

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 November 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor J Spratt
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland MLA
J Norris MBE
P D Robinson MP MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
D Drysdale
C Hall
M Henderson
Miss R Hughes MBE
M Long
T Jeffers
G Robinson
C Tosh
J White

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, 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 Robinson, Rice, Councillor Bunting, Duncan, Hanvey and Stevenson

2006/685 : OPENING OF MEETING

Alderman Norris opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2006/686 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

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

- Minutes of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee held on 7 November 2006

- Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 24 October 2006
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record, subject to the following amendments:
- Minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 October 2006
Page 15 – Minute No. 2006/666
Include at the start of the above Minute “Councillor White declared an interest”
 - Minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting 2 November 2006
Include Minute Numbers
 - Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 8 November 2006
delete “Councillor White left the meeting at this point at 9.40 p.m.”
amend Councillor Robinson as arriving at 8.30 p.m.
 - Minutes of the Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 31 October 2006
Include Councillor Cochrane within the list of those present
 - Minutes of the Central Services Committee meeting held on 13 November 2006
Minute No. CS/2006/289
Include a further resolution to read
“(g) that mobile phone request forms completed by staff be brought to this Committee for approval”

MATTERS ARISING

2006/687 : TRANSFER OF CARPET FROM THE ICE BOWL TO THE BELVOIR ACTIVITY CENTRE (Minute No. 2006/627 refers)

Councillor Robinson sought an update in respect of the above.

The Chief Executive advised that it had been agreed at the last Leisure Services Committee meeting to locate a 20 foot container at the Belvoir Activity Centre to store the carpet. He added that quotations were currently being sought in this respect.

Noted.

2006/688 : REPORT ON SOCIAL HOUSING AT CAPPAGH GARDENS, CREGAGH (Minute No. 2006/677 refers)

Councillor Robinson sought an update in respect of the above.

The Chief Executive advised that he had applied to the DOE to obtain their agreement to the land being sold directly to the NIHE, without placing it on the open market. He added that the DOE had asked for a letter of support from the DSD (the NIHE's parent body), and this had been requested. He outlined that the matter was also awaiting final approval from the NIHE's Board.

Noted.

2006/689 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT OFFICE RE: RESPONSE TO A LETTER FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE IN RESPECT OF THE NEW DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL BUILDING (Minute No. 2006/666 refers)

Councillor Chambers referred to the resolution in respect of the above, and advised that she understood that the Council was also to write to the Taskforce.

The Chief Executive outlined that a letter had been forwarded to the Minister (as Head of the Task Force) and the Local Government Auditor. He added that, under Freedom of Information, he had asked the Local Government Auditor to provide the Council with a copy of the letter referred to in his response, but the LGA had advised they were not subject to FOI. He outlined that he had then requested a copies from Down District Council of all their correspondence with the Auditor relating to this matter.

Councillor Chambers expressed the view that this matter needed to be dealt with as quickly as possible, and she asked if a response had been received from the Minister.

The Chief Executive stated that he had received an acknowledgement from the Minister's office to his letter, but he would write again asking him to expedite his response.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Minister requesting him to expedite his response to the Council's letter in respect of new Down District Council Building.

2006/690 : CARRYDUFF COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND APPLICATION (Minute No. LS/2006/120 refers)

Members welcomed the provision of a playground in Carryduff, and congratulated staff for all their efforts in helping to secure the funding.

Noted.

2006/691 : BBC RADIO ULSTER – STEVE NOLAN SHOW : COMMENTS MADE ON HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING

Councillor White expressed his disgust at the comments made by Steve Nolan on his radio programme, which would appear to actually discourage people from recycling. He explained that Mr Nolan was questioning why people should use separate bins and wash cans, and he suggested that everything be put into the grey bin.

He outlined that this was ridiculous, given the fact that Councils across the Province were trying to encourage people to recycle as much material as possible. He proposed that the Council writes to the BBC outlining the Council's concerns at the comments made by Mr Nolan.

Councillor Henderson concurred with Councillor White, and seconded the proposal.

Councillor Drysdale outlined that Councils in Northern Ireland were trying to meet European targets to avoid financial penalties being passed onto ratepayers.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to

- (a) the BBC expressing the Council's concern at the comments made by Mr Nolan on his radio programme relating to household waste recycling
- (b) all Councils within the Province and Arc 21 seeking support for Castlereagh Borough Council's action

2006/692 : ASTRO TURF PITCH AT CREGAGH YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE (Minute No. CS/2006/305 refers)

Councillor Robinson stated that a number of meetings between Officers from the Council and the South Eastern Education & Library Board in respect of the above had been cancelled. He added that he was aware that a meeting had been convened on 1st December 2006, and he suggested that should the Board cancel this meeting that the Council proceed to issue the press release, as resolved at the last Central Services Committee meeting.

Alderman Norris sought clarification as to the reasons for the delay in the pitch repairs being progressed this matter.

The Director of Administration & Community Services explained the background to the contract. She advised that the current position was that the sub contractor had written stating that he considered that the problem was not faulty workmanship, but was due to normal wear and tear, and therefore not covered by the guarantee. She added that, as the South Eastern Education & Library Board was the lead organisation that had awarded the contract for the community centre and pitch, she would be raising the matter with the Chief Executive of the SEELB at the meeting due to be held on 1st December.

Noted.

PRESENTATION

2006/693 : PRESENTATION OF ROADS SERVICE REPORT – AUTUMN 2006 AND CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO THE INCLUSION OF INFORMATION RE: CYCLE TRACKS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt welcomed Mr Tom McCourt and Mr John Kee from the Roads Service.

The Road Services addressed a number of queries, as follows:

- introduction of speed humps on the Ballyregan Road, and any implications this would have on the flooding problems which already existed
- dilapidated state of the guard rails around Dundonald Village
- query as to when the traffic calming measures would be implemented along Stirling Avenue
- query regarding the nature of the road safety measures on the Lower Braniel Road
- lack of response to Councillor Hanvey's letter re provision of traffic lights at Primrose Hill/Saintfield Road junction
- sequencing of lights turning right onto Knockbracken Road – city bound
- request to have the bus stop on Church Road, Carryduff re-positioned
- further request for signage, advising drivers of a number of senior citizens' residential homes in the area of Killynure Road/Church Road
- sequencing of lights turning off Saintfield Road onto Mealongh Road
- concern expressed at the lack of a response to Alderman Mrs Robinson's correspondence re: work required to enable metro buses to revert back to the normal bus route at Old Dundonald Road/Comber Road
- further request for resurfacing work to be carried out on footpaths along Comber Road
- request to re-assess traffic calming measures at Newton Park
- sequencing of lights Saintfield Road/Newtownbreda Road junction
- request for footpath resurfacing at Leven Park
- request for resurfacing along the footpath outside shops at Cherryvalley
- request for resurfacing of the car park area at Ascot Park
- request for Roads Service to give prior consideration to the expected increase in traffic volume and the necessary traffic calming measures required as a result of the Granton Heights Scheme
- concern expressed at the length of time taken by the Roads Service to adequately correct the street lighting at Dunlady Court
- Health & safety issues raised in respect of the lack of lighting in Ballybeen Square, and the need to re-assess the type of lighting provided
- Salt gritting at Mount Michael Park
- Signage on the approach to Moneyreagh Village depicting North Down Council crest

Mr McCourt then provided Members with a progress report in respect of the provision of cycle lanes within Castlereagh.

Prior to leaving the meeting, the Roads Service representatives advised Members that they would respond in writing to any queries they had not been able to address at the meeting.

Noted.

PLANNING

2006/694 : NOTES OF THE OFFICE MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/695 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31 OCTOBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED : That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 31 October 2006 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

2006/696 : COPY OF EMAIL FROM ROADS SERVICE TO PLANNING OFFICER RE: 219 AND 221 SAINTFIELD ROAD, NEWTOWNBREDA (ITEM D1) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/697 : COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER TO THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: GRANTON HEIGHTS, KINGS ROAD, TULLYCARNET (ITEM 3) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/698 : COPY CORRESPONDENCE FROM MISS AET TURNER RE: 62 GILNAHIRK ROAD (ITEM 18) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/699 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MISS A BEGGS RE: 62 GILNAHIRK ROAD (ITEM 18) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/700 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM JACQUELINE LUCAS TO ALDERMAN P ROBINSON AND THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: LAND ADJACENT TO 132 RAVENSWOOD PARK (ITEM 35) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

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

2006/701 : PLANNING APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

The Planning Service Officer outlined that applications for planning permission in relation to Items 2, 11, 34 and 35 had been withdrawn, and that the applications relating to 11 Downshire Road and 76 Cleveley Park had been withdrawn from the applications deferred.

Councillor Robinson asked if the applicants had been advised to withdraw their applications.

The Planning Service Officer advised that there were occasions that following discussion with the Planning Service, an applicant may withdraw their application and re-submit a new application.

Following a further query from Councillor Robinson, the Planning Service Officer advised that when an application was withdrawn, there was a procedure for notifying those who had made representation to the Department.

Noted.

2006/702 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0701/F – 219 & 221 SAINTFIELD ROAD : DEMOLITION OF EXISTING FILLING STATION SHOP AND DWELLING AND ERECTION OF 22 APARTMENTS

Councillor Long outlined that Councillor Duncan had asked him to express her disappointment that the Planning Service remained of the opinion to approve the above application. He added that, given that this development would be located in a quiet cul de sac, residents had expressed concern regarding the detrimental impact it would have on the neighbouring properties.

Following a query from Councillor Chambers as to whether or not Saintfield Road was a protected route, the Planning Service Officer advised that there was a facility within Planning policy to come onto protected routes that ran through existing urban areas.

Councillor Hall asked for his objection to the Planning Service's approval of this application to be recorded.

Noted.

2006/703 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0087/F – GRANTON HEIGHTS, KINGS ROAD, DUNDONALD : PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT OF 93 APARTMENTS (AMENDED) (ADDITIONAL INFORMATION) (FURTHER INFORMATION)

Councillor Robinson referred to the objections in respect of the above application, in terms of the increased traffic, implications to the Right of Way, etc, and he requested that it either be referred to the Management Board or considered under Article 31.

The Planning Service Officer advised that the timescale had passed for the application to be dealt with through Article 31.

Councillor Robinson proposed that it be referred to the Management Board, and he advised that a delegation of interested parties would wish to attend.

The Planning Service Officer indicated, that should the application warrant consideration by the Management Board, the Council would be invited to make representation.

RESOLVED : That Planning Application Y/2006/0087/F be referred to the Management Board.

2006/704 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0491/F – 62 GILNAHIRK ROAD, TULLYCARNET : ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO SIDE AND REAR OF EXISTING DWELLING AND INCREASE IN RIDGE HEIGHT, SINGLE STOREY UTILITY EXTENSION TO SIDE AND REAR. NEW DETACHED GARAGE TO REAR

Councillor Spratt outlined that, given the impact this proposal would have on the neighbouring properties, including visual impact, he proposed that a site meeting be convened.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That consideration of Planning Application Y/2006/0491/F be deferred to enable a site meeting to be convened, in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Councillor Spratt.

2006/705 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0472/F – VACANT SITE OF FORMER ENLER HOUSE, CRAIGLEITH DRIVE, DUNDONALD : NEW MIXED USE COMMUNITY FACILITIES INCLUDING RETAIL ACCOMMODATION, ELDERLY DAY CENTRE AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (AMENDED) (FURTHER INFORMATION)

Councillor Robinson declared an interest.

Councillor Drysdale outlined that although residents welcomed the community facilities, they had concerns in respect of the operating times of the retail aspect of the scheme.

Councillor White expressed the view that although he fully appreciated the concerns raised, it was important that there was no delay in considering this application, as a significant amount of funding for the scheme would be put in jeopardy if the application was not progressed as quickly as possible.

Councillor Chambers concurred with Councillor White, and stated that she understood that restrictions would be put in place in respect of the times of the retail operation.

Councillor Drysdale stated that he did not wish to delay the scheme, but was merely highlighting residents' concerns.

The Planning Service Officer advised that the Planning Service was currently liaising with the Council's Environmental Health Section, and he hoped that the application could be processed as quickly as possible.

Noted.

APPLICATIONS DEFERRED AND STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

2006/706 : PLANNING APPLICATIONS Y/2004/0477/0 – REAR OF 19 BREDA PARK, BREDA, BELFAST – SITE FOR DWELLING (FURTHER INFORMATION)

Councillor Hall outlined that he understood that when the former owner sold the above property, he had retained part of the land to the rear.

The Planning Service Officer advised that the Planning Service would not be involved in any land dispute, but would be considering the application on its planning merits.

The Planning Officer commented that, whilst the ownership of the land was a legal matter, if it affected the size of the site, this must be considered at this stage as it could result in overdevelopment.

Noted.

2006/707 : WEEKLY LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 10 OCTOBER TO 13 NOVEMBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

2006/708 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: TREE PRESERVATION ORDER AT HYDEBANK PLAYING FIELDS (TPO2), NEWTOWNBREDA ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/709 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMUNITY TECHNICAL AID RE: PLANNING ADVICE LINE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/710 : DETAILS FROM THE WHITE PAPER CONFERENCE COMPANY LTD RE: “HOW TO MAKE THE PLANNING SYSTEM WORK FOR YOUR PROPOSAL” CONFERENCE BEING HELD ON TUESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Planning Officer be authorised to attend the conference entitled “How to Make the Planning System Work for Your Proposal” conference being held on 5 December 2006.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2006/711 : PLANNING APPLICATION RE: MULTI USE GAMES AREA AT LISNASHARRAGH

Following a query from Alderman Norris in respect of the above, the Planning Service Officer advised that the application was still under consideration.

Councillor Long expressed the view that he was disappointed that the objectors' concerns had not been adequately addressed in the amended plans.

Councillor J Beattie outlined that given the tight timescales involved, he hoped that the Planning Service would deal with the application as quickly as possible, in order that the offer of Big Lottery funding would not be jeopardised.

Noted.

2006/712 : PROPOSED PSYCHIATRIC UNIT AT THE FORSTER GREEN SITE

Alderman Peter Robinson outlined that a number of residents had contacted him expressing concern in respect of the major implications the above proposal would have within the area. He proposed that the Council writes to the Divisional Planning Manager seeking a public inquiry, or some form of hearing that would ensure the residents would have an opportunity to put forward their objections.

Councillor Robinson advised that representatives from the South & East Belfast Trust had given a presentation at a recent Central Services Committee meeting on their proposals at the Forster Green site, and had welcomed Members' assistance in consulting with local residents.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Planning Officer writes to the Divisional Planning Manager requesting a hearing in order for residents to put forward their objections on the South & East Belfast Trust's proposal to provide a psychiatric unit at the Forster Green site.

2006/713 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING APPEALS COMMISSION RE: MOBILE HOME AT 115 GRANSHA ROAD, DUNDONALD

The Planning Officer advised that she had received the above correspondence asking if the Council had any comments.

Councillor Spratt outlined that given that there had been a mobile home located on this site for years, he asked that the Council forward a letter in support of the appeal. He expressed the view that the Enforcement Section within the Planning Service were being particularly harsh in respect of this particular site.

The Planning Service Officer indicated that there would be further contact made by Officers within the Enforcement Section.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council forward letter to the Planning Appeals Commission in support of the appeal relating to 115 Gransha Road, Dundonald.

ROADS

2006/714 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: DECRIMINALISED PARKING ENFORCEMENT ROADS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/715 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: DIVISIONAL ROADS MANAGER – EASTERN DIVISION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/716 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: BALLYREGAN ROAD, DUNDONALD – TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

EDUCATION

2006/717 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION AND LIBRARY BOARD RE: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL'S LETTER OF 12 OCTOBER 2006 RE: LIBRARY OPENING HOURS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

FINANCE

2006/718 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£	2,745.03
General Account (Salaries)	£	445,669.28
General Account (Suppliers)	£	1,028,536.14

LEGAL

2006/719 : RELEASE OF RIGHT OF WAY

RESOLVED : That the Council grants approval for Mayor and Chief Executive to sign Indenture of Release of Right of Way between Castlereagh Borough Council and Northern Ireland Housing Executive at Millmount.

2006/720 : LANDS AT GEARY ROAD/TULLYCARNET PARK

RESOLVED : That the Council grants approval for Mayor and Chief Executive to sign Memorandum of Sale regarding lands at Geary Road/Tullycarnet Park.

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

**2006/721 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR NOVEMBER 2006
(copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

GENERAL

**2006/722 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ELECTORAL
OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RE: NON RETURN OF ELECTION
EXPENSES FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION (copy previously
circulated)**

Noted.

**2006/723 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE RELATIVES
ASSOCIATION NI RE: LAUNCH OF BOOKLET "WHERE 2 TURN" (copy
letter previously circulated)**

Following a proposal from Councillor Henderson, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to purchase six copies of the Relatives Association "Where 2 Turn" booklet.

**2006/724 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM ST IGNATIUS PARISH
CHURCH, CARRYDUFF, INVITING MEMBERS TO ATTEND A SERVICE
OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS ON SUNDAY 17 DECEMBER 2006 AT
6.30 P.M. (copy previously circulated)**

Due to prior commitments, Alderman Norris, Councillors Chambers, Hall, Tosh, Jeffers, Spratt, and Drysdale asked for their apologies to be forwarded to Reverend Auchmuty.

RESOLVED: That staff within the Members' Services Section contact Members to enquire if they will be attending the Service in St Ignatius Parish Church, and to arrange for the relevant Council robes to be forwarded to the Parish Church Hall in advance.

**2006/725 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CONFEDERATION OF
EUROPEAN COUNCILLORS RE: CEC NORTH/SOUTH ONE-DAY
SEMINAR IN THE KILLYHEVLIN HOTEL ENNISKILLEN ON FRIDAY 8
DECEMBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2006/726 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE GREAT
NORTHERN RAILWAY COMPANY (IRELAND) LIMITED RE: BELFAST
EXPRESS TRANSIT NETWORK PROPOSAL (copy letter previously
circulated)**

Noted.

2006/727 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT RE: CONSULTATION ON LEGISLATIVE CHANGES TO COMPLY WITH A NEW EUROPEAN REGULATION ON DRIVERS HOURS (copy letter previously circulated)

RESOLVED : That a copy of the Department of Transport's consultation document on Legislative Changes to comply with a new European Regulation on Drivers Hours be forwarded to Councillor Henderson.

2006/728 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DRIVER & VEHICLE LICENSING NORTHERN IRELAND RE: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS WHICH WILL PLACE A DUTY ON DRIVERS OF LICENSED PRIVATE HIRE VEHICLES TO CARRY GUIDE, HEARING AND OTHER PRESCRIBED ASSISTANCE DOGS

Noted.

2006/729 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: FINAL REPORT ON ALL IRELAND FREE TRAVEL SCHEME FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Noted.

2006/730 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE PARADES COMMISSION RE: PARADING IN A PEACEFUL NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/731 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUDIT OFFICE RE: CONSTRUCTION OF NEW CIVIC OFFICES BY DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/732 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT RE: THE ELECTRICITY (SINGLE ELECTRICITY MARKET) (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANNUAL REPORTS/STRATEGIES

2006/733 : REPORT OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2005 – 2006

Noted.

2006/734 : OFFICE OF THE FIRST MINISTER AND DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER – TENTH ANNUAL REPORT ON PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS 2005 - 2006

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2006/735 : CONSIDERATION OF DATES FOR THE DECEMBER COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that

- (a) the next Council meeting be held on 21st December at 5.00 p.m., with a meal being provided for Members at Castlereagh Hills Golf Club at approximately 8.00 p.m.
- (b) where appropriate, Committee meetings be brought forward one week during December

2006/736 : FINANCIAL SCAMS

Councillor Jeffers referred to recent correspondence he had received informing him that he had won a significant amount of money. He added that it was important that residents, particularly the elderly, were made aware of this type of scam.

Noted.

2006/737 : STAMP DUTY RELIEF

Alderman Peter Robinson referred to the stamp duty exemption relating to properties over £150,000.00, which applied in certain designated disadvantaged areas across the Province.

He continued by stating that the Department had determined that residents living in the Cregagh Ward qualified for stamp duty relief under the Department of Finance : Disadvantaged Areas Regulations (DAR). He outlined that the Wynchurch Ward, which adjoined Cregagh, was not a DAR area, but there were streets within the Cregagh Estate which were designated within the Wynchurch Ward, one example being Bannagh Corner. Furthermore, the boundary between the Cregagh and Wynchurch Wards cut along the middle of the Straight, resulting in those living on one side being entitled to stamp duty relief, whilst those living on the other side were not.

Alderman Peter Robinson expressed the view that despite the fact that the Cregagh area had been designated by the Department as an area of need, there were a significant number of Cregagh residents not qualifying for stamp duty relief. He asked that the Chief Executive write to the Department of Finance expressing the Council's concerns in this respect.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Department of Finance expressing concern that, despite the fact that Cregagh Ward had been

designated a disadvantaged area, a significant number of Cregagh residents would not qualify for stamp duty relief.

2006/738 : CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB – CHRISTMAS TREE

Councillor Chambers reminded Members that the Council had previously agreed that £25,000.00 from the reduction achieved in respect of the Council's insurance premiums for 2006/2007 be allocated to the Ad Hoc Events Budget within the Civic budget.

She advised that as the Golf Club did not currently have an allocation within its budget for the provision of a Christmas tree, she was proposing that the costs be met out of the Civic budget. She outlined that a suitable natural tree had been identified at a prominent position on the approach to Castlereagh Hills Golf Club, and the costs involved in shaping the tree, lighting, etc. was £3,500.00.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that £3,500.00 be provided out of the Civic budget for the shaping, decorating, etc. of one of the natural trees at the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club.

2006/739 : FUNDING FOR 50 METRE POOL

Councillor Beattie advised that Stage 2 of the Council's submission for funding for a 50 metre pool required Officers to publicly tender for consultants to prepare a Business Case and Economic Appraisal.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council authorises Council Officers to publicly tender for consultants to prepare a Business Case and Economic Appraisal to Government 'Green Book' standard for Stage 2 of the Council's submission for funding for a 50 metre pool.

2006/740 : ROTATION OF DPP CHAIRMAN

Councillor Drysdale proposed that Councillor Henderson be appointed as Chairman of Castlereagh District Policing Partnership for the 2007/2008 year, and this was seconded by Councillor Spratt.

Councillor Spratt outlined that Alderman Rice would be taking up the Chairmanship the following year.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Councillor Henderson be appointed as Chairman of Castlereagh District Policing Partnership for the 2007/2008 year.

2006/741 : DETAILS OF GALA CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS PEACE IN THE WATERFRONT HALL BEING HELD ON 13 DECEMBER 2006 (circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

2006/742 : INVITATION FROM DUNDONALD VILLAGE REGENERATION GROUP TO CAROL SERVICE AND CHRISTMAS FAYRE BEING HELD AT THE GREEN, DUNDONALD ON 30 NOVEMBER 2006-11-28

Noted.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.10 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR