

## **CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Minutes of the proceedings of the meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday, 21<sup>st</sup> December 2006 at 5.00 p.m.

### **PRESENT:-**

Alderman M Copeland MLA  
Alderman J Norris MBE  
Alderman Mrs G Rice (from 5.40 p.m.)  
Alderman Mrs I Robinson MP MLA  
Alderman PD Robinson MP MLA

Councillor Mrs A Beattie  
Councillor J Beattie  
Councillor Mrs M Chambers  
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane  
Councillor D Drysdale  
Councillor Mrs S Duncan  
Councillor B Hanvey  
Councillor M Henderson  
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE  
Councillor T Jeffers  
Councillor M Long  
Councillor G Robinson  
Councillor J Spratt  
Councillor C Tosh  
Councillor J White

### **IN ATTENDANCE:-**

Chief Executive, Director of Finance & Leisure Services, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Client Manager, Planning Officer, Planning Service Officer, Human Resources Manager and Assistant Members' Services Officer

### **APOLOGIES:-**

Apologies were recorded on behalf of Councillor Hall and the Director of Administration & Community Services

### **2006/743 : OPENING OF THE MEETING**

Alderman J Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

**2006/744 : SUDDEN DEATH OF MRS PAULINE BEATTIE, NIHE & RECENT DEATH OF PATRICK MITCHELL, FORMER COUNCILLOR**

Councillor Spratt wished to express his shock and sadness at the sudden death of Mrs Pauline Beattie, NIHE and the recent death of Mr Patrick Mitchell, a former Councillor of Castlereagh Borough Council, and he asked Members to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect.

Following the minute's silence, he referred to Mrs Beattie's sterling work with the various community groups in the Borough, and asked that his Party's condolences be passed on to the families of Mrs Beattie and Mr Mitchell.

Councillors J Beattie, Hughes, Long and Alderman Copeland expressed their sympathy and sent their condolences, on behalf of their respective political parties.

Councillor Long also wished to pay tribute to his predecessor in Castlereagh Central, Mr Mitchell.

Councillor Long went on to say that Mr Mitchell had continued to work very hard for the Alliance Party following his term with the Council and he thanked the Mayor, and those Councillors and Officers who had attended the funeral.

Alderman Mrs Robinson stated that, on a personal level, she wished to convey her condolences to the Alliance Party, and also expressed her shock and sadness at the death of Mrs Beattie, who had acted as a tremendous deputy for Mr Carland, in her work with the NIHE. She wished to express her sympathies to both families, and the Castlereagh Division of the NIHE at this sad time.

Councillor Spratt added that he had called into the NIHE Office earlier that day, on behalf of the Council, and had conveyed his condolences to the staff and Officers of the Housing Executive.

RESOLVED:- That, the Mayor's Office sends a letter to the families of Mrs Pauline Beattie and Mr Patrick Mitchell expressing the Council's sympathy at their recent bereavements.

**2006/745 : MINUTES**

RESOLVED:- THAT,

(a) the minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record:-

- Minutes of the Council meeting held on 23 November 2006
- Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 16 November 2006
- Minutes of the Central Services Committee meeting held on 4 December 2006
- Minutes of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 5 December 2006
- Minute of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 7 December 2006

**2006/746 : LEISURE PARK BOARD MINUTES**

Tabled:- Leisure Park Board Minutes of 15 May 2006, 19 June 2006, 22 June 2006, 1 August 2006, 21 August 2006, 18 September 2006 and 16 October 2006 (copies previously circulated).

Noted

**2006/747 : CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF BOARD MINUTES**

Tabled:- Castlereagh Hills Golf Board Minutes of 23 February 2006 (Inaugural Meeting), 22 March 2006, 28 April 2006, 25 May 2006, 30 June 2006, 28 July 2006, 18 August 2006, 15 September 2006 and 20 October 2006 (copies previously circulated).

Noted.

**MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

**2006/748 : MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY FACILITY  
(Minute Ref No: CS/2006/326 refers)**

Councillor Mrs Chambers referred to the above minute content and informed Members that this project had been put out again to public tender on an open tender basis. She advised that the closing date for the tenders was the 12<sup>th</sup> January 2007 and the Council was hopeful of obtaining more realistic tender bids.

She stated that, because of the urgency in expediting this project to obtain the necessary Big Lottery funding, she was requesting that the Central Services Working Group be given Executive Powers to progress the matter.

RESOLVED:- That, the Central Services Working Group be granted Executive Powers to expedite the Moneyreagh Community facility project in light of the urgency regarding the Big Lottery funding.

**2006/749 : ASTRO TURF PITCH CREGAGH  
(Minute Ref No: CS/2006/336 refers)**

Alderman Norris enquired about the current situation with the astro turf pitch at Cregagh, and whether the guarantee period was still applicable.

Councillor Chambers stated that she, and the Director, had met with Irene Knox and two representatives, and she was unhappy that the situation was as yet unresolved. She stated that, in the interim, following discussion with the Council's Health & Safety Officer, the pitch had been closed. She stressed that it was imperative that the Council took a strong line in this matter and, if necessary, arranged for a new Astroturf pitch to be laid and the expenditure to be deducted from the Council's contribution to the SEELB.

In response to a query from Alderman Norris with regard to the financial loss to the Council as a result of the pitch closure, the Human Resources Manager responded that the Council was losing between £400-500 per week. She outlined that the Director of Administration & Community Services had now been updated by the SEELB that an arbiter had been appointed to determine the cause of the wear and tear of the pitch.

Noted.

**PLANNING**

**2006/750 : NOTES FROM THE OFFICE MEETING – 20 NOVEMBER 2006**

Tabled:- Notes from the Office Meeting held on 20 November 2006 (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

**2006/751 : CORRESPONDENCE RE: RADIO BASE STATION AT  
FOOTPATH, 85M SOUTHWEST OF JUNCTION OF CREGAGH ROAD,  
UPPER KNOCKBREDA ROAD, BELFAST**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Planning Officer to Planning Service dated 27 June 2006 and correspondence from Taylor Patterson dated 21 July 2006 (copies enclosed) re radio base station to include 15m high Hutchinson Flexi cell type 2 street furniture column with 380m shroud containing antennae & 1 x 3G

cabinet 1300mm high x 1200mm long x 750mm deep & 1 meter cabinet 1350mm high x 355mm long x 185mm deep at footpath 85m southwest of junction of Cregagh Road, Upper Knockbreda Road, Belfast (Item 3) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

## **SCHEDULE OF PLANNING – 21 DECEMBER 2006**

### **DEFERRED PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **2006/752 : DEFERRED PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2004/0276/O – ERECTION OF A DETACHED 3 BEDROOM, 2 STOREY HOUSE ON SITE OF EXISTING GARAGE & GARDENS (AMENDED PLAN) - 3 GLENSHARRAGH GARDENS, LISNASHARRAGH**

Alderman PD Robinson voiced concerns from the local community in relation to this planning application and the legal issues surrounding the boundary dispute, which were still unresolved.

He stated that the Planning Service had now written to the applicant and objector who was disputing that he owned part of the site. Both parties had been informed that, although the matter had been investigated, the Planning Service were unable to resolve it, therefore they would proceed with the application as an approval.

Alderman Robinson referred to the Planning Service's guidelines, which clearly state that they have to reach a conclusion on the issue and subsequently determine the application. As the objector's legal representatives were of the view that the applicant did not own a portion of the proposed site, he proposed that this application be referred to the Management Board to ascertain why the Planning Service, in this instance, had departed from its own guidelines.

The Planning Service Officer responded that the Planning Service required each planning application to be accompanied by a land certificate, but the purpose of the certification procedure was to merely ensure that those parties with an interest in the land for development were suitably notified. Therefore, this boundary dispute was solely a matter for the two parties involved. He reiterated that the Planning Service were satisfied with regard to the planning merits of the proposal but noted the Council's concern.

Alderman PD Robinson however pointed out that, although the applicant could undertake the development on his own land, the curtilage of the dwelling would

be significantly constrained, and would he be given permission on the much constrained site.

Councillor Chambers referred to a similar situation involving a land dispute. She agreed with the Alderman's comments and felt that the Planning Service would lose credibility as it was leaving the door open for applications to be submitted on land that was not legally owned. She expressed her concern that the objectors of these two applications had incurred considerable expense in legal costs despite the fact that they owned the land in question.

RESOLVED:- That, the planning application be referred to the Management Board on the basis that the Planning Service had not followed its own guidelines and made a determination on the application, prior to resolving the ownership issues.

At this point in the proceedings, Alderman Rice entered the meeting at 5.40 p.m.

### **NEW PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

#### **2006/753 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2005/0364/F – NEW BOUNDARY WALL TO REAR OF DWELLING AT 35 GLENHUGH PARK, BALLYLENAGHAN, BELFAST**

Councillor Duncan informed Members that this wall had been built without planning approval and had adversely changed the character of the Beechill Road. She expressed her concern that the applicants had removed a grassy verge and slope, to erect this wall and furthermore, had built it over a large electricity cable, which ran underneath the site.

Councillor Chambers also had grave concerns in relation to the suitability of the wall, and described it as an "eyesore" which impacted on visibility levels for local residents. She concurred that the applicant had taken over part of the DOE's ground to erect the wall and requested that a site visit be arranged.

In response to a query from Councillor Henderson, the Planning Service Officer stated that the matter of the underground cable was between the applicant and NIE, as the Planning Service could not exercise control over other parties. However, he indicated that NIE had since been informed that the wall had been constructed.

The Planning Service Officer added that although he concurred that the wall had limited impacts, it had been under construction when the application was originally submitted and it had therefore been judged on its planning merits.

Councillor Chambers suggested that the Council write to the Roads Service in the interim and ask them for their views on this encroachment of their land.

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of this planning application be deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be held at a date and time to be agreed with the Chairman of the Planning Committee, in liaison with Councillor Chambers.

Furthermore, that the Planning Officer write to the Roads Service ascertaining its views with regard to the applicant's encroachment on their land in erecting this wall.

**2006/754 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2006/0175/F – CONSTRUCTION OF 2 APARTMENTS & MINOR MODIFICATIONS TO EXISTING DWELLING AT 31 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, BALLYBEEN**

Alderman Mrs Robinson expressed concern that, although the proposed development was aesthetically pleasing, she feared it would set a precedent for the area, ultimately destroying the residential aspects of the locality with apartment development.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of this planning application be deferred to enable a site visit to be arranged, in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Alderman Mrs Robinson.

**2006/755 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2006/0311/F - RADIO BASE STATION TO INCLUDE 15M HIGH HUTCHISON FLEXICELL TYPE 2 STREET FURNITURE COLUMN WITH 380mm SHROUD CONTAINING ANTENNAE & 1 X 3G CABINET 1300mm HIGH X 1200mm LONG X 750mm DEEP & 1M CABINET 1350mm HIGH X 355mm LONG X 185mm DEEP**

In response to concerns from Councillor Long in relation to the height of the existing tower, the Planning Service Officer clarified that this was a street pole facility which was of light design and therefore only suitable for one operator.

He indicated that the other option available would be to increase the mast volume, but assured Members that the Planning Service were looking at the steps taken to assess the feasibility of a mast-share at this location.

Councillor Chambers commented that as there was a BT exchange already in the vicinity, she suggested that the proposed street pole could be situated on this installation.

The Planning Service Officer, however, stated that telecommunications coverage for the area had to be balanced, and this was therefore not possible.

Members were unhappy at this scheme when there were other telecommunications installations in the area.

The Planning Service Officer outlined the procedures that telecommunications operators had to fulfil when submitting such applications, and reiterated that they had to demonstrate to the Planning Service that there was no feasible way of mast sharing. However, he added that this monopole would fit more comfortably, from a visual perspective, with the existing street scene.

Noted.

**2006/756 : PLANNING APPLICATION NO: Y/2006/0382/F - ERECTION OF TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION & SINGLE STOREY REAR EXTENSION PLUS ALTERATIONS TO DWELLING AT 33 GILNAHIRK PARK, TULLYCARNET**

Councillor White expressed concern at the extent of the proposed development and requested a site visit on the basis that the scheme was out of character with the existing dwellings.

RESOLVED:- That, consideration of this planning application be deferred for one month to enable a site visit to be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee, in liaison with Councillor White.

**2006/757 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2006/0466/F - CHANGE OF USE FROM OFFICE TO TEMPORARY PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEW TOILET BLOCK WITH NEW ROAD LAYOUT FOR TURNING AND DROPPING OFF/PICKING UP ETC. AT FORMER ADMIN BUILDING TO FORMER BELVOIR PARK HOSPITAL, HOSPITAL ROAD, BELFAST**

Alderman Mrs Robinson expressed her anger that, at times when established schools were battling to survive, monies were being set aside from a Trust funded by the Department of Education which was, in her view, being paid to integrated schools through a "back door" system, despite the fact that the Minister had previously turned down integrated schools. She reiterated that, in light of the forthcoming Review of Public Administration, the Minister had called a temporary halt on any new build, which included the integrational educational sector.

She referred to meetings she had attended with principals from both Controlled and Maintained schools and they had all expressed concerns that they were

competing in an “unequal playing field”. She therefore proposed that, on this basis, the Council writes to the Planning Service strongly opposing this application on the basis of the Minister’s temporary halt on new builds.

Councillor Spratt seconded the proposal, as this integrated primary school was being opened despite several primary schools in the Borough being under threat of closure. He added that the Minister had originally advised that when the Belvoir Hospital site had been sold off, the monies would be ploughed into funding.

Councillor Chambers concurred with previous comments and referred to her time on the HSS Council in which she had been notified of a covenant on these buildings for health care use. She therefore asked that the Council enquire how school education could be equated with this use and indicated that if it had been a state school, it would not have been permitted the use of the temporary accommodation without the appropriate planning permission in place.

Councillor Long, however, welcomed the application, as 75-80% of people in Northern Ireland believed there was a need for more integrated education, and there was a duplication of educational services at the present time.

At this point in the proceedings, Councillor Cochrane requested Members to deal with the planning merits of the application before them.

Councillor Spratt stated that there were a number of protected buildings at this site and hoped that the same restrictions applicable to state schools, would be applied to the proposed temporary buildings.

The Planning Service Officer stated that his Department had consulted with the Environment & Heritage Department but reiterated that the proposed use was only on a temporary basis. He went on to state that the Planning Service was not in a position to comment on arguments for or against integrated education.

Alderman Mrs Robinson expressed her disappointment that integrated schools were being treated more favourably than Catholic and State Schools and Principals had voiced fears that their schools would be detrimentally affected as a result, and she questioned the fairness and equality of this system.

Councillor Chambers referred to Councillor Long’s comments and stated that integrated educational schools were very privileged. She highlighted an example whereby a pupil of a state school had been refused a bus pass despite living just outside the boundary, whereas pupils of integrated schools were receiving paid transportation irrespective of their address in relation to the school premises.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Officer be instructed to write to the Planning Service outlining the Council's opposition to this application on the basis that the Minister has called a temporary halt to all new buildings in view of the RPA, and this application does not adhere to these guidelines.

However, the Members of the Alliance Party wished to record their support for this proposal.

**2006/758 : APPLICATION NO: Y/2006/0613/RM - LANDS TO THE REAR OF MONEYREAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL, CHURCH ROAD, MONEYREAGH – ERECTION OF COMMUNITY CENTRE, FORMATION OF FORMAL RECEPTION (AMENDMENT TO PREVIOUS APPROVAL Y/2006/0390/RM)**

Councillor Chambers informed Members that this amendment had been submitted to the original application, as it had to be moved several feet because of its proximity to an existing sewer.

Noted.

**2006/759 : RETROSPECTIVE PLANNING APPLICATIONS**

Following a request from Councillor Chambers, it was

RESOLVED:- That, in future, the Planning Service will ensure that all retrospective planning applications are cleared marked as such on the Planning Schedule.

**2006/760 : WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 14 NOVEMBER – 11 DECEMBER 2006 (copy previously circulated).**

Noted.

**2006/761 : SIGHTLINE SPLAYS AT LAND AT 94 COMBER ROAD, DUNDONALD**

Tabled:- Correspondence from McVeigh Brown Partnership dated 8 December 2006 re sightline splays at land at 94 Comber Road, Dundonald (copy previously circulated).

The Planning Officer informed Members that she wished to withdraw this correspondence from the Agenda as there are legal issues still to be considered.

Noted.

**2006/762 : REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FOR NEW BILL TO HELP PLANNING AUTHORITIES TACKLE CARBON EMISSIONS**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Association for the Conservation of Energy dated 6 December 2006 re:- request for support for new bill to help planning authorities tackle carbon emissions (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

**2006/763 : TRAINING ON MOBILE PHONE MASTS**

Tabled:- Correspondence from Engineered Communications Solutions (ECS) Ltd dated 30 November 2006 re training on mobile phone masts (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

**2006/764 : COUNCIL CONSULTATION PROCEDURES**

Tabled:- Correspondence from the Planning Service dated 21 November 2006 re: Council Consultation Procedures (copy previously circulated)

Councillor J Beattie welcomed this correspondence as it had been accepted by the Minister, but asked if it had been implemented throughout Northern Ireland.

The Planning Service Officer responded that it was his understanding that procedures were being followed throughout the province. However, Councillor Beattie stated that he would raise this matter at the next NILGA meeting.

Noted.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2006/765 : TRAFFIC LIGHTS AT PRIMROSE HILL DEVELOPMENT**

Councillor Hanvey referred to the Primrose Hill Development and outlined that initially, a traffic light installation at this junction had been stipulated as a condition of the scheme.

He referred to comments made by Roads Service, in which they indicated that they had no intention of installing a traffic light installation at Primrose Hill, and he expressed his concerns in light of the increased volume in traffic, which would be generated from the future Park & Ride scheme.

The Planning Service Officer informed Members that he would check the conditions of the application but stated that outline approval had stipulated that traffic lights would be installed at the junction.

He referred to the Park & Ride scheme and commented that this was a major application, yet to be determined under BMAP.

RESOLVED:- That, the Planning Service Officer would ascertain if a traffic light installation was a stipulation in the conditions applied to the Primrose Hill Development.

At this point in the proceedings, the Director of Technical & Environmental Services entered the meeting.

## ROADS

### **2006/766 : DRAFT POLICY ON RESIDENTS' PARKING SCHEMES**

Tabled:- Consultation Document received from the Roads Service (copy previously circulated).

Members welcomed this Draft Policy and noted its content.

Noted.

### **2006/767 : PROPOSALS TO REVISE THE FEES FOR ROAD FREIGHT & PASSENGER OPERATOR LICENCES**

Tabled:- Driver & Vehicle Licensing Northern Ireland – Proposals to revise the fees for road freight and passenger operator licences

Noted.

### **2006/768 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 20 NOVEMBER 2006 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE IN RESPECT OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION OF PROPOSED MEASURES REGARDING ROAD TRAFFIC OFFENCES AND PENALTIES FOR DRIVERS**

Noted.

### **2006/769 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM ROADS SERVICE DATED 24 NOVEMBER 2006 RESPONDING TO OUR LETTER OF 1 NOVEMBER 2006 REGARDING JUNCTION AT OLD DUNDONALD ROAD AND COMBER ROAD**

Noted.

### **EDUCATION**

**2006/770 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LISBURN CITY COUNCIL DATED 29 NOVEMBER 2006 RE: SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD SCHOOLS BUDGET FOR 2006/2007**

Noted.

**2006/771 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD REGARDING STRATEGIC REVIEWS OF PROVISION IN RESPECT OF MID & SOUTH DOWN AREA AND NEWTOWNARDS TOWN AREA**

Noted.

### **FINANCE**

**2006/772 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED:- That the Council approves the undernoted payments:-

Capital Account (General)	:	£	804.41
General Account (Salaries)	:	£426,753.83	
General Account (Suppliers)	:	£849,514.09	

### **LEGAL**

**2006/773 : MEMORANDUM OF SALE – LANDS AT PICARDY AVENUE**

RESOLVED:- That, the Council grant approval for the Mayor/Chief Executive to sign the Memorandum of Sale re: lands at Picardy Avenue.

**2006/774 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR DECEMBER 2006**

Noted.

### **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

**2006/775 : REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Tabled:- Report from the Director of Technical & Environmental Services (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services referred Members to the content of his report and, following agreement, it was

RESOLVED:- That, Executive Powers be granted to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee to consider and grant, or otherwise, a way leave to enable a connection to be made to the Knock Valley Relief Sewer at Moat Park, Dundonald.

**GENERAL**

**2006/776 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 22 NOVEMBER 2006 FROM DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CIVIC OFFICES**  
(copy previously circulated)

Alderman PD Robinson referred to a communication received from the Department of the Environment in response to the Council's correspondence regarding Down District Council's proposals to construct new civic headquarters.

He stated that, from the comments contained therein, it was clear that Down District Council had acted illegally and several of their Councillors could be surcharged as a result. He further added that Down District Council would be advised to reconsider their decision, in light of this response, as Councils were only permitted to spend monies based on transactions of existing Council areas and this building would not be constructed by the time of the RPA. Taking this matter on board, it was evident that the size of this new civic centre would not be appropriate for the existing Council's area and any ratepayer from Down District Council area would be justified in claiming reimbursement for the expenditure spent to date in planning/architectural and staffing terms.

Councillor Henderson proposed that the Council write to Down District Council referring to the Department's correspondence and the comments contained therein. Furthermore, with regard to the Alderman's comments in which ratepayers from Down District Council area would be justified in requesting reimbursement in their rates, he felt that it may be appropriate to inform the press.

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to Down District Council, enclosing the response from the Department of the Environment and the comments contained therein, in which it was evident that Down District Council were acting illegally and their Councillors could be surcharged as a result.

**2006/777 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NEWRY & MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL DATED 23 NOVEMBER 2006 SEEKING SUPPORT FOR A COUNCIL RESOLUTION** (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2006/778 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND DATED 30 NOVEMBER 2006 RE: EONI CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE TIMING OF WESTMINSTER PARLIAMENTARY COUNTS** (copy previously circulated)

Alderman PD Robinson drew Members' attention to the content of this Consultation Paper, which in his view, clearly intended to produce a result that was only beneficial to the Electoral Office. He reiterated that their role was only to implement policy, not determine it.

He referred to the electoral practice in the rest of the United Kingdom in which overnight counts took place and he therefore proposed that the Council write to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland seeking a retention of the same standards on the basis that overnight counts were held for the benefit of democracy, i.e. to announce the results to the Elected Representatives as quickly as possible in order that they can commence their duties.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Henderson.

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland requesting that they apply the same standards as the rest of the electoral offices in the United Kingdom, i.e. that overnight counts are held, on the basis that they are more beneficial to the democratic process and the electorate than the current system operated by the EONI.

**2006/779 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DRD EQUALITY UNIT GIVING ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONSULTATION/POLICIES SCREENED OUT BY DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT** (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2006/780 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: DRAFT LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF CLUBS (AMENDMENT) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2007** (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2006/781 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM SHEAN DICKSON MERRICK DATED 6 DECEMBER 2006 RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR FINAL GRANT OF LICENCE IN RESPECT OF TESCO STORES LTD AT 170/174 NEWTOWNBREDA ROAD** (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2006/782 : EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY ENTITLED THE FUTURE OF PATHOLOGY SERVICES IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Noted.

**2006/783 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE DATED 4 DECEMBER 2006 RE: DRAFT POLICING (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2007**

Noted.

**2006/784 : DOCUMENT ENTITLED REGIONAL CANCER FRAMEWORK – A CANCER CONTROL PROGRAMME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND TOGETHER WITH CONSULTATION RESPONSE DOCUMENT RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY**

Noted.

**2006/785 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT DATED 11 DECEMBER 2006 RE: CONSULTATION ON RESPONSIBILITY AND COST SHARING FOR ANIMAL HEALTH AND WELFARE PRINCIPLES)**

Noted.

**2006/786 : DETAILS OF OPENING HOURS FOR REGISTRATION OF DEATHS OVER THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PERIOD FOR NOTING** (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2006/787 : DETAILS OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – DELIVERING SAFER COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE, YORK, FROM 12-14 JANUARY 2006** (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

**2006/788 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT DATED 8 DECEMBER 2006 RE: ELECTRICITY (SINGLE WHOLESALE MARKET) (NI) ORDER 2007)**

Noted.

**2006/789 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE AFFORDABILITY REVIEW TEAM DATED 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2006 RE: REVIEW INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING : INTERIM REPORT**

RESOLVED:- That, this correspondence be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration in relation to a response to the Interim Report.

**2006/790 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SOCIAL SECURITY AGENCY DATED 12 DECEMBER 2006 RE: MODERNISATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY SERVICES** (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**2006/791 : PRESS RELEASE FROM THE WILLIAM KEOWN TRUST RE: THE DEATH OF THE RURAL POST OFFICE** (copy previously circulated)

Councillors Henderson and Long proposed and seconded respectively, that the Council write to the William Keown Trust in support of their correspondence, asking how Members can provide them with further assistance.

Councillor Mrs Beattie referred to the financial difficulties incurred by those people who operate Sub-Post Offices and, advised that the Government did not deem them to be cost-effective, therefore they were encouraging the public to use direct debit systems.

RESOLVED:- That, the Chief Executive be instructed to write to the William Keown Trust, on behalf of the Members, supporting their comments and offering the Council's assistance.

### **ANNUAL REPORTS/STRATEGIES**

**2006/792 : CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006  
ENTITLED GAINING GROUND**

Noted.

**2006/793 : NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE ANNUAL  
REPORT 2005/06 AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Noted.

**2006/794 : GENERAL CONSUMER COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND  
ANNUAL REPORT 2005-2006**

Noted.

**2006/795 : NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICERS'  
SUPERANNUATION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS  
2005/2006**

Noted.

**2006/796 : REGISTRAR GENERAL NORTHERN IRELAND ANNUAL  
REPORT 2005**

Noted.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2006/797 : PAYMENT OF FIRST INSTALMENT TO HANWOOD TRUST LIMITED**

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the Hanwood Project, and the Council's agreed contribution of £800k. He advised that as the Council were accountable for its spend, the Auditor had asked that this amount be paid in instalments to allow the Trust to cover its accounts.

Following a proposal from Alderman PD Robinson, which was seconded by Councillor Long, it was

RESOLVED:- That, the Director of Finance & Leisure Services be approved to make the first instalment payment of £20k to Hanwood Trust Limited, in compliance with the Auditor's request.

**2006/798 : ALDERMAN MRS RICE'S THANKS**

Alderman Mrs Rice wished to take this opportunity to thank Councillors and Officers/Staff for the best wishes and get well cards that she had received during her recent illness.

Councillor Spratt welcomed her back to the Council and wished her good health for the year ahead.

Noted.

**2006/799 : HALF DAY'S LEAVE**

Councillor Spratt informed Members that it was customary to approve a half-day's annual leave to staff on the last day of work before the Christmas holiday period.

RESOLVED:- That, a half-day's leave be granted to staff on the last day before the Christmas holiday period, however, any member of staff who have to be on duty until the normal hours of closing, would be granted a half-day's leave in lieu.

At this point in the proceedings, the Mayor wished everyone a happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful new year.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of Officers and staff, wished to thank the Members for their kind comments and returned the sentiments.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.50 p.m.

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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**MAYOR**