

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

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**3 JUNE 2013**

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 and J Rankin, Councillors O Beattie A Brolly, M Carten, B Chivers, B Douglas, T McCaul, J McCorkell, S McGlinchey, C McLaughlin, G Mullan, D Nicholl, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Committee Clerk, Administration Officer and the Chief Executive.

**APOLOGIES:** - Alderman G Robinson.

**CONDOLENCES:**

Councillor Stevenson requested that Standing Orders be set aside. He then proposed that Council observe a minute silence for Drummer Lee Rigby who had been brutally murdered the previous week in Woolwich and for a letter of condolence to be forwarded to the family of the soldier from the people of the Borough. This was seconded by Alderman J Rankin.

There followed a discussion whereby sending a letter of condolence was questioned and if a book of condolence should be opened.

Councillor Stevenson's proposal was put to the meeting and declared carried, 14 for, 0 against.

Members and officers stood in silence as a mark of respect.

**REMARKS BY OUTGOING MAYOR & DEPUTY MAYOR:**

Councillor McLaughlin welcomed those seated in the viewing gallery to Council's Annual General Meeting. He took the opportunity to reflect on his busy and exciting year in office which he said had flown by in a flash.

Councillor McLaughlin highlighted that he had the pleasure of hosting various Mayoral receptions and welcomed visitors from home and worldwide into the

Parlour. He had attended numerous events throughout the Borough and had the honour of presenting certificates to many members of the community for their educational, sporting, voluntary and vocational achievements. He said as Mayor it he had been given the opportunity to meet people from all walks of life and sections of the community, whether this was at charitable functions, photo calls or at formal events and that he was made to feel welcome and treated with the greatest of respect.

Councillor McLaughlin indicated that the highlights of his year included:

- ❖ Attending the Milk Cup tournament and to hear praise first-hand from those taking part in the event at the condition of the sporting facilities at Scroggy Road.
- ❖ Visiting his former school and meeting with some of the teachers who had taught him.
- ❖ Visit the residential homes in the Borough over the Christmas period.
- ❖ To witness the success of Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre as it continued to go from strength to strength, with it being well supported by all sections of the community, both young and old.

Councillor McLaughlin explained that he had chosen three charities to support during his year in office; that is Multiple Sclerosis, Down Syndrome and Northern Ireland Chest Heart & Stroke. He said as members know it is usual for the Mayor to host a charity fundraiser as the end of term approaches, he had decided to hold a charity golf tournament 'The Danny Boy Open Classic'. Unfortunately this event could not be held during his term in office and had been scheduled to be held during the summer months, with all proceeds being shared with the three named charities. Councillor McLaughlin pointed out that smaller charitable donations had been made to various groups throughout the year, too many to mention but included Foyle Hospice, Parkinson's Society and Magilligan Mother & Toddler Group.

Councillor McLaughlin extended his heartfelt thanks to all who supported him during the year and to all who helped him carry his role as Mayor. Specifically the Chief Executive, Directors and staff. He gave wholehearted thanks to Eithne, Edwina, Denise and Lynn who had helped keep track of his diary appointments and said their hard work was much appreciated. He also extended his gratitude to the media for their constant interest in the work of Council on reporting of discussions at meeting, which was not an easy task and that they deserved praise for coverage of events over the past year.

Councillor McLaughlin thanked his fellow party members and said their support & guidance had been invaluable. He paid tribute to his partner Sheila and son Niall for being a tower of strength in the background as he carried out his duties. Last but not least, he extended his sincere thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor

Alan Robinson who had been a great help throughout the year by ensuring that Council was fairly represented at events.

In conclusion, he said it had been a great privilege to be elected as the youngest Mayor of the Borough and in leaving office, he would take with him many cherished memories. Finally, he took the opportunity to wish the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor the very best in the 12 months ahead.

Councillor Brolly commended the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for setting aside their political differences to work together, especially for amplifying the voices of those who could not speak for themselves when the announcement on residential home closures came to light. On behalf of the SDLP, Alderman Coyle thanked both the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their work throughout the year.

The outgoing Deputy Mayor said he enjoyed his year in office.

#### **ELECTION OF MAYOR 2013/2014:**

Councillor C McLaughlin sought nominations from the SDLP for the office of Mayor for the year 2013/2014.

Alderman Coyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Beattie that Councillor Mullan be elected as the Mayor for 2013/14. Agreed.

#### **MAYOR'S REMARKS:**

Councillor Mullan took the Chair, signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and thanked those who had nominated him as Mayor. He referred back to his childhood and to those who had influenced his character and views. These included Arthur and Mary Doherty who had taught him at primary/secondary school and his parents, who not only installed the Christian principles of honesty, decency and respect for other but also the love of the arts. He added that these characteristics undoubtedly influenced his thinking, especially in decision making within the chamber, such as when Council was deciding whether or not to build the new Roe Valley Arts & Cultural Centre.

Councillor G Mullan indicated that Arthur Doherty who was the first Nationalist Mayor of the Borough he also introduced him to politics and that if history unfolded the way predicted due to RPA, he would be the last Nationalist Mayor of the Borough. He said that he believed that Arthur would be touched by that and for that reason he was dedicating the honour bestowed on him as Mayor to both Arthur and his wife Mary. He added that he owed a debt of gratitude to his party colleagues Alderman Coyle, Councillor Beattie and to former SDLP Councillor Dessie Lowry and his wife Bernadette on being a constant source of support and advice.

In conclusion, he said he would work to the best of his ability with Council colleagues, regardless of religion or political affiliations in the best interest of the community in which he was elected to serve. He said with the scale and pace of change in almost every sector of public life, there was never more a need for political unity in the face of such ravishing welfare reform cuts and major changes within health and education sectors. He added that divisive issues such as flags and emblems which had divided the community in the past should not be allowed to divert attention from the important issues, which needed to be attended to.

#### **ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR 2013/2014:**

Councillor G Mullan sought nominations from the DUP for the office of Deputy Mayor for the year 2013/14.

Councillor Robinson proposed, seconded by Councillor Stevenson that Councillor McCorkell be elected as Deputy Mayor for the year 2013/14. Agreed.

Councillor McCorkell thanked those who had nominated him as Deputy Mayor and said he would give the role his full commitment. Councillor G Mullan stated that he looked forward to working with Councillor McCorkell in the year ahead.

#### **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 2013/2014.

#### **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 Alderman Robinson were elected to serve on this committee.

**Binevenagh AONB (1):** Councillor Mullan was 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 McLaughlin and the Director of Development were elected to serve on this committee.

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

**COAST (1):** Councillor McGlinchey.

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

**Diversity & Equality Working Group (New Committee)** It was agreed that nominations to this committee would be discussed at the June 2013 Monthly meeting.

**Ferry Service Working Group (3):** 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.

**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 McGlinchey and the Director of Development were elected to serve on this committee.

**Limavady Sports Council (4):** Councillor Beattie, Alderman Rankin, Councillor McCorkell 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 McLaughlin and Councillor Mullan were elected to serve on this committee.

**Magilligan Prison Elected Members Liaison Group (4):** Alderman Robinson, Councillor Mullan Councillor Stevenson and Councillor Douglas 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, Alderman Robinson and Alderman Coyle were elected to serve on this committee.

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

**North West Partnership Board (1):** Councillor Mullan 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:** Councillor Robinson was nominated as Chair of the PCSP for the year 2013/14.

**Play and Leisure Partnership (2):** Alderman Rankin and Councillor Nicholl were elected to serve on this committee.

**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 (5):** Alderman G Robinson, Alderman M Coyle, Councillor S McGlinchey, Councillor A Brolly and Councillor B Douglas.

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

**Voluntary Transition Committee (6):** Councillor Nicholl, Councillor Mullan, Councillor McCorkell, Alderman Rankin and Councillor McCaul, plus Chief Executive 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) Disability Working Group
- (b) Gender Equality Steering Group
- (c) Home Accident Prevention committee
- (d) Sperrin Tourism Ltd
- (e) Play & Leisure Partnership
- (f) Limavady Road Safety Committee

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

**Blooming Great Tea Party:** Alderman Coyle highlighted that Marie Curie were holding a Blooming Great Tea Party in Drumceatt Square on Saturday 8 June 2013 from 12 – 4 pm and that all elected members and staff were invited to attend.

**Condolences:** Councillor B Douglas thanked those who had sent cards and letters of sympathy to him on the death of his father, who he said had lived a long life.

**THE BUSINESS CONCLUDED AT 7.50 PM**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Mayor**