

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL**COUNCIL MEETING NO 849 – 2nd October 2006****TABLE OF CONTENTS**

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 849 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 2nd October 2006 at 7.30 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: **Councillor**
J Finlay, Mayor

PRESENT: **Aldermen:**
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, Deputy Mayor

Councillors:
A Cavlan B Kennedy
M McCamphill P McGuigan, MLA
D McKay E Robinson
M Storey, MLA

APOLOGIES: **Alderman**
J Simpson
Councillors
T McKeown
A Patterson
I Stevenson
R Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services
Director of Central & Leisure Services
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

Press

849.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 847 – 4TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Matters Arising:

1.1 Antrim Senior Hurling Team 4.4

Councillor McKay pointed out that it was agreed at meeting No 847 that this matter be referred to Committee for discussion on 19th September. It was not on the agenda for discussion at that time. Alderman Connolly indicated that this matter would be tabled for the next meeting in October.

1.2 Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor McKay and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 847 on 4th September 2006 be confirmed as a correct record.

849.2 SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that the seal of Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate Numbers 1026, 1027, 1028 and 1029.

849.3 RETIREMENT OF DR JOHNSTON

The Mayor advised members of his intention to hold a reception to mark the retirement of Dr Johnston from Practice, following his contribution of 36 years service to the Borough of Ballymoney.

Councillor Storey concurred with the Mayor's remarks.

849.4 PRODUCTION OF MINUTES

Councillor Storey requested that minutes be bound before being presented to members to enable ease of access. Most members were in agreement with this request.

It was proposed by Councillor Storey, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that minutes of meetings be bound prior to presentation to Members.

849.5 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 04 – 18TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor McCamphill and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 04 – 18th September 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

849.6 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 321 – 19TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Alderman Campbell presented the report. An additional item to 321.12 (Community Support Grants) was considered (6.1)

Matters Arising:

6.1 Ballymoney Health Centre (321.12)

A request has been received from Ballymoney Health Centre for assistance towards an event in the Town Hall to mark the retirement of Dr Johnston. – Amount requested - £100.00. **Council were in agreement with this request.**

6.2 Amenity Charges – Riada Stadium (321.17)

Councillor McCamphill expressed his discontent with the charge relating to football matches (£60.00 per match) and believed that charges for the use of the Riada Stadium for all events should be levied at the same rate of £40.00 per hour and £20.00 for the use of flood lighting.

Councillor Cavlan referred to a previous recommendation of £50.00.

It was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Alderman Connolly:

that the charge for the use of Riada Stadium should be levied at £40.00 per hour for all events plus £20.00 for the use of flood lighting when necessary.

The Mayor put the motion to members, two members voting in favour and four members voting against.

The Mayor declared the proposal lost.

6.3 Antrim Senior Hurling Team (Council Meeting 847, 4.4 4th September 2006)

Councillor McGuigan requested that Council make a decision on the matter of a reception in recognition of Antrim Senior Hurling Team's

recent success, in view of this item's omission from the agenda at Meeting no 321 on 19th September.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor McKay that:

that Council hold a reception to mark the success of Antrim Senior Hurling Team.

The Mayor put the matter to the vote with five members voting in favour and five members voting against the motion.

The Mayor declared the motion lost with the matter referred to the Leisure & Amenities Committee as previously agreed. The Chief Executive apologised that the item had been omitted from the previous agenda.

6.4 Rejuvenation of Synthetic Pitch Tenders (321.4)

Councillor Storey queried the timing and timescale of the work to be undertaken. The Director of Borough Services confirmed that, on Council's adoption of the recommendation, the work could commence during the month of October and that time for completion is estimated as one/two weeks.

6.5 Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre – Health Suite Refurbishment & Extension & Provision of Soft Play Areas (321.3)

Councillor Storey requested reassurance that the letter to be drafted to Taggart & Co will deal adequately with the issues that have been raised. The Chief Executive reassured Councillor Storey accordingly.

6.6 Tender Report from Leisure Working Group

Alderman Campbell presented the report of the Leisure Projects Working Group, 28.9.06, to the meeting (Appendix A).

6.7 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Alderman Cousley and **AGREED:**

- 1) ***that the minutes of Meeting No 320 – 19th September 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.***
- 2) ***that a contribution of £100.00 be made to Ballymoney Health Centre (item 6.1 above refers).***

- 3) *that the record of Leisure projects Working Group No 3, 28.9.06 be adopted (item 6.6 refers).*

849.7 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 320 – 26TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Alderman Campbell and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 320 of 26th September 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations contained therein approved.

849.8 FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE NO 347 – 25TH SEPTEMBER 2006

Alderman Cousley presented the report.

Matters Arising:

8.1 Civic Policies (Draft EQIA's) (347.8 – item b)

Councillor McGuigan referred to equality issues identified in the EQIA and hoped that, following the consultation period, these will be addressed by council.

8.2 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Alderman Connolly and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 347 – 25th September 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations contained therein approved.

849.9 AUDIT COMMITTEE NO 01 – 21ST SEPTEMBER 2006

Councillor Finlay presented the report on the first meeting of the Audit Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 01 – 21st September 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations contained therein approved.

849.10 REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

10.1 Development Services Report – Consultation INTERREG IV

The Head of Corporate & Development Services presented the following report.

The Head of Corporate & Development Services advised that Northern Ireland will be eligible for funding under three transnational programmes in 2007-13 - Atlantic Area, Northern Periphery and North West Europe. The draft Operational Programme for the Northern Periphery Programme was released for comment on 20th September by The Department of Finance & Personnel. It sets out the rationale and strategy of the programme as well as detailing the programme management, administration and implementation arrangements.

The Northern Periphery Programme has a specific rural focus, particularly on areas of sparse population. The Programme covers regions of Finland, Greenland, Iceland, Sweden, Ireland, Norway, Scotland and the Faroe Islands and projects from Northern Ireland will require partners from within these areas.

A copy of draft response to the consultation questions was circulated. As the closing date for comments is 15th October she requested that Council authorise the Development Committee, who would consider the matter at its meeting on 9th October, to respond.

*** Councillor McGuigan retired from the meeting, the time being 8.05 pm.**

It was proposed by Alderman Campbell, seconded by Councillor Storey and **AGREED:**

that the Development Committee be authorised to respond, on Council's behalf, to the above mentioned consultation document.

10.2 Leisure & Amenities

The Director of Central and Leisure Services reminded members that the Head of Community Relations is attending a meeting on Wednesday 4th October. The agenda for the meeting has been issued but should Members have any additional questions or issues they would like to raise, these should be forwarded to the Director.

- * **The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central Services retired from the meeting, the time being 8.07 pm.**

849.11 REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE

The Mayor and members are invited to the Annual Remembrance Service in 1st Ballymoney Presbyterian Church on 12th November. The Mayor is also invited to the wreath laying ceremony in Ballymoney and the Deputy Mayor the ceremony in Dervock.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Storey and **AGREED:**

that the Mayor and members attend the annual Remembrance Service in 1st Ballymoney Presbyterian Church on 12th November and that the Mayor attends the wreath laying ceremony in Ballymoney and the Deputy Mayor the ceremony in Dervock and that wreaths be laid.

849.12 TRAFFIC CALMING

A resident from Eastermeade Gardens has written expressing concern about speeding on North Road which is more acute when events are taking place in the Showgrounds. He also highlights problems with 'boy racers' (boy racers performing handbrake turns and wheel spins).

He requests Council's support for urgent action to provide speed ramps to provide a safer environment for local residents and local children travelling to the school in the area.

It was **AGREED:**

that the Chief Executive write to Roads Service supporting the resident's concerns, with a copy to the resident stating that although Council supports his concern, this is a Roads Service issue which he may wish to address directly to them. At the suggestion of Alderman Campbell, this issue will be raised with Ballymoney Borough Council's Roads Service Committee.

849.13 HISTORIC BUILDING

The Environment and Heritage Service are considering the listing of a pump at Leslie Hill Farm as being of special historical interest. Council's comments are invited.

It was **AGREED:**

that Council support the application to have the pump listed as being of historic interest.

849.14 POSTCOMM

PostComm have written to advise that on 12th September, they published a notice under Section 12 of the Postal Services Act 2000 (the Act) of proposals, subject to consultation, to grant a long-term licence under Section 11 of the Act to Zip Mail Limited. Publication was by placing the notice and proposed licence on their website.

Members were invited to comment on the consultation document. No comments were offered.

The following items were submitted for members' information

849.15 WATER SERVICE – REVIEW

Water Service has written to update Council on the Review of office and depot accommodation, in particular their proposals to close seven smaller sites, including Ballymoney. They advise that:

“A draft Equality Impact Assessment on the Water Service Transformation Programme, including future accommodation needs, was published for consultation on 20th February 2006. The consultation period ended on 12th May 2006. Water Service received five responses to the draft EQIA and an additional four contributions from public representatives.

After careful consideration of responses to the consultation process, the EQIA Report has been finalised and Water Service plans to close the seven identified offices from 29th September 2006 onwards. There will be no job losses as a result of these closures and the 78 staff involved will be redeployed to the nearest alternative location. We have consulted with Trade Unions and staff throughout the process, and the redeployments are being managed as sensitively as possible.

We are very aware of the importance, which public representatives attach to local office locations. However, Water Service is progressing an extensive programme to improve the quality of service to customers whilst, at the same time, ensuring that we meet stringent efficiency targets which have been set to ensure that the cost of water and sewerage services is as affordable as possible.

Water Service would also like to take this opportunity to let you know about the introduction of new customer billing and contact systems, which are scheduled for October 2006. A new Customer Relations Centre has been established in Belfast, as part of a major contract with private sector partners Crystal Alliance and, initially, this will handle the existing non-domestic billing system and customer contact activity (telephone enquiries, mail handling etc). After the initial phase-in period from October this year, the new Centre will be responsible for handling all of the domestic and non-domestic customer billing and contact activity to support the Water Service transition to Government owned Company status in April 2007.

This is a period of significant change for Water Service. However, we will continue to focus on the delivery of quality water and sewerage services to local communities, at least cost, and will also continue to value contact with local Councils in the development of these services.”

849.16 WATER SERVICE – CUSTOMER SERVICES

Water Service has written to advise on changes they will be implementing over the next few months aimed at improving customer services. A copy of the correspondence giving full details of changes was circulated.

849.17 PRIVATE STREETS

Roads Service has advised that the housing development at Hanna Court (developer Armoy Homes Limited) has now been adopted.

849.18 REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION WORK STREAMS

The Department of Environment has responded to Council's representations to the Secretary of State on the issue of Council Officer involvement in the RPA programme. They point out that:

“Implementing the decisions of the Review of Public Administration presents challenges to both central and local government, but also offers a significant opportunity to bring about improvements in the delivery of high quality services for all the citizens in Northern Ireland. The Secretary of State welcomes the support and involvement of Ballymoney Borough Council and other councils and their officers in this far-reaching reform programme.

The first phase of the programme to inform the framing of the necessary legislation and identify the key steps in the implementation process was completed last month. Over the next few months, the programme will look to addressing the needs of the implementation process proper. At this stage, the extent of officer involvement in this phase has not been determined.

The Secretary of State assures Council that consideration will be given to the needs of the implementation process, including the issue of the reimbursement to Councils for local government officer involvement. He would, however, urge everyone in local government to afford the highest priority possible to the process of implementing the outcomes of the Review of Public Administration.”

849.19 ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR ORDERS (ASBO)

The Northern Ireland office has advised of changes to the law in Northern Ireland, which came into operation on 18th September 2006 relating to anti-social behaviour orders. A copy of the NIO advice was circulated.

849.20 FARMERS' UNION – NEW CAPITAL RATINGS SYSTEM

The Ulster Farmers' Union has responded to Government's proposals on the above matter and a copy of their response is circulated. Their covering letter dated 15th September reads as follows:

“The Ulster Farmers' Union is totally opposed to the new capital value rating system. The new rating system is being asked to shoulder the cost of services that bear no relationship to the concept of the house services that rates are supposed to be raised for, and thus place an unfair burden on ratepayers compared with the general population. The proposals, when measured against the rural sector, are event more inequitable as these people are less well-served by the current rated services and, in many cases, cannot move from larger to smaller homes to ease the rates cost.

It is extremely unfair seeking to subsidise those on income support by raising costs on high value properties, as it does not take account of the financial strength of the ratepayer.

The UFU wish to highlight that it is extremely unfair that the Department of Finance and Personnel are trying to push through Legislation as an Order in council and not allowing for a full debate or consideration”.

849.21 WATER SERVICE PROJECT – UPGRADING OF INFRASTRUCTURE

A project of upgrading water infrastructure is to be undertaken. Details of the plan were explained by the Chief Executive for members' information.

849.22 RESOLUTIONS

Fermanagh District Council has advised us of the following resolution:

“Following the decoupling of farm payments and the introduction of the GIS system, which has resulted in misleading farm maps, many farmers are having to suffer significant additional financial loss as a result of penalties imposed due to genuine mistakes which have arisen as a result of administrative errors. These penalties are severe and most unfair.

Our farming community cannot withstand further financial losses.

This Council calls on the Minister to introduce a 12 month ‘lead in period’ for the introduction of the most complicated Single Farm Payment Scheme, which would give everyone concerned the opportunity to correct any inaccuracies or misunderstandings which have been caused through absolutely no fault of theirs.”

Fermanagh District Council have written to each Council requesting them to take whatever action they feel is appropriate in support of this matter.

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Councillor Storey and **AGREED:**

that Council support the motion from Fermanagh District Council and write to the Minister accordingly.

849.23 REPORTS

A list of reports was circulated for members' information.

This being all the business, the meeting closed, the time being 8.15 pm

APPENDIX A**Leisure Projects Working Group meeting No 3 on Thursday 28 September 2006 at 2.30 pm.**

Present: Alderman Campbell and Cousley
Councillors Patterson, Robinson and Wilson
Director of Central & Leisure Services
Head of Leisure Services
R Hunter, R Robinson & Sons
M Bloomfield, R Robinson & Sons
I Earl, Earl Lewis

Apology: Aldermen Connolly and Simpson

- 1 Report on Tenders for Health Suite Refurbishment & Extension and Soft Play Area.

The Director advised members that the Chairman and she had opened the tenders on 20 September 2006. These were referred to the Council Consultants for evaluation and report.

She reminded members that this project included the Health Suite Refurbishment & Extension, the Soft Play Area and the Water Tanks.

The report on the tenders – attached as Appendix A was issued to each member. Mr Hunter explained that the lowest tender value was adjusted for the lowest tender values for the mechanical and electrical services resulting in an adjusted tender value of £954,946.00. The Director advised that the budget for these works was £810,000.00, which included the soft play equipment and fees.

The cost of the soft play was just under £75,000.00 and the fees were estimated at £74,500.00. Adjusting for these two items left a budget of £660,500.00.

Mr Hunter then detailed to members the proposed savings to the building works and mechanical and electrical installations amounting to £208,689.00. Members queried a number of the proposed savings, in particular the PA system and extract fans for the soft play area. The officers undertook to check that the monies remaining in the contract were sufficient to provide appropriate systems.

The Director advised that removing all the proposed savings resulted in a revised tender value of £746,257.00, which was £85,757.00 in excess of the budget. She advised that there was a figure of £23,000.00 in the contract for lockers, and suggested that these could be sourced separately and financed by increased income generated by the Leisure Centre. In addition there were contingencies of £33,000.00 in the contract. The Director also advised that the Council had included loan charges for these projects in the estimates this year but that she would not borrow any money until the end of the year, which would mean that the loan charges would be saved.

After further discussion it was unanimously agreed to recommend that

- (i) the Council accept the lowest tender from Martin & Hamilton Ltd in the adjusted tender value of £723,257.00 (including the lowest tenders from R&F Mechanical Ltd and J&G Engineering Ltd for mechanical and electrical services respectively).
- (ii) the lockers be sourced separately and funded from increased income from the Leisure Centre.
- (iii) the financing of the balance of the cost of the project in excess of the budget to be considered when the final account is available.

This being all the business; the meeting ended, time 5.10 pm.