

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council held, in the Council Chamber, Castlereagh Borough Council, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday 24th February 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Ms J Bunting
(In the Chair)

ALDERMEN: C Hall (until 8.10 p.m.)
M Henderson
P Osborne (until 9.40 p.m.)
Mrs I Robinson MP MLA (until 10.30 p.m.)
P D Robinson MP MLA

COUNCILLORS: J Beattie
M Copeland (until 8.10 p.m.)
D Drysdale (until 9.40 p.m.)
Mrs S Duncan (until
F Gallagher (from 7.15 p.m.)
B Hanvey (until 8.15 p.m.)
M Long (until 11.03 p.m.)
Ms B McBurney (from 7.48 p.m.)
J Norris
Mrs G Rice (until 10.30 p.m.)
M Robinson MLA
T Sandford
J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Administration & Community Services,
Director of Technical & Environmental Services,
Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Planning
Service Officer, Planning Officer and Assistant
Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Mrs Morton, Miss Hughes. An apology was also received from Alderman Hall who had to leave the meeting early, and Councillor Ms McBurney who would be arriving late.

2005/76 : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend Greenfield opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2005/77 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) The Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record:
- Special Council meeting of 14 February 2005
 - Special Planning Committee meeting of 10 February 2005
 - Special Planning Committee meeting of 11 February 2005
 - Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting of 1 February 2005
 - Civic Committee meeting of 15 February 2005
 - Staff & Office Accommodation Committee meeting of 15th February 2005
 - Administration & Community Services Committee meeting of 15th February 2005
 - Special Finance & Leisure Services Committee meeting of 10 February 2005
 - Finance & Leisure Services Committee meeting of 16 February 2005

- (b) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 27 January 2005 be accepted as a true record, subject to the following amendments:

Page 2 – Minute No. 2005/11 (1st paragraph)
Delete “Councillor Dyrsdale” and insert “Councillor Mrs Duncan”

Page 7 – Minute No. 2005/16 22nd paragraph
Delete “recyclable” and insert “recycling”

MATTERS ARISING

2005/78 : NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN MRS ROBINSON RE: DECISION TO CLOSE CABRA TOWERS (Minute No. 2005/48 refers)

In response to a query from Alderman Mrs Robinson, the Director of Administration & Community Services advised that she had met with the Chief Executive prior to the Council meeting, and it was her understanding that he had not received any responses from the various agencies and Councils.

Noted.

Councillor Gallagher arrived at this point in the meeting at 7.15 p.m.

2005/79 : CIVIC RECEPTION FOR MALCOLM BRODIE MBE (Minute No. CV/2005/15 refers)

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that at the last Council meeting it had been resolved that a civic reception would be organised in honour of Malcolm Brodie's unequalled service to sports journalism. He added that the matter had been referred to the Civic Committee to consider how the event should be moved forward. He commented that unfortunately, rather than providing a civic reception, the Members of the Committee had decided to make a presentation to Mr Brodie at another event being organised by the Castlereagh Sports Development Association.

He asked that the original Council decision be adhered to and that a civic reception be organised in honour of Mr Brodie.

RESOLVED : That the Council reaffirms its previous resolution to organise a civic reception in honour of Malcolm Brodie's unequalled service to sports journalism.

2005/80 : TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES STAFFING REPORT (Minute No. T&ESC/2005/76 refers)

Councillor Beattie outlined that although the Staff & Office Accommodation Committee, at its February 2005 meeting, had resolved that the above Minute be referred back to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee for further consideration, he could confirm that following a meeting with the Director and the Chairman of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee, he was satisfied that the staffing report could be approved and progressed.

Noted.

2005/81 : SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Alderman Peter Robinson, and

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to the suspension of the relevant Standing Orders to enable a Notice of Motion to be put forward by Councillor White and one by Alderman Peter Robinson. Councillor White's to be heard as the next item of business, followed by Alderman Peter Robinson's and Councillor Long's Notice of Motion to move up the Agenda to follow Alderman Robinson's Notice of Motion.

2005/82 : NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR J WHITE

Councillor White read out the Notice of Motion, as follows:

"This Council condemns the President of the Republic of Ireland for her racist

and sectarian remarks about the Protestant community in Northern Ireland; believes that her forced apology falls short of what her offensive remarks require; asserts that if similar remarks had been made about any other community, religious or political, the person responsible would be hounded from office; contends that her position is now untenable and resignation is the only honourable course open to her”.

Councillor White commented that he had found the President’s remarks to be highly offensive, and to liken the whole Protestant community in Northern Ireland to a Nazi regime responsible for so many terrible atrocities, was totally reprehensible. He added that her position was now untenable and he urged all Members of Council to support the Notice of Motion.

Councillor Copeland seconded the proposal and outlined that he found the President’s remarks totally objectionable and very hurtful to the Protestant community.

Alderman Osborne left the Chamber at this point at 7.25 p.m.

Alderman Peter Robinson stated that he fully supported the Motion and outlined that there were few crimes in any century during the whole existence of humanity that ranked of being most offensive and inhumane as the holocaust and the treatment of the Jews by the Nazis. He added that if one was attempting to offend anyone, it would be to compare them to anyone responsible for such barbarity.

He indicated that he would have assumed that the President would give thought and consideration to her remarks before making them, therefore in his view, what she had said had shown the views of her heart and mind.

He added that it may be worth pointing out that there has been no acts that could come anywhere near to the scale of Nazi acts, but one that may come close to that sort of mindset was the ethnic cleansing by republicans of Protestants living around the border areas of Northern Ireland. He outlined that there has been no mention of this by Mary McAleese, nor the slightest attempt to admonish those guilty of real crimes.

Alderman Peter Robinson continued by stating that, like so many Protestant families in Northern Ireland, he had never been brought up to hate anyone, and he therefore was personally insulted by Mary McAleese’s remarks. He added that for her to suggest that all Protestants were brought up a certain way without qualification, showed more about her own view of Protestants.

He added that it was his view therefore that a considerable amount of her activities as a bridge builder had been synthetic and play-acting as her apology was only forthcoming after the public outcry.

He commented that although he did not have a relationship with the Irish Republic or its President, the fact was that she was a leader of that State, in

terms of its official functions and she should therefore be called upon to resign her post.

Councillor Beattie outlined that inflicting physical pain eventually healed, but a betrayal of trust left a deeper scar. He added that the Protestant community had been hurt and let down by the President's comments and he doubted if she would ever regain this trust.

Councillor Norris stated that he too had been insulted that the President should compare the Protestant community with Nazis. He added that rather than bringing Protestants and Roman Catholics closer together, her remarks had destroyed relationships.

Councillor Mrs Rice outlined that although the President's remarks had been very hurtful towards the Protestant tradition, she believed that Mary McAleese was genuinely sorry. She added that she was pleased to hear that representatives from the Shankill area had accepted the President's apology.

Councillor Hanvey stated that he was pleased to see that the President had visited the North today, and that representatives from the Shankill were prepared to meet with her again in the future. He added that she had extended the hand of friendship over her two terms in office and had been involved in a tremendous amount of cross community work over that time, and he hoped she would continue with her endeavours.

Alderman Mrs Robinson outlined that if Mary McAleese wanted to show the Protestant community that she was genuinely sorry, the very least she could do was to resign.

Councillor Gallagher stated that her remarks were reprehensible, and unfortunately she will always be remembered for those words. He added that he believed that she had achieved a certain degree of success with her theme of bridge building, but her remarks had deeply hurt the Protestant community and managed to burn down a lot of these bridges.

Councillor Long stated that he personally found her comments very offensive and by making a comparison with atrocities at Auschwitz, was a clumsy way for her to say that there was hatred in Northern Ireland. He added that it had to be recognised that there was hatred within both sections of the community, not just one. He added that on this occasion the President was asked to apologise which she had, and he believed it was his duty to accept the apology. He indicated that he would therefore not be supporting the Motion.

Councillor Ms McBurney arrived at this point at 7.48 p.m.

Councillor Mrs Duncan explained her personal family circumstances and pointed out that the President had managed to insult both sides of her family. She added that she could, however, find it in her heart to accept the apology and felt that the President had to be judged on her previous work. She outlined that she would therefore not be supporting the Motion.

Councillor Sandford stated that, having met the President, he had found her to be very approachable, but her remarks had insulted the entire Protestant community, and he would therefore be supporting the Motion calling on her to resign.

Councillor Drysdale outlined that he was horrified that the President could compare the Protestant community with those responsible for the holocaust. He added that this was a highly educated woman who knew exactly what she was saying, and he would be fully supporting the Motion.

Councillor Ms Bunting outlined that for the President to make such remarks was unforgiveable, particular at such a poignant time for the Jewish community. She commented that in her view Mary McAleese's comments had revealed what was in her heart.

Councillor White thanked those Members who stood to support the Notice of Motion.

Following further discussion, Councillor Ms Bunting asked Members to vote on the Notice of Motion, and a recorded vote was requested.

At the request of Councillor Long, Councillor White read out the Notice of Motion again.

Those in Favour:

Alderman C Hall
Alderman M Henderson
Alderman Mrs I Robinson MP MLA
Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA
Councillor Ms Bunting
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor M Copeland
Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor F Gallagher
Councillor Ms B McBurney
Councillor J Norris
Councillor M Robinson MLA
Councillor T Sandford
Councillor J White

Those against:

Councillor M Long
Councillor Mrs Duncan
Councillor Mrs Rice
Councillor B Hanvey

With 14 Members voting in favour and 4 against, it was

RESOLVED : That Castlereagh Borough Council condemns the President of the Republic of Ireland for her racist and sectarian remarks about the Protestant community in Northern Ireland; believes that her forced apology falls short of what her offensive remarks require; asserts that if similar remarks had been made about any other community, religious or political, the person responsible would be hounded from office; contends that her position is now untenable and resignation is the only honourable course open to her.

Alderman Hall and Councillor Copeland left the meeting at this point at 8.10 p.m.

2005/83 : NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN PETER ROBINSON

Alderman Peter Robinson read out his Notice of Motion, as follows:

“This Council believes Sinn Fein/IRA is not fit for government and there is no rational reason to believe they will ever reform to the extent required to be in an inclusive settlement; firmly refutes the suggestion that everyone should mark-time until, if ever, Sinn Fein meets the agreed entry standards and therefore contends that democratic parties should move on without republicans and consider options which can gain the support of the willing and qualified.

Alderman Peter Robinson opened the discussion on the motion by drawing Members’ attention to the behaviour of the Provisional IRA within the last two months, adding that, in his view, there was nothing different in recent times to what has been happening for the past two decades.

Councillor Hanvey left the meeting at this point at 8.15 p.m.

At this stage Alderman Robinson drew the Council’s attention to the fact that the SDLP representative was leaving the meeting.

Alderman Robinson continued that, while the bank robbery may have been on a grander scale, the basic principle adopted by the IRA remained the same, in that Republicans had continued to repeatedly engage in criminal activity. He drew Members’ attention to a recent survey, conducted by the Institute of Criminal Affairs, which concluded that approximately £12 to £13 million per annum was being drawn in by the Provisional IRA through its criminal activities.

He also highlighted the recent murder of one of his constituents, Mr Robert McCartney, again stressing that the behaviour pattern of Republicans continued to remain as before. In making these observations, however, he stressed that while their behaviour had not changed, what had, was the fact that there was no longer a toleration in Government circles of such activities, and that there was now a clear change in disposition as to what was required from the IRA to bring them into Government.

Alderman Robinson went on to say that this change had emerged out of the joint negotiations involving the DUP, whereas before the discussions, Government was prepared to allow the IRA to stay in the process and continue their criminal activities. They now were required to stay outside until all guns were handed over. Moreover, they would not be permitted to come into Office until there was clear evidence that their criminal activity had stopped. This, he added, was in sharp contrast to the previous disposition, where Republicans were allowed to get into Government in an effort to wean them off their bad behaviour. Such an approach was clearly shown not to have worked, as they never divvied up the weapons, and he welcomed the two Governments' shift in emphasis.

He went on to state that since the DUP has come into Government, they have shown that they would not be suckers, and have clearly stated that the IRA had to be exclusively committed to democratic means. As a consequence, and for the first time, the IRA were faced with a condition that the only way to convince people that a new era had really begun was to destroy all their weapons and offer proof that they had done so. In addition, they had to commit themselves to ending their criminal activity.

He confirmed that the DUP had also insisted that a period of time had to elapse before any judgement could be made as to whether they had, in fact, given up all such activities. This presented the IRA with a new set of circumstances in that they had to jump first, in order to clearly show that they had given up their former ways. This was included in a comprehensive agreement, which required them to end their holding of weaponry.

Alderman Robinson pointed out that the conditions laid down by the DUP had changed the whole political process, and for the very first time it was supported by the Irish Government, swiftly followed by the Government of the United States. The reality, therefore, was a paradigm shift in politics as far as the Republicans were concerned, in that no longer were governments prepared to tolerate their criminality.

He reported that recently he had listened in the House of Commons to many speakers who, in the past, had supported the IRA, and who now were condemning them. These comments, which, he reiterated, had come from the most unexpected of sources, who were now putting demands on the IRA.

He referred to recent newspaper articles, particularly the Sunday Times, the Irish Times, the Sunday Independent and the Irish Independent, where page after page, they were denouncing Sinn Fein. Indeed, where once Gerry Adams had been gentrified, he now was a pariah. Where once the IRA had been elevated by illustrious world leaders, they were now being treated with contempt. In his view, therefore, the message now going out to the IRA was that there was no role for them, unless they came into the political chamber with argument and rationale, but without the guns behind them.

He stated that the IRA robbery of the Northern Bank was one of the most costly political enterprises for the IRA, as it set in motion a series of reactions

that would not be easy to overcome. He reiterated that, in his view, Gerry Adams was, and always had been, a member of the Army Council of the IRA, and he challenged him to prove otherwise, drawing attention to previous photographs in the media of him marching at an IRA funeral.

Alderman Robinson then referred to a speech, which he had given recently at Oxford University, when he was asked as to what evidence there was as to the IRA's involvement in the bank robbery. In response, he had highlighted the Republicans' previous track record in criminality and the fact that they had committed a series of robberies, using exactly the same modus operandi, except the taking of hostages.

He then referred to the position of the SDLP party and their role for the IRA's entry into Government, and he criticised their policy of not letting go of Adams' hand and holding out for Sinn Fein. He urged them to move on in order that those parties committed to peaceful politics not fail their electorate and move forward in terms of the formation of a coalition of willing and qualified political representatives, with the goal of moving things forward. Alderman Robinson stated that he suspected that the SDLP were waiting until after the election before doing anything further. He said, however, that there was a need now to form a voluntary coalition of those parties prepared to work together.

Councillor Beattie seconded the proposal and outlined that he had previously spoken with members of the SDLP and had put to them that, given the growing feeling against the IRA within the nationalist community, this was the an ideal opportunity for the SDLP to leave Sinn Fein behind them to form a coalition government.

Councillor Long outlined that although it had to be remembered that some loyalist paramilitary groups were still involved in crime, the Independent Monitoring Commission had clearly shown that Sinn Fein were not fit for government.

He commented that the SDLP continued to refuse to do anything to ensure that Sinn Fein was adequately punished. He added that the reality was that a political party had to earn the right to be in government and until Sinn Fein decided to turn away from criminality, it should not be involved in the democratic process. He added that it was time for the SDLP to move away from its moral cowardice and get on with running Northern Ireland with the other parties who had a democratic mandate.

Councillor Gallagher stated that there was no reason to believe that Sinn Fein would ever reform to the extent required to reach an inclusive settlement, particularly when they continued to hold weapons of destruction and use tactics of war. He added that he was dedicated in his efforts to end all paramilitary activity and work towards creating an environment where this type of conduct was no longer tolerated.

He continued by stating that he believed in conflict transformation, a process which allowed ex-combatants to move from positions of avoidance to

collaboration, but those charged with transformation had to be honest and sincere.

Councillor Mrs Rice outlined that she supported the Motion and she did not believe Gerry Adams when he said Sinn Fein had nothing to do with the Northern Bank robbery, and neither did those living in the South of Ireland believe him.

She expressed the view that the SDLP were disenfranchising people in Northern Ireland by not cutting its ties with Sinn Fein, thereby enabling the other parties to move towards forming a government.

Councillor Drysdale outlined that it was time to leave those parties involved in criminality behind. He added that he fully supported the Motion and proposed that it be forwarded to other District Councils, the Republic's Prime Minister and the British Prime Minister.

Councillor Sandford supported the Motion, and commented that the PUP had been working hard to steer loyalist paramilitaries away from criminality.

Alderman Henderson expressed his support for the Motion and commented that the Republic's Prime Minister, the British Prime Minister, the Chief Constable and the Garda all said that the IRA were involved in the Northern Bank robbery.

Alderman Peter Robinson thanked those who had supported the Motion and he responded to comments made by certain Members.

Councillor Ms Bunting asked Members to vote on the Motion, and it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) That

- (a) Castlereagh Borough Council believes Sinn Fein/IRA is not fit for government and there is no rational reason to believe they will ever reform to the extent required to be in an inclusive settlement; firmly refutes the suggestion that everyone should mark-time until, if ever, Sinn Fein meets the agreed entry standards and therefore contends that democratic parties should move on without republicans and consider options which can gain the support of the willing and qualified.
- (b) The above resolution be forwarded to all other local authorities in Northern Ireland, the British and the Irish Prime Ministers and the President of the USA.

Alderman Osborne returned to the Chamber.

2005/84 : NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR M LONG

Councillor Long read out his Notice of Motion, as follows

“Whilst recognising that this Council has previously adopted a Fair Trade policy, it notes with concern that the amount spent of Fairtrade tea and coffee had fallen to less than 40% of the total amount purchased in 2004. In order to show civic leadership, this Council, therefore, proposes to extend the Fair Trade policy so that all tea and coffee purchased by the Council is Fairtrade and in doing so will give a real lead in supporting those suffering from poverty in the Third World.”

Councillor Long outlined in detail the meaning of Fairtrade and he pointed out that existing trade rules cost poorer countries £1.3 billion per day. He continued by stating that by supporting Fairtrade, we were not only ensuring better wages and conditions for workers, but were supporting projects which provided new housing, better healthcare provision, safe water supplies and community canteens, ensuring that local people were adequately fed.

Councillor Long outlined that he had become increasingly concerned at the implementation of this policy due to the fact that in 2003, only 43% of the total spend was on Fairtrade tea and coffee products, whilst the latest figures which indicated that far from increasing this figure, had fallen to less than 36% of the total spend. He added that he was of the opinion that much of this reduction was down to the fact that Fairtrade products were regularly not provided at Council/Committee meetings and sometimes had to be made by Councillors themselves.

He commented that it concerned him greatly that at a time when other Councils, the Assembly and the Houses of Parliament had all adopted meaningful Fairtrade policies, Castlerea Council appeared to be moving in the opposite direction. He added that if the taste of a particular product was a problem, he had brought along with him this evening various brands of tea and coffee for Members to try.

He concluded by stating that as Fairtrade Fortnight would begin on 1st March, he could think of no better time for the Council to really get behind Fairtrade.

Councillor Mrs Duncan outlined that growers in Third World countries were the most impoverished, and for individuals to say that they did not like the taste was unacceptable, as there were many brands widely available. She seconded the proposal and stated that she supported fully the proposition that the Council should only be providing Fairtrade tea and coffee products.

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that this Council had previously supported a Fairtrade policy and did exactly what was required within that policy by providing the option to choose Fairtrade tea and coffee products. He added that it was a matter of liberty, freedom and choice, and it was up to people to have the opportunity to exercise choice as they wished.

He added that he was therefore opposed to such a totalitarian proposition.

Councillor Gallagher outlined that he too could not agree to a proposal that took away an individual's right to choose.

Alderman Henderson expressed the view that although he agreed that it was important to promote Fairtrade, it may be a more meaningful exercise for Councillor Long to encourage usage by offering different brands to sample, rather than taking away an individual's freedom of choice.

Alderman Peter Robinson proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion as follows:

Second sentence - delete from "this Council onwards" and replace it with the following:

"This Council reaffirms its decision to support the Fairtrade policy and make its products available within the Council offices".

Alderman Henderson seconded the proposal.

Councillor Long stated that reaffirming the policy would not make a difference to the decreased usage within the Council. He added that he would continue to do all he could to move this forward. He then produced a number of samples for tasting purposes.

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed the view that over 40% usage of Fairtrade products was an excellent start and he felt that Councillor Long was playing down what the Council had already achieved.

Councillor Long outlined that the figure had dropped from 43% usage to 36% and he felt that this needed to be addressed.

Councillor Ms Bunting asked Members to vote on the amendment, and with 12 Members voting in favour and 4 against, the amendment became the substantive Motion, which was then put to the vote.

There voted 12 Members in favour and 4 against.

Councillor Ms Bunting suggested that half an hour before the next Council meeting, Members come to the Mayor's Parlour to sample the various brands provided by Councillor Long.

RESOLVED : That whilst recognising that this Council has previously adopted a Fair Trade policy, it notes with concern that the amount spent of Fairtrade tea and coffee had fallen to less than 40% of the total amount purchased in 2004. In order to show civic leadership, this Council reaffirms its decision to support the Fairtrade policy and make its products available within the Council offices.

The meeting adjourned at this point at 9.30 p.m. and reconvened at 9.45 p.m. Alderman Osborne and Councillor Drysdale did not return to the meeting.

PLANNING

The Chairman of the Planning Committee, Councillor White took the chair.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS (copy previously circulated)

2005/85 : APPLICATION Y/2004/0264/O – 16 MONLOUGH ROAD, MONEYREAGH : ERECTION OF ONE AND A HALF SIDE EXTENSION AND IMPROVEMENTS TO EXISTING DWELLING

It was proposed by Councillor Beattie, seconded by Alderman Henderson,
and

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to refer Application Y/2004/0264/O to
the Management Board.

2005/86 : APPLICATION Y/2004/0436/F – 12 LISDOONAN ROAD, KILLYNURE, CARRYDUFF : ERECTION OF TWO STOREY REAR EXTENSION TO DWELLING

At the request of Councillor Beattie, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to defer Application Y/2004/0436/F for
one month to enable further discussion between the applicant and the
Planning Service.

NEW APPLICATIONS

2005/87 : APPLICATION Y/2004/0135/O – MARKS AND SPENCER STORE AND ADJACENT CAR PARK, FORESTSIDE SHOPPING CENTRE : EXTENSION TO EXISTING RETAIL STORE AND ERECTION OF DECKED CAR PARK (AMENDED)

Councillor Mrs Duncan proposed that consideration of the above application
be deferred until Members had an opportunity to see the detail in the plans,
traffic impact survey, etc.

The Planning Officer suggested that a site visit be organised where the plans
would be available for Members' perusal.

Following a query from Alderman Peter Robinson in respect of increased
volume of traffic, Councillor White asked that representatives from the Roads
Service be in attendance at the site visit.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2004/0135/O be
deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to

be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee. The Planning Officer to arrange for all relevant interested parties to be represented at the site visit, in particular the Roads Service and Marks and Spencer.

2005/88 : APPLICATION Y/2004/0441/F – FOOTPATH AT ALANBROOKE ROAD, BELFAST : PROPOSED STREET FURNITURE RADIO BASE STATION, 1 STREET FURNITURE POLE AND 2 FURNITURE CABINETS

Councillor White proposed that a site visit be organised in respect of the above application.

Following a query from Alderman Henderson, the Planning Officer confirmed that the Council did have a policy for dealing with this type of application, and that upon request, he would issue the standard letter of objection.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Application Y/2004/0441/F be deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

2005/89 : APPLICATION Y/2004/0478/O – 58 BEECHILL ROAD AND PART OF ADJACENT LANEWAY, BALLYLENAGHAN, BELFAST : ERECTION OF DETACHED DWELLING FOR DOMESTIC USE

At the request of Councillor Mrs Duncan, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Application Y/2004/0478/O be deferred to allow further discussions between the agent and the Planning Service.

2005/90 : APPLICATION Y/2004/0574/F – SITE APPROX 60m SOUTH EAST OF GROVE COTTAGE 68 LISNABREENY ROAD, BELFAST : ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT DWELLING (CHANGE OF HOUSE TYPE FROM PREVIOUS PLANNING PERMISSION FOR REPLACEMENT DWELLING UNDER PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE Y/2002/0191/F)

Following a proposal by Councillor Ms Bunting, it was

RESOLVED : That Application Y/2004/0574/F be deferred for further discussions with the Planning Service.

2005/91 : APPLICATION Y/2004/0238/F – ADJACENT TO 20 CANBERRA PARK, DUNDONALD : ERECTION OF TWO STOREY DWELLING ADJACENT TO 20 CANBERRA PARK DUNDONALD

Alderman Mrs Robinson asked if there had to be an indication in an application as to whether a dwelling was intended to be used as multi occupancy.

The Planning Service Officer stated that should the applicant intend to use the dwelling for anything other than that indicated in the planning application, a further submission would have to be made or enforcement action taken.

Alderman Peter Robinson asked if a condition could be placed on the application, as he understood that a number of local residents believed the intention was for the dwelling to be multi occupancy.

The Planning Service Officer responded by stating that the application had to be considered on its merit, but if the applicant moved outside of this, then it would be a matter for enforcement.

Noted.

2005/92 : Y/2004/0591/F – 189 SAINTFIELD ROAD, BALLYLENAGHAN, BELFAST : ERECTION OF TWO STOREY DWELLING AND GARAGE PLUS ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING INCLUDING DECKING, SCREEN, LIGHT AND WATER FEATURES TO REPLACE EXISTING FIRE DAMAGED TIMBER FRAMED TWO STOREY DWELLING AND GARAGE

Following a query from Councillor Mrs Duncan, it was

RESOLVED : That the Planning Service Officer contact Councillor Mrs Duncan in respect of Planning Application Y/2004/0591/F to advise her of the exact location.

2005/93 : Y/2004/0599/F – GREEN FIELD SITE TO THE WEST OF GILNAHIRK ROAD RETAIL DEVELOPMENT, 103 GILNAHIRK ROAD, BELFAST : INSTALLATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS APPARATUS TO INCLUDE A 15M HIGH RACAL PHASE 3 MONOPOLE, 3 NO. 3G PANEL ANTENNAE, 1 VODAFONE 3101, 1 VODAFONE METER CABINET (BOTH TO BE PAINTED GREEN) AND A 2.4M HIGH PALISADE FENCE INCLUDING SINGLE LEAF GATE

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Mrs Rice, and

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2004/0599/F be deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

2005/94 : Y/2004/0620/F – LEADHILL PRIMARY SCHOOL, CASAELDONA PARK, BELFAST : ERECTION OF A 2.4M HIGH PALADIN SECURITY FENCE ALONG THE SCHOOLS BOUNDARY WITH CHURCH ROAD

Alderman Peter Robinson pointed out that the problems being experienced by residents were in respect of the entrance into Casaeldona. He explained that the residents had met with the South Eastern Education & Library Board, and although a proposal had been agreed, funding was not yet available to progress the matter.

Noted.

**2005/95 : Y/2004/0631/F – 12 MILL ROAD, BALLYKNOCKAN,
BALLYGOWAN : CHANGE OF HOUSE TYPE FROM THAT APPROVED
UNDER REF Y/2001/0126/F FOR REPLACEMENT DWELLING AND
DETACHED GARAGE**

Councillor Beattie sought clarification as to the amendments in respect of this current application.

The Planning Service Officer stated that the current application was consistent with that previously approved.

Noted.

**2005/96 : WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE
PERIOD 18 JANUARY TO 14TH FEBRUARY 2005 (copy previously
circulated)**

Noted.

**2005/97 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE:
LAND TO THE NORTH OF DUNDONALD INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND
DUNDONALD ENTERPRISE PARK, CARROWREAGH ROAD,
DUNDONALD (copy letter previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2005/98 : NEWS RELEASE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL
DEVELOPMENT/DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: MINISTERS
CLARIFY DEVELOPMENT PLANS (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2005/99 : DISUSED ELECTRICITY PYLONS

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that when the power station in Belfast West had been closed, people living in the Roddens area had been informed that the disused electricity pylons would be removed, but unfortunately they were still there after almost 10 years. He asked Officers to ascertain what the Northern Ireland Electricity's programme was for the removal of these pylons in order for him to advise the local community.

RESOLVED : The Planning Officer contact Northern Ireland Electricity to ascertain its programme for the removal of disused pylons in the Roddens area.

2005/100 : RESIGNATION OF PLANNING OFFICER

The Planning Officer outlined that leaving the Council was a very difficult decision for him to make. He advised that he would be taking up a new post with the Planning Service in Downpatrick. He added that the decision by the Council to appoint a Planning Officer had been a very innovative one and he was sorry that other Councils had not followed this example. He concluded by thanking Councillors and staff for all their assistance and kindness during his time with the Council.

Councillor White expressed his appreciation to Andrew for his competence and knowledge of planning issues. He added that the Council's loss was the Department's gain.

Aldermen Mrs Robinson, Henderson, Councillors Mrs Duncan, Mrs Rice, Norris, Sandford and Gallagher stood to wish the Planning Officer well in his new post and thanked him for all his valuable assistance during his time with the Council.

Noted.

Alderman Mrs Robinson and Councillor Mrs Rice left the meeting at 10.30 p.m.

Councillor Ms Bunting returned to the chair.

EDUCATION

2005/101 : MINUTES OF THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD HELD DURING DECEMBER 2004 AND JANUARY 2005

Noted.

2005/102 : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE: CONSULTATION ON NEW ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS FOR POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS : RESPONSE BOOKLET (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that each political party draw up a response to the Consultation on New Admissions Arrangements for Post-Primary Schools.

HOUSING

2005/103 : EXECUTIVE BRIEFING - REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE HELD ON 26TH JANUARY 2005

Noted.

FINANCE

2005/104 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£512,572.59
General Account (Salaries)	£365,960.52
General Account (Suppliers)	£685,836.94

2005/105 : NEW LOGO FOR THE FINANCE & LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services circulated for Members' consideration a copy of the proposed new logo for the Finance & Leisure Services Department. He reported that the Members of the Finance & Leisure Services had agreed in principle to approve the logo, with a recommendation for it to be tabled this evening for Council approval.

Members were of the view that it was difficult to decipher the lettering within the tower, and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the new logo for the Finance & Leisure Services Department, subject to the hieroglyphics within the tower being removed.

2005/106 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR FEBRUARY 2005 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2005/107 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND IN RESPONSE TO COUNCIL'S LETTER 2005 (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that the Chief Executive had written to the Electoral Office registering the Council's concerns that the Lough Moss Leisure and Clonduff Community Centres were not being used as mobile sites for ID card applications, and that he was awaiting a response.

Noted.

2005/108 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LEAGUE AGAINST CRUEL SPORTS RE: SEEKING THE COUNCIL TO PASS A RESOLUTION URGING THE ENVIRONMENT MINISTER TO SECURE A PERMANENT BAN AGAINST HARE COURSEING IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed the view that he believed that country people should not be denied the opportunity to participate in certain outdoor

sports, but he was totally opposed to any sport involving cruelty towards animals. He added that he would therefore be supporting the League Against Cruel Sports in this particular campaign against hare coursing, although he did have misgivings about some of their proposals.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) The Council supports the League Against Cruel Sports in its campaign against hare coursing, and agrees to write to the Environment Minister to secure a permanent ban in Northern Ireland.

2005/109 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SPORTS COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RE: REINSTATEMENT OF SPORTS COUNCIL'S BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD 2005-2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/110 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM SEACAT RE: CANCELLATION OF SEACAT'S BELFAST TO TROON SERVICE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/111 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BELFAST CITY COUNCIL RE: HOLOCAUST – BOOK OF COMMITMENT AND CANDLE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/112 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FOR PEACE STUDIES RE: "ISLAND OF IRELAND PEACE WEEK" (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Gallagher proposed that consideration of the above matter be deferred to next month's meeting, with a view to a delegation of Councillors participating in the event, and this was seconded by Councillor Sandford.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the correspondence from International School for Peace Studies in respect of the Island Of Ireland Peace Week be tabled at next month's Council meeting for further consideration.

2005/113 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BBC NORTHERN IRELAND RE: NEXT STEPS FOR THE BBC – CHARTER REVIEW DISCUSSION 4 MARCH 2005 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/114 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BBC NORTHERN IRELAND RE: BBC CONNECTS WITH CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/115 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PRESBYTERY OF EAST BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/116 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY NORTHERN IRELAND RE: INVITATION TO THE MS SOCIETY'S ANNUAL GALA BALL BEING HELD ON SATURDAY 9TH APRIL 2005 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Ms Bunting outlined that although the above event was being held on the same evening as the Battle of Freeman, she felt that as the Council had supported the MS Ball for many years that a table should be booked this year again.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to book a table at the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Annual Gala Ball being held on 9th April 2005 in the Culloden Hotel.

2005/117 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM COPELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: INVITATION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION 'SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP' (SIG) ON RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND NUCLEAR DECOMMISSIONING BEING HELD ON 7 APRIL 2005 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

Councillor Mrs Duncan left the meeting at this point at 10.50 p.m.

2005/118 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDONDERRY CITY COUNCIL RE: POWER SHARING ARRANGEMENTS IN LOCAL COUNCILS (copy previously circulated)

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed his concern at the arrogance of Londonderry City Council. He added that to suggest that the Good Friday Agreement had some legal standing on the rules of local authorities was wrong and it was an Act of Parliament, i.e. the 1973 Act that set up and determined the rules of Council.

He added that power sharing could be justified in certain circumstances, but there was no requirement to do so. He indicated that he would like to hear from Londonderry City Council as to when this Council had taken the decision to exclude nationalists from Chair and Vice Chairs of committees, particularly

when there were nationalist and other non-unionists on this Council who had held positions of Chair and Vice Chair during this present Council term.

He proposed that the Council write to Londonderry City Council refuting the claim. He added that if Londonderry City Council wished to avoid receiving solicitors' letters they should not make statements that were not factual.

Alderman Henderson concurred and seconded the proposal.

Councillor Long commented that he believed that Castlereagh Borough Council did not agree with power sharing and it was regretful that there was not a fair distribution of Chair and Vice Chair posts. He added that he was, however, of the view that Londonderry's resolution was slightly inaccurate, in that, it was not just nationalists but Alliance Party Members who were also being excluded from these posts. He stated that he was against the proposal.

Councillor Long stated that he was against the proposal.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to Londonderry City Council's refuting its claim that Castlereagh Borough Council had made a decision to exclude nationalists from the positions of Chairs and Vice Chairs of Council Committees and membership to outside bodies.

2005/119 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDONDERRY CITY COUNCIL RE: WATER REFORM PROPOSALS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/120 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDONDERRY CITY COUNCIL RE: MANAGING HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS RE: CALLING ON CENTRAL GOVERNMENT TO ALLOW THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE TO HAVE THE LEAD ROLE IN MANAGING HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor White declared an interest.

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that legally there was a requirement to keep the regulatory body separate from the administering body, and he proposed that Officers write to Londonderry and the other 24 Councils advising of Castlereagh Borough Council's opposition to the resolution.

Alderman Henderson seconded the proposal.

Alderman Peter Robinson referred to the wording of Londonderry City Council's resolution in respect of the reference to the "North".

Councillor White referred to Agenda items 10 (l), (m) and (n) and asked that the Council's policy in respect of referring to Derry City Council as Londonderry City Council be adhered to in the future.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) as Castlereagh Borough Council believed that the regulatory body should be kept separate from the administering body, it was therefore opposed to Londonderry City Council's resolution calling on central government to allow the Housing Executive to have the lead role in managing Housing Associations
- (b) the above resolution to be forwarded to the other 25 local authorities in the Province
- (c) with regard to the wording of Londonderry City Council's resolution, Officers to write seeking clarification as to what it meant when referring to the "North".

2005/121 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LONDONDERRY CITY COUNCIL RE: WORK PLACES FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING DIFFICULTIES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/122 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: CONSULTATION ON THE REVIEW OF THE REGIONAL HOUSING GROWTH INDICATORS AND DRAFT EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (copy letter previously circulated).

Noted.

2005/123 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE FIRST AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER RE: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ORDER (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/124 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: CONSULTATION PAPER ON EXTENDING DOOR-TO-DOOR TRANSPORT SERVICES ACROSS NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

2005/125 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE (CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY DIVISION) RE: THE CRIMINAL

JUSTICE (EVIDENCE) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2004 (Categories of Offences) Order 2005 Consultation (copy previously circulated)

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Alderman Henderson, and

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to the Northern Ireland Office outlining support for the proposal to allow disclosure of previous convictions where relevant.

Councillor Long left the meeting at this point at 11.03 p.m.

2005/126 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM STEWARTS SOLICITORS RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF DUNDONALD RECREATION CLUB (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/127 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM CAMPBELL & CAHER SOLICITORS RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF HYDEBANK WOOD SOCIAL AND RECREATION CLUB (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/128 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM HOLMES & MOFFITT SOLICITORS RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF REGISTRATION OF THE ROAD POLICING COMMAND UNIT URBAN CASTLEREAGH SPORTS & RECREATION CLUB (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

REPORTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

2005/129 : ARTS COUNCIL OF NORTHERN IRELAND – ANNUAL REPORT 2003-2004

Noted.

2005/130 : OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER FOR PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS FOR NORTHERN IRELAND – NINTH REPORT

Noted.

2005/131 : COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE – PUBLICATION OF THE TENTH REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/132 : REPORT FROM THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE – THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING MARKET – REVIEW AND PERSPECTIVES 2005-2008 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2005/133 : ROADS SERVICE – ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2003-2004

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2005/134 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND SEEKING PERMISSION TO DISPLAY VARIOUS DOCUMENTS AT THE CIVIC CENTRE

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : The Council agrees to make available in the Civic Centre the Boundary Commission's Provisional Recommendations for parliamentary constituencies for inspection by the public.

2005/135 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM UNISON NORTHERN IRELAND RE: SCHOOL MEALS SERVICE

Noted.

2005/136 : ATTENDANCE AT SPECIAL PLANNING SITE VISITS/MEETINGS

Councillor Norris expressed the view that he did not feel it was appropriate for Members to receive attendance allowance if they did not attend both the Planning site visit and the meeting.

Councillor White agreed, and outlined that in order to be properly informed of all the pertinent issues and to participate fully in the discussion at the meeting, he felt it was necessary to also attend the site visit.

Following a proposal from Councillor Norris, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Members entitlement to attendance allowance in respect of Special Planning Meetings was subject to attendance at both the planning site visit and subsequent meeting.

IN COMMITTEE

At the March Council meeting, it was agreed to delete the content of Minute No. 2005/137 and insert the following:

2005/137 : APPOINTMENT OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP WITH EFFECT FROM 1 APRIL 2005

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the current Chairman and Vice Chairman of Castlereagh District Policing Partnership continue in post until 30th November 2005.

2005/138 : REQUEST BY ALLIANCE PARTY MEMBERS FOR INFORMATION ON COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES

Following a proposal by Alderman Peter Robinson, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that all Members be provided with a copy of the information on Councillors' expenses which had been forwarded to the Alliance Party Members.

2005/139 : EARLY DEPARTURE FROM MEETINGS

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that once again the Alliance Party Members had left the meeting early, and were therefore shortchanging the ratepayers of Castlereagh. He proposed that Officers extract the relevant information relating to Members' early departure from meetings covering the current Council term.

The Director of Administration & Community Services expressed the view that it may prove difficult to obtain the information as Councillors left and re-entered meetings, and did not always declare if they would be returning.

Members felt that Officers should do their best to extract whatever information was on record..

RESOLVED : That the Council authorises Officers to extract the relevant information relating to Members' early departure from meetings covering the current Council term.

2005/140 : NEW APPOINTMENT ON THE CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP (copy email circulated at the meeting)

Councillor Ms Bunting referred to the above, and pointed out that following the sad death of Mrs Gretta Falloon, Mr James Spratt had been appointed as a the replacement Independent member on the Castlereagh DPP.

Noted.

2005/141 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE LOCAL STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP SEEKING REPLACEMENT FOR COUNCILLOR F GALLAGHER (circulated at the meeting)

Councillor Gallagher explained that following his acceptance of the Neighbourhood Manager's post in Ballybeen he had resigned from the Local Strategy Partnership.

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Alderman Henderson, and

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Councillor Sandford replaces Councillor Gallagher on the Local Strategy Partnership until the end of the current Council term.

2005/142 : COUNCILLORS' CONDUCT

Councillor Gallagher asked what the Council's procedure was if a member of Council had a complaint against a member of staff. He referred to an incident whereby an Elected Representative had verbally rebuked a member of staff at an open meeting and criticised others who were not in attendance.. He explained the circumstances surrounding the particular incident.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that where a Councillor had a complaint against a member of staff, the Councillor should refer his/her complaint in the first instance to the Chief Executive or the appropriate Head of Department who would investigate the circumstances and, if need be, take appropriate action in accordance with clearly laid down procedures.

She added that an individual Councillor had no authority to take staff matters into their own hands as that was in breach of the Councillors' Code of Conduct.

Alderman Peter Robinson suggested that the matter be referred in the first instance to the particular Party Leader to deal with internally.

Councillor White asked that it be recorded that the Council abhorred verbal attacks or bad behaviour on the part of a Councillor towards any member of staff.

The Director of Administration & Community Services indicated that the incident had been reported to her the next day and she had referred the matter to the Chief Executive. She continued by stating that, given that the staff member worked in her department, she had carried out an interview to gather the details surrounding the incident.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council reinforces and reaffirms the existing procedure for dealing with staff complaints (whether founded or not) and the non-interference of Councillors in the staff processes.

2005/143 : MAYOR'S CHARITY EVENT

Councillor Sandford reminded Members of “A Night at the Races” which he had helped organise in the Harland & Wolff Staff Club on Friday 25th February 2005 at 7.30 p.m., in aid of the Mayor’s charities.

Noted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 11.45 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR