

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, 24 August 2006, at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:-

Alderman M Copeland
Alderman J Norris MBE
Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA (until 7.50 pm)
Alderman Mrs I Robinson MP MLA (until 7.50 pm)

Councillor Mrs A Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor D Drysdale (from 7.40 pm)
Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Councillor C Hall
Councillor B Hanvey
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE (until 9.30 pm)
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor M Long
Councillor G Robinson (from 8.00 pm)
Councillor J Spratt
Councillor J White (until 9.50 pm)

IN ATTENDANCE:-

Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Director of Administration & Community Services, Finance Manager, Economic Development Manager, Planning Service Officer, Planning Officer and Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES:-

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Alderman Mrs Rice and Councillors Mrs Cochrane, Henderson, Miss Stevenson and Tosh

2006/451 : OPENING OF MEETING

In the absence of Reverend Brown due to illness, Mr Andrew Bustard opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2006/452 : MINUTES

Members were asked to note that the Council minutes to be approved related to the copy tabled at the beginning of the meeting.

RESOLVED: That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record
- Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 15 June 2006
 - Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 17 August 2006 (to be discussed In Committee, Minute 2006/531 refers)
 - Special Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting of 15 June 2006
 - Special Leisure Services Committee meeting of 15 June 2006
 - Special Central Services Committee meeting of 15 June 2006
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record, subject to the following amendments:
- Council meeting of 27 July 2006 –
P5 – 2006/388 – 2nd para – delete ‘deduce’ insert ‘influence’
P17 – 2006/432 – delete ‘substitute member’ insert ‘fourth member’
 - Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 21 June 2006 –
P8 – F&GP/2006/326 – delete 3rd para – insert ‘by the relevant Committee’ at the end of Resolution (b)

MATTERS ARISING

2006/453 : NOTICE OF MOTION (Minute 2006/388 refers)

Alderman P Robinson informed Members that the expenditure for the new building for Down District Council and additional capital projects was estimated at £17.9 million, and he outlined the details of all expenditure. He continued to say that the members of the new Council would be responsible for this expenditure, therefore Alderman P Robinson urged this Council to advise the Minister and the Local Government Auditor of the additional information as a matter of urgency.

Noted.

2006/454 : LUCKY JACK’S AMUSEMENT ARCADE (minute 2006/385 refers)

Alderman I Robinson requested an update from Officers regarding information she had received that some of the machines had been upgraded to pay out larger amounts of money.

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services informed Members that there had been two recent visits to the premises, and the matter had been referred to the PSNI for investigation. The Director added that a report would be presented at the next meeting of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee on 5 September 2006.

PLANNING

2006/455 : MINUTES

RESOLVED: That

- (a) the Minutes of the Special Planning meetings of 15 June 2006 and 16 August 2006 be accepted as a true and accurate record.
- (b) the Minutes of the Special Planning meeting of 28 July 2006 be accepted as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendments:
 - P1 – 3rd para – delete ‘the objectors’ insert ‘two letters of objection’

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 24 AUGUST 2006 (copy previously circulated)

2006/456 : PLANNING APPLICATIONS NO Y/2006/0045/F – 32A ROCKY ROAD, CREGAGH, BT8 4GA; Y/2005/0416/O – LAND OPPOSITE 1 AND 2 GRANGEWOOD TERRACE, BALLYREGAN, DUNDONALD, BT16 1GP; Y/2006/0197/O – APPROX 100M NORTH OF 33 BEECHMOUNT ROAD, LISNABREENY, CARRYDUFF, BT8 8AD

The Planning Service Officer informed Members that the above applications had been withdrawn from the Schedule.

Noted.

2006/457 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO Y/2005/0246/F – 103-107 SAINTFIELD ROAD, BREDAS, BELFAST, BT8 7HN – NEW THREE-STORY BUILDING CONTAINING 9 NO APARTMENTS

Councillor Chambers stated that issues relating to this application had not been fully resolved, particularly regarding the access, therefore she asked that her objection be recorded. The Planning Service Officer replied that the developer had acted according to legislation.

Noted.

2006/458 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO Y/2005/0490/F – LANDS ADJACENT TO 188 SAINTFIELD ROAD, BALLYLENAGHAN, BT8 7HY – ERECTION OF 3 NO FLOODLIGHTING COLUMNS (6M HIGH)

Councillor Duncan referred to objections received that the lights would shine into people's houses. The Planning Service Officer explained that a case officer had visited the premises at night, taking photographs, and it was confirmed that there was no light disturbance.

Noted.

2006/459 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO Y/2006/0062/O – 200M NORTH OF TUFTS BRIDGE, LISLEEN ROAD SOUTH, MONEYREAGH – SITE FOR REPLACEMENT DWELLING

Alderman I Robinson requested that a site meeting be arranged, as she was of the view that the new planning policy did not apply in this case.

RESOLVED: That consideration of Planning Application No Y/2006/0062/O be deferred to enable a site meeting to be held, at a date and time to be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee in liaison with Alderman I Robinson.

2006/460 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO Y/2006/0259/F – SITE TO REAR OF 20 KINGSWAY PARK, TULLYCARNET, BT5 7EU – SITE FOR ONE DWELLING

Alderman I Robinson requested that an office meeting be arranged in order to discuss the application in more detail.

RESOLVED: That consideration of Planning Application Y/2006/0259/F be deferred to enable an office meeting to be held, at a date and time to be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee, in liaison with Alderman I Robinson.

2006/461 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO Y/2006/0375/A – 788 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, CARROWREAGH, DUNDONALD, BT16 1UD – 5 SIGNS TOTAL, 2 FASCIA AND 3 FREESTANDING

The Planning Service Officer confirmed that the freestanding signs were a replacement of existing signs.

Noted.

2006/462 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO Y/2006/0148/O – SITE APPROXIMATELY 420M NORTH OF EXISTING PROPERTY LOCATED AT 141 BELFAST ROAD – SITE FOR RETIREMENT DWELLING

Councillor Chambers enquired why the above planning application, which had been deferred from the previous month, was not on the Planning Schedule. The Planning Service Officer replied that it had been withdrawn.

Noted.

2006/463 : SPAR SHOP IN THE BALLYGOWAN ROAD

Councillor Chambers enquired whether the Planning Service intended to take enforcement action against the Spar shop in the Ballygowan Road. The Planning Service Officer replied that she would forward the relevant information.

Noted.

2006/464 : WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 24 JULY – 14 AUGUST 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/465 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 31 JULY 2006, RE: MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATION: ACCESS AND ASSOCIATED ROAD WORKS TO SERVICE FOOD STORE DEVELOPMENT PERMITTED UNDER APPLICATION NO Y/2000/0766/O AT LAND AT BELVOIR ROAD AND 170-174 NEWTOWNBRED A ROAD, NEWTOWNBRED A (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/466 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 11 JULY 2006, RE: THE PLANNING (CONSERVATION AREAS) (CONSULTATION) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2006 SR NO 290 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/467 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL, DATED 18 JULY 2006, RE: DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 14 (PPS14) – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRYSIDE – A JUDICIAL REVIEW (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/468 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM BELFAST CITY COUNCIL, DATED 3 AUGUST 2006, RE: ACQUISITION OF BURIAL LAND (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt requested that Officers obtain more information regarding the proposed sites in order to assess any impact on neighbouring premises.

The Planning Officer highlighted that this kind of application would have implications in respect of road safety as well as visual impact.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer respond by raising the road safety and visual impact issues.

2006/469 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MR MARK BAILIE, DATED 24 MAY 2006, RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0227/F (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/470 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MS SINEAD MCGLINCHEY, DATED 9 AUGUST 2006, RE: ERECTION OF APARTMENT BLOCK AT 103-107 SAINTFIELD ROAD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/471 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MS RIA TAYLOR, DATED 3 AUGUST 2006, RE: ENTRANCE TO OLD MILL HEIGHTS, DUNDONALD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/472 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 21 JULY 2006, RE: TREE PRESERVATION ORDER, LANDS ADJACENT TO 28 CREGAGH PARK, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/473 : SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED: That Members agree to a suspension of the relevant Standing Order to enable a presentation to take place by representatives from NIPSA regarding the closure of libraries.

PRESENTATION

2006/474 : PRESENTATION BY REPRESENTATIVES FROM NIPSA REGARDING THE CLOSURE OF LIBRARIES

The Mayor welcomed Ms Alison Miller and Ms Josephine Quinn to the meeting.

Ms Miller began the presentation by informing Members that there had not been much media interest in the closure of libraries. She continued to say

that, although consultations had taken place with local residents, their proposals had been ignored.

Ms Miller then outlined details of proposals put forward by the SEELB. Opening hours for Gilnahirk, Braniel and Belvoir libraries would be reduced from 21 hours to 14 hours per week. There had been much public interest in Gilnahirk. However, proposed opening hours included Monday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm and Thursday 1.00 pm – 8.00 pm, and the library would be closed on Saturdays. This was contrary to local preference.

NIPSA had met with commissioners in support of the result of these public consultations, as libraries served a social need, and NIPSA was now seeking the Council's support to secure continued library provision in Castlereagh.

Councillor Spratt expressed outrage that local residents wishes for Saturday opening hours at Gilnahirk library had been ignored, as this had previously been agreed with the SEELB. He therefore felt that the Council should do everything possible to support NIPSA regarding the closure of libraries.

Councillor Bunting agreed that the Council should support NIPSA. She expressed concern that small libraries were being sacrificed to create big super-libraries. Councillor Bunting then referred to representations that had been made by the Council to the SEELB in support of small libraries in the Borough, which were more suitable to the area than the proposed super-library. However, the SEELB had employed consultants with no knowledge of the Castlereagh area, who were not aware of difficulties regarding public transport etc.

Councillor Long also agreed that the Council should support NIPSA. He further stated that there were people in social need in the Borough who would have difficulties visiting a library due to the lack of available public transport in the area, therefore there was a need for the smaller libraries.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree unanimously to support NIPSA in their opposition to the proposals put forward by the SEELB in respect of small libraries in Castlereagh.

ROADS

2006/475 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ROADS SERVICE, DATED 31 JULY 2006, RE: EXPANDING THE STRATEGIC ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMME 2015 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the correspondence from the Roads Service, dated 31 July 2006, re: Expanding the Strategic Road Improvement Programme 2015 be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for detailed consideration.

2006/476 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ROADS SERVICE, DATED 15 AUGUST 2006, RE: CYCLE TRACKS (copy previously circulated)

Members expressed concerns at the significant amount of money provided by the Roads Service for cycle lanes within the Borough, when it appeared that their use was infrequent.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Roads Service be asked to include details of the cost of the provision of cycle lanes and the frequency of their use within the Castlereagh area in their next presentation to Council.

WATER

2006/477 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE WATER SERVICE, DATED 4 JULY 2006, RE: EQIA WATER SERVICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

FINANCE

2006/478 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£6,105.31
General Account (Salaries)	£427,725.81
General Account (Suppliers)	£772,051.65
Loans Pool Account (Government Loans)	£788,802.42

2006/479 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR AUGUST 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
(copy previously circulated)**

2006/480 : SPECIAL CENTRAL SERVICES MEETING

RESOLVED: That a Special Central Services meeting with executive powers be arranged to take place on Thursday, 30 August 2006, to discuss the report from the Director of Administration & Community Services, with the exception of item 1.1 in the report, which would be discussed at Council.

2006/481 : MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY FACILITY – BIG LOTTERY FUND APPLICATION

The Director of Administration & Community Services sought Members' approval to put the Moneyreagh Community facility to public tender, as the Big Lottery Fund had set a deadline of 30 September 2006 for appointment of professional contractors. She stated that all land issues relating to the removal of the covenant had been agreed in principle, and she was in the process of arranging a meeting with the solicitor of the original landowners. The issue with the SEELB regarding access through the grounds of the primary school is also being progressed.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to the Director of Administration & Community Services to put the Moneyreagh Community facility out to public tender.

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
(copy previously circulated)**

2006/482 : THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 – ARTICLE 3 – LICENSING OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT – RENEWAL OF LICENCE

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services outlined details of applications for the renewal of entertainment licences, and he explained that the necessary inspections would be carried out.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for renewal of the entertainment licences, as detailed in the Acting Environmental Health Manager's report, for Licence No 63 and Licence No 86, subject to receipt of all necessary documentation and compliance with the Council's terms and conditions of Licence.

2006/483 : PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT (NI) 1929 – LICENCE RENEWAL

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that, as required by the above legislation, an application for the renewal of a licence to store petroleum had been received. He confirmed that an inspection would be carried out to ensure that the premises complied with the requirements of the Act, and the Council's Petroleum Licence Terms and Conditions.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for the renewal of a licence to store petroleum, as outlined in the Acting Environmental Health Manager's report, subject to receipt of all necessary documentation and compliance with the terms and conditions of the Petroleum Licence.

2006/484 : THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 – DOGS STRAYING

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services reported that two Fixed Penalty Notices – one to a lady from the Cregagh area and one to a man from the Gilnahirk area – had been returned unpaid by the Clerk of Petty Sessions, therefore he requested approval to instigate legal proceedings in accordance with the above legislation.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to instigate legal proceedings, in accordance with the Dogs (NI) Order 1983, against a lady from the Cregagh area and a man from the Gilnahirk area for non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notices for straying dogs.

2006/485 : THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 – DOGS KEPT WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services reported that, despite a written warning being issued to a man from the Ballybeen area and a lady from the Cregagh area, they continued to keep a dog without obtaining a valid licence. He added that Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued for these offences, but both had been returned unpaid from the Clerk of Petty Sessions Office. He recommended that legal proceedings be instigated.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to instigate legal proceedings, under the Dogs (NI) Order 1983, against the man from the Ballybeen area and the lady from the Cregagh area for keeping a dog without a valid licence.

2006/486 : THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 – DOG ATTACKS

The following incidents involving dog attacks were brought to Members' attention:

- Case 1

On 25 June 2006, a six-year old boy from the Cregagh area was chased by a Yorkshire Terrier and knocked off his bicycle. Allegedly, the dog bit the boy in the arm and leg, and the boy received treatment in the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald. However, the person in charge of the dog denied that the boy had been bitten, but that the injuries were caused by the fall off the bicycle.

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services sought Members' approval to instigate legal proceedings against the person in charge of the dog under the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 for permitting the dog to attack a person.

- Case 2

On 6 July 2006, a nine-year old boy was visiting at his friend's home in the Dundonald area, when he was attacked by the family's Rottweiler dog. The boy was bitten in his right side, lip, right eye and scalp above his right ear, and he received treatment in hospital. The dog, which had been kept without a valid dog licence, was humanely destroyed that same day.

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services sought Members' approval to instigate legal action under the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 against the owner for permitting the dog to attack and injure a person and for keeping the dog without a valid licence.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That further discussion on the two dog attacks be referred to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

**REPORT FROM THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
(copy previously circulated)**

2006/487 : HANWOOD PROJECT - INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR IRELAND - PROPOSAL

The Economic Development Manager stated that the land for Phases I and II of the Hanwood project had been given free of charge by the NIHE. However, due to delays associated with the legal negotiations regarding this land, the International Fund for Ireland had not been able to provide the full funding for Phase I at the time at which Phase I was built. As a result, the International Fund for Ireland now wish to donate the outstanding monies to Phase II of the project once the negotiations had been finalised. The Economic Development Manager now sought Members' approval for a transfer of this funding commitment from Phase I to Phase II, subject to approval from the Local Government Auditor.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to transfer outstanding funding commitment from the International Fund for Ireland of Phase I of the Hanwood project to Phase II, subject to approval from the Local Government Auditor.

2006/488 : SYNTHETIC MULTI-PURPOSE PITCH AT HANWOOD CENTRE – SPORTS LOTTERY APPLICATION

The Economic Development Manager reported that the Hanwood Trust Company had submitted a funding application to the Northern Ireland Sports Council Sports Lottery for approximately £600,000 towards the construction of a third-generation multi-purpose pitch adjacent to the Hanwood Centre in Tullycarnet. She added that to facilitate this, the Hanwood Trust would require

a lease of either 21 or 25 years on the site and sought Members' approval to instruct the Council's solicitor to complete the requisite legalities.

Councillor White spoke at length on the Council's ongoing support for the Hanwood project in Tullycarnet and highlighted the extremely positive impact this project could have on its residents, following which it was

RESOLVED (unanimously): That approval be granted to lease the land immediately adjacent to the Hanwood Centre for 25 years for the construction of a synthetic multi-purpose pitch.

GENERAL

2006/489 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM GERARD MCCLURE & CO, SOLICITORS, DATED 25 JULY 2006, RE: BOOKMAKING LICENCE RENEWAL 2006 – JOHN HENRY CORRY, 997 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/490 : NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE FOR UNITS 2 AND 3, INNS CROSS DEVELOPMENT, NEWTOWNBRED A – ALSO KNOWN AS 65A AND 67 SAINTFIELD ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/491 : NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE FOR UNIT 20, CARRYDUFF SHOPPING CENTRE, CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/492 : NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF A BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE FOR PREMISES AT 43 ROSETTA ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/493 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM L'ESTRANGE & BRETT, SOLICITORS, DATED 7 AUGUST 2006, RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PROVISIONAL GRANT OF LICENCE FOR THE ELK INN, 973 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, DUNDONALD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/494 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM MKB RUSSELLS, SOLICITORS, DATED 7 AUGUST 2006, RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION

FOR THE PROVISIONAL GRANT OF LICENCE FOR BRACKENVALE, 520 SAINTFIELD ROAD, CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Hanvey recalled that approval had previously been granted by the Planning Service for an extension to the business, on condition that wheelchair access would be created plus other restrictions. Councillor J Beattie also recalled that the erection of traffic lights had been included in the approval, although to date they had not been installed.

During the ensuing discussion, Members were unsure about the applicant's identity, therefore it was

RESOLVED: That Officers ascertain the applicant's identity before approval for provisional licence for Brackenvale, 520 Saintfield Road, Carryduff be granted.

2006/495 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM J G O'HARE & CO, DATED 15 AUGUST 2006, RE: RENEWAL OF BOOKMAKING OFFICE LICENCE AT 799 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/496 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL, DATED 10 AUGUST 2006, RE: PROPOSED ABOLITION OF NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL (copy previously circulated)

As a member of the Northern Ireland Housing Council, Councillor White was impressed with the amount of involvement from all representatives on the Housing Council, and that the work was very important for the improvement of housing standards. He pointed out that the Housing Council was not a quango but a statutory body on which all 26 Councils were represented.

Councillor White proposed, therefore, that the Council write to the Minister, requesting a postponement of the decision to abolish the Northern Ireland Housing Council until future developments arising from the RPA in 2009 became apparent.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Bunting, and it was

RESOLVED: That

(a) the Council write to the Minister requesting a postponement of the decision to abolish the Northern Ireland Housing Council until future housing developments arising from the RPA in 2009 became apparent.

(b) notify the above decision to the Secretary of the Housing Council.

2006/497 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL, DATED 10 AUGUST 2006, RE: PROPOSED TRANSFER OF SUPPORTING PEOPLE FUNCTION FROM NIHE TO COUNCILS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor White stood up in support of ‘Supporting People’, and he was of the view that this function should not be transferred, as it had been in place successfully for the past two years.

He pointed out that funding of some £56 million was currently administered by the Northern Ireland Housing Council, and after a period of difficulty, following its introduction was now operating very successfully. He added that this funding was directed towards providing services for vulnerable groups in the community, and was drawn down by Housing Associations and Health & Social Services Trusts. He outlined that these bodies currently have only one administering body to deal with, and huge difficulties would be experienced if they had to deal with a number of local Councils.

Councillor White further indicated the difficulties which would be faced by new Councils in setting up departments to deal with the issue and the disruption which would ensue to those bodies, such as Housing Associations which provide the services.

The proposal in the name of Councillor White was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) That

(a) the Council writes to the Minister in the strongest possible terms requesting that the administration of ‘Supporting People’ remains with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

(b) the Council writes to the Northern Ireland Housing Council informing it of the Council’s support for the above issue, and advising that a letter had been sent to the Minister to this effect.

2006/498 : NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE – MODERNISING SERVICES

Councillor Robinson suggested that the Local District Manager of NIHE be asked to give a presentation to Council regarding any plans for modernising services.

Councillor White seconded the proposal, and it was

RESOLVED: That the Local District Manager of NIHE be asked to give a presentation to Council regarding any plans for modernising NIHE services.

2006/499 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, DATED 20 JULY 2006, RE: LIQUOR LICENSING – THE WAY FORWARD (copy previously circulated)

Alderman Copeland welcomed the decision by the Minister to conduct further investigation of the impact the new proposals would have.

Noted.

2006/500 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 5 JULY 2006, RE: ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT – JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services informed Members that he had been in contact with the Department of the Environment and that they were willing to accept the Council's suggestions.

During the ensuing discussion, Members took the view that further discussion was required, and it was

RESOLVED: That discussion regarding the Advance Notice of Consultation by the Department of the Environment – July to September 2006 be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

2006/501 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, CRIMINAL POLICY BRANCH, DATED 25 JULY 2006, RE: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Hanvey welcomed the Minister's decision to consult with local communities, and he stressed the importance of accountability and adherence to guidelines.

Councillor Bunting agreed, and she proposed to arrange a special Finance & General Purposes meeting for more detailed discussion of the consultation document.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor White, and it was

RESOLVED: That a special Finance & General Purposes meeting be arranged to allow more detailed discussions of the Consultation on Draft Guidelines for Community-Based Restorative Justice document.

2006/502 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL, DATED 27 JULY 2006, RE: PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT ORDER IN COUNCIL – THE RATES (AMENDMENT) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006, A PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That discussion of The Rates (Amendment) (Northern Ireland) Order 2006, a Public Consultation Document be referred to a special Finance & General Purposes meeting.

2006/503 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE VALUATION & LANDS AGENCY, DATED 29 JUNE 2006, RE: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL LETTER OF 19 JUNE 2006 – PUBLIC ACCESS TO THE CAPITAL VALUES LIST (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services advised that the above item had been withdrawn, as it had been dealt with at the previous meeting.

Noted.

2006/504 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY DIVISION, DATED 21 JULY 2006, RE: THE LAW ON KNIVES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: A CONSULTATION

RESOLVED: That discussion regarding The Law on Knives in Northern Ireland: A Consultation be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

2006/505 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL, DATED 18 JULY 2006, RE: CONDEMNATION OF THE SEELB IN COMPLYING WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S PROGRAMME OF CUTS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/506 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS, NORTHERN IRELAND REGION, DATED 5 JULY 2006, RE: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND CONFERENCE – CANAL COURT HOTEL, NEWRY, 15-16 SEPTEMBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the Council approve the attendance of one nominated representative at the Annual General Meeting and Conference in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, on 15-16 September 2006.

2006/507 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, EQUALITY UNIT, RECEIVED 31 JULY 2006, RE: ADVANCE NOTICE ON CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/508 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FISHERIES DIVISION,

DATED 7 JULY 2006, RE: UNLICENSED FISHING FOR CRABS AND LOBSTERS REGULATION (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/509 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE, DATED 28 JULY 2006, RE: CONSULTATION ON RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT PLAN (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/510 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ULSTER FARMERS' UNION, DATED 4 AUGUST 2006, RE: DRAFT NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/511 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INTERNATIONAL BUREAU, DATED JULE/JULY 2006, RE: FROM LOCALISM TO GLOBALISM: NORTHERN IRELAND, EUROPE AND THE WIDER WORLD ROADSHOW, COOKSTOWN, 8 SEPTEMBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/512 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, DATED 10 AUGUST 2006, RE: PROPOSALS TO REPLACE DIPLOCK COURTS (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That discussion regarding the Proposals to Replace the Diplock Courts be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

2006/513 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, RECEIVED 15 AUGUST 2006, RE: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PRIMARY LEGISLATION, PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT ORDER IN COUNCIL: THE TAXIS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006

Noted.

2006/514 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL, DATED 8 AUGUST 2006, RE: ARTS COUNCIL FIVE-YEAR PLAN (2006-2010) (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That discussion regarding the Arts Council Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) be referred to the Central Services Committee.

ANNUAL REPORTS / STRATEGIES

**2006/515 : THE REGULATION AND QUALITY IMPROVEMENT
AUTHORITY CORPORATE STRATEGY 2006-2009**

Noted.

**2006/516 : DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS AND LEISURE –
DELIVERING TOMORROW’S LIBRARIES**

Noted.

**2006/517 : DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT
– RURAL PROOFING OF POLICIES ACROSS THE NORTHERN IRELAND
CIVIL SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006**

Noted.

**2006/518 : NORTH/SOUTH MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT
2005**

Noted.

**2006/519 : NORTHERN IRELAND OMBUDSMAN ANNUAL REPORT 2005-
2006**

Noted.

2006/520 : BELFAST SAMARITANS ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Noted.

**2006/521 : NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
STRATEGIC PLAN 2006-2009**

Noted.

**2006/522 : YOUTH JUSTICE AGENCY CORPORATE PLAN 2006-2009
AND BUSINESS PLAN 2006-2007**

Noted.

**2006/523 : STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD ANNUAL REVIEW AND
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2005-2006**

Noted.

**2006/524 : NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE INTERIM HOUSE
CONDITION SURVEY 2004 – FINAL REPORT**

Noted.

2006/525 : LOCAL GOVERNMENT STAFF COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 1 APRIL 2005 – 31 MARCH 2006

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2006/526 : KNIVES BIN AT CREGAGH

Councillor Spratt advised that the PSNI sought approval to place a knives bin in the same location as in 2006, beginning a rolling programme. He added that risk assessments had been carried out, and there was agreement with the union.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to the PSNI to place a knives bin in the Cregagh area.

2006/527 : NEW DEVELOPMENT AT 16-20 GRAHAMSBRIDGE ROAD

Councillor Bunting stated that no planning application for a new development at 16-20 Grahamsbridge Road had been included in the Planning Schedule. She added that the developer had removed trees on the land, but had not come to Council for consultation. Councillor Bunting further stated that the Planning Officer sought permission to make a representation to the Planning Appeals Commission.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer be granted permission to make a representation to the Planning Appeals Commission regarding a new development at 16-20 Grahamsbridge Road.

2006/528 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE MERCHANT NAVY ASSOCIATION, BELFAST BRANCH, RE: FLYING THE FLAG OF THE MERCHANT NAVY

The Director of Finance & Leisure Services outlined details of a request received from the Merchant Navy Association, asking the Council to fly the Merchant Navy Flag on Sunday, 3 September 2006, in memory of approximately 48,000 men and women who died at sea, and inviting the Mayor or the Deputy Mayor and Councillors to attend a thanksgiving service in Sinclair Seaman's Church, Corporation Square, Belfast, at 11.15 am on the same day.

During the ensuing discussion, Members agreed that it would be appropriate for the Council to fly the Merchant Navy Flag at the Cenotaph on this day, therefore it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to fly the Merchant Navy Flag at the Cenotaph on Sunday, 3 September 2006, in memory of approximately 48,000 men and women who died at sea.

2006/529 : BILLY NEILL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Robinson requested that the following Officers should attend meetings of the Billy Neill Advisory Committee: the Parks Manager, the PR & Marketing Manager, the Sports Development Officer, Philip Melville, the IFA Grassroots Officer, and other Officers as and when required.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for the following Officers to attend meetings of the Billy Neill Advisory Committee: the Parks Manager, the PR & Marketing Manager, the Sports Development Officer, Philip Melville, the IFA Grassroots Officer, and other Officers as and when required.

2006/530 : LAKE AT BILLY NEILL CENTRE

Councillor Robinson stated that he had been contacted by anglers regarding funding to stock the lake with fish and to provide a concrete edging around the lake to ease access for disabled people. It was noted that such a request had previously been received and had been considered.

He then advised that Dungannon & South Tyrone had a similar lake in its Borough, and he suggested that the matter be referred to the relevant Committee, with a view to organising a site visit to see if Members could glean some ideas for a lake at the Billy Neill Centre.

RESOLVED: That Officers investigate this matter and provide an update report to the Billy Neill Advisory Committee.

2006/531 : EVENTS AT BILLY NEILL CENTRE

Councillor Robinson stated that the grounds around the lake would be ideal for athletic events, for example cross-country events, and he asked that Officers contact the Northern Ireland Athletics Federation in this respect.

RESOLVED: That Officers contact the Northern Ireland Athletics Federation to enquire whether there was an interest in using the grounds around the lake at the Billy Neill Centre for athletic events and report back to Council.

IN COMMITTEE

2006/532 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETINGS OF 17 AUGUST 2006 AND 22 AUGUST 2006

RESOLVED: That ratification of the Minutes of the special Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings of 17 August 2006 and 22 August 2006 be deferred until further consideration of the mobile phone contract.

MATTERS ARISING

2006/533 : MOBILE PHONE CONTRACT

Councillor J Beattie confirmed that this matter had gone to the Finance & General Purposes Committee because it involved expenditure.

Councillor Bunting stated that she felt that the wrong set of Minutes had been issued, as the copy of the Minutes of 22 August 2006 obtained by her contained items in red. She felt, however, that this Minute was somewhat detailed and that there was no necessity to cover every item. She therefore questioned the motive as to why Officers had put so much detail into the content. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services confirmed that the paragraphs highlighted represented last changes made by senior Officers. However, Members took the view that the whole set of Minutes needed to be rewritten.

Members then discussed the proposals and associated costs. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services was asked to clarify what it would mean for Councillors who decided to opt out. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services said that the Finance Manager had been working on costings, and these would be sent to Members in due course. It would then be up to each individual Member to determine whether it would be more beneficial for them to remain with the Council contract or to opt out.

Councillor Robinson felt that, as the Council was currently awaiting new directives, it might be better to remain with the existing contract until further details had been received.

Discussion then ensued on the cost of not renewing the contract. At present the monthly cost for mobile phone use was approximately £4,000. The Finance Manager circulated copies of personalised average usage and alternative deals available. The Director of Finance & Leisure Services advised that Members who did not make many phone calls, might be better off within the contract, whereas those who used their mobile phone often, might benefit more from negotiating an individual contract.

At this point, it was agreed to put this issue to the vote, and with eight votes for, one against and one abstention, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Minutes of 22 August 2006 be rewritten.
- (b) That approval be granted that the Council enter into a contract with T Mobile to provide a mobile phone service and handsets for Members and eligible staff.
- (c) That Councillors be given a choice of either remaining in the contract offered by the Council or to enter into an individual contract of their choice.
- (d) That the Director of Administration & Community Services be requested to produce a draft policy in respect of the usage of mobile phones and table it at the next Central Services Committee meeting for approval prior to the next contract being put out to tender.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.45 p.m.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE