillor Mullan and said he would be a hard act to follow. He thanked his colleague Councillor McCorkell whom he said never put a foot wrong during his year as Deputy Mayor. He gave heartfelt thanks to his party members and offered deep appreciation to those who voted for him in the election held 10 days previously and promised to be worthy of their trust.

Councillor Robinson highlighted that it was his father George, who came from a humble background that motivated him into public life and that he had inspired him with his relentless work ethic. He said that to be in a position to enact something positive into people's lives, no matter how small, was a privilege and for that he thanked God each day. He added that although he had no magic wand, it gave him great pleasure as Mayor to continue to work on behalf of communities and to help improve the lives of the young, families and the elderly.

Councillor Robinson pointed out that as someone with staunch Unionist views, he veered away from playing the game of sectarian ping pong and that regardless of his political viewpoint politicians needed to work to serve the community using the best of their capabilities and as part of a team, with teamwork being hallmark of his year. He said thankfully the reputation of Council had stabilised in recent months and challenged members in this final year of Council to fill media outlets with positive headlines. He added that the residents of the Borough needed to get involved in local government to waylay the views of suspicion and distrust and that he wanted to change negative perceptions of cynics about Council.

In conclusion, Councillor Robinson dedicated his year as Mayor to young people, some of whom were once like himself, facing difficulties through unemployment and by having no structure to their lives. Finally he paid tribute to his wife Tracy and baby daughter Sienna for the joy they brought to his life and said that Tracy was his greatest supporter but also his hardest critic, a rock who had steered him

through choppy seas since they met 23 years previously. He bestowed blessings to his extended family, father, mother and to the people of the Borough.

ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2014/2015:

Councillor Robinson sought nominations from the UUP for the office of Deputy Mayor for the year 2014/15.

Councillor Stevenson proposed, seconded by Councillor Brolly that Alderman J Rankin be elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2014/15. Agreed.

Alderman Rankin thanked those who had nominated him as Deputy Mayor and congratulated Councillor Robinson on being selected as the last Mayor of Limavady Borough Council. He said that he had a firm Christian outlook on life and as he was retiring at the end of the year would help Councillor Robinson in any way he could with events throughout the year.

Members from each of the 5 political parties voiced their congratulations to both Alderman Rankin and Councillor Robinson.

ELECTION OF ALDERMAN TO REPLACE GEORGE ROBINSON, MLA:

Councillor Scott proposed, seconded by Councillor McCorkell that Councillor Robinson be nominated as an Alderman. Agreed.

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

It was agreed that all 15 members be elected to the following standing committees:

- Support Services Committee:**
- Environmental Services Committee**
- Development Committee:**
- Planning and Services Committee:**

AUDIT COMMITTEE (4):

Alderman Coyle, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Nicholl and Councillor Douglas were elected to the Audit Committee for the year 2014/2015.

APPOINTMENT OR NOMINATION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO:

Aghanloo Community Association (2): Councillor Beattie and Councillor Stevenson were elected to serve on this committee.

Ballykelly Community Association (2): Councillor Nicholl and Councillor Scott were elected to serve on this committee.

Binevenagh AONB (1): Councillor Mullan and Countryside Recreation Officer were nominated to serve on this Forum.

Bio-Diversity Steering Committee (2): Alderman Coyle and Alderman Rankin were nominated to serve on this committee.

Causeway Coast Arts Committee (1): Councillor Mullan and the Events & Cultural Officer were elected to serve on this committee.

Causeway Coast & Glens Heritage Trust (1): Councillor Donaghy and the Director of Development were elected to serve on this committee.

Causeway Museum Service (2): Councillor Mullan, Alderman Rankin and Director of Development were elected to serve on this committee.

COAST (1): Councillor Donaghy.

Confederation of European Councillors Executive Committee: (1 National Association of Councillors representative): Alderman Coyle.

Diversity & Equality Working Group (New Committee) Alderman Coyle, Councillor Chivers, Councillor McCorkell and Alderman Rankin were nominated to serve on this committee.

Ferry Service Working Group (3): Alderman Coyle, Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Donaghy: The Chief Executive suggested that Council consider disbandment of this committee. It was agreed that this committee would be considered ad hoc and only meet as and when there was a need to.

It was agreed that members would be updated at the Development Services Committee meeting with regard to contract with the ferry operator on use of the jetty and terminal building.

Foreglen Community Association (2): Councillor McCaul and Alderman Coyle were elected to serve on the committee.

Forum for Local Government and the Arts (1): Councillor Mullan was elected to serve on this committee.

Gortnaghey Community Association (1): Alderman Coyle was elected to serve on this committee.

Greysteel Community Association (2): Councillor Beattie and Councillor Nicholl were elected to serve on this committee.

Greysteel Community Enterprises (2): Councillor Beattie and Councillor Nicholl were elected to serve on this committee.

Irish Language Sub-Committee (4): 2SF, 1 SDLP, 1 UUC and 1 officer): Councillor Beattie, Councillor Brolly, Councillor Nicholl and Alderman Coyle and Irish Language Officer were elected to serve on this committee.

Limavady Community Development Initiative & Advice Services Sub Group (2, plus 1 Officer): Councillor Mullan, Councillor Donaghy and the Director of Development were elected to serve on this committee.

Limavady Sports Council (4): Councillor Beattie, Alderman Rankin, Councillor Scott and Councillor Nicholl were elected to serve on this committee.

Limavady Twinning Committee (Vigneux & Westport) (4): Councillor D Nicholl, Councillor McCorkell, Councillor Mullan and Alderman M Coyle were nominated to the joint twinning Committee.

Magilligan Community Association (3): Councillor Beattie, Councillor Donaghy and Councillor Mullan were elected to serve on this committee.

Management Committee – Grammar School Pitch (2) plus Director of Development: Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Beattie were elected to serve on this committee.

National Association of Councillors (3 plus standby): Alderman Coyle, Councillor McCorkell and Councillor Chivers were elected to serve on this committee. No standby was elected.

Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership (2): Alderman Rankin and Alderman Coyle were elected to serve on this committee.

Northern Corridor Railway Task Force (2): Councillor Nicholl and Alderman Rankin were elected to serve on this committee.

Northern Group Building Control Committee (2 plus standby): Alderman Rankin and Councillor Mullan were elected to serve on this committee. No standby was elected.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association (4): Councillor Chivers, Councillor Nicholl, Councillor Scott and Alderman Coyle were elected to serve on this committee.

North West Region Waste Management Joint Committee (2): Alderman Rankin and Alderman Coyle were elected to serve on this committee.

North West Partnership Board (1 Mayor): Alderman Robinson and the Chief Executive.

Peace III Programme (2): Alderman Rankin and Councillor Mullan were elected to serve on this committee.

PCSP (9) To Select a Chair: The Chief Executive reminded members that although d'Dondt was used on political membership to PCSP, the Chair of the partnership was rotated by the 4 largest parties of Council and this would fall to the SDLP for 2014/15.

Councillor Beattie proposed, seconded by Councillor Brolly that Alderman Coyle be Chair of the PCSP for the year 2014/15.

Regional Governance Group (1, plus substitute): Councillor Mullan and Councillor Chivers as substitute.

Roe Valley Arts & Heritage Committee (2): Councillor Mullan, Alderman Rankin, plus 1 officer were elected to serve on this committee.

Roe Valley Chamber of Trade: It was agreed that this committee would be open to all elected members.

Rural Development Programme (LAG) (4): Councillor Mullan, Councillor Nicholl, Councillor Chivers and Councillor McCaul were elected to serve on this committee, with Councillor Beattie being elected as a standby.

Steering Group – Development of Sports/Community Facilities for Dungiven Area (6): Alderman M Coyle, Councillor S McGlinchey, Councillor A Brolly and Councillor B Douglas, Councillor McCaul and Councillor Nicholl.

Sustainable Development Working Group (3): Alderman Coyle, Councillor Brolly, Alderman Rankin and 1 officer from each Directorate were nominated to serve on this committee.

Website Committee (2): Alderman Coyle was elected to serve on this committee. 1 place remains unallocated.

Western Group Environmental Health Committee (2 plus standby): Alderman Rankin and Councillor Mullan were elected to serve on this committee. No standby was nominated.

Western Area Childcare Partnership (1): Councillor Chivers was elected to serve on this Committee.

APPOINTMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING WERE NOT RENEWABLE AT THIS TIME:

- (a) Causeway Coast Tourism Partnership (2011-15)
- (b) Feeny Community Association (2011-15)
- (c) Northern Ireland Housing Council (2011-15)
- (d) North West Region Cross Border Group (2011-15)
- (e) Reserves Forces & Cadets Association for Northern Ireland (2011-15)
- (f) Roe Valley Enterprises (2011-15)
- (g) Somme Advisory Committee (2011-15)
- (h) WELB (1) Councillor Brolly nominated in November 2010 to transitional committee until the new Education & Skills Authority would be established.

Disbanded/No Longer Meet:

- (a) Statutory Transition Committee

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: - None.

THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 7.55 PM

Signed: _____
Mayor