

BALLYMONEY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING NO 904– 18TH JUNE 2009

Table of Contents:

904.1	Condolences	<i>Family of Mrs McCartney</i>
904.2	Congratulations	<i>Colin Gibson</i>
904.3	Mayor's Annual Report	
904.4	Election of Mayor	<i>Alderman F Campbell</i>
904.5	Election of Deputy Mayor	<i>Alderman C Cousley</i>
904.6	Election of Standing Committees Appointment Of Directors to Boards, Members to Committees, Associations and Other Bodies.	<i>Appointments confirmed</i>

Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No. 904 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Thursday 19th June 2009 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor J Finlay (Item 1)
Alderman F Campbell (Items 2-6)

PRESENT:

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

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

APOLOGIES: R Wilson

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive
Committee Clerks

Press

901.1 CONDOLENCES

The Mayor expressed condolences to Mr T Colvin, an officer in Council's Building Control department, on the death of his aunt, Mrs McCartney, who passed away recently at the age of 103 years. Mr McCartney was believed to be the oldest resident living in the borough.

901.2 CONGRATULATIONS

The Mayor extended congratulations to Colin Gibson, who has recently been awarded an MBE for his services to the community.

904.3 MAYOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Mayor addressed the meeting as follows:

"I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the activities and achievements of the council during my past year of office.

Supporting Community Activity

During the year I was pleased to host events and to accept invitations from local clubs, schools, voluntary and charitable organisations. I was also pleased to be able to lend my support to the work of voluntary groups and to pay tribute to their contribution to community life.

Charity Events

I was delighted with the response to my Charity Dinner and the Soup Kitchen and express thanks to all who supported these events. As a result I was able to present donations totalling £1296.50 for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and £420 for the Christmas Family Appeal managed by The Salvation Army and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

International Links

We hosted a visit by a delegation from Vanves in October and a group of 60 senior citizens from Vanves on the occasion of their tour of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland in May.

Memorial Project - Dr Robert Dunlop

We were pleased to announce that, having consulted with the family of the late Robert Dunlop, Council plans to create a memorial to our Honorary Freeman, on land at Castle Street, Ballymoney.

We have made application to the landowner for the transfer of the necessary land and have begun work with our Architects on the design of the memorial. It is envisaged that the memorial will incorporate a sculpture and record Robert's achievements. The Vintage Japanese Motorcycle Club, Northern Counties Section, has weighed in behind Council's plans, indicating their intention of raising funds to contribute towards the memorial project.

Review of Public Administration

Preparation for the implementation for the Review of Public Administration progressed during the year. The date has been set for the transition of four councils, (Moyle, Ballymoney, Limavady & Coleraine) into one district council, for May 2011. This sets the target and focuses representatives of the Transition Committee and the Transition Management Team to identify the challenges ahead and how they may be overcome, to ensure a seamless provision of services in two years' time.

Single Status

We completed the implementation of the single status agreement in January 2009. All conditions for staff are now harmonised and all staff are now working a 37 hour week.

Absenteeism

While absenteeism position improved this year the figures show that there continues to be a significant absence problem. Management are giving attention to securing a further reduction in absence.

Rates

Our cross party Resources Task Group under the chairmanship of James Simpson continued to look at ways to minimise the increase in rates. We had to make difficult decisions this year to keep the rate increase down to 7.62% in the face of steeply rising costs and as a result many existing budgets have been squeezed.

It is a key challenge for all of us, both members and officers, to continue to provide efficient services to meet customer needs within reduced budgets. We also have to deal with the fact that the economic recession may impact on our ability to achieve income levels.

New Technology Introduced

During the year both environmental health and building control introduced new software to improve the security of data held and the accuracy and compilation of statutory returns. Record management and the processing of applications have been improved through a new licensing module for entertainment, petroleum and street trading licences. The system has the capability to accommodate mobile working in the future.

Caravan Park Bookings on-line – A First

Taking advantage of the continuing developments in Information Technology service provision was enhanced with the introduction of an online booking and payment system for Drumaheglis Caravan Park, a first in Northern Ireland.

Investing for Health Awards

The Northern Investing for Health Partnership Fuel Poverty steering Group won the prize for most innovative Fuel Poverty scheme in the Housing Executive Home Energy Awards 2009. The award submission highlighted local initiatives such as the promotion of fuel poverty grant schemes, Ballymoney Oil Stamp Saving Scheme and the establishment of the Ballymoney Warmer Homes Group.

Improving Outdoor Leisure

The Greenway from Riverside Park to the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre, was completed together with a new cycle path link through the Rodeing Foot wood section (Tunnel to Trolan's Supermarket).

A new junior sand mattress pitch and car-park at Riada playing fields is due to be completed at the end of June 2009 and new changing facilities have recently been finished at McCamphill Park in Dunloy.

Environmental Success

Ballymoney Nursery School and St. Brigid's Primary School joined a select group of nursery schools in Northern Ireland when it was awarded the Green Flag through the Eco School Programme. Building on its success, Ballymoney Nursery School was encouraged to enter the Supervalu Best Kept School Awards by the Recycling and Education Officer, winning the top award for nursery schools in the NEELB area.

The Mill Youth Club in association with Balnamore and District Community Association and supported by Council, obtained a grant for £1000 from the EAGA Charitable Foundation to deliver an exciting 'Cut your Carbon' project in the village, aimed at residents of all ages. This project was designed and delivered by young people aged 13 to 18 years old.

Recycling & Waste Management

Recycling is here to stay and Council continues to consider how to further increase the material being recycled to meet EU targets. This will mean further costs to council and problems for managers and councillors to find the resources to pay for this without major increases in rates.

The Council's website has been expanded and updated to include an array of information on waste and recycling likely to be of use to householders or special interest groups. All waste management services are detailed along with sections for churches, communities and schools. Information is also included on other sustainable lifestyle choices.

Static compactors to facilitate the recycling of cardboard were installed at Knock Road and Crosstagherty civic amenity sites. Waste is now segregated at the civic amenity sites, and along with household bulky waste, taken to a re-processor where it is sorted for recyclables and materials suitable for reuse. This initiative has impacted considerably on the quantity of waste the Council now sends to landfill.

Leisure Centre Improvements

Facilities at the Joey Dunlop Leisure Centre were improved with the refurbishment and replacement of equipment in the gym, refurbishment of sports halls floors, while installation of new pool blankets and water system controls will secure energy savings.

Museum re-opens

The Museum officially opened just prior to this year's NW200 following a £400,000 fit out, supported by Heritage Lottery. We were delighted to welcome 3000 visitors, in the first week of opening.

Good Relations Awards

Under our Good Relations programme a successful awards events recognised the significant contributions made to community relations by individuals and groups. A Recognition of Achievements Awards evening showcased the outstanding work carried out on a daily basis by young people within the borough.

Sports Development

Our Wildcats Multi Skills Club achieved a place in the national final of the NI Local Government project of the Year Awards.

Economic Development – Partnership Working

On the economic development front we have been working with our partner Councils in the region to take forward plans for the new EU Competitiveness Programme, Rural Development, Peace III and Interreg Programmes. We are now working up projects to support existing enterprise, attract new investment and jobs and creating new tourism product.

The Peace III Programme attracted an award of £3.6 million. 13 contracts totalling almost £1.3 million have been awarded to deliver programmes.

The Rural Development Programme received an award of £13M The programme is currently open for applications under Measures 3.1 and 3.2 of the programme. This is the first call in a number of calls that will be made over the lifetime of this programme.

Interreg IVA Programme has been awarded £857,328.00 for enterprise programmes. Recommendations have been made for approvals of £4M under Tourism, and £1.5M under Collaboration. Further funding, yet to be confirmed, will support Energy Infrastructure.

To support our economic develop activities we have also developed linkages with DEL, NISSA, Ulster Business School, Invest NI, and TWL (The Steps to Work delivery agent for this area). We want to examine all funding opportunities available and have purchased a GRANTfinder system which will provide us with the research capacity to review funding opportunities available. We also actively promote through our website, business support activities offered by ourselves and others and support North Antrim Business Awards.

New Hotel welcomed

I welcome the recently announced 31-room hotel at the Hedges Leisure Complex. During the course of our Hotel Development Study this was one of a number of parties who expressed an interest. I am delighted that the aim of our hotel Study has been realised. This new hotel will provide a much-needed boost to the local economy, and when it comes to tourism will ensure that Ballymoney remains 'at the heart of it'.

Tourism is key

Our genealogy product, Ballymoney Ancestry.com, since it was developed in 2003 to capitalise on the growing interest in tracing ancestors, has had 6.8 million hits and has helped numerous families across the world who are searching for their Ballymoney roots. In the year to April 2009 a total of 115,975 visits in the year was recorded, with an average of 9,665 visits per month. Our feedback also illustrates that many visitors have been encouraged to Ballymoney from right across the globe to come and enjoy and explore the fascinating heritage and beautiful landscape of this historic region. Our new museum resource area, where people can find out more about the history of the area, will provide added value to our web-based tourism product. We updated our successful activity tourism products for cycling, fishing and walking and these are widely available at key tourist locations through the Province. We have plans in hand to further develop the ancestry product and also a biker tourism product, as part of our plans to provide further economic benefits to the region.

Town Centre Development

We continue to support town centre development, encouraging new investment in shopping, services and town centre living, and promoting marketing, training and property regeneration. Our annual Floral Display Programme has been launched in partnership with local businesses. Environmental Improvements to Main Street will commence soon. This scheme has been made possible through substantial funding from DSD.

Improving Infrastructure

We continue to press for improvements to our infrastructure which is so vital to the development of the area and the region.

The rail corridor linking the cities of Belfast and Londonderry is of strategic importance to us. For this reason we continue to work with other councils on the route ensure the retention, improvement and marketing of the rail links.

Of equal importance to the growth of our area is the road network. While work has been undertaken on the A26 and more is planned we remain firmly behind the case that upgrading the A26 to dual carriageway standard is a must.

On the planning front we submitted our response to the consultation on Draft Planning Policy Statement 21 (PPS21) – Sustainable Development in the Countryside. While we welcome the fact that the new draft policy addressed some of the concerns that arose regarding the too restrictive previous policy PPS14, we put forward a range of suggestions for amendments to further improve the policy.

In conclusion I wish to thank the Deputy Mayor and fellow councillors for their support and encouragement during my term of office. I also thank the Chief Executive and his staff for their service to the Council. Our thanks are also due to the local press for their regular attendance at our meetings and events. Their work is very valuable in helping to communicate our deliberations and achievements to our citizens.”

In concluding, the Mayor also said that it had been his privilege to serve as Mayor for the last three terms of office. He extended personal thanks to Office of the Chief Executive for their service and support and also expressed thanks to the press for their regular attendance at meetings.

- * **Councillor Kennedy left the meeting during the Mayor’s remarks at 7.05 pm and returned at 7.10 pm.**

904.4 ELECTION OF MAYOR

The Mayor, who at the request of Councillor McGuigan, confirmed his eligibility as a non-standing member for position of Mayor, to oversee the proceedings of election, invited nominations for the Office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Stevenson

that Alderman Campbell be elected to the office of Mayor for the ensuing year.

It was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Councillor McKay

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

A Vote was taken with Alderman Campbell receiving 10 votes and Councillor Cavlan receiving 5 votes.

Alderman Campbell was declared elected Mayor for the ensuing year.

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

Alderman Campbell assumed the Chair and signed the declaration of acceptance of office. He thanked all for his election and said that he would carry out his duties to the best of his ability for the benefit of Council and the people of the Borough. He stated that he looked forward to an enjoyable working relationship with all parties. He thanked Councillor Finlay for the manner in which he had undertaken his duties during his term of office.

904.5 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

The Mayor invited nominations for the Office of Deputy Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor Finlay, seconded by Councillor Robinson

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

It was proposed by Councillor McGuigan, seconded by Councillor McKay

that Councillor Cavlan be elected as Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year

A Vote was taken with Councillor Cavlan receiving 5 votes and Alderman Cousley receiving 8 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 thanking members for his appointment and stating that he would carry out his duties in assisting the Mayor and in serving the people of the borough to the best of his ability for the ensuing year.

Councillor McGuigan expressed his disappointment at the message sent to the people of the borough that members of the DUP are again elected as Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the borough and that Ballymoney is not a place for nationalist representation in these positions of office.

904.5 ELECTION OF STANDING COMMITTEES, APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS TO BOARDS, MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ASSOCIATIONS AND OTHER BODIES.

A list of existing membership of Standing Committees and Outside Bodies, attached as Appendix 1 was circulated. The Chief Executive advised members that parties are able to change nominated representatives on standing committees and outside bodies if it so wished, with the consent of Council

It was proposed by Councillor McCamphill, seconded by Councillor Finlay

that appointments to Standing Committees and Outside Bodies be elected en-bloc for the following year in accordance with the details set out in appendix 1.

A vote was taken on the motion with 12 members voting in favour and none voting against.

The Mayor declared the motion carried.

During an ensuing discussion, Alderman Simpson, referring to representation on NILGA, stated that by using the d'Hondt formula for election, smaller parties are excluded from representation. Responding to a question from Alderman Simpson, the Chief Executive advised that attendance records at NILGA meetings are available.

Councillor Stevenson stated that he was not in agreement with the proposal and expressed his view that representation to NILGA should not be changed.

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

that Councillor Robinson, as Council's representative on the Executive Board of NILGA make representation to them about the use of the d'Hondt system.

Councillor McGuigan stated that the d'Hondt system was his party's preferred method of nomination as a safeguard to ensure election to outside bodies based on the mandate of the representative and expressed the view that use of the system should continue.

At the request of Councillor Cavlan, the Chief Executive advised that correspondence has been received from the North East Education & Library Board advising that the appointment term has been extended to 31.12.09.

In concluding, Alderman Simpson thanked the outgoing Mayor and the Deputy Mayor for their work during their term of office.

This being all the business, the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

APPENDIX 1**Committees (2008/09)**

Mayor & Deputy Mayor - ex officio

Development (12)		
Alderman	Campbell	DUP
Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
Councillor	Wilson	DUP
Councillor	Kennedy	Independent
Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Councillor	McKay	SF
Councillor	McKeown	UUP
Alderman	Simpson	UUP
Councillor	Patterson	TUV

Leisure & Amenities (11)		
Alderman	Campbell	DUP
Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
Councillor	Wilson	DUP
Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Councillor	McGuigan	SF
Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Councillor	McKeown	UUP
Alderman	Simpson	UUP

Corporate & Central Services (11)		
Alderman	Campbell	DUP
Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
Councillor	Storey	DUP
Councillor	Wilson	DUP
Councillor	Kennedy	Independent
Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Councillor	McGuigan	SF
Councillor	McKay	SF
Alderman	Simpson	UUP

Health & Environmental Services (11)		
Alderman	Campbell	DUP
Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
Councillor	Wilson	DUP
Councillor	Kennedy	Independent
Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Councillor	McGuigan	SF
Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Councillor	McKeown	UUP

Consultation**All members of Council****Lignite & Power Generation****All members of Council**

Audit (8)		
Councillor	Finlay	DUP
Councillor	Robinson	DUP
Councillor	Wilson	DUP
Councillor	Kennedy	Independent
Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Councillor	Cavlan	SF
Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Alderman	Simpson	UUP

Outside bodies 2008/09**Companies**

Acorn the Business Centre	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Storey	DUP
Ballymoney Borough Community Safety Partnership	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Wilson	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
	Alderman	Simpson	UUP
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
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	McCamphill	SDLP
	Councillor	Kennedy	IND
Ballymoney Borough Roads Safety Committee	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
	Councillor	McKeown	UUP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV

Ballymoney Borough Home Accident Prevention Group			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Wilson	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
	Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Ballymoney Borough Sports Advisory Committee			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	McGuigan	SF
	Alderman	Connolly	SDLP
	Councillor	Kennedy	IND
Ballymoney Borough Twinning Association			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Alderman	Cousley	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
Ballymoney Fuel Poverty Steering Group			
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP
	Councillor	Wilson	DUP
	Councillor	Cavlan	SF
North East Partnership			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Head of Corporate & Development Services		
Regional Museum Services Committee			
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Alderman	Simpson	UUP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV

Community Associations

Ballybogey Community Association			
	Alderman	Campbell	DUP
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Kennedy	IND
Balnamore & District Community Association			
	Councillor	Finlay	DUP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV
Carnary 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	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	Wilson	DUP
	Councillor	McKay	SF
	Councillor	McCamphill	SDLP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV

Other Bodies

Forum for Local Government & the Arts	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
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			
	Councillor	Robinson	DUP
	Councillor	Patterson	TUV
	Alderman	Cousley (Sub)	DUP
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
ADHD Group			
	added December 2008		
	Councillor	Stevenson	DUP

Representatives to other bodies

Term appointments

North East Education & Library Board Appointment term extended to 31/12/09 by Dept of Education Councillor Finlay		
Northern Ireland Housing Council Councillor Finlay		
Causeway Coast & Glens Tourism Consortium Councillor Finlay		
Ballymoney District Policing Partnership Appointed 2008 for 4 year period or until reconstitution		
	Councillor	Finlay
	Alderman	Campbell
	Alderman	Cousley
	Councillor	McCamphill
	Councillor	McKeown
	Councillor	Robinson
	Councillor	Cavlan
	Councillor	Stevenson
	Councillor	McGuigan
	Councillor	Wilson
Causeway Coast & Glens District Council Transition Committee Term of the appointment until the 4th day after the election in May 2011 to new councils		
	Alderman	Simpson
	Alderman	Campbell
	Councillor	Finlay
	Councillor	Stevenson
	Councillor	McGuigan
North East Peace III Joint Committee	Councillor	McCamphill
	Alderman	Simpson
North East Peace III Partnership		
	Councillor	McCamphill
	Alderman	Simpson
North East Rural Development Joint Committee		
	Councillor	Robinson
	Councillor	Stevenson
	Councillor	McCamphill
North East Rural Development Partnership (LAG)		
	Councillor	Patterson
	Alderman	Campbell
	Alderman	Connolly