

**Ballymoney Borough Council
Council Meeting No 914 – 1st February 2010**

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Ballymoney Borough Council

Minutes of Council Meeting No 914 held in the Council Chamber, Riada House, Ballymoney on Monday 1st February 2010 at 7.00 pm.

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman F Campbell, Mayor

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

Councillors
A Cavlan
J Finlay
M McCamphill
P McGuigan,
D McKay, MLA
A Patterson
E Robinson
I Stevenson

APOLOGIES: **Councillors**
R Halliday
B Kennedy
M Storey, MLA

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

Press

Council agreed to receive Health & Environmental Services and Development Committee reports as first items of business to allow Chairs to depart for other meetings.

914.1 HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 356 – 26TH JANUARY 2010

Councillor Robinson presented the report.

1.1 Revocation of Ballymoney Air Quality Management Area (356.2)

At the request of Councillor Stevenson, the Deputy Director of Borough Services clarified the rationale for the removal of the air quality monitoring system at Alexandra Avenue, Ballymoney.

1.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Health & Environmental Services Meeting No 356 on 26th January 2010, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

914.2 DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE NO 211 – 18TH JANUARY 2010

Councillor Finlay presented the report.

2.1 Henderson Food Service – Plant Closure (211.4)

Councillor Finlay referred to the relocation of Henderson Food Service from Ballymoney to Mallusk stating that the transfer of operation and subsequent vacant premises within Ballymoney is of great concern and that this would be raised with Minister Foster who had been invited to attend a meeting with Council. He was pleased to note however that employees at the Ballymoney plant had been redeployed within the company.

2.2 Driving for Better Business Event (211.5)

Councillor Robinson congratulated the Chairman of the Roads Safety Committee for an excellent, interesting and informative event.

2.3 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Development Committee Meeting No 211 on 18th January 2010, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

* **Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 7.12 pm.**

914.3 MINUTES - MEETING NO 912 – 4TH JANUARY 2010

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

that the minutes of meeting No 912 on 4th January 2010, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

914.4 MINUTES - MEETING NO 913 – 11TH JANUARY 2010

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

that the minutes of meeting No 913 on 11th January 2010, as circulated, be confirmed as a correct record.

914.5 CONSULTATION COMMITTEE NO 46 – 18TH JANUARY 2010

Alderman Connolly presented the report.

5.1 Patient & Client Council Presentation (46.1)

Councillor Stevenson expressed disappointment that no effort had been made by the Patient & Client Care Council to invite Council representation on local action groups.

5.2 Minutes

The minutes of meeting No 46 on 18th January 2010, as circulated, were received.

* **Councillor McKay joined the meeting at 7.15 pm**

914.6 LEISURE & AMENITIES COMMITTEE NO 368 –19TH JANUARY 2010

Councillor Stevenson presented the report.

6.1 Lough Neagh & Lower Bann Advisory Committees (368.1.1)

At the request of Alderman Simpson, the Deputy Director of Borough Services agreed to make available to members, correspondence received from DCAL and NIEA.

6.2 Good Relations Grant Scheme (368.10)

At the request of Alderman Simpson, the Director of Central & Leisure Services clarified the content of the discussion at Committee relating to the new operating system of the grant scheme, the criteria under which groups might apply and the method of operation by other Councils within the Causeway Cluster.

6.3 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Finlay and
AGREED:

that the minutes of Leisure & Amenities Committee Meeting No 368 – 19th January, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

914.7 CORPORATE & CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE NO 382 – 25TH JANUARY 2010

Alderman Simpson presented the report.

7.1 Accounts for Payment (382.6)

Members discussed the method of reviewing accounts for payment at committee which was time consuming. The Chief Executive clarified the potential implications for Council of withholding or withdrawing a payment. At the request of Councillor Cavlan, he clarified the terms of Council's procurement policy and current thresholds.

7.2 Adoption of Minutes

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

that the minutes of Corporate & Central Service Committee Meeting No 382 on 25th January 2010, as circulated, be adopted and the recommendations therein approved.

914.8 SEAL DOCUMENTS

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

that the Seal of the Council be affixed to Grave Registration Certificate number 1190.

- * **The Deputy Director of Borough Services and the Director of Central & Leisure Services left the meeting at 7.28 pm.**

914.9 AGE CONCERN HELP THE AGED NI

Age Concern Help the Aged NI are inviting Council to sign up to their Fit for Purpose campaign and actively recognise and support the work of the Fit for Purpose programme. The objectives are to ensure:

- Collaboration and best practice approaches for older people's groups.
- Partnerships and collaborative approaches to service delivery for older people.
- The creation of more effective networks among older people, policymakers and stakeholders.
- Capacity building to meet the new challenges of RPA.

It was **AGREED:**

that Council signs up to the 'Fit for Purpose' campaign.

- * **Councillor McKay left the meeting at 7.30 pm.**

914.10 VALUATION & RATES COLLECTION

In response to Council's representations to the Minister for Finance & Personnel on this matter the Minister has replied that he has been advised by Land & Property Services (LPS) that the request to council to assist in the collection of properties details was as a result of a July 2009 Strategic Steering Group (SSG) discussion on the new LPS Vacancy Strategy. During this discussion the SSG agreed that, given the considerable potential revenue gain for both district and regional rates, consideration be given to using council resources during the transition to the new arrangements outlined in the Strategy. As part of the Vacancy Strategy LPS has now established a dedicated team to carry out this work, however, in some cases it has proven to be more effective to seek assistance from the councils.

The inspections that councils have been asked to carry out are targeted at a small number of properties where LPS consider that councils are best placed to provide the occupancy detail necessary to enable a rates bill to issue.

The Minister would like to assure the Council that this exercise has not been necessitated by the inability of LPS to carry out the work for which the Council is paying.

914.11 OFMDFM – THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

The Central Appointments Unit of OFMDFM has published the Thirteenth Annual Report on Public Appointments in NI. The Report, in 2 volumes, can be viewed at www.ofmdfmi.gov.uk/public-appointments or from the Central Appointments Unit – Telephone 028 9052 8192.

914.12 NIO – PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS UNIT

The Secretary of State has appointed the Sheriffs for 2010. In County Antrim this is Mr Steven Montgomery, Kells.

914.13 BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL

Ballymena Borough Council, at its Monthly Meeting of Council held on Monday 4th January, 2010, approved and adopted the following Resolution:-

“Ballymena Borough Council expresses its concern at the high rate of autism among children and young adults in Northern Ireland, and the consequent challenges to Government and non-Governmental agencies, and calls upon the Northern Ireland Assembly to bring in an Autism Bill and appoint an autism advocate to speak for and assist families to access existing human rights and equality provision.”

It was agreed that the Motion should be sent to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Minister of Health, Minister for Social Development and all District Councils within Northern Ireland.

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

that Council support Ballymena Borough Council’s resolution to the Northern Ireland Assembly to bring in an Autism Bill and appoint an autism advocate to speak for and assist families to access existing human rights and equality provision and its representations to the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister, Minister of Health, Minister for Social Development.

914.14 REPORTS

A list of reports was circulated for members’ information.

* **Councillor McGuigan left the meeting at 7.34 pm.**

914.15 NILGA REPORTS & UPDATES

A list of reports was circulated for members’ information. Councillor Stevenson updated members on the outcome of NILGA’s Full Members Meeting on 29th January stating that a report will be available from NILGA following its proposed meeting with the Minister.

The meeting closed at 7.36 pm.