

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD
ON MONDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 2015**

In the Chair: Councillor D Cunningham

Members Present: Councillors J Baird, S Blaney, W Graham,
C McCambridge RD McDonnell, R McIlroy,
MA McKillop, S McKillop, C McShane

Also Present: Mr R G Lewis, Clerk and Chief Executive

Mrs M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services

Mrs E Mulholland, Director of Development Services

Mr A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services

Mr R Mathers, Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust

Mr G Christie, Armoy Rugby Club

Ms D Bader, Member Services Clerical Officer

15/03:01

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Hunter, D McAllister,
N McAllister and Thompson.

Chairman's Business

NHSCT

After discussion, it was agreed that the same representatives who had previously met with the Minister would represent Council at the Northern Health Social Care Trust meeting in Antrim on 25th February 2015.

Northern Ireland Housing Conference – The Future Shape of Housing to be held on Tuesday 17th February 2015 at Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast

With reference to item 15:01/07 of the minutes of the Council Meeting on 12th January 2015,

Councillor MA McKillop proposed,
Seconded by Councillor McDonnell and resolved,
“That Councillor S McKillop be nominated to attend”.

15/03:02

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was recorded that:

Councillor MA McKillop declared an interest in Item 1.1 of the Development Services Report, presentation on The Heart of the Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme.

15/03:03

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2015

The minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th January 2015 were taken as read.

After discussion,

Councillor Graham proposed,
Seconded by Councillor Baird and resolved,
“That the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 12th January 2015 be adopted.”

15/03:04

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 12TH JANUARY 2015

There were no matters arising.

It was agreed that Item 1.1 of the Development Services Report would be taken at this point.

15/03:06

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

Item 1.1 Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust - Presentation on Landscape Partnership Scheme

Mr Reamai Mathers from the Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Landscape Partnership Scheme, followed by questions and answers.

Members thanked Mr Mathers for his detailed presentation and stated that the Causeway and Glens Heritage Trust would have Council's continued co-operation.

Discussions took place on the need to keep farmers involved, excellent work on the grassland project, nesting boxes, Tourism Ireland and the promoting of the Glens of Antrim and organising courses on 'stone walling'.

Other issues raised included how projects were agreed, living within the boundaries of the funding, the development of wetlands, soil testing, Cregagh Wood and the maintenance and replanting of trees at the Dark Hedges.

15/03:05

PRESENTATION BY ARMOY RUGBY CLUB

Mr Gareth Christie of Armoys Rugby Club was welcomed to the meeting to update Council on the current situation at Armoys Rugby Club.

He reported that the Club were setting up Mini Rugby sessions over a six week period for children aged between 5 and 11. This had been well received by parents and volunteers were in place to commence at the beginning of March. He also added that the senior team were now 3rd in their league.

Mr Christie thanked Council for their financial support and made reference to Sport NI's mandate which had now changed gearing more towards schools and universities. They were therefore seeking Council's help in replacing the current clubhouse, which was in poor condition, and provide drainage and lighting to the training pitch which was currently unplayable due to frost and rain.

After discussion, Council suggested that Armoys Rugby Club should rework their proposal, to include facts and figures with the help of Council Officers, and bring back to Council as soon as possible and Council would look to see what sort of funds could be available.

15/03:06
(contd)

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES REPORT

The Development Services Report, and Addendum to Development Services Report having been circulated were taken as read.

Proposed Abandonment at 40 Carrickmore Road, Ballycastle

Reference was made to correspondence received from DRD/TransportNI confirming that they had no statutory provision which would enable them to insert a clause ensuring that the Abandonment Order for 40 Carrickmore Road would contain a clause emphasising the preservation of the Public Right of Way over the road and that the right 'shall not be extinguished'.

After discussion, it was agreed that Council would issue a letter to DRD/TransportNI confirming that they are content for the Department to proceed with the publication of the Draft Abandonment Order at 40 Carrickmore Road, Ballycastle.

Free On-Street WiFi in Ballycastle

Reference was made to the planned installation of a free on-street WiFi service at the Diamond area and at Seafront in Ballycastle, with works to be completed by March 2015, which would boost tourism and trade in the Ballycastle.

Members expressed concern that the information confirming that funding had been secured from the Department for Social Development had appeared in the Press before they had been informed. The Chair informed members that he had been invited to attend the Press Release with the Social Development Minister.

Sandy Port Ballintoy

Reference was made to the removal of sand at Sandy Port, Ballintoy. It was reported that the Department of the Environment Strategic Planning Division had issued a Permanent Stop Notice to prevent the working or removal of sand from the beach and this would supersede any previous entitlement.

Addendum to Development Services Report

Request for Ruairi Og CLG for a further extension to their Community Infrastructure Fund Grant

After discussion, it was agreed that Council would approve the request from Ruairi Og CLG Cushendall for a further extension to their Community Infrastructure Fund Grant for constructing a Training Ball Wall, until 15th March 2015, to allow for work to be completed and receipt of outstanding invoices, on the understanding that no further extensions will be available.

Community Grant Applications

After discussion, it was agreed to approve the request from:

- Glenariffe Improvement Group for a Community Small Grant of £300 towards their Seasonal Spring Planting Project.
- First Steps Toddler Group for a Community Small Grant of £300 towards set up costs, for the purchase of play equipment and safety mats.

Request from Sheans Heritage Centre for the use of Ballintoy Harbour for Game of Thrones Photography

After discussion,

Councillor Baird proposed,
Seconded by Councillor C McShane,
“That Council agree to approve, in principle, the request from Sheans Heritage Centre for use of Ballintoy Harbour for Game of Thrones photography, subject to receiving evidence of permission from HBO and copies of insurance and risk assessment.”

After further discussion,

Councillor McIlroy proposed an amendment,
Seconded by Councillor S McKillop,
“That Council take advice on the possibility of introducing a charge”.

On a vote being taken on the amendment there were 2 votes in favour of and 8 votes against the amendment, which was lost.

On a vote being taken on the proposal there were 8 votes in favour of and 0 votes against the proposal which was carried.

Councillor C McShane left the meeting.

After discussion,

Councillor MA McKillop proposed,
Seconded by Councillor Baird and resolved,
“That the Development Services Report and the Addendum to the
Development Service Report be adopted.”

15/03:07

CORPORATE SERVICES REPORT

The Corporate Services Report, having been circulated, was taken as read.

After discussion,

Councillor Blaney proposed,
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and resolved,
“That the Corporate Services Report be adopted.”

Councillors Graham and MA McKillop left the meeting.

15/03:08

THAT COUNCIL WRITE TO THE FIRST MINISTER/DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER TO EXPRESS ITS CONCERN OVER THE PROPOSED REDUNDANCY OF 20,000 CIVIL SERVANTS (Requested by Councillor Blaney)

Reference was made to the proposed motion regarding the possible redundancy of 20,000 Civil Servants and the effect that this would have on the economy.

Councillors Graham and MA McKillop returned to the meeting.

Discussions took place on voluntary redundancies not compulsory, the loss to the economy, how the gap would be filled by the private sector and suitable alternative employment.

After discussion,

Councillor Blaney proposed,
Seconded by Councillor Cunningham,
“That Council write to First Minister/Deputy First Minister to convey its grave concern regarding the proposal to make 20,000 Civil Servants redundant. This action will have a serious effect on our fragile economy. The Council calls on the Stormont Executive to provide these Civil Servants with the opportunity of alternative employment. The loss of 20,000 jobs in the Civil Service will have a knock-on effect on other lines of employment eg cleaners, caterers, transport, maintenance etc. Paying out such a large sum of redundancy at any one time will leave a large hole in the budget and could have serious consequences for the running of all the Executive departments eg health, education etc.”

On a vote being taken on the proposal there were 2 votes in favour of and 2 votes against. The Chairman used his casting vote in favour of the proposal which was carried.

15/03:09

CONFERENCES AND COURSES

With reference to the Northern Ireland Housing Conference – The Future Shape of Housing to be held on Tuesday 17th February 2015 at Crumlin Road Gaol, Belfast item 15:01/07 of the minutes of the Council Meeting on 12th January 2015,

Councillor Baird proposed,
Seconded by Councillor Graham and resolved,
“That Councillor Blaney be nominated to attend”.

15/03:10

NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS UNDER THE LICENSING (NI) ORDER 1996 AND BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS (NI) ORDER 1985

There were no objections to the application for an Occasional Licence for Anthony Connolly of the Anzac Bar, Market Street, Ballycastle Co, Antrim for a fundraiser for Glen Rovers GAC at St Olcan’s Hall, Glenshesk Road, Armoy, Ballymoney, Co Antrim between the hours of 8pm on Saturday 14th February 2015 and 1am on Sunday 15th February 2015.

15/03:11

SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

After discussion,

Councillor Blaney proposed,
Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop and resolved,
“That Council would sign and seal the Permissive Path Agreement – Smith Brothers, relating to Causeway Coast Way/Ulster Way/International Appalachian Trail.”

15/03:12

CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) Letter dated 21st January 2015, from The William Keown Trust with reference to The William Keown Trust’s Public Awareness Committee Meeting to be held on Tuesday 31st March 2015.

After discussion,

Councillor Cunningham proposed,
Seconded by Councillor Blaney and resolved,
“That Councillor MA McKillop and Councillor S McKillop be nominated to attend.”

- (b) Letter dated 20th January 2015, from Northern Ireland Electricity Board in response to Council's letter dated 15th January 2015, with reference to the interruptions to electricity supplies in the Bushmills area over the Christmas period.

The above correspondence was marked as read.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH MAY OF NECESSITY ARISE

Shorebird Café, Ballycastle
(Requested by Councillor Baird)

Reference was made to a request from the proprietor of the Shorebird Café, Ballycastle, enquiring if the boardwalk outside the café could be extended to create a larger seating area.

Discussions included costings and budget, planning permission, renewal of the Café's three year lease, feasibility study, a project for the new CC&G Council and a formal proposal to be submitted to Council by the Shorebird Café.

Disabled Car Parking Space on the Seafront
(Requested by Councillor Baird)

Reference was made to the disabled car parking space taken up by the Automatic Public Convenience on the seafront.

The DES stated that it was the Council's intention to replace the disabled car parking space and after discussion, it was agreed that Council would undertake a feasibility study into the provision of two additional disabled car parking spaces.

Cushendall Caravan Park – Seasonal Touring Caravan Space
(Requested by Councillor McIlroy)

Reference was made to a complaint made by a resident from Bangor in relation to a request for a seasonal touring caravan space in Cushendall Caravan Park. It was reported that the gentleman in question had been using the site for a number of years and had conflicting information on obtaining a site on a permanent basis.

After discussion, it was agreed that Council would ascertain all the facts and bring back to a future meeting.

The meeting concluded at 21:00


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CHAIRMAN


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CLERK & CHIEF EXECUTIVE