

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING NO 922 – 22ND JUNE 2010

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No. 922 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Tuesday 22nd June 2010 at 8.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman Campbell (Item 1)
Councillor B Kennedy (Items 2-4)

PRESENT: **Aldermen:**
H Connolly
C Cousley, MBE, Deputy Mayor
J Simpson

Councillors:
A Cavlan
J Finlay
R Halliday
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
T McKeown
A Patterson
E Robinson

APOLOGIES: **Councillors**
D McKay, MLA
M Storey
I Stevenson

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

Press

922.3 MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor addressed the meeting as follows:

"I want to take a few minutes to reflect on my year in office and on the work and activities of the Council during the past year.

I received visitors from all walks of life and was delighted to accept invitations from schools, voluntary and community groups and business, sporting and cultural organizations. I attended many events to recognize achievement and success of

citizens of our borough. I was very proud of all the success and achievements and initiatives.

Charity fundraising

I want to express thanks to all those who supported my charity fundraising events during the year. This enabled me to present £2000 to Macmillan Cancer and Causeway Cardiac Support Group.

In a special town initiative during the year over 40 town businesses joined Council to participate in the town's 'Wear It Pink' campaign. The support from businesses and their customers was tremendous and raised £1975.89 for the Breast Cancer 'Wear It Pink' campaign, helping the campaign researching the cure to beat breast cancer.

Condolence

During the year we saw the passing of Brendan Smyth, a former councillor and I record, on Council's behalf, our appreciation for his service to this Council and the community life of our borough.

Retirements

Councillor Roy Wilson, who represented the Bann Valley electoral area, resigned his seat during the year. His contribution to the wellbeing of the community is acknowledged by those of us who worked with him. We welcome his replacement Councillor Robert Halliday.

We said goodbye to our Head of Amenities, Jim Graham, on 30th April, after 33 years of service. Jim was responsible for overseeing Council's first capital programme, including the leisure centre and, over the years, a range of play facilities and sports grounds throughout the borough. I pay credit to his contribution and wish him well in his retirement.

Awards & achievements

I was delighted that the Deputy Mayor was awarded the MBE by Her Majesty in recognition of his longstanding contribution to local government.

Achievements of two of our Council staff also brought credit to themselves, the Council and the borough.

- ❖ John Fall, our Community Sports Development Officer, won "Childrens Coach of the Year" award from Sports Coach UK, The National Coaching Foundation.
- ❖ Paul Robinson, a part-time leisure Attendant at the Leisure Centre won the 125cc NW200 class at this years event.

Celebration

Ballymoney Museum celebrated its 150th anniversary this year with a special exhibition "Collection – Recollection" which told the remarkable history of the museum from 1860 to – 2010 and highlighted how important local heritage has always been to the people of North Antrim.

International Links

We are an outward looking Council and with the support of the enthusiastic and committed Twinning Association members we continue to develop our links with Vanves and Isle of Man.

We visited Vanves in September and look forward to receiving a delegation from Vanves later this year.

Young people from Vanves and Isle of Man, with young people from our borough and a Ballymoney legends team took part in a hard fought "Twins Cup" competition last weekend. This time round the cup has been retained in the borough – by our youth team.

Improving Efficiency

We had difficult decisions this year to keep rates down in a period of general economic decline and in the face of rising waste disposal and energy costs, reduced income from investments and government grants. It is a major challenge for us to continue to provide efficient services to meet customer needs within reduced budgets. The cross-party resources task group continues to look at ways to minimize the increase in rates.

New Capital projects

Despite the difficult financial climate we faced this year we have been able to make provision to progress community projects at Balnamore, Cloughmills, Stranocum, and Ballybogey.

Robert Dunlop Memorial Garden Opened

I was pleased in May, just prior to the NW200, to officially open the memorial garden to Robert Dunlop and with Robert's widow, Louise, and his mother May, to unveil a specially commissioned granite obelisk with plaques recording Robert's awards and achievements. - A fitting tribute to the gifted sportsman and honorary freeman.

I want to pay tribute to all those involved in the design and construction of the garden and to record our thanks to the Housing Executive who transferred the necessary lands to Council.

We have made provision in the garden for a bronze sculpture of Robert which has been commissioned by the Robert Dunlop Sculpture Fund. For its part Council has provided, for the sculpture, a granite base cut in the shape of the North West 200 circuit, a central feature of the garden.

The sculpture fund has had a number of successful events to date and I was delighted to note recently that the fund now stands at around £37,000 and is on the home straight towards meeting its target. I look forward to seeing the sculpture installed in the garden later this year.

Walking and Cycling Scheme for Town

Plans for a proposed new shared-use bridge to cross the railway lines in Ballymoney took another step forward with the public exhibition last month by Council, Sustrans and Translink of drawings of the Ballymoney Connect2 project.

This new bridge is part of the Connect2 walking and cycling scheme for the town which will connect the expanding community in the south of our town to the town centre. The scheme also includes access to the station, Riverside Park, local schools and our Leisure Centre.

Recycling – Blue Bin Scheme expands

Continuing its programme of promoting recycling Council has extended the range of recyclates acceptable in the blue bin to include aerosols, envelopes, plastic food containers and tetra packs.

Waste Watch

A new website and magazine has been launched to help make it easier for households in the north-west to keep up-to-date with recycling advice and the development of new waste infrastructure for the region.

Developed by the North West Region Waste Management Group, the umbrella group for seven councils in the North West (including Ballymoney), the new Waste Watch Magazine and Website www.northwestwaste.org.uk will keep the public up to date with plans to develop modern new waste facilities for the region.

The group is developing a £500M waste infrastructure facility which will help boost recycling rates and convert other materials into green energy.

A shortlist of four consortia are bidding to deliver the facilities and the contract is due to be awarded towards the end of 2010.

The facilities are expected to be operational by 2014 and will create up to 40 fulltime jobs and many more construction jobs.

Economic Development Activity

On the economic development front Council is working with its partners in the region to deliver the new European programmes for peace III, rural development and interreg, as well as working with local stakeholders in the borough and providing support and advice to our businesses through business events and programmes and our e-business bulletin.

Our programme of activity aims to support local enterprise, create new businesses and jobs, regenerate our town and villages, create new tourism product and build positive relations.

Investment in Town Streetscape

I was pleased during the year to receive the Social Development Minister, Margaret Ritchie, to officially open the new £420,000 public realm scheme which saw the upgrading of our diamond area, Main Street and Seymour Street. The scheme also included the introduction of a cycle lane to link the train station to the town centre.

I am delighted with the scheme which not only enhances the appearance of our town but creates a safer and more pleasant environment for pedestrians. I thank the Department for their investment in our town and hope to see the improvement work extended to other town centre streets which have not yet benefitted from upgrading.

New Investment

We are greatly concerned about the extent in recent years of job losses in our manufacturing, construction and public sector. I am pleased that the Economy Minister has agreed to meet us to discuss job losses and the potential for new investment in our borough.

Planning Issues

A delegation from our Development Committee met Environment Minister, Edwin Poots last month to discuss town and country planning issues causing concern in Ballymoney.

Planning policy issues raised with the Minister included securing planning approval for farm diversification and tourism businesses and self-catering development in rural areas, hotel development and signage issues in the town centre.

It was a demonstration of the Minister's interest that he committed to take time to visit the town to see at first hand some of the problems we are facing in the town centre. We welcome this opportunity to explore these matters further with a view to trying to find a logical way through without detracting from the historic town centre.

Council also joined with NILGA in an exercise to agree a local government response to the Minister's proposals for the most sweeping reform of Northern Ireland's planning system for over 30 years.

I am delighted at the recent announcement by the Minister that the draft Northern Area Plan is at last to proceed to public examination. Yesterday we received officers from the northern area plan team to learn more about this stage of the process. I look forward to the further presentations promised on housing, industry and retail land uses.

Further & Higher Education

We have expressed serious concern at the impact on the town, the local economy and local education provision of the Northern Regional College Business Improvement Plan 2010-2016.

This plan, which is published for consultation, proposes the closure of Ballymoney campus and Coleraine campus to be replaced by a new build in the Coleraine area.

We are currently considering and consulting on the proposals and will be responding to the College's consultative document.

Issues Facing Council

With confirmation from the Executive of the Northern Ireland Assembly that the proposed merger of councils will not take place in 2011, we know with certainty that there will be council elections in May 2011 to the existing 26 councils, probably for a four year term.

The failure of the Executive to agree a way forward for local government is deeply disappointing to councillors and staff who have been working to prepare for the amalgamation of councils and the integration of Planning and other services next year. Staff are entitled to know what the future holds for their jobs and this seemingly endless period of uncertainty cannot be allowed to continue.

We in Ballymoney have a small rate base to draw upon to meet our costs and that is being further eroded by the recession as businesses and households alike experience reduced income. It is likely that the grant council receives from central government will also be squeezed, compounding the difficulty. So a major issue facing the council in the final year of this electoral term is to set an acceptable budget for the first year of the new council.

Probably the most financially challenging issue facing this council is meeting the every-growing cost of waste treatment. This is an issue which has been actively engaging the Chair and members of the Health & Environmental Services Committee, ably supported by the Director of Borough Services and his team.

We have been very active in encouraging our citizens to recycle and, as I mentioned earlier, the range of items which can be put in the blue bin has been expanded. However the enormity of the task we face cannot be under-estimated.

Each year landfill tax increases by £8 per tonne and council also has to make financial provision for final closure of the landfill site to meet EU standards. There is a major reduction in the amount of waste which can be sent to landfill in the year 2012/13. To avoid fines Council will have to budget for new services to recycle more of the borough's household waste.

Conclusion

Success in any organization depends primarily on the people who run it. I thank the Members, the Chief Executive, Officers and all staff for their support and their service.

There are also the many community, voluntary and business organizations and government agencies who work with us to make a valuable contribution to the progress we are able to make during the year. I acknowledge their contribution to our work in developing the borough and to the wellbeing of our citizens.

I also thank the local press, journalists and photographers, who attend our meetings and events and play a vital role in communicating to our citizens and to the wider community covered by their publications."

The Chief Executive thanked the Mayor on his own behalf and on behalf of all staff for his kind remarks.

* **Councillor McGuigan joined the meeting at 8.10 pm.**

922.2 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Alderman Cousley, seconded by Councillor Halliday

that Councillor Robinson be elected to the office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Councillor McKeown, seconded by Councillor Patterson

that Councillor Kennedy be elected to the office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

A Vote was taken with Councillor Kennedy receiving 8 votes and Councillor Robinson receiving 5 votes.

Councillor Kennedy was declared elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

Alderman Campbell congratulated Councillor Kennedy on his appointment to the office of Mayor and left the Chair.

Councillor Kennedy assumed the Chair and signed the declaration of acceptance of office thanking Councillor McKeown and Councillor Patterson for his nomination and those members who voted for him. He paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor for his work during the year. Addressing members, he said "Council faces difficult challenges in the incoming year with budget cuts, waste issues and the cost of living in particular. There are challenges for families, for workers and employers. It is important that Councils have clear and decisive leadership and that is what I intend to bring and also to bring our people to a better place economically. Jobs are going to be hard to come by and I intend to do all I can to make Ballymoney a better place for our people and a better place economically".

Councillor Robinson, on behalf of herself and the DUP grouping congratulated Councillor Kennedy on his election and wished him every success during his term of office.

922.3 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Councillor Cavlan

that Councillor McCamphill be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Halliday

that Alderman Cousley be re-elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

A Vote was taken with Alderman Cousley receiving 7 votes and Councillor McCamphill receiving 5 votes.

Alderman Cousley was declared re-elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year.

Alderman Cousley, assuming his position as Deputy Mayor, signed the declaration of acceptance of office and thanked members for his appointment. Congratulating Councillor Kennedy on his election as Mayor, he stated that he looked forward to working with him and in serving the people of the borough to the best of his ability during the ensuing year.

922.4 ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES

A list of existing membership on Standing Committees was circulated.

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

that all members of Council be nominated to sit on all Standing Committees.

922.5 APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO BOARDS, MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER BODIES.

A list of existing members on Outside Bodies was circulated. The Chief Executive clarified the use of the D'Hondt voting formula. NILGA membership was discussed and attendance figures circulated for members' information.

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

that appointments to Outside Bodies be elected en-bloc for the following year with the following amendments

It was proposed by Councillor Cavlan, seconded by Councillor Halliday

that Councillor Robinson take the place of Councillor McGuigan on Ballymoney's Sports Advisory Committee and that Councillor Halliday be appointed to represent Council on Balnamore & Cloughmills Community Associations.

Full details of appointments for 2010/11 are set out in Appendix 1.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

APPENDIX 1**Committees (2010/11)**

Audit (8)		
Mayor & Deputy Mayor - ex officio		
Councillor	Finlay	DUP
Councillor	Halliday	DUP
Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Councillor	Kennedy	IND
Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Alderman	Simpson	UUP

Consultation Committee	All members of Council
Corporate & Central Services	All members of Council
Development Committee	All members of Council
Health & Environmental Services	All members of Council
Leisure & Amenities	All members of Council

Outside bodies**Companies**

Acorn the Business Centre	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Storey	DUP
Ballymoney Regeneration Company	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Councillor	Storey	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Ballymoney Town Centre Management	Councillor	Storey	DUP
	Head of Corporate & Development Services		
Coleraine Citizens Advice Bureau	Alderman	Campbell	DUP

Other Committees

Ballymoney Borough Arts Committee	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Kennedy	IND
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Ballymoney Fuel Poverty Steering Group	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Halliday	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Ballymoney Borough Home Accident Prevention Group	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Halliday	DUP
	Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Ballymoney Borough Road Safety Committee	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV
	Councillor	McKeown	UUP

Ballymoney Borough Sports Advisory Committee			
Alderman	Campbell		DUP
Alderman	Cousley		DUP
Councillor	Finlay		DUP
Councillor	Robinson		DUP
Councillor	Kennedy		IND
Alderman	Connolly		SDLP
Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association			
Alderman	Campbell		DUP
Alderman	Cousley		DUP
Councillor	Finlay		DUP
Councillor	McCamphill		SDLP
Ballymoney Borough Community Safety Partnership			
Alderman	Campbell		DUP
Alderman	Cousley		DUP
Councillor	Finlay		DUP
Councillor	Robinson		DUP
Councillor	Stevenson		DUP
Alderman	Connolly		SDLP
Councillor	McCamphill		SDLP
Councillor	Cavlan		SF
Alderman	Simpson		UUP
North East Partnership Interreg IVA Joint Committee			
Alderman	Campbell		DUP
Councillor	Finlay (nominated May 2010)		DUP
Councillor	McCamphill (nominated May 2010)		SDLP
Head of Corporate & Development Services			
Regional Museum Services Committee			
Councillor	Robinson		DUP
Councillor	Patterson		TUV
Alderman	Simpson		UUP

Community Associations

Ballybogey Community Association			
Alderman	Campbell		DUP
Councillor	Robinson		DUP
Councillor	Kennedy		IND
Balnamore & District Community Association			
Councillor	Finlay		DUP
Councillor	Halliday		DUP
Councillor	Patterson		TUV
Carnany Community Association			
Alderman	Cousley		DUP
Councillor	Stevenson		DUP
Alderman	Simpson		UUP

Castle Community Association			
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Storey	DUP
Cloughmills Community Action Team			
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	Halliday	DUP
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Drunkendult & District Community Association			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
Dunloy Development Association			
	Councillor	McGuigan	SF
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Glebeside Community Association			
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Storey	DUP
Killyrammer & Dunaghy Community Association			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Stranocum & District Community Association			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP

Management Committees

Killyrammer Community Centre Management Committee			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
Rasharkin Community Centre Management Committee			
	Councillor	Halliday	DUP
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
	Councillor	McKay	SF
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV

Other Bodies

Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Group (ADHD)			
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
Forum for Local Government & the Arts			
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Local Government Staff Commission Champion for People with Disabilities			
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
		Head of Human Resources	
National Association of Councillors			
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF

	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
North West Regional Waste Management Group			
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Northern Corridor Railways Group			
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Alderman	Simpson	UUP
Northern Group Building Control Committee			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
	Councillor	Kennedy (Sub)	IND
Northern Group Environmental Health Committee			
	Alderman	Cousley (Sub)	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Northern Ireland Local Government Association			
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for NI			
	Alderman	Simpson	UUP
Somme Association Advisory Committee			
	Councillor	Storey	DUP
William Keown Trust			
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV

