

Ballymoney Borough Council Council Meeting No 902 – 5th May 2009

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 902 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 5th May 2009 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay, Mayor

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

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

APOLOGIES: Alderman F Campbell
Councillor P McGuigan
Councillor D McKay, MLA

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

Press

902.1 MINUTES - MEETING NO 901- 6TH APRIL 2009

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

that the minutes of meeting No 901 on 6th April 2009, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

902.2 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 37 – 20th APRIL 2009

Councillor Finlay, Mayor, presented the report.

the minutes of meeting No 37 on 20th April 2009, as circulated, were received.

902.3 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 203 – 20TH APRIL 2009

Councillor Stevenson presented the report. The Head of Corporate & Development Services presented an addendum as set out at 3.1.

**3.1 INTERREG IVB – Atlantic Area Partner Search
The eRegions Project**

Shannon Development, Co. Clare, have issued a partner search for the e-Regions project which aims to demonstrate how the European *eGovernment Action Plan* can support endogenous regional growth.

Many regions are facing economic decline and/or overspecialisation in sectors of low economic value. The eRegions project aims to demonstrate how the European *eGovernment Action Plan* can support the development of regional growth from within. The Plan states that countries that score high on public-sector openness and efficiency and eGovernment readiness are top on the economic performance and competitiveness scoreboards. It focuses on five major objectives for eGovernment: inclusion, efficiency/effectiveness, high-level impacts, key enablers and local participation.

Trans-national cooperation represents an ideal testing ground of the new opportunities offered by ICT. In light of Project Kelvin and the potential opportunities it brings to Northern Ireland, and Ballymoney's foresight in relation to broadband, this is an opportunity for Ballymoney to be at the forefront once again as it faces RPA.

The lead partner is Shannon Development, which has been seeking partners in the Northern Ireland area. Shannon Development is a government owned regional development company dedicated to promoting and developing the Shannon Region of Ireland. It is based in Shannon, Co Clare with regional offices in Clare, North Kerry, Limerick, South Offaly and North Tipperary.

It is **recommended** that Council's participation in the eRegions project be supported.

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

that Council's participation in the eRegions project be supported and an expression of interest lodged.

Matters Arising:**3.2 Italy (Ripatransone) Town Twinning Project: Europe for Citizens Programme (203.2.2)**

Alderman Simpson questioned the benefits of the link. Councillor McCamphill expressed the view that whilst it may not be practical at present, benefits would accrue. Councillor Robinson also voiced support for progressing the link.

It was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Councillor Stevenson

that Council decline the invitation to participate in the programme due to time constraints and lack of budget provision.

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting with 9 members voting in favour and none voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

3.3 Tourism Development – Dark Hedges (203.3)

At the request of Councillor Robinson, Councillor Storey, as Chairman of the Dark Hedges Preservation Trust, advised that a funding application is being made to the Environmental Heritage Lottery to enable a number of schemes to proceed including signage to the Dark Hedges. Councillor Storey, on behalf of the Trust, welcomed the letter of support from Council.

3.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 203 on 20th April 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, including the addendum as set out at 3.1

902.4 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO'S 359 – 21ST APRIL 2009 & 360 – 23rd APRIL 2009

Councillor Patterson, Vice Chair, presented the reports in the absence of Alderman Campbell.

4.1 Community Festivals Fund 2008/09 (359.10)

Councillor Robinson requested an update on the availability of match funding and expenditure of existing budget as at 31.3.09.

The Director of Central & Leisure Services indicated that advice would be given in a matter of weeks on the availability of match funding following consideration of returns by DCAL. Concern was expressed that a delay in the decision could have an adverse effect on schemes taking place during the summer months. The Director of Central & Leisure Services advised that Council has claimed its 50% grant for the period 08/09.

4.2 Preservation: Lower Bann Advisory Committee (360.4)

Alderman Simpson requested that, whilst declaring an interest in this item as a member of the Lower Bann Advisory Committee and remaining present during the discussion, the minute did not reflect that he took no part in the discussion and he wished this to be noted.

4.3 Good Relations Grants (359.5)

The Mayor welcomed the grant made available to Cloughmills & District Fife & Drum Club.

4.4 Balnamore Community Facility (360.6)

The Mayor welcomed Council's recommendation to progress the planning application for the scheme at Balnamore.

4.5 Rasharkin Community Centre Management Committee (359.12)

At the request of Councillor Storey, the Director of Central & Leisure Services clarified that the current, proposed amendment to the Constitution related only to use of the centre as a polling station and that other proposed amendments would be presented to Committee at its next meeting.

4.6 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 359 on 21st April 2009 and 360 on 23rd April, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved, including the amendment as set out at 4.2.

902.5 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 349 – 28TH APRIL 2009

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

5.1 Municipal Waste Returns (349.20)

Councillor Robinson congratulated residents of the borough for their efforts in the reduction of waste to landfill of almost 12% in 2008/09 compared to 2007/08.

5.2 Slieveanorra & Croaghan Area of Special Scientific Interest Notification under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002 (349.24)

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

that Council, in a response to DoE (NIEA) declaration, make representation on the concerns of farmers relating to winter stock numbers, drainage ditch cleaning, heather burning and the rights to cut turf.

* **Councillor Storey left the meeting at 7.40 pm.**

5.3 Services Provided on Public Holidays (349.19)

Councillor McCamphill welcomed the recommendation for proposed working arrangements for public holidays in 2009/10.

5.4 NILAS Working Group Meeting (349.18)

The next meeting of the NILAS Working Group will take place on Thursday 21st May 2009 at 2.30 pm in the Lanyon Room, Riada House.

5.4 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Meeting No 349 on 28th April 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

902.6 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 374 – 27TH APRIL 2009

Alderman Simpson presented the report. The Chief Executive presented an addendum at set out at 6.3.

Matters Arising:

6.1 Marketing Sub Committee (375.14.1)

It was proposed by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Councillor Robinson

that the recommendation be amended to read “Council signal its intention to proceed with the creation of a memorial to its Honorary Freeman, Dr Robert Dunlop subject to a detailed costing and the availability of necessary finance”.

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Cavlan

that Council 'move into committee' to discuss this business.

- * **Council moved into Committee and members of the press left the meeting at 8.05 pm.**

In Committee, members were advised of the deliberations of the group on options, costings, timelines etc and project concept.

The Mayor put the motion to the meeting with 2 members voting in favour and 9 members voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion lost.

The Chief Executive updated the meeting on an approach from Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club indicating their intention of raising funds to contribute towards the memorial project.

It was proposed by Alderman Connolly, seconded by Alderman Cousley

that Council 'move out of committee' .

6.2 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Simpson, seconded by Councillor Cavlan and **AGREED:**

that the minutes of Corporate & Central Services Committee Meeting No 374 on 27th April 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

6.3 Addendum - Post Entry Training & Education

A member of administrative staff in the Office of the Chief Executive, (employee ref. 501/46) has applied for financial assistance to undertake a JEB Teaching Diploma with IT, at the Northern Regional College. The duration of the course is one evening each week for one year commencing September 2009. This internationally recognized qualification will further enhance existing skills and provide benefits within the workplace. The total cost, including tuition and examination fees of £246, would be met from the service budget.

It is recommended that approval be granted under the conditions of Post Entry Training to employee 501/46 and that vouched fees be paid and necessary time off from duties for the examination be granted.

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

that approval be granted under the conditions of Post Entry Training to employee 501/46 and that vouched fees be paid and necessary time off from duties for the examination be granted.

* **Members of the press returned to the meeting at 8.25 pm.**

902.7 RESOURCES TASK GROUP – 9TH APRIL 2009

Alderman Simpson presented the report.

Matters Arising

7.1 Remit RTG – Extended Reporting (Item 2)

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

that items 2.1 – 2.4 inclusive be tabled for discussion at the next meeting.

7.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Resources Task Group on 9th April 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

902.8 AUDIT COMMITTEE NO 14 – 29TH APRIL 2009

Alderman Cousley presented the report.

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

that the minutes of Audit Committee No 14 on 29th April 2009, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

The next meeting of Committee will take place on Friday 22nd May 2009 (am).

902.9 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to:

- 1. *Grave Registration Certificate numbers 1148, 1149, 1150, 1151 and 1152.***
- 2. *Memorandum of Understanding***

Agreement establishing a Joint Committee to implement the Peace III Programme under Priority 1 Reconciling Communities Theme 1 – Building Positive Relations at local level in the NE Peace III Cluster participant Councils of Coleraine Borough Council, Ballymena Borough Council, Ballymoney Borough Council, Larne Borough Council Limavady Borough Council and Moyle District Council

902.10 SWINE FLU

The Chief Executive advised that on Thursday 30th April, the World Health organization (WHO) raised its alert level to 5 out of a maximum of 6 in regard to the outbreak of Swine flu originating in Mexico. Acting on advice from the Central Co-ordination Group (CCG) (a group of senior officers from government departments and public sector agencies, chaired by a senior civil servant from ODMDFM), a message was issued to all council staff advising them that if they are displaying the symptoms of flu they should go or remain at home and contact their GP.

There are no confirmed cases of Swine flu in Northern Ireland and all council services are being delivered as normal at this time. The Council's contingency plan for dealing with a possible flu pandemic is being reviewed and updated as necessary. As part of the review, managers are identifying the most essential services which would need to be prioritised, if staff shortages made it impossible to deliver all services as normal.

902.11 DECREASE DIABETES – SUPPORT THE STRATEGY COMPAIGN

Diabetes UK NI is currently campaigning for the introduction of a Diabetes Service Framework, bringing them into line with the rest of the UK, putting an end to the postcode lottery of care which exists and would establish targets to tackle the forecasted increases. They are contacting Councils to raise awareness of their campaign. Council is invited to support the campaign for the introduction of a Diabetes Service Framework for NI and to write accordingly to the Minister of Health, Social Services and Public Safety.

Recent media coverage highlights the huge increase in diabetes in Northern Ireland and across the world. The United Nations have indicated that diabetes is an epidemic and prevalence is increasing, at a faster rate in Northern Ireland than in North America. Northern Ireland has the highest prevalence rate (5.4%) of diabetes in the UK and Ireland and yet is the only area not to have a regional strategy to tackle the problem. There are currently 62,000 people registered as having diabetes in Northern Ireland. A briefing paper on the campaign is attached.

902.12 MODERNISING HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE SERVICES IN NORTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST

The Northern Health & Social Care Trust has completed a comprehensive consultation process on proposals to change the ways in which it delivers a number of services across the Trust area. The proposals included developing or enhancing existing services or restructuring to make more effective use of current resources. A detailed consultation feedback report can be found on the Trust's website www.northerntrust.hscni.net in the "involving you" section.

The Trust has listened carefully to the many views expressed throughout this consultation process. It has reflected on these views and taken account of them in making recommendations to the Health Minister. The Trust's recommendations are detailed in the report entitled "Reform and Modernisation – Consultation Findings and Recommendations Report", which can also be found on the website.

902.13 WATER CHARGES 2009/10

NI Water has advised of changes to water and sewerage charges from 1 April 2009 and a copy of their advice note outlining the changes for the benefit of members and other interested parties is attached.

902.14 THANKS

A letter of gratitude has been received from the Chief Constable, Sir Hugh Orde, and his colleagues in PSNI for the Council's letter of sympathy following the murder of Constable Stephen Carroll on 9 March 2009.

902.15 REPORTS

A list of reports was circulated for members' information.

902.16 NILGA REPORTS & UPDATES

A list of reports was circulated for members' information. Councillor Robinson advised that NILGA and NAC are working together on severance arrangements for Councillors and a representation secretary will attend a meeting at NILGA on Friday 8th May. NILGA is also looking at a new waste policy for the province.

The meeting closed at 8.35 pm.