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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 851 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 4th December 2006 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay, Mayor

PRESENT:

Aldermen:
F Campbell
H Connolly
C Cousley, Deputy Mayor
J Simpson

Councillors:

A Cavlan	B Kennedy
M McCamphill	P McGuigan, MLA
D McKay	T McKeown
A Patterson	E Robinson
I Stevenson	M Storey, MLA

APOLOGIES: Councillor R Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Ms F McCaffrey – Deputy Chief Executive Autism NI (Item 851.1)
Chief Executive
Director of Borough Services
Director of Central & Leisure Services
Head of Corporate & Development Services
Committee Clerk

Press

851.1 AUTISM NORTHERN IRELAND – PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed the Deputy Chief Executive of Autism NI, Fiona McCaffrey, to the meeting to give a presentation relating to the The Bamford Review: Human Rights and Equality of Opportunity (copy attached as Appendix A)

Autism NI are seeking Council's support for their response citing the consistent failure of the Bamford Review to profile the most rapidly increasing disability in Northern Ireland – Autism.

Autism NI believes that the Bamford Review Report represents a lost opportunity to address the core social inequality issues surrounding the history of Autism provision in Northern Ireland.

Council is invited, in its response to the report, to support Autism NI's call for:

- An Autism Programme of Care
- A NI Autism Strategy
- A NI Autism Act

851.2 CHILDMINDER OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Mayor advised members that Mrs Brown from Bendooragh has recently received the award of 'Childminder of the Year'. It was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mrs Brown.

851.3 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 850 – 6TH NOVEMBER 2006

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 850 on 6th November 2006, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

851.4 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the seal of Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate Numbers 1033, 1034, 1035 and 1036.

851.5 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 176 – 13TH NOVEMBER 2006

Councillor Stevenson presented the report, advising members that the visit to Douglas, Isle of Man to formally sign the Twinning Agreement had been successful and Council now look forward to the reciprocal visit planned for February 2007.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 176 on 13th November 2006 as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

851.6 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 06 – 20TH NOVEMBER 2006

Councillor Finlay presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 06 – 20th November 2006, as circulated, be adopted.

851.7 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 324 – 21ST NOVEMBER 2006

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

* **The Director of Central & Leisure Services arrived at 7.35 pm.**

Matters Arising

7.1 Christmas Lights Switch On

The Mayor expressed thanks to the Head of Amenities and his team for the work carried out in relation to the switching on of Christmas Lights on Thursday 30th November, together with other events organised for the occasion. The evening proved to be a great success despite the adverse weather conditions.

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Director of Borough Services explained that some of the lights were not in operation due to technical reasons coupled with severe weather conditions but that this matter would be resolved in the near future.

* **Councillor Kennedy arrived at 7.40 pm.**

7.2 Timing of Committee Meetings

Alderman Simpson requested that the timing and length of Committee meetings be considered. This was supported by Alderman Cousley. At the suggestion of the Mayor, it was agreed that the next meeting would commence at 7.00 pm and that the length of the meetings would be considered further at that time.

7.3 Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards 2006 (324.5)

Alderman Simpson recorded his disagreement that a table for 10 has been applied for. Councillor Cavlan concurred with Alderman Simpson.

7.4 Changing Facilities at Dunaghy & Balnamore (324.18)

Alderman Simpson asked if full detail of savings should be included in the minute. The Director of Borough Services pointed out that information on the savings was included, together with the revised contract figure.

7.5 Energy Use at Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre (324.3)

Councillor Stevenson queried whether the use of energy saving measures would be extended to the Town Hall and requested advice on how long the maintenance period is in contractual terms. The Director of Borough Services advised that he would look into this and advise.

7.6 Ballymoney Museum (324.8)

At the request of Councillor Storey, the Director of Central & Leisure Services confirmed that the presentation to take place in February would be to the Leisure & Amenities Committee members. Alderman Campbell extended an invitation to other members to attend if they so wish.

* **Councillor McKeown joined the meeting at 7.45 pm.**

7.7 Reconstitution of Amenities Working Groups (324.24)

At the request of Councillor Kennedy, The Director of Borough Services explained the request from members for the working groups to be reconstituted.

7.8 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 324 – 21st November 2006 as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

851.8 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 323 – 28TH NOVEMBER 2006

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

* **Councillor McGuigan arrived at 7.55 pm**

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

that the minutes of Meeting No 323 of 28th November 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

851.9 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 349 – 27TH NOVEMBER 2006

Councillor Patterson presented the report.

It was proposed by Councillor Patterson, seconded by Councillor Kennedy and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Meeting No 349 – 27th November 2006, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central and Leisure Services left the meeting at 8.00 pm

851.10 NOTICE OF MOTION BY COUNCILLOR MCGUIGAN

Councillor McGuigan proposed the following motion, as set out on the agenda, in respect of which notice had been given.

“That this Council, taking account of the consequences of continuing Direct Rule, calls for all parties to support the immediate restoration of the Assembly and the Executive.”

This was seconded by Councillor Cavlan.

Speaking in support of the motion, Councillor McGuigan stated:

“I believe that all members and all parties should agree on the detrimental consequences of Direct Rule for all those who live in the North of Ireland. As Councillors, we are dealing with bad decisions such as the introduction of water rates, increased rates and rural planning (PPS14). I have met with a range of groups – community groups, voluntary and public sector groups, education and health sector groups, all of whom are in agreement that the best way forward is to ensure that our politicians join together to implement the Good Friday Agreement”

Councillor Storey proposed the following amendment to the motion:

at the end of the motion, add

“and that only parties committed to exclusively peaceful means, supporting PSNI and the rule of law, be admitted to the Executive”

This was seconded by Councillor Stevenson.

After discussion, the Mayor then put the amendment to the meeting with 9 members voting in favour and 2 members voting against.

The Mayor declared the amendment carried.

* **Councillor McKay joined the meeting at 8.06 pm**

Following further discussion, the Mayor then put the amended motion, as a substantive motion, to the vote, as follows, with 9 members voting in favour and 3 members voting against.

“That this Council, taking account of the consequences of continuing Direct Rule, calls for all parties to support the immediate restoration of the Assembly and the Executive and that only parties committed to exclusively peaceful means, supporting PSNI and the rule of law, be admitted to the Executive”

The Mayor declared the substantive amendment carried.

**851.11 THE GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY (IRELAND LIMITED)
BELFAST EXPRESS TRANSIT NETWORK PROPOSAL**

This new company has been established to undertake the development of new rail passenger transport services within Northern Ireland and the border counties of the Irish Republic.

The company has requested an opportunity to meet with Council to discuss their plans for the development of a Light Rail Transit Network for the Greater Belfast Metropolitan area.

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

that an invitation is extended to The Great Northern Railway Company to meet with Council to discuss their plans for the development of a Light Rail Transit Network for the Greater Belfast Metropolitan area.

851.12 HOUSING EXECUTIVE – LATENT DEMAND TESTING

This year the Housing Executive is carrying out Latent Demand Testing in Corkey and Loughguile in the coming weeks. The Executive is normally unable to support building of new housing unless there is a clear demand. As a result, the Housing Executive actively targets selected rural localities to work with local communities and so establish local housing needs.

Councillor Storey recorded his concern relating to the Housing Executive's plan to carry out Latent Demand Testing, suggesting that this is not the most effective way and that the concept needs to be re-visited in view of the need for housing in the area. It was agreed that Councillor Wilson be asked to raise this issue with the Housing Executive, as a member of that body.

Alderman Connolly concurred with Councillor Storey, pointing out that the Executive had been made aware that land was available at Corkey and that they would be in a position to know the situation relating to waiting lists.

851.13 QUEENS UNIVERSITY BELFAST

Queen's University has been accepted as a member of the prestigious Russell Group of universities, joining an association of 19 major research-intensive universities, which include the universities of Oxford, Cambridge, Edinburgh, Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham and University College London.

851.14 POST OFFICE – TEMPORARY CLOSURE, MOSSIDE

The Post Office at Main Street, Mosside will be temporarily closed on 30th November 2006. There are three branches in the surrounding area within 6 miles (Stranocum, Dervock, Ballybogey). The Post Office will continue to work to restore normal services at Mosside as soon as possible. Any applications from potential retail partners will be welcomed.

851.15 COMMUNITY TECHNICAL AID – PLANNING ADVICE LINE

CTA has established a new Planning Advice Line service. The service is for disadvantaged individuals who need advice on planning issues. It is a part-time service with advice being provided by telephone in most cases. For those people not eligible for advice signposting to other information sources and organisations is given. The Planning Advice Line is supported by funding from the Planning Service.

851.16 ROADS SERVICE – ABANDONMENT EASTBURN AVENUE, BALLYMONEY

The DRD Roads Service proposes to make an order to abandon 57 metres of the road to the front of No 10 Eastburn Avenue, Ballymoney.

851.17 REPORTS

A list of reports was circulated for members' information.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm