

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 23rd March 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor T Jeffers
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland MLA (from 7.45 p.m.)
J Norris MBE
P D Robinson MP MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
D Drysdale
Mrs S Duncan
C Hall
B Harvey
M Henderson
Miss R Hughes MBE
G Robinson (until 8.15 p.m.)
J Spratt
Miss V Stevenson
C Tosh
J White

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Aldermen Mrs Rice, Mrs Robinson and Councillors Ms Bunting and Long

2006/143 : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend Caldwell opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2006/144 : ALDERMAN MRS RICE

Councillor Jeffers advised Members that Alderman Rice had asked him to pass on her thanks and appreciation for the gifts and cards. He added that

she appeared to be recovering well, and hoped to be attending the 30th Anniversary of Ulster Hospital Radio on 3rd May 2006.

Noted.

2006/145 : MINUTES

Councillor J Beattie expressed his concern that Members had received a number of sets of Minutes the previous day, and therefore did not have adequate time to study the detail. He stated that having discussed the matter with his Party colleagues, it was felt that any items marked "copy to follow" on the Agenda should not be considered, with Members only dealing with the Technical & Environmental Services and Special Central Services Committee Minutes.

Councillor Chambers asked if Members would deal with two items of business contained within the Central Services Committee Minutes of 13th March 2006, as these particular matters required to be considered in order to avoid the possibility of losing funding.

She referred to Minute No. CS/2006/62, and proposed that this Minute be adopted, with the exception of resolution (a). She explained that an amount of funding remained in the Community Relations budget for the 2005/2006 year. She proposed that, subject to Cregagh Forum's application meeting Community Relations criteria, that retrospective approval be granted for £4,000.00 to go towards the George Best Memorial Mural in Cregagh. She outlined that this would enable the grant to be claimed out of the 2005/2006 CRU funding underspend.

Councillor Chambers then proposed that Minute No. CS/2006/63 be approved, with the exception of resolution (b). She outlined that when the above matter had originally been brought to Committee in January, two designs for the Moneyreagh Centre had been put before Members for consideration, both of which included a rotunda. She added that one of the designs related to a traditional build, and the other was built to a higher environmentally friendly specification. She outlined that although Members had given the eco friendly option serious consideration, it was felt that the current funding available was not adequate to proceed, and the Committee had therefore agreed to the traditional build. She indicated that the Committee had, however, been of the view that if Big Lottery funding became available, consideration could be given to the inclusion of some of the environmentally friendly features.

She expressed the view that, during talks between the Acting Capital Projects Officer and the Design Team, there appeared to be a shift in emphasis from the original design agreed at the January Committee meeting. She added that, as a result, a scheme which excluded the rotunda entrance had been tabled at the March Central Services Committee meeting. She expressed her concern that Members were therefore being asked to agree to additional

funding for the inclusion of a feature that already had been included in the costs of the original design.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that, the Design Team could only provide indicative costs, as actual costings would not be available until the scheme had been tendered. She outlined that she envisaged that the Acting Capital Projects Officer was attempting to reduce costs, bearing in mind that there were additional project costs, in terms of the removal of covenants and the fitting out costs.

Councillor Chambers reiterated that the indicative costs provided had included the costs for the rotunda.

Following a query from Alderman Peter Robinson, the Chief Executive advised that the matter would be investigated, with Officers reporting back to the Committee.

Alderman Peter Robinson stated that, in reporting back, Members should be advised of the additional costs the Council was being asked to find.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that the Design Team's drawings had been forwarded to her a couple of hours before the Committee meeting had commenced, and she did not have an opportunity to study the detail. She added that unfortunately, the Acting Capital Projects had not been available to attend the meeting to address Members' queries.

Councillor Chambers expressed her concern, that given the tight timescale, this matter needed to be dealt with now, or the funding already received for the new centre in Moneyreagh could be in jeopardy.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that

- (a) the Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 22nd February 2006 and the Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 7th March 2006, be approved as a true record
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be deferred for approval to the April Council meeting:
 - (i) Council meeting of 23rd February 2006
 - (ii) Special Council meeting of 23rd February 2006
 - (iii) Leisure Services Committee meeting of 2nd March 2006
 - (iv) Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 15th March 2006
- (c) the Minutes of the Central Services Committee meeting held on 13th March 2006 be deferred for approval to the April Council meeting, but

that the undermentioned Minute Numbers contained therein be approved, as follows:

- (i) Minute No.CS/2006/62 - with the exception of resolution (a) to be amended to read:

“That, subject to the Community Relations funding application from Cregagh Community Forum meeting the required criteria, retrospective approval be granted for funding of £4,000.00 towards the George Best Memorial Mural, in order that the grant could be claimed out of the 2005/2006 CRU funding underspend”.

- (ii) Minute No. CS/2006/63, with the exception of resolution (b), to be amended to read:

“That Officers review the cost element of the traditional build scheme for the new Moneyreagh Centre with the architect, and report back to the April Central Services Committee meeting”.

MATTERS ARISING

2006/148 : CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB BOARD

Councillor Henderson sought clarification as to whether the above Board would be granted executive powers, similar to that of the Leisure Park Board.

Following discussion, it was agreed that this matter had been discussed at the last Council meeting, but the Minute did not reflect that the Board would in fact have executive powers.

Alderman Peter Robinson then proposed that the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board be granted executive powers, and this was seconded by Councillor Henderson.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board be granted executive powers.

PLANNING

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 23 MARCH 2006 (copy previously circulated)

2006/149 : RETAIL UNITS AT 188 SAINTFIELD ROAD

Councillor Chambers expressed her concern at the number of planning applications submitted in respect of 188 Saintfield Road, and the added impacts on traffic volumes and parking issues, as a result of over development in the area. She outlined that the Planning Service should be

taking a strategic look at this location, in terms of the number of planning applications approved, and those that have not taken effect yet.

She then referred to the application in respect of the hot food bar (Planning Ref: Y/2005/0113/F), which the Planning Service were approving, and outlined that they appeared to be detracting from their own policy in relation to hot food bars in the area.

Alderman Copeland arrived at this point at 7.45 p.m.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Planning Officer view the planning file in respect of the provision of retail units at 188 Saintfield Road, and forward a letter of objection to the Planning Service.

2006/150 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2005/0520/A – CASTLEREAGH PSNI STATION, ALEXANDER ROAD, LADAS DRIVE, BELFAST : ELECTRONIC MATRIX INFORMATION DISPLAY SIGN

Following a query from Councillor White relating to the above, the Planning Service Officer clarified that the above application related to a sign that was 2m x 0.75m, with flashing moving elements. He advised that the Roads Service had recommended a condition, in terms of the operation of the sign.

Councillor White expressed concern at the inconsistency of the Planning Service in determining its applications, as it refused a totally inoffensive sign in the middle of Dundonald, yet approved this sign, which was located close to traffic lights at a very busy location.

Councillor Drysdale concurred with Councillor White, and sought clarification on the criteria used by the Planning Service when determining such applications. He asked if similar conditions relating to the operation of the sign had been placed on the premises in Dundonald, would the Planning Service have approved it.

The Planning Service Officer outlined that he was not in a position to speak for Roads Service in respect of the application from the PSNI, but the Planning Service had relied on Roads Service's views in terms of road safety. He added that the application relating to the Sam Baird Optician sign in Dundonald had been for retrospective approval.

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed the view that it was obvious that the Planning Service and Roads Service had shown a total lack of foresight when considering the application in respect of the sign in Dundonald, which was one third of the size of the sign at Ladas Drive. He added that it was clear that Baird's sign was being used for community purposes, and although already erected, he was sure that if similar stipulations had been requested, then the applicant would have been happy to comply, and proceed on that

basis. He outlined that unfortunately the applicant was never given this opportunity.

He stated that he was not opposed to the PSNI sign, as it was a reasonable proposition, but he did not like the fact that it appeared that applications were being treated differently. He proposed that a site visit be organised to the Ladas Drive site, and that Roads Service representatives be in attendance in order to justify its decision to refuse the sign in Dundonald. He asked that the files relating to both signs be made available at the site visit.

Councillor White seconded the proposal.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That

- (a) consideration of Planning Application Y/2005/0520/A be deferred for one month to enable a site meeting to be held, at a date and time to be arranged in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Alderman P Robinson
- (b) Roads Services representatives be in attendance, and the files relating to the above application and the Sam Baird Optician application be made available

2006/151 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0023/F – THE OLD MOAT INN, 933 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, DUNDONALD : PROPOSED EXTENSION AND ALTERATIONS TO FORM NEW DISABLED TOILET, LIFT INSTALLATION AND RAISED TERRACE TO REAR OF EXISTING LICENSED PREMISES

Councillor Robinson queried if there had been any objections to this application and asked for confirmation that the neighbouring church had been notified of the application. He went on to say that if they had been he was surprised they had not objected to the planning application.

The Planning Service Officer confirmed that he had no record of any objections.

Following a query from Councillor White relating to the impact the development would have on parking spaces, the Planning Service Officer advised that, he would let the Councillor peruse the plans.

Noted.

2006/152 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0051/F – 1 UPPER BRANIEL ROAD, BELFAST : REPLACEMENT DWELLING – DEMOLISH EXISTING DWELLING (250m²) AND REPLACE WITH NEW DWELLING AND GRANNY FLAT (341m²), DETACHED GARAGE AND GARDEN

Councillor Robinson thanked the Planning Service and the Council's Planning Officer for undertaking the work to enable this application to be progressed to an opinion to approve so quickly.

Noted.

2006/153 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0464/F – BIH HOUSING ASSOCIATION : RUSSELL COURT, CLAREMONT STREET, BELFAST

Councillor White expressed his concern at the length of delay in processing this application, particularly given the great need for those on the housing waiting list.

The Planning Service Officer outlined that he was currently liaising with the applicant in relation to required modifications.

Noted.

PLANNING MINUTES

2006/154 : OFFICE AND SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MINUTES

RESOLVED : That the following Minutes be accepted as a true record

- (i) Notes of Planning Office meetings of 20 February and 9 March
- (ii) Special Planning Committee meetings of 20 February and 9 March

2006/155 : WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 14 FEBRUARY 2006 TO 6 MARCH 2006 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Noted.

2006/156 : COPY OF E-MAIL RECEIVED FROM PLANNING SERVICE RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT ON LAND TO REAR OF 17-23 FERNDENE PARK, BALLYBEEN, DUNDONALD (PLANNING REF:Y/2004/0716/O); ITEM D1 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Noted.

2006/157 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM WATER SERVICE RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 20 BALLYKEEL ROAD, MONEYREAGH (PLANNING REF: Y/2005/0040/F) ITEM D2 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Noted.

2006/158 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM PLANNING SERVICE RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 20 BALLYKEEL ROAD, MONEYREAGH (PLANNING REF: Y/2005/0040/F) ITEM D2 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Noted.

2006/159 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM COUNCIL'S PLANNING OFFICER RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 188 SAINTFIELD ROAD, BALLYLENAGHAN (PLANNING REF: Y/2005/0113/F) ITEM D3 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Noted.

2006/160 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM R F SADLIER RE: PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT 32-34 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Councillor Robinson asked that the Planning Officer advise the objector that the application had been withdrawn off the Planning Schedule to enable it to be re-advertised.

RESOLVED : That the Planning Officer advise the objector that Planning Application Y/2004/0561/F had been withdrawn.

2006/161 : DRAFT RESPONSE BY PLANNING OFFICER TO PLAN AMENDMENT NO 1 TO DRAFT BELFAST METROPOLITAN AREA PLAN, (NOVEMBER 2004) (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the response prepared by the Planning Officer to Plan Amendment No.1 to Draft Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan (November 2004).

2006/162 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM ENVIRONMENTAL AND PLANNING LAW ASSOCIATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RE: "WHAT'S IN IT FOR PLANNING" CONFERENCE, BELFAST CITY HALL, TUESDAY 4 APRIL 2006 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Chairman, Vice Chairman (if available), and the Planning Officer attend the conference entitled "What's in it for Planning" being held in Belfast City Hall on 4th April 2006.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2006/163 : GRANTON HEIGHTS

The Planning Officer reported that a planning application had been submitted in respect of Granton Heights, and the applicant had asked if he could present his proposals to the Members representing Castlereagh East.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the applicant be invited to present his proposals in respect of Granton Heights to Members, and in particular to those Members representing Castlereagh East.

2006/164 : RESPONSE FROM THE MANAGEMENT BOARD RE: GAMING ARCADE, 1 CHURCH ROAD

The Planning Officer reported that the Management Board had declined to consider the application for the reason that it did not meet the criteria.

Alderman Peter Robinson referred to the massive scale of objections and petitions from the local community protesting at the gaming arcade's close proximity to schools and churches. He was angry that this was a major application which affected the local neighbourhood and, as such, fully merited a meeting with the Management Board to discuss a reconsideration of determination.

He proposed that the Council take this matter to the Minister, seeking justification of the Management Board's response, and to ascertain why the criteria had not been met. He argued that the Minister was talking about handing over planning powers to Local Government, yet in this instance, the Council was being denied the opportunity to put forward a case on behalf of the local community.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor White.

RESOLVED : The Planning Officer writes to the Minister seeking justification for the Management Board's response, declining to meet with the Council in relation to the Gaming Arcade, 1 Church Road, Dundonald, given the significant objection from the local community.

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

HOUSING

2006/165 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: THE LIVING OVER THE SHOP (LOTS) INITIATIVE (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Councillor Stevenson stated that in his absence, Councillor Robinson had asked her to raise the above matter, as he felt it may be worthwhile pursuing.

Councillor White advised Members that a presentation had been made to the Housing Council on this issue, and he advised that there were generous grants available from the Housing Executive. He proposed that the Council's Planning Officer contact the Planning & Feasibility Manager at the NIHE to investigate the relevance of the LOTS concept for Castlereagh Borough Council, and arrange for the Council to hear the presentation.

He added that he was aware, however, that it may prove difficult to identify an area with suitable properties in the Borough.

Alderman Norris seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Planning Officer contact the Planning & Feasibility Manager at the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to investigate the relevance of the LOTS concept for Castlereagh Borough Council, and arrange for the Council to hear the presentation on this issue.

WATER

2006/166 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE WATER SERVICE RE: LAUNCH OF A DRAFT EQIA ON THE WATER SERVICE TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Noted.

2006/167 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: PROPOSAL FOR A DRAFT WATER & SEWERAGE CHARGES (INFORMATION SHARING) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

Noted.

EDUCATION

2006/168 : MINUTES OF THE SOUTHERN EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD, JANUARY TO MARCH 2006

Noted.

ANY OTHER EDUCATION BUSINESS

2006/169 : CUTS IN EDUCATION BUDGETS

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that he was disappointed to hear that whilst all political parties had voted against these cuts, those on the South Eastern Education & Library Board without a mandate to represent the local community had agreed to £4 million of cuts. He added that the Government had bulldozed through their proposals, which would have a devastating effect on the educational system for many years.

He stated that the Unions intended to fight these cuts, and he wished to make it clear that the Council's Elected Representatives on the Board would continue to fight these cuts as they were brought forward. He referred to the impact on transport, school dinners, patrol crossing men and women, etc, and in particular, special needs services. He then referred to the maintenance and repair work necessary in some schools, and outlined that the budget would allow nothing more than patch up maintenance, and that £100,000.00

was needed immediately right across the Borough and beyond for essential repairs and maintenance.

Alderman Robinson proposed the following resolution, and stated that it should be forwarded to all Councils in the South Eastern Education & Library Board area:

“Castlereagh Borough Council condemns the South Eastern Education & Library Board for its short sighted decision to comply with the Department’s programme of cuts, which will impact adversely on the ratepayers of each Council within the South Eastern Education & Library Board area, and asks the Board to reconsider its decision, rather than put its hand to this lunacy”

Councillor Spratt outlined that the Government had slashed the SEELB budget by over £4 million. He outlined that under pressure from the Chairman and Chief Executive of the Board, the independent members had helped to push through these cuts. He added the proposed budgets now put in place would take away classroom assistants, teachers, library services, etc. He continued by stating that he had put all these points to the Minister, outlining the devastating effect these cuts would have, specifically upon some of the most vulnerable children in our society. He indicated that, as Board Members, he and Councillor Tosh would continue to fight the cuts, and he agreed with Alderman Robinson that this message should be sent out to all Councils in the SEELB area. He added that he was therefore pleased to second the proposal. He concluded by urging all Elected Representatives to support all the other organisations that were protesting against these cuts.

Councillors Tosh, Duncan, Hanvey and Copeland concurred with Members’ comments.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to forward the following resolution to all Councils within the South Eastern Education & Library Board:

“Castlereagh Borough Council condemns the South Eastern Education & Library Board for its short sighted decision to comply with the Department’s programme of cuts, which will impact adversely on the ratepayers of each Council within the South Eastern Education & Library Board area, and asks the Board to reconsider its decision, rather than put its hand to this lunacy”.

NOTICE OF MOTION

2006/170 : NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR JUDITH COCHRANE RE: DUNDONALD BECOMING A FAIRTRADE TOWN AND THE SETTING UP OF A FAIRTRADE STEERING GROUP

The Chief Executive advised Members that the proposer of the Notice of Motion had requested that it be deferred to next month’s Council meeting.

RESOLVED : That the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Cochrane in relation to Dundonald becoming a Fairtrade Town and the setting up of a Fairtrade Steering Group, be deferred to the April Council meeting.

FINANCE

2006/171 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Councillor Beattie congratulated the Director of Finance & Leisure Services

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£ 18,100.46
General Account (Salaries)	£ 258,988.21
General Account (Suppliers)	£ 866,688.34

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

2006/172 : REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES AND THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RE: TENDERS FOR ANNUAL SUPPLIES AND SERVICES 2006/2007 (COPY PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED)

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that copies of the full tender submissions had been made available in each of the party rooms.

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services addressed a number of queries from Councillors Chambers and White in respect of the following:

- collection, removal and recycling of rubble/hardcore from Council Household Recycling Centre, Comber Road, Carryduff
- supply of temporary/casual staff
- provision of composting facility for the reception of garden waste collected from household wheeled bins throughout the Borough

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council approves the 25 tenders listed in the Officers' report for the annual supplies and services for the 2006/2007 year.

2006/173 : REPORT FROM THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, TOGETHER WITH CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DOE RE: REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – TASKFORCE (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that this matter had been referred to Council by the Finance & General Purposes Committee. She referred to the structure and role of the Taskforce, which was broken down into three elements, as follows:

Political Advisory Panel – Chaired by Lord Rooker, providing local politicians with a mechanism for input.

Working Group – Chaired by Stephen Peover, membership will include representatives from central and Local Government, the private, voluntary and community sectors, and a sustainable development commissioner.

9 Work Streams – Address key issues in the implementation and modernisation process, bringing recommendations forward on how these key issues can be progressed.

She reported that, the Finance & General Purposes Committee discussed the appointment of Officers and Councillors onto the Working Group and the Work Streams. She added that, according to the Head of the Taskforce, Mrs Grace McGuinness, there was no DOE funding available for either Member of Officer involvement, and that each Local Authority would be responsible for these costs.

The Director of Administration & Community Services outlined that she needed to determine Council's policy in this respect of Officer / Member involvement.

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed the view that most political parties would be in favour of a Political Group being established, but the Government was not committed to Councillors sitting on the various sub groups. He added that he felt that it was essential for the Elected Representatives to be represented on the various sub groups, and that this should be put to the Minister. He added that it should also be put to the Minister that this was an initiative that the Government had initiated, and the Government should therefore be responsible for the costs.

Councillor J Beattie explained that NILGA was also concerned that Local Government was expected to meet the costs.

The Chief Executive outlined that it was both NILGA and SOLACE's view that Elected Representatives should sit on the working groups. He added that he understood that the Permanent Secretary would decide who would chair these groups and who the members would be. With regard to allowances, it was being suggested that this should operate in the same way as the DPP's, but he had received no further information in this respect.

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to the Minister requesting that, in addition to the Political Group, Elected Representatives should also be represented on the various sub groups. The correspondence to also outline the Council's view that as the Government had initiated the proposals for the Taskforce, that it should be responsible for meeting the costs of Officers'/Members' involvement.

**2006/174 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR MARCH 2006
(copy previously circulated)**

Councillor Jeffers referred to the recent memorial service for George Best in Manchester, and advised Members that it had been a very moving ceremony.

He also advised Members that Councillor Miss Vivienne Stevenson would be taking part in a sponsored swim with sharks, in aid of Multiple Sclerosis. He outlined that sponsor forms would be circulated in due course, and he hoped that Members would support her fundraising efforts.

Noted.

GENERAL

2006/175 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM FERMANAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: NOTICE OF MOTION (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to Fermanagh District Council advising that it had been resolved to support the Notice of Motion relating to farm payments and the introduction of the GIS System.

2006/176 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM COMMITTEE ON STANDARDS IN PUBLIC LIFE RE: 11TH INQUIRY: REVIEW OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from the Committee on Standards in Public Life be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

2006/177 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM HELP THE AGED RE: DONATION REQUESTED (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to Help the Aged advising that it had been agreed not to make a donation of £300.00 towards the Helping Unite Generations campaign.

2006/178 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE POST OFFICE RE: RELOCATION OF LOWER CASTLEREAGH POST OFFICE BRANCH, 16 BALLYGOWAN ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/179 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS RE: DELIVERING SERVICES THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXTERNAL

**FUNDING CONFERENCE 7-9 APRIL 2006 CROWN HOTEL
SCARBOROUGH (copy previously circulated)**

It was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor Chambers, and

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Alderman Norris attend the National Association of Councillors Conference re: Delivering Services through Partnerships & Opportunities on 7-9 April 2006 in Scarborough.

**2006/180 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN
IRELAND OFFICE, COMMUNITY SAFETY UNIT RE: PROGRAMME TO
TACKLE KNIFE CRIME (copy previously circulated)**

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to the Northern Ireland Office, Community Safety Unit expressing support for its programme to tackle knife crime in Northern Ireland.

**2006/181 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM PHOENIX NATURAL
GAS RE: NATURAL GAS TARIFF PRICE REVIEW (copy previously
circulated)**

Noted.

REPORTS AND ANNUAL REPORTS

**2006/182 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT AUDIT OFFICE RE: ABSENTEEISM IN NORTHERN
IRELAND 2004/05 REPORT (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2006/183 : CORRESPONDENCE RE: THIRD REPORT FROM THE REVIEW
OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY FROM PROFESSOR
ROY MCCLELLAND, ACTING CHAIRMAN (copy letter previously
circulated)**

RESOLVED : That a copy of the Third Report from the Review of Mental Health and Learning Disability be forwarded to Councillor Henderson.

**2006/184 : DISCUSSION PAPER FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE
RE: DEVOLVING POLICING AND JUSTICE IN NORTHERN IRELAND: A
DISCUSSION PAPER**

RESOLVED : That a copy of the Discussion Paper from the NIO in respect of Devolving Policing and Justice in Northern Ireland be forwarded to Councillor Tosh.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2006/185 : NORTHERN IRELAND AMATEUR FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Councillor Drysdale explained that a football team from the Northern Ireland Amateur League Under 18's was playing a representative match against a team from the Italian Under 18 Amateur League at the Billy Neill Centre on 27th April 2006, and he asked if the Council would consider organising a small reception.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Mayor host a small Reception at the Billy Neill Centre on 27th April 2006 for the visiting Under 18 Amateur Italian Football League Team.

2006/186 : NORTHERN IRELAND TEN PIN BOWLING FEDERATION : SENIOR TRIPLE CROWN CHAMPIONSHIPS – SUNDAY 9TH APRIL 2006

Councillor Jeffers advised Members that he had received a request to host a Civic Reception for those participating in the above event.

Following a query from Members in respect of available budget, the Director of Administration & Community Services advised that there was an amount in the Miscellaneous budget which the costs of the event could be coded to.

She explained that this event would be held in the new financial year, and that the funding for adhoc events had been removed from the budget, and consequently only £1,000.00 remained in the miscellaneous code for unplanned events.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Mayor host a Civic Reception for the Northern Ireland Ten Pin Bowling Federation during the Triple Crown Event in April 2006, with the costs being coded to the Miscellaneous Budget.

IN COMMITTEE

2006/187 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SOUTH & EAST BELFAST TRUST RE: COMMUNITY CENTRE AT FORSTER GREEN (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that the above correspondence had been referred from the Central Services Committee to Council to consider the indicative costs contained therein.

She outlined that the Council had agreed to enter into a partnership with the South & East Trust to consider the provision of a community centre at Forster Green. She advised that, other than consultancy fees, the Council would not need to provide the capital costs until 2009. She added that the Trust wanted to proceed to the tender stage, but required a definite commitment from the Council that the new centre would be located at the Forster Green site. She

outlined that it was envisaged that the centre would be similar in size to the Moneyreagh facility, but joined to the main complex, which would be accessed via a communal entrance.

Councillor Chambers outlined that a number of residents had expressed the view to her that they did not feel that Forster Green was the best location. She added that she too was of the view that it was not the most suitable site for the people from Newtownbreda.

Councillor Duncan outlined that the local community had been consulted on a number of sites, and had preferred Forster Green.

A detailed discussion ensued on a number of alternative sites as suggested by Councillors Spratt and Chambers.

Members then considered the implications of the Review of Public Administration on the Trust and the Council.

Several Members expressed the view that the people of Newtownbreda had waited many years for a community centre.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council, in partnership with the South & East Belfast Trust, agrees to provide a new community centre at the Forster Green site.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.55 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR