

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council, held in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday 15th June 2006 at 4.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor Jeffers
(in the Chair until 4.20 p.m.)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland MLA
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice (until 4.20 p.m.)
Mrs I Robinson MP MLA
P D Robinson MP MLA

COUNCILLORS: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
J Bunting
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs S Duncan
C Hall
B Hanvey
Miss R Hughes MBE
M Long
J Norris
G Robinson
J Spratt
V Stevenson
C Tosh
J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Director of Finance & Leisure Services and Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillor Henderson and Councillor Cochrane.

2006/337 : OPENING OF MEETING

Councillor Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2006/338 : OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor Jeffers wished to thank the Council for again giving him the opportunity to be the first Citizen of the Borough. He informed Members that he had carried out over 230 engagements during the course of his term and he referred to the many highlights, namely:-

- The Dedication Service for the UDR/R IRISH Commemorative Memorials and his pleasure that the Council had been able to provide a permanent resting place at the Civic Offices.
- The photo shoot with Salto Special Gymnastics Club – and he wished them every success in the Special Olympics next week.
- The tree planting ceremony for the late Mrs Gretta Falloon MBE.
- The Easter Bonnet Competition for the Recycled Teenagers.

The Mayor then referred to the numerous charity engagements he had attended at Hydebank Young Offenders Centre and the support, both staff and prisoners, had given him towards his chosen charity. He hoped that this successful relationship would continue with the Council.

He then referred to the very sad and unexpected occasion of the funeral of the late Dr George Best, in which he had felt an enormous privilege, as First Citizen, to lead the Council from the Great Hall in Stormont on such a momentous event.

The Mayor then thanked his Lady Mayoress, who had accompanied him on many of these occasions and had supported him throughout his year in Office.

He paid further tribute to his Deputy Mayor, Alderman Mrs Rice, and wished her a continued recovery from her recent major illness.

The Mayor then thanked his Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel Caldwell for his attendances at various engagements and his spiritual support. He further paid tribute to the Chief Executive and all the Council Staff, especially the Administration Staff, who had assisted him during his year as Mayor.

The Mayor then informed Members that his nominated charity, Multiple Sclerosis, in conjunction with the Lord Taverners, had raised £42,500, which would be used for the Support and Development Programme for children and young people living with MS. He stated that this tremendous achievement had been aided by the support and generosity of many others, including his fellow Councillors who,

along with the Lords Taverners and Council staff, had given their time so willingly to help him with the fundraising.

Finally, he wished the incumbent Mayor every success for his future term.

Alderman PD Robinson thanked Councillor Jeffers for the way he had performed his duties and wished to pass on the Council's thanks to his wife, Jean, for the great energy and enthusiasm she had shown in carrying out the role of Lady Mayoress to such a high standard. He stated that everyone had been impressed with the Mayor's Charity's contribution to MS and appreciated the work carried out by the Council staff and Members in achieving this excellent target.

He further added that he was delighted to see the Deputy Mayor back at the Council Meeting looking very well, following her recent illness

Councillor Duncan, on behalf of the Alliance Party, wished to thank Councillor Jeffers for his helpful assistance during his term as Mayor.

Councillor Drysdale and Councillor Hanvey echoed these comments, on behalf of the Ulster Unionist and SDLP Parties respectively. Councillor Hanvey concurred that the outgoing Mayor had been very fair throughout his term and he also asked to take the opportunity to wish Alderman Mrs Rice every good health and thank her for her role as Deputy Mayor.

At this point in the proceedings, Alderman PD Robinson proposed that Councillor Spratt be nominated for Mayor. He indicated that he had known Councillor Spratt for some time, pre-dating his time in politics, when he had actively lobbied at Westminster on behalf of the Chairman of the Police Federation. In his view, Councillor Spratt had a wealth of experience in organization and administration, was hard working, extremely honorable and he had been encouraged him to hold higher political status.

Alderman Robinson therefore took great pleasure in nominating Councillor Spratt as First Citizen of the Borough.

Councillor Chambers wished to second this proposal as she counted Councillor Spratt as a friend and had worked closely with him in South Belfast and had every faith that he would carry out his duties capably.

With no other nominations, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor Jim Spratt be appointed Mayor of Castlereagh for the 2006/2007 year.

After completing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Councillor Spratt took the Chair.

2006/339 : ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Prior to the nominations for Deputy Mayor, Councillor Spratt wished to thank his proposer and seconder. He stated that he had been involved with Alderman PD Robinson and a number of other MP's at Westminster and he added to the comments thanking the outgoing Mayor and Mrs Jeffers for their hard work, which had been carried out in an enthusiastic and energetic fashion, and had raised a substantial amount for MS.

He also thanked the Members for their support and pledged to carry out his duties to his best ability on behalf of all the ratepayers of Castlereagh. Furthermore he looked forward to working with the Council staff in the same co-operative manner to the benefit of everyone in the Borough.

He informed Members that his designated charity was the "Living Rooms Appeal Project" which had been set up by Marie Curie at Beaconsfield Nursing Home with a view to refurbishing an old 40-year building, which would ultimately house the new inpatients unit. This was a very worthwhile project and he hoped for support from the Councillors and staff.

Alderman Rice at this point, took the opportunity to speak prior to the elections for the incumbent Deputy Mayor. She referred to the highs and lows that had occurred during her year, especially with regard to her health.

She thanked Councillor Jeffers for his support as Mayor, during her term in office and also the Mayor's Secretary, Hilary Cromie, for her hard work and assistance during the past year.

At this point, nominations were requested for the election of the Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Miss Hughes MBE proposed that Councillor Hanvey be nominated for the post of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Long paid tribute to Councillor Jeffers and Alderman Rice for the excellent way in which they had carried out their duties during their term of office. He then wished to second the proposal as he felt that Councillor Hanvey would perform an excellent role as Deputy Mayor, representing every section of the constituents in the Borough.

With no other nominations, Member agreed that Councillor Hanvey be appointed Deputy Mayor of Castlereagh for the 2006/2007 year.

After completing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, Councillor Hanvey thanked the Members of the Council for their support.

Councillor Spratt congratulated Councillor Harvey on his appointment and looked forward to working with him in the best interests of all the ratepayers in Castlereagh.

Councillor Harvey stated that today, it had been an honour and a privilege to accept the post of Deputy Mayor and asked Members to ponder at the uniqueness of this occasion. Although he was sorry that his family were unable to be present, he was delighted that a Nationalist Councillor had been elected to a high position within Castlereagh Borough Council and he pledged to serve everyone in the Borough, irrespective of his or her religion, alongside Councillor Spratt.

Alderman PD Robinson wished to pass on his best wishes to Councillor Harvey and was delighted to see him in post as Deputy Mayor. He acknowledged that he would make an effective ambassador for Castlereagh Borough Council and would carry out all of his functions in a thorough and proper fashion.

Alderman Rice wished to congratulate Councillor Harvey, on behalf of her Party, and this sentiment was echoed by Councillor Drysdale on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party.

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor Harvey be appointed Deputy Mayor of Castlereagh for the 2006/2007 year.

2006/340 : MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

Alderman PD Robinson stated that Members had discussed the Committee makeup and were happy to retain existing memberships with the exception of the following:-

- Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee - Councillor Jeffers replace Councillor Chambers.
- Inter Agency Bonfire Committee – Alderman Copeland replace Councillor Drysdale
- Castlereagh Local Strategy Partnership - Councillor Jeffers replace Councillor Spratt
- Reserve Forces & Cadets Association - Councillor Jeffers replace Councillor Robinson

This proposal was seconded by Alderman Rice.

RESOLVED (unanimously) That the Council agrees to the Committee structure for the 2006/2007 year as follows:-

Planning Committee -

All 23 Members

Technical & Environmental Services Committee

10 Members plus 2 ex officio

DUP – 6 Members

Alderman J Norris
Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor Miss V Stevenson

Alliance - 2 Members

Councillor Mrs S Duncan
Alderman Mrs G Rice

Ulster Unionist – 2 Members

Councillor C Hall
Councillor M Henderson

Councillor J Spratt (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor B Hanvey (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Leisure Services Committee

10 Members plus 2 ex officio

DUP - 6 Members

Alderman J Norris
Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor V Stevenson
Councillor C Tosh

Alliance - 2 Members

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor Mrs S Duncan

Ulster Unionist – 2 Members

Councillor C Hall

Councillor D Drysdale

Councillor J Spratt (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor B Hanvey (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Central Services Committee

10 Members plus 2 ex officio

DUP - 6 Members

Alderman J Norris
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Councillor C Hall

Alliance - 2 Members
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor M Long

SDLP – 1 Member
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE

Councillor J Spratt (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor B Hanvey (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Leisure Park Board

9 Members plus 2 ex officio

DUP - 6 Members
Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA
Alderman Mrs I Robinson MP MLA
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor J White

Alliance - 2 Members
Alderman Mrs G Rice
Councillor M Long

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Councillor M Henderson

Councillor J Spratt (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor B Hanvey (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Finance & General Purposes Committee

7 Members plus chairmen of the six committees, plus Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex officio Members.

DUP - 9 Members
Alderman J Norris
Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor C Tosh
Councillor J White

Alliance Party – 2 Members
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor Mrs S Duncan

Ulster Unionist – 2 Members
Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor C Hall

Councillor J Spratt (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor B Hanvey (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB BOARD

- 6 Members plus Mayor & Deputy Mayor as ex officio Members

DUP - 4 Members
Councillor Mrs M Chambers
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor J White

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Councillor M Henderson

Alliance Party - 1 Member
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane

Councillor J Spratt (Mayor)
Councillor B Hanvey. (Deputy Mayor)

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Council agrees to the membership of the seven Standing Committees as outlined above, to include the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex officio Members, for the 2006/2007 year.

2005/341 : CHAIR/VICE CHAIR OF COMMITTEES

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That a meeting of the Standing Committees, with the exception of the Golf Club Board, be convened after the Annual General Meeting to elect the Chair and Vice Chairs.

2006/342 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EAST BELFAST REGENERATION GROUP

RESOLVED (unanimously):- That, Councillor Mrs J Cochrane, Alderman M Copeland and Councillor G Robinson be appointed to represent the Council on the East Belfast Regeneration Group for the 2006/07 year.

2006/343 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CASTLEREAGH LOCAL STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED (unanimously):- That, Councillor Mrs A M Beattie, Councillor J Beattie, Councillor Ms J Bunting, Councillor Mrs J Cochrane, Councillor D Drysdale, Councillor Mrs S Duncan, Councillor C Hall, Alderman J Norris, Councillor T Jeffers (replacing Councillor J Spratt) and Councillor C Tosh represent the Council on the Local Strategy Partnership for the 2006/07 year.

2006/344 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EASTERN GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimously):- That, Councillor T Jeffers (replacing Councillor Chambers) and Councillor M Henderson represent the Council on the Eastern

Group Environmental Health Committee, with Alderman Mrs G Rice as substitute for the 2006/07 year.

2006/345 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SOUTH EASTERN GROUP BUILDING CONTROL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillor C Hall, Councillor B Harvey and Councillor Miss Hughes (substitute) represent the Council on the South Eastern Group Building Control Committee for the 2006/07 year.

2006/346 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

RESOLVED (unanimously):- That, the 4-year appointment be split as follows, namely Councillor J White will represent the Council for the 2005/07 year, and Alderman Norris will represent the Council from 2007/09 on the Northern Ireland Housing Council for the 2005/09 term.

2006/347 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LAGAN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillors Mrs A M Beattie and Mrs S Duncan represent the Council on the Lagan Valley Regional Park Advisory Committee for the 2006/07 year.

2006/348 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillor Mrs Duncan represent the Council on the Court of the University of Ulster for the 2006/07 year.

2006/349 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – NORTHERN IRELAND REGION

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Alderman J Norris, Councillor J White, and Councillor M Henderson represent the Council on the National Association of Councillors – Northern Ireland Region with Councillor M Chambers as substitute for the 2006/07 year.

2006/350 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillor J Beattie, Councillor Ms J Bunting, Councillor Mrs M Chambers, Councillor Mrs S Duncan, Councillor M Henderson and Councillor J Spratt represents the Council on the Northern Ireland Local Government Association for the 2006/07 year.

2006/351 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EAST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillor J Beattie, Councillor C Tosh, Councillor J Bunting and Councillor G Robinson represent the Council on the East Belfast Partnership for the 2006/07 year.

2006/352 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CASTLEREAGH ARTS FORUM

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillor Ms J Bunting, Councillor T Jeffers, Councillor Mrs S Duncan and Alderman M Copeland represent the Council on the Castlereagh Arts Forum for the 2006/07 year.

2006/353 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CASTLEREAGH SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillor C Hall, Councillor B Hanvey, Alderman J Norris, Councillor G Robinson and Councillor J Spratt represent the Council on the Castlereagh Sports Advisory Committee for the 2006/07 year.

2006/354 : RESERVE FORCES & CADETS ASSOCIATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

RESOLVED (unanimously):- That, Councillor Jeffers (replacing Councillor Robinson) represent the Council on the Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for Northern Ireland.

2006/355 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR A ONE YEAR PERIOD, AS FOLLOWS:-

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, the following Members be appointed to represent the Council on the Centre Users' Advisory Committees for the 2006/07 years as follows:-

- **Community Services**

Braniel Community Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting

Councillor M Long
Alderman J Norris

Castlereagh Community Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting
Alderman M Copeland
Councillor V Stevenson

Cregagh Youth & Community Centre

Councillor M Long
Alderman J Norris
Councillor V Stevenson

Dungoyne Community Centre

Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor C Tosh
Councillor J White

Tullycarnet Community Resource Centre

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson

Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson

Ballybeen Centre

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor J White

Ballyoran Centre

Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor C Tosh

Greenway Women's Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting

- **Leisure Services**

Belvoir Activity Centre

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie

Councillor C Hall

Councillor J Spratt

Lough Moss Leisure Centre

Councillor J Beattie

Alderman Mrs G Rice

Councillor J Spratt

Robinson Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting

Councillor C Hall

Alderman J Norris

Tullycarnet Community Forum

Councillor J White

- **Technical Services**

Castlereagh Hills Golf Club General Committee

Councillor Chambers

Councillor Cochrane

Councillor Henderson

Councillor White

Billy Neill Advisory Committee

Councillor M Long

Alderman J Norris

Councillor G Robinson

2006/356 : SUMMER SCHEME COMMUNITY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Councillor Mrs A M Beattie, Councillor Ms J Bunting, Councillor C Hall and Councillor V Stevenson represent the Council on the Summer Scheme Community Projects Committee for the 2006/07 year.

2006/357 : LA MON BURSARY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Alderman I Robinson, Alderman J Norris, Councillor M Henderson, Councillor M Chambers, Councillor J Spratt and

Councillor M Long represent the Council on the La Mon Bursary Committee for the 2006/07 year.

2006/358 : INTER AGENCY BONFIRE WORKING GROUP

RESOLVED(unanimously):- That, Alderman Copeland replaces Councillor Drysdale on the Inter Agency Bonfire Working Group for the remainder of its term.

At this point, Councillors Long and Drysdale wished to congratulate Councillor Beattie for his hard work and time consuming commitment with regard to the preparation of these committee appointments.

2006/359 : REPORT ON ALDERMEN'S/COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCES FOR THE PERIOD 19 MAY 2005 – 31 APRIL 2006 (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

At this point in the proceeding, the Council went " In Committee"

IN COMMITTEE

2006/360 : REPORT FROM THE ACTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER RE: DANGEROUS DOGS (NI) ORDER 1991 – SEIZURE OF A DOG IN THE NEWTOWNBREDA AREA

The Acting Environmental Health Manager took Members through his report and the legal opinion attached therein.

Alderman PD Robinson referred to the details surrounding this case in which the USPCA had initially provided the dog, registered it as a Staffordshire cross, handed it over to the owners and were now in dispute in relation to its pedigree.

He proposed that, in the interim, the Council should offer the owner the facility of having her dog returned to her, on condition that it is kept secured and that further consideration of this case should be discussed at a Special Technical & Environmental Services meeting to be held prior to the Council Meeting.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Chambers. However, although the background to this case was unique, she feared that the dog would be taken away from the owners for a second time.

RESOLVED:- That,

- (a) A Special Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting be called before the Council Meeting at 5.30 p.m., and a hot meal to be provided from 5.00 p.m.
- (b) In the interim, that the owner of the dog be offered the facility to have the dog returned to her on the proviso that it was kept secured.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 5.10 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR