

## BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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**Ballymoney Borough Council**

Minutes of Council Meeting No 859 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 2nd April 2007 at 7.30 pm.

**IN THE CHAIR:** Councillor J Finlay (Mayor)

**PRESENT:**

**Aldermen**  
F Campbell  
H Connolly  
C Cousley (Deputy Mayor)

**Councillors**  
M McCamphill  
T McKeown  
A Patterson  
E Robinson  
I Stevenson  
M Storey, MLA

**APOLOGIES:**

**Alderman**  
J Simpson  
**Councillors**  
A Cavlan  
B Kennedy  
P McGuigan  
D McKay, MLA  
R Wilson

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Press**  
**Member of the Public**

**859.1 MINUTES OF MEETING NO 858 – 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 858 on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2007, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.*

**859.2 SEAL DOCUMENTS**

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

***that the seal of Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate Numbers 1053, 1054, 1055, 1056, 1057, 1058, 1059.***

**859.3 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 11 – 21ST MARCH 2007**

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

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

***that the minutes of Consultation Committee No 11 on 21st March 2007, as circulated, be adopted.***

\* **Councillor McKeown joined the meeting at 7.35 pm**

**859.4 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 180 – 12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

Councillor Stevenson presented the report including an addendum, as outlined at 4.1 below:

**Matters Arising****4.1 Peace III Programme – Consultation**

Over the past month NILGA has been liaising with lead officers from across all of the Councils to seek initial views on the Peace III programme. Following responses from a number of Councils NILGA prepared a document of initial comments. This document was then presented at a consultation event on 12th March at which over 50 delegates from 20 Councils were in attendance. The delegates agreed that the document was a good response on behalf of the local government sector, subject to a number of amendments and further comments.

The document has now been amended and a copy is attached as Appendix 1. NILGA invites Council to endorse its position paper and/or pass on any additional comments.

NILGA hope that this co-ordinated response will give the sector a stronger voice and a stronger influence over the new programme development.

#### 4.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

*that the minutes of Development Committee No 180 on 12th March 2007, as circulated, and addendum as outlined in 4.1, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.*

#### 859.5 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 329 – 20<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007

Alderman Campbell presented the report.

##### Matters Arising

#### 5.1 Capital Projects 2007/08 in Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre (329.2)

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Director of Central and Leisure Services advised that various funding options are being examined and a report will be given at a future meeting of Committee.

#### 5.2 Use of Riada Stadium

Alderman Campbell advised that a request has been made by the Royal Black Preceptory, Co Antrim for the use of Riada Stadium for its annual event on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

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

*that Council authorise the use of Riada Stadium by the Royal Black Preceptory, Co Antrim, in accordance with the usual terms and conditions.*

#### 5.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 329 – 20<sup>th</sup> March 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.*

#### 859.6 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 353 – 26<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007

Councillor Patterson presented the report.

\* Alderman Cousley joined the meeting at 7.45 pm.

## Matters Arising

### 6.1 Loans to Officers for Purchase of Motor Vehicles (353.4)

At the request of Councillor McCamphill, the Director of Central Services advised that loans are not applicable to members.

### 6.2 NILGA – Local Government Modernisation and RPA Implementation (853.5)

Members considered the suggested response, as circulated, to the NILGA consultation on its future and on RPA implementation.

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

*that Council adopt the draft response, as set out in CRCS.353.5, to the NILGA consultation on its future and on RPA implementation.*

### 6.3 North Antrim Agricultural Association – Annual Show (353.6A)

Councillor Storey welcomed the fact that Council have endorsed a contribution to the running costs and sponsorship of the show on its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary and paid tribute to the officers responsible for the exhibition and the Mayor on its opening. Councillor Storey encouraged members to visit the exhibition and wished the Association well on this special occasion. The Mayor endorsed these comments and said he was privileged to attend their anniversary dinner.

### 6.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 353 on 26th March 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.*

## 853.7 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 327 – 27<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

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

*that the minutes of Meeting No 327 on 27th March 2007, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.*

- \* **The Director of Borough Services and the Director of Leisure & Central Services left the meeting at 7.50 pm.**

#### **859.8 ROADS SERVICE – WAITING RESTRICTIONS**

At present, the western side of Townhead Street in Ballymoney is controlled by waiting restrictions with most of the eastern unrestricted. A local trader has now asked if an area of the unrestricted section near the upper end of the street could be changed to one hour in any two hour parking to provide a better turnover of space. Currently, the section in question is occupied by long stay parkers and thus provides little opportunity for his customers to park.

Councillor Storey welcomed this request indicating that it should not cause any undue parking problems.

#### **859.9 ROADS SERVICE – EASTBURN AVENUE, BALLYMONEY, ABANDONMENT**

The Chief Executive advised members, for their information, that Roads Service propose to abandon 57 square metres of road to the front of No 10 Eastburn Avenue, Ballymoney.

#### **859.10 ASHLEEN SAVAGE – WORLD SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANIMALS (WSPA)**

The Chief Executive advised that a letter has been received seeking Council's support for the WSPA's efforts to gain recognition and protection of animals the world over. 10 million signatures are needed to call on the United Nations to recognise the importance and significance of animal welfare. The petition can be signed at [www.animalsmatter.org](http://www.animalsmatter.org).

#### **859.11 THE WILLIAM KEOWN TRUST**

Customers, including senior citizens and families where there is disability who have no bank account, maybe surcharged by British Telecom if they do not pay by direct debit through a bank account. By next May, British Telecom's 13,000,000 customers will be encouraged to settle their accounts by direct debit.

The William Keown Trust is supporting Help the Aged pointing to the fact that pensioners and others still prefer to pay by cheque or cash through the Post Office. Millions of people from all walks of life will be disproportionately affected by the new, proposed method of payment.

The Trust seeks Council's support.

**859.12 CARRICKFERGUS BOROUGH COUNCIL – BT CHARGES NON DIRECT DEBIT CUSTOMERS**

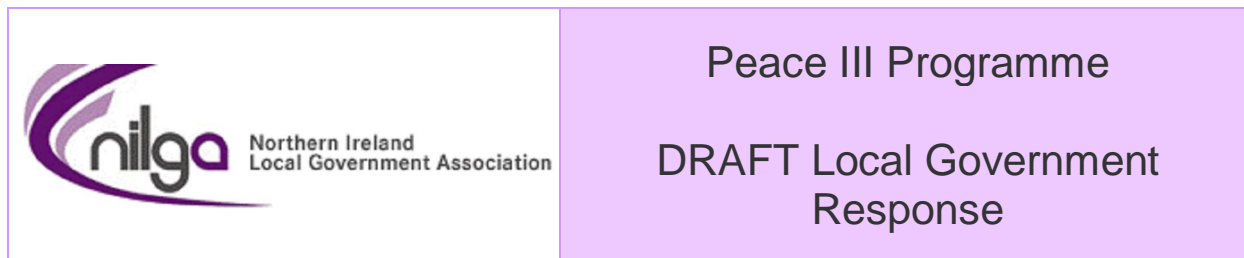
The decision taken recently by BT plc to charge customers who did not pay the company by direct debit or monthly payment plan was raised at the February meeting of the Support Services committee of Council. The committee proposed that Council oppose these charges.

Council's support is sought to oppose the charges proposed by BT.

**859.13 REPORTS**

A list of reports was circulated for members' information. These can be obtained on request from the Office of the Chief Executive.

**This being all the business, the meeting closed at 7.55 pm.**

**APPENDIX 1****BACKGROUND TO THE PEACE III PROGRAMME**

On 10<sup>th</sup> January 2007, the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) launched the consultation on the draft operational programme for a new Peace III programme for Northern Ireland and the border counties of Ireland for 2007 – 2013. The closing date for submissions to the consultation is 4th April 2007.

The document specifically invites comments on the description of the region, the proposed strategies, priorities and expenditure areas to be funded, the proposed cross cutting themes and the management and implementation arrangements.

The main priorities of the Peace III programme are:

Priority One: Reconciling Communities (Positive relationships at local level and acknowledging the past) (€140- 200m)

Priority Two: Contributing to a Shared Society (Creating shared public spaces and development of institutional capacity for a shared society) (€80 - 130m)

**INTRODUCTION**

- 1.4 NILGA welcomes the opportunity to coordinate a joined up response to the Draft Peace III Programme on behalf of the local government sector.
- 1.4 This draft response has been compiled in consultation with lead officers in Council, Elected Members, Monitoring Committee Members and the views of the EU Working Group.
- 1.4 This draft is being circulated to Council Officers and Elected Members for their endorsement and reflects the feedback received from all Council's to date.

**DRAFT RESPONSE**

*Views on the description of the region and the main evaluation findings and lessons from the previous Programme*

- 1.4 There is general agreement amongst local government that the description of the region is accurate however some omissions were highlighted. Generally

local government felt that the inter-regional disparity across Northern Ireland needs to be highlighted further within the description of the area.

- 1.4 It was welcomed that rural issues have been highlighted however it was felt that there could be a bias towards urban issues in relation to peace and reconciliation i.e. sectarian interfaces are more commonly perceived to be in urban areas. It was felt that greater emphasis should be placed on rural areas.
- 1.4 The widening of the range of indicators in relation to good relations was also seen as a positive step.
- 1.4 In terms of the evaluation findings and lessons learnt, local government welcomed the recognition of the issues from the previous programmes. However it is felt that the recognition of the issues is not enough and that they must be clearly outlined and addressed in the implementation structures for the programme.
- 1.4 Local government is pleased that a cross border theme is included. However, a concern was expressed as to how groups which have not previously been involved in cross border working will meet the requirement for the increased level of cross border working, as no clear strategies have been identified to assist in this process.

*Views on the overall objective and strategic objectives of the Programme? Is this the correct focus for the PEACE III Programme*

- 1.4 The overall objective of the Programme is: “to reinforce progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promote reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region. The strategic objectives are: “reconciling communities” and “contributing to a shared society”.
- 1.4 Local government agrees with the overall objective and strategic objectives as it enables the successes of previous programmes to be built upon.
- 1.4 It was felt by local government that the objectives are closely aligned to the Good Relations Strategies of Council, the Shared Future Document and Racial Equality Strategy, thus ensuring complementarity whilst maintaining its uniqueness.

*Views on the Programme’s approach to the five cross cutting themes*

- 1.4 Generally local government agreed on the five cross cutting themes of: Cross border cooperation; Equality; Sustainable development; Impact on poverty and Partnership. It was highlighted that these themes needed to be more than just tick boxes and must be implemented on the ground.
- 1.4 Concerns were raised that the rural theme was not directly incorporated within the cross cutting themes.
- 1.4 In addition some Councils felt that the definition of ‘sustainable development’ theme was too narrow and should be expanded to include a focus on social and economic development.

- 1.4 Local government also felt that any environmental impacts in relation to the Peace III Programme should be positive.
- 1.4 Local government also highlighted that clear guidelines are needed to ensure the successful implementation of these cross cutting themes.

*Views on the Programme's approach to project selection including the targeting of named areas and groups and the development of strategic projects*

- 1.4 Local government generally agrees with a more strategic and focused approach to project selection, given the reduced level of funding.
- 1.4 Concern was expressed by some Councils that the proposed naming of specific groups and areas impacted could impact on the transparency and accountability of the Programme.
- 1.4 Local government also expressed the need to see clear selection criteria for the areas, groups and strategic projects identified. It was also felt that the spread of these projects should be equitable.
- 1.4 It was also felt that if single identity groups are to make the first step in building good relations, they need assistance to help them to engage in cross community and cross border activity. The local government sector felt that there is a necessity to support single identity groups through the programme. There was also concern that the more strategic nature of the programme will exclude some community groups. The local government sector is calling on public bodies not to use Peace monies as mainstream funding.
- 1.4 It was welcomed that victims of the conflict were recognised again in Peace III, however it was noted that it was difficult to target them in the last programme. As such it was felt that a specific strategy must be developed for helping victims. Local government also felt that the term 'victims' needed to be more clearly defined.
- 1.4 Again it was felt that rural proofing was required to ensure that there is not an urban bias in funding allocations.

*Role of small grants in the new Programme*

- 1.4 It was felt by local government that a small grants programme is an important element of the new programme. It was felt that it will enable new groups, that have not previously received funding, to build upon good relations. A small grants programme will also allow greater flexibility for groups to benefit from funding, given the more specific and strategic nature of the priorities.
- 1.4 It was felt that the administrative requirements for groups applying for and receiving small grants should be reduced.
- 1.4 The local government sector felt that it is best placed to deliver any small grants programme given its understanding of the needs of local groups and as it is complimentary to other mainstream programmes that they deliver. This means that delivery structures and mechanisms are already in place.

*Views on the content of each priority*

- 1.4 Generally local government is supportive of the content of each priority and welcomed a focus on areas such as urban regeneration and infrastructural redevelopments and initiatives which encourages economic development.
- 1.4 Local government agrees with the reconciliation themes but feels it is difficult for communities on the ground to address the reconciliation criteria as they appear more relevant at a strategic level than on the ground. There was a general feeling that a more 'user friendly' definition was needed for groups 'on the ground'.
- 1.4 Concern was expressed by some Councils as to the narrow focus of some targets and indicators within the Priorities.

*Views on the indicative budget proposals and views on what is the correct funding balance between the two main priorities*

- 1.4 The local government sector welcomes the further investment being made by the Peace III Programme. There was general agreement with the proposed funding split however some felt that the lack of a definite budget for each priority caused confusion.
- 1.4 Some Councils also felt that there appears to be no clear budgets proposed for the administration of the programme and that further clarification is needed for the sector. It was also felt that greater details should be provided in relation to the content of spend for administrative budgets.
- 1.4 The local government sector would like to see greater clarification of the budgets outlined and an increased level of detail attached to each.

*Views on the proposed implementation arrangements for PEACE III*

- 1.4 SEUPB is outlined as the Managing Authority for the Programme however concern has been expressed given the lack of clearly defined role for Councils and LSPs. It was highlighted that this lack of clearly defined localised delivery mechanisms could lead to disparity in delivery at a local level to disadvantaged individuals, groups and areas. The local government sector feels that it should have a lead role and would welcome clarification on its role in the delivery of the programme.
- 1.4 Concern was also expressed in relation to the joint role of SEUPB as Managing Authority and Joint Technical Secretariat. Local government requires more detail on how these two roles will be implemented.
- 1.4 A closer working relationship between local government and SEUPB in the rollout of the new programme would be welcomed to minimise duplication. Overall it was felt that local government delivers on a number of programmes for central government and has the knowledge and experience to deliver significantly on Peace III. The sector welcomes building on the current partnership arrangements and it is felt that this clustering / model of social partnership would enable the delivery of the Peace III programme through the RPA period.
- 1.4 A bottom up approach is generally welcomed, however some concern was expressed that the Steering Committee's remit to select specific projects for funding could impact on this approach. There is a strong feeling that the

'bottom up approach' must be implemented. Local government would also like to see detailed criteria for the composition of the Steering and Monitoring Committees.

- 1.4 There is agreement for a reduced number of measures and implementing bodies.
- 1.4 In terms of Community Relations Council's (CRC) involvement with local government to develop action plans, it was welcomed with the proviso that CRC must be in a position to work with Councils immediately to ensure that a further delay in the programme roll out does not occur.
- 1.4 Finally it was felt that in terms of complementarity, the document makes no reference to Neighbourhood Renewal and the existence of a number of Neighbourhood Renewal Partnerships within Northern Ireland which cover significant geographical areas and the community involvement within them.

*Views on the identified Equality Impact of the Programme*

- 1.4 Local government generally feel that the Equality Impact Statement appears comprehensive, with one exception, the need for rural proofing. Generally local government has no strong views to contribute to it.

*Views on the likely environmental and sustainable development impacts of the Programme*

- 1.4 Local government welcomes the inclusion of the environmental and sustainable development themes within the Programme but feel they could be further strengthened and expanded.
- 1.4 Generally local government has no strong views to contribute to it with the exception that it should be as environmentally positive as possible and not just neutral.

**Final Comments**

- 1.4 Generally the Programme was welcomed by local government however the sector felt clarification and inclusion of certain elements was required to ensure their full endorsement, these include:
  - The need to clarify the role of local Councils / LSPs within Peace III delivery and highlight a lead role for local government
  - Integration of delivery and sharing of best practice (i.e. clustering of Councils) and details on who will take the lead in the development of clusters
  - An outline of the proposed interim delivery arrangements to be put in place in light of RPA
  - Clear identification of the bottom up approach to delivery and how it links to identification of strategic projects
  - The requirement for rural proofing to ensure an urban bias does not occur
  - Refining reconciliation criteria for small project / on the ground fit

- Consideration about the narrow interpretation of some priorities as not to exclude current eligible groupings
- Clarification on the West's ability to bid under 'Creating Shared Public Spaces'
- Inclusion of a small grants programme, with simplified procedures, delivered by local authorities
- Increased clarification of budgets with an enhanced level of supporting information
- Clarification of CRC's a position to work with Councils and their timeframe
- Reworking of sustainable development to incorporate social and economic elements as well as environmental
- Reworking of environmental impact to ensure a positive impact (not just neutral)
- Strategy for development of victim support and a clear definition of 'victim'
- Need to recognise Neighbourhood Renewal and ongoing initiatives
- Mainstreaming of support for community activity post Peace III.