

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of Council Meeting No 899 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney, on Wednesday 11th February 2009 at 7.40 pm.

IN THE CHAIR Councillor J Finlay, Mayor

PRESENT

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

Councillors
A Cavlan
M McCamphill
P McGuigan
A Patterson
E Robinson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES:

Councillors
B Kennedy
M Storey

IN ATTENDANCE

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

Press

899.1 RATES ESTIMATE

The Mayor invited members comments on the proposals put forward at the meeting earlier in the evening.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor Cavlan

- ***that £2,000 be provided from reserves to put back the reduction of £2000 to the Community Relations budget to enable Council to draw down £6,000 match funding;***
- ***that £3,000 contribution from North Antrim Community Network be retained.***

- **that Councillor's Conference budget be reduced by £3,000 to meet the cost of the contribution to North Antrim Community Network.**
- **that Causeway Coast & Glens RTP contribution of £17,500 be funded from Council's reserves.**

An amendment was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Alderman Connolly

- **that £2,000 be provided from reserves to put back the reduction of £2000 to the Community Relations budget to enable Council to draw down £6,000 match funding;**
- **that £3,000 contribution from North Antrim Community Network be retained and funded from reserves rather than from the members conference budget;**
- **that Causeway Coast & Glens RTP contribution of £17,500 be funded from Council's reserves.**
- **that Causeway Coast and Glens Heritage Trust contribution of £6,000 be funded from reserves . . (Total £28,500 from reserves)**

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that the amended proposals would increase the amount taken from reserves to £87,500.

The Mayor put the amendment to the meeting. 2 members voted in favour and 7 members voted against. The Mayor declared the amendment lost.

The Mayor then put the motion to the meeting. 4 members voted in favour and 7 members voted against. The Mayor declared the motion lost.

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor Cavlan

That £2,000 to top up community relations budget to enable Council to draw down maximum match funding be added to rates expenditure.

The Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that this would increase the proposed rate from 7.65 to 7.69%. Councillor Robinson indicated that her party (DUP) considered the reduced budget for community relations was adequate.

At the request of Alderman Simpson, the Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that a review of the strategy to develop an action plan is taking place and the programmes, including the small grants scheme, would be reviewed and reduced to match budget available. She advised that the current years budget had not been fully committed.

Councillor McGuigan, sought to achieve a compromise to avoid the £2,000 cut in the community relations budget and, on behalf of his party (SF), indicated that he and his two party colleagues would forgo their

conference budget to set against the cost of retaining the community relations budget, while Alderman Simpson indicated that he would do likewise (Total £1500).

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting. 3 members voted in favour and 5 members voted against. The Mayor declared the motion lost.

* **Alderman Campbell, and Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 8.25 and returned at 8.27 pm.**

Councillor Robinson thanked Officers and members for their excellent work in preparing budget information requested by members and their contribution towards reducing the rate for 09/10 to 7.65%. It was, she said, no mean achievement and she was conscious that budgets had been squeezed tight to the wire, with some teetering on the brink of inadequacy.

The Director of Central & Leisure Services requested approval to the scheme for upgrading of the fire alarm system at the Leisure Centre (est. cost £60,000) to be funded by a loan (loan charges £4935) which she would undertake to meet from savings which she would identify in the leisure centre budget to cover the cost of loan charges.

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

that Council accept the offer from the Director of Central & Leisure Services to find savings of £4935 in the already depleted leisure centre budget to finance loan charges to fund the upgrade of the fire alarm system at the Leisure Centre at a cost of £60,000.

The meeting adjourned at 8.30 to allow the Director of Central & Leisure Services to undertake re-calculation of the proposed rate increase.

The meeting re-convened at 8.55 pm.

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

that Council approve and authorise the general estimate of rates for 2009-10 presented, with total net expenditure of £6,672,676, net amount to be raised £5,150,833 and set the non-domestic rate at 24.1347p and the domestic rate at 0.3097p, an increase of 7.62%.

Revised general estimate of rates sheet will be appended to the minutes. (Appendix 1)

It was noted that since there was no increase in the regional rate the increase to domestic ratepayers would be 3.42%. The Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that residents with a current rate bill of eg £800 would see an increase of £28.00, while those with a bill of £1,000 would see an increase of £35.00

Alderman Campbell thanked the Officers for their work in presenting the estimate and also extended thanks to Councillor Robinson for work undertaken on behalf of the DUP.

Councillor Finlay thanked Officers and staff for their endeavours in the rate setting process.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm.

Appendix 1 – General Estimate of Rates Sheet 2009-10

2009/2010 GENERAL ESTIMATE OF RATES - BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL

SERVICES	Capital Charges £	Other Expenditure £	Misc. Income £	Net Cost £
Cultural Facilities	36,305	217,106	0	253,411
Town Hall	70,115	104,101	18,000	156,216
Sports Development	0	108,432	37,498	70,934
Indoor Leisure	295,045	1,378,240	655,000	1,018,285
Summer Scheme	0	13,500	0	13,500
Sports Grounds Parks & Open Spaces	292,275	775,349	35,000	1,032,624
Tourist Facilities	77,740	126,624	105,000	99,364
Tourism	0	88,141	20,000	68,141
Community Services	32,409	67,569	6,000	93,978
Community Relations	0	116,808	108,443	8,365
Cemeteries	4,441	77,246	19,000	62,687
Public Conveniences	8,989	49,505	0	58,494
Environmental Health	2,816	573,052	202,234	373,634
Dog Control	2,141	88,875	17,000	74,016
Licensing	0	22,322	8450	13,872
Street Cleaning	11,957	216,251	15,250	212,958
Waste Collection	63,000	716,657	248,500	531,157
Waste Disposal	37,187	1,214,548	44,500	1,207,235
Building Control	0	256,503	149,000	107,503
Other Community Assets	0	55,217	0	55,217
Minor Works		4,550		4,550
Economic Development		88,225		88,225
Members Allowances		200,825		200,825
Mayors Allowance		8,604		8,604
Official & Courtesy Visits		13,000		13,000
Democratic Representation	-	212,156		212,156
Corporate Management Costs	0	424,060		424,060
Non Distributed Costs		10,500		10,500
Registration Births Deaths & Marriages		42,090	42,090	0
Election Expenses		2,000		2,000
Emergency Planning		5,000		5,000
Contributions		18,050		18,050
S115 Expenditure		0		0
District Policing Partnership		130,760	98,070	32,690
Community Safety Partnership		76,847	76,847	0
Bank Interest			50,000	-50,000
Totals	934,420	7,502,714	1,955,882	6,481,252
Total Expenditure		8,437,134		6,481,252
Deduct Capital Charges				996,819
Add Loan Charges				1,188,243
Total Net Expenditure				6,672,676
General Grant - Derating Resources			297,655	
			1,087,188	1,384,843

			5,287,833
Balance Applied			61,000
Vacant Property Rates			76,000
Net Amount To Be Raised			5,150,833
Est Product of 1p Rate			213,420
District Rate -	Non - Domestic Property		24.1347
	Domestic Property	0.012833	0.3097
	Domestic Rate Increase	0.0219	7.62%