

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 26th October 2006 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor J Spratt
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: P D Robinson MP MLA (from 10.00 p.m.)

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Ms J Bunting
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
D Drysdale (until 9.50 p.m.)
Mrs S Duncan (until 9.50 p.m.)
C Hall
B Hanvey
Miss R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long
G Robinson
Miss V Stevenson
C Tosh (until 8.45 p.m.)
J White

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Aldermen Copeland, Norris, Rice and Councillor Henderson,

2006/624 : OPENING OF MEETING

On behalf of the Council, the Mayor welcomed Reverend Brown to his first meeting of Council, and welcomed back Councillor Tosh and the Planning Service Officer, Mr John McCallum.

Reverend Mark Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2006/625 : ALDERMAN G RICE

The Mayor advised Members that Alderman Rice had been re-admitted to hospital, and that he was keeping in touch with the Alderman's family with regard to her progress.

Noted.

2006/626 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record:
- Council meeting of 28th September 2006
 - Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting of 3rd October 2006
 - Leisure Services Committee meeting of 5th October 2006
 - Special Leisure Services Committee meeting of 13th October 2006
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record, subject to the following amendments:
- Minutes of Central Services Committee of 9th October 2006
- Page 9 – Minute No 2006/272 – 2nd line
Delete “up the Community project” and insert “being set up, as part of the Community project”
 - Page 10 - Resolution
Delete “courses in the Community Training project, as it meets with” and insert “project, as it met”
- Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 11th October 2006
- Page 7 – Minute No 2006/388
Delete “Noted” and insert the following resolution
“RESOLVED : That the Human Resources Manager investigate an alternative budget that the overspend of £3,500.00 could be costed to, and report back to the Finance & General Purposes Committee”.
 - Page 15 – Minute No 2006/414 – Line 7
Delete “Billy Neill” and insert “Belvoir Activity”.
- (c) that the Minutes of the following meetings be considered “In Committee”
- Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 31st August 2006
 - Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 4th October 2006

MATTERS ARISING

2006/627 : TRANSFER OF CARPET FROM THE ICE BOWL TO THE BELVOIR ACTIVITY CENTRE

Councillor Bunting outlined that she understood that it had previously been resolved in Council Minutes that carpet be transferred from the Ice Bowl to Belvoir Activity Centre. She added that the reason for this was to avoid users of the Activity Centre being charged transportation costs each time the carpet was required. She outlined that it had been mentioned to her that the carpet could not be moved due to the lack of storage space, and she expressed the view that if this was the case, Officers should have brought the matter back to Council's attention.

The Chief Executive stated that he would investigate this matter, and report back.

Noted.

2006/628 : REQUEST FROM ASSISI FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (F&GP/2006/416 refers)

Councillor Bunting referred to the last Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, where it had been resolved that the Council be recommended not to provide financial assistance to Assisi, the reason being that the organisation was not located within the Borough. She added that she was very disappointed with this decision, and although its headquarters was not based in the Borough, it provided services throughout the Castlereagh area.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the request for financial assistance from Assisi be referred back to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for further consideration.

2006/629 : EHSSB PRESENTATION

The Mayor welcomed EHSSB representatives, Mr. David Russell, Chairman, and Dr Paula Kilbane, Chief Executive.

Mr Russell explained that on previous annual visits to the Council, the delegation had been accompanied by the Chair of the Health and Social Care Group. He added that as part of the Review of Public Administration, this group had been stood down. Mr. Russell reported that, while the average increase in Board allocations in Northern Ireland was 8.1%, the EHSSB's increase was 6.8%. He indicated that the increase amounted to approximately £70 million and that £43 million of this was for pay increases and changes to national pay contracts; £11 million to cover previous commitments and local service pressures; and £15 million for new service developments.

Mr Russell stated that in 2007/08 there would be no new monies provided, and any new pressures would be dealt with at the June Monitoring Round. He advised that the Department had assessed the EHSSB as being £20 million over funded. He continued by stating that next year would probably be the last year the EHSSB

would be providing the Council with a financial update as the Board was being stood down, and he expressed the view that the Council should be considering how to integrate with the new structures.

Dr Kilbane highlighted priority areas such as waiting lists and the development of Integrated Clinical Assessment and Treatment Services (ICATS), with a second theme being reform and modernisation. She advised that, in 2005/06, £1 million had been invested in preventing unnecessary hospital admissions and speeding up hospital discharges, which had been funded by the release of resources from hospital.

She outlined that the Board was moving gradually from the provision of services in hospitals to service provision in people's homes. She indicated that a new local Health and Care Centre at Forster Green would be opening in September 2008.

Dr Kilbane reported that all statutory provision for older people's residential care was being reviewed to bring costs into line with those in the independent sector. She also indicated that the Board would be collaborating more closely with housing providers to allow people to remain in their own homes as long as possible, and that additional funding of £165,000.00 had been provided for additional care packages. She added that the Board had also been provided with £81,000.00 for each of the next two years to work with community groups to develop suicide prevention schemes.

With regard to RPA issues, Dr Kilbane reported that the new Chief Executive Designate, David Sissing, had been appointed, and had taken up his post in shadow form. She stated that the first part of the change was the standing down of local health care groups. She anticipated that the 7 new commissioning groups, each coterminous with the new local government areas, would be in place from March 2007, and go live in April 2008.

Dr Kilbane stated that the EHSSB would continue to be responsible for health care provision until April 2008, and after that, it would work in partnership with the new bodies. She stated that staff in the Department and Boards would be realigned to work in the new bodies, and the HR Framework document was currently out for consultation. She indicated that a committee would be set up comprising the new Chief Executive and the 4 Board Chief Executives to oversee the plans being prepared by the new groups, and to ensure that they were consistent with the strategy of the Boards.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Russell and Dr Kilbane for their presentation and opened the discussion up for Members' questions.

Councillor Beattie expressed concern that slippage monies used to cut waiting lists had been diverted from other frontline services.

Dr Kilbane assured Councillor Beattie that this was not the case. She continued by stating that the new Chief Executive's priority was to design a new structure fit for purpose, rather than one that was designed to achieve savings. She indicated that

the expectation was that savings would come from the management side rather than service level.

In response to a query from Councillor Chambers as to the impact the new Centre at Foster Green might have on the Belvoir Clinic, Dr Kilbane stated that she could not give a definitive answer, and felt that it may be more appropriate to direct the question to the Trust.

Councillor Hanvey expressed concerns about how the proposed changes would impact upon elderly care provision. He felt that the elderly were being pushed towards the independent sector and stated that privatisation of services had not always been successful in the past. He referred to the problem of hygiene issues in hospitals.

Mr. Russell responded by stating that the movement of funding from hospitals into community care could be difficult, but over the last twelve months he felt that this had been quite successful. He stated, however, that the Board would be looking carefully at all cash releasing measures to ensure that they were efficiencies rather than service cutbacks.

Dr Kilbane reassured Members that the Board would not consider introducing "quick win" cost reductions that had been introduced in the 1990's, and had impacted on the quality of service provision. She also advised that the Minister was returning responsibility for ward hygiene to matrons and that private sector contractors would have service standards to operate to.

She continued by stating that the Board's aim was to avoid hospital admissions through better management of diseases in the community. She stated that funding schemes being rolled out in the future would be tariff based, and part of the incentive of that was to develop good care services. She stated that the plan was not to increase the nursing home sector, but to ensure that people who wished to be maintained at home could be.

In response to further queries, Dr Kilbane stated that there was uncertainty as to how to create tariffs for community based services and this would be investigated further.

Councillor White stated that through his involvement with a Housing Association, he was aware that as people were being encouraged to stay in their own homes, there was limited uptake of specialised accommodation for the elderly, and the Housing Association was having to deal with voids. He suggested, and Dr Kilbane agreed, that a discussion between health authorities and housing providers in this respect would be helpful.

The Mayor thanked Mr. Russell and Dr Kilbane for their presentation, and at this point they left the meeting.

PLANNING

2006/630 : NOTES OF OFFICE MEETINGS HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer reported that the above notes related to the following planning applications:

- (i) Planning Application Y/2006/0152/F – 40 Cregagh Park
- (ii) Planning Application Y/2006/0264/RM – 16 Manse Road
- (iii) Planning Application Y/2006/0307/F – 11 Downshire Road

Noted.

2006/631 : MINUTES OF SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING HELD ON 17TH OCTOBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED :That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 17th October 2006 be accepted as a true record, with the exception of Minute No PC/2006/36, which will be considered further “In Committee”.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 26TH OCTOBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

2006/632 : APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

The Planning Service Officer reported that the applications relating to Items 10 and 17 had been withdrawn.

Noted.

2006/633 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0481/F – TULLYCARNET RESOURCE CENTRE, KINROSS AVENUE, TULLYCARNET : JUNIOR GRASS PITCH, FULL SIZE SYNTHETIC PITCH, PETROL STATION WITH SHOP, AND RETAIL UNITS, START-UP BUSINESS UNITS

Councillor Robinson outlined that he was pleased to note the Planning Service’s approval of the above application, and he asked that the decision notice be issued as quickly as possible.

Noted.

2006/634 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0507/F – 3 WILLOWBANK DRIVE, BALLYMACONAGHY, BT6 0LN: ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR OF DWELLING.

Following a request for an Office meeting from Councillor Long, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of Planning Application Y/2006/0507/F be deferred to enable an Office meeting to be held at a date and time to be arranged with the Chairman of the Planning Committee, in liaison with Councillor Long.

APPLICATIONS DEFERRED AND STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION

2006/635 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0152/F: 40 CREGAGH PARK, BT6 9LF: ERECTION OF TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR OF EXISTING DWELLING CONSISTING OF BEDROOM, BATHROOM, KITCHEN AND SUN LOUNGE PLUS ALTERATIONS TO DWELLING.

Councillor Robinson asked that, in line with the Planning Service's normal practice, his name be included in the Planning Schedule as the Member who had requested the Office meeting.

RESOLVED : That the Planning Service to include Councillor Robinson's name in the Planning Schedule, as the Member who had requested an Office meeting in respect of Planning Application Y/2006/0152/F.

2006/636 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0437/F: 76 CLEVELY PARK, BRED A, BT8 6NB : ROOF SPACE CONVERSION INCLUDING EXTENSION TO SIDE AND REAR OF EXISTING ROOF FORM

Councillor Chambers outlined that the above application had been omitted from the list of applications deferred. She asked that this be rectified, and that her name be included as the Member who had requested the Office meeting.

RESOLVED : That Planning Application Y/2006/0437/F be included in the Schedule under "applications deferred and still under consideration", with Councillor Chambers' name being included, as the Member who had requested an Office meeting.

2006/637 : WEEKLY PLANNING LIST OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS REGISTERED FOR THE PERIOD 19TH SEPTEMBER TO 9TH OCTOBER 2005 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/638 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER ON THE DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 5 – RETAILING, TOWN CENTRES AND COMMERCIAL LESIURE DEVELOPMENTS (copy previously circulated).

The Planning Officer presented for Members' consideration, the response to the Department's Planning Policy Statement 5 in respect of the above.

Councillor Chambers referred to the proposal to demolish the local shops in the Lisnasharragh area by a private developer, and the implications of the loss of this amenity on the local residents. She asked that the Planning Officer include in the response a request for appropriate planning policy to be drawn up relating to the protection of local neighbourhood shops.

RESOLVED : That the Council approves the response on the Draft Planning Policy Statement 5, subject to the inclusion of a request for appropriate planning policy to be drawn up relating to the protection of local neighbourhood shops.

2006/639 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: ADVERTISING CHANGE FOR PLANNING APPLICATIONS.

Members expressed concern that removing advertisements from the three main daily papers to local community papers would result in many residents not having access to the planning lists, given that there were parts of the Borough which were not covered by the newspapers' distribution lists.

The Planning Officer advised that a judicial review had been launched by one of the daily papers.

Following a detailed discussion, it was proposed by Councillor White, seconded by Councillor J Beattie, and

RESOLVED (unanimously) That the Council agrees

- (a) to write to the Planning Service outlining Members' views and opposition to its advertising change for planning applications, and enquiring what it intended to do in relation to those Castlereagh residents who were not included in the distribution lists of the local newspapers mentioned.
- (b) that a copy of the above correspondence be forwarded to the relevant newspapers

2006/640 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: INFORMATION LEAFLET 13 – A HOUSEHOLDER'S PLANNING GUIDE FOR THE INSTALLATION OF ANTENNAS, INCLUDING SATELLITE DISHES (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2006/641 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM GUIDE DOGS RE: SHARED SURFACE STREET DESIGN RESEARCH PROJECT – THE ISSUES – REPORT OF FOCUS GROUPS (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2006/642 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATION – PARK AND RIDE FACILITY TO INCLUDE PARKING FOR APPROX 750 CARS, A TERMINAL BUILDING, INTERNAL CIRCULATION FOR CARS & BUSES, AND LANDSCAPING AT LANDS ADJACENT TO 277 SAINTFIELD PARK, BALLYLENAGHAN, BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2006/643 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM A RESIDENT RE: PLANNING APPLICATION NO Y/0506/F – LANDS AT 170-174 NEWTOWNBREDA ROAD, BALLYLENGHAN, BELFAST. PROPOSAL: REMOVAL OF CONDITION 16 OF PLANNING APPROVAL Y/2000/0766/O (REMOVING LIMITATION ON HOURS OF SERVICING) (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Chambers stated that the removal of the limitation on hours of servicing at the Tesco Store on the Newtownbreda Road was a complete deviation from the terms of the original planning approval, and would have severe implications for people living in the Beechwood area.

Councillor Duncan outlined that the Council's Environmental Health Section was also being consulted, and Officers had raised a number of matters, in terms of refrigeration units waiting in the lay-by access road, reversing beepers, standby generator, general lorry activity in service yard, car park noise, etc.

The Planning Officer pointed out that the application was still under consideration, and that she would continue to liaise with the Acting Environmental Health Manager in this respect, and report back to Council in due course.

Councillors Chambers, Hall and Duncan asked for their total objection to this planning application to be recorded.

RESOLVED : That the Planning Officer continue to liaise with the Acting Environmental Health Manager in respect of the removal of Condition 16 of Planning Approval Y/2000/0766/O (removing limitation on hours of servicing), and report back to Council in due course.

The meeting adjourned at this point at 8.45 p.m. Councillor Tosh did not return to the meeting when it reconvened at 9.05 p.m.

ROADS

2006/644 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: ROADS (NI) ORDER 1993 – PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF GROUND FRONTING 11 OLD MILL DALE, DUNDONALD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER ROADS BUSINESS

2006/645 : ADVERTISING BOARDS – GAMING ARCADE, 1 CHURCH ROAD, DUNDONALD

Councillor Jeffers sought clarification as to why the bill boards advertising the above premises had not been removed, and asked Officers to contact the Roads Service in this respect.

Councillor Spratt suggested that this matter also be referred to the Planning Officer.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Roads Service seeking clarification as to why advertising boards relating to a gaming arcade on the Church Road, Dundonald had not been removed, and that the matter also be referred to the Planning Officer.

HOUSING

2006/646 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL'S LETTER OF 31 AUGUST 2006 RE: ABOLITION OF THE HOUSING COUNCIL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/647 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: HOUSING RESEARCH BULLETIN (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/648 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: RURAL HOMES AND PEOPLE: A REVIEW OF HOUSING EXECUTIVE RURAL HOUSING POLICY 2006; PLACES FOR PEOPLE: SUPPORTING RURAL COMMUNITIES (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

WATER

2006/649 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE WATER SERVICE RE: NEW CUSTOMER RELATIONS CENTRE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

FINANCE

2006/650 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the under noted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£ 11,179.75
General Account (Salaries)	£ 476,671.26
General Account (Suppliers)	£ 715,206.56

LEGAL

2006/651 : PHASE 1 HANWOOD

RESOLVED : That, upon receipt of the relevant documents, approval be granted for the Mayor and Chief Executive to sign the required legal paperwork in respect of Phase I Hanwood.

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2006/652 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR OCTOBER 2006 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2006/653 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE RE: COMMUNITY-BASED RESTORATIVE JUSTICE (CBRJ) : CONSULTATION DRAFT PROTOCOL AND EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (copy previously circulated)

Following a proposal from Councillor White, it was

RESOLVED : That the correspondence from the Northern Ireland Office in respect of Community-Based Restorative Justice : Consultation Draft Protocol and Equality Impact Assessment be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2006/654 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: RESPONSE TO COUNCIL'S LETTER OF 21 SEPTEMBER 2006 RE THE SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/655 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE RE: YOUNG PEOPLE AND LICENSED FIREARMS – CONSULTATION (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/656 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS RE: CLOSER TO OUR COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/657 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY RE: CONSULTATION ON A STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN TO PROMOTE EQUALITY, GOOD RELATIONS AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/658 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY RE: CONSULTATION ON A DRAFT JOINT

**COMMITTEE FOR COMMISSIONING ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2006
(copy letter previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2006/659 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONSULTATION BY DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT – OCTOBER 2006 TO MARCH 2007
(copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

2006/660 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM POSTCOMM RE: POSTCOMM'S REVIEW OF ROYAL MAIL'S COLLECTION & DELIVERY TIMES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/661 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THOMPSON MCCLURE SOLICITORS RE: LICENCE RENEWAL – IVANHOE INN (CARRYDUFF) LTD (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/662 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MKB RUSSELLS SOLICITORS RE: MERIT RETAIL LTD: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A LICENCE FOR PREMISES IN WHICH THE BUSINESS CARRIED ON UNDER THE LICENCE IS THE BUSINESS OF SELLING INTOXICATING LIQUOR BY RETAIL FOR CONSUMPTION OFF THE PREMISES (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/663 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NILGA, RE: RECYCLED ROADS CONFERENCE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/664 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NILGA, RE: MODELLING NILGA'S FUTURE – REQUEST FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE WAY FORWARD (LATE OCTOBER/NOVEMBER) (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that a Special Council meeting be convened, as soon as possible, to hear a presentation from NILGA on Modelling NILGA's future.

2006/665 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE: DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL NO 174 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/666 : 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 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor White outlined that Alderman Peter Robinson had addressed this issue at the August Council meeting, and had raised a number of areas of concern in relation to Down District Council's moves to construct new civic headquarters in advance of the outcome of RPA, in terms of the implications to Castlereaugh Borough Council ratepayers and its employees.

Councillor White expressed the view that the Department should be putting a stop to the construction of all new Council offices until RPA takes effect, as the siting of the headquarters was a matter for the newly formed Council. He outlined that this was a very weak response from the Local Government Auditor, and he sought clarification as to whether the Council had also agreed to write to the Minister and the Secretary of State.

The Chief Executive advised that he had also written to the Secretary of State, and had received an acknowledgement of his letter but was still waiting for a more detailed response.

Following a query from Councillor Chambers, the Chief Executive advised that a copy of the letter had also been forwarded to the Environment Minister, who was the Head of the Taskforce. He added that he would report back further when he had received a response from both the Minister and the Secretary of State.

Councillor Robinson asked that under FOI, if it was possible to obtain a copy of the correspondence referred to in the LGA response.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Local Government Audit Office requesting, that under Freedom of Information, the Council be provided with copy correspondence mentioned in his response in respect of Down District Council's proposal to construct new civic headquarters.

2006/667 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS COMMITTEE RE: NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS COMMITTEE: REQUEST FOR EVIDENCE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANNUAL REPORTS/STRATEGIES

2006/668 : ROADS SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2005-06

RESOLVED : That a copy of the Roads Service Annual Report and Accounts 2005-2006 be forwarded to Councillor Robinson.

2006/669 : RIVERS AGENCY CORPORATE/BUSINESS PLAN 2006/07 AND ANNUAL REPORT & ACCOUNTS 2005/06 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2006/670 : NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL SUMMARY REPORT APRIL-SEPTEMBER 2006 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2006/671 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT : ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNCIL'S LETTER RE: E-WAY (circulated at the meeting)

Noted.

2006/672 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNCIL'S LETTER RE: PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A NEW GRANT MAINTAINED INTEGRATED COLLEGE SERVING THE CROSSGAR/SAINTFIELD/CARRYDUFF AREA

Noted.

2006/673 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNCIL'S LETTER RE: PROPOSAL TO CLOSE LISNASHARRAGH HIGH SCHOOL

Noted.

2006/674 : INWARD INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY WITHIN THE BOROUGH

Councillor Robinson advised Members that a gentleman had contacted him, advising that he was currently considering setting up a business within the Borough, and was seeking a letter of support from the Council.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Economic Development Manager liaise with Councillor Robinson to obtain further details on the proposal to set up a business within the Borough, and if worthwhile, a letter of Council support be drawn up for the gentleman concerned.

2006/675 : COUNCIL'S APPLICATION TO THE STRATEGIC INVESTMENT BOARD FOR 50 METRE SWIMMING POOL

Councillor Chambers passed on the Council's appreciation to the Officers involved in drawing up the submission in respect of the above. She added that Castlereagh and North Down Councils had been successful in getting through the first stage, and had been selected as potential recipients of a capital grant towards the costs

of a 50 metre Olympic standard swimming pool. She added that the next stage was for both Councils to submit a business case, and she hoped that Castlereagh would be successful.

Noted.

2006/676 : MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Councillor Drysdale outlined that he and Councillor Henderson had previously requested an amendment to the Minutes of the Annual General meeting, in respect of Ulster Unionist Party membership of the Central Services Committee, but that this had not been officially minuted.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Councillor Drysdale replace Councillor Hall on the Central Services Committee.

IN COMMITTEE

2006/677 : REPORT ON SOCIAL HOUSING AT CAPPAGH GARDENS, CREGAGH (copy circulated at the meeting)

Councillor White declared an interest.

The Chief Executive outlined the detail in the above report in respect of the transfer of land to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which included the site of the former Cregagh Community Centre. He added that the NIHE would then dispose of the land to Oaklee Housing Association for social housing. He advised Members that the total remuneration that the Council would accrue for this transaction was £400,000.00. He continued by stating that he noted Council authority to write to the DOE to seek their agreement to sell the land direct to the NIHE without placing it on the open market. He confirmed that the NIHE was prepared to pay the value assessed by the VLA.

Councillor Robinson outlined that the proposal related to the provision of eight units suitable for senior citizens, and given the need for this type of accommodation in the Cregagh area, he hoped that the Planning Service would deal with this matter as quickly as possible.

Following a query from Councillor Robinson in respect of timescales, the Chief Executive advised that he understood that the project would commence in March 2007.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council authorises Officers to progress and finalise the disposal of lands/building to the NIHE, at the agreed total valuation of £400,000.00.

2006/678 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 31ST AUGUST 2006 AND THE MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4TH OCTOBER 2006 (copies previously circulated)

Councillor Chambers asked the Director of Administration & Community Services to update Members on the Moneyreagh Community facility.

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised Members that correspondence had been received from the Big Lottery earlier that day, which she circulated for Members' information.

She asked Members to note that the Big Lottery was not prepared to proceed with the project, on the basis of the agreement reached by the Central Services Committee at its meeting held on 4th October 2006. She advised that the Big Lottery had made particular reference to the following:

- (i) free usage should be extended to include Ballycloghan, as originally agreed in the letter from the Council
- (ii) a requirement for an additional 6-8 hours free usage for after school provision for Moneyreagh, and other schools in the area
- (iii) schools should be given exclusive use of the premises when participating in the PE programme

The Director of Administration & Community Services reported that upon receipt of the letter, she had spoken again with a representative from the Big Lottery, who had verbally agreed the following:

- to withdraw the requirement for usage to be extended to Ballycloghan and other schools in the area
- they had recognised the difficulties in insisting on exclusive use of the premises, and agreed that exclusive use would relate to the sports hall only

Members discussed the merits of accepting or not accepting the grant, whilst bearing in mind the timescales involved.

Councillors Duncan and Drysdale left the meeting at this point at 9.50 p.m.

The Director of Administration & Community Services explained that, in previously agreeing to accept the funding of £90,000.00, the Council had decided to provide a facility to a higher specification, including a sports hall with showers, changing room and high ceiling. She added that, in effect, this represented a cost to the Council, and having progressed the scheme in this way, it would be difficult to change the design plans at this stage, particularly as the contract was due to go

out the next day. She indicated that the Council could revert to the original community centre specification, but this would delay the project.

Councillor Chambers outlined that it was her view that the Big Lottery was dictating how the building should be utilised, and she felt that the facility could be provided without Big Lottery funding.

Councillor Bunting and Chambers expressed the view that, should the Council agree not to accept the Big Lottery funding, that the Council should proceed with the Moneyreagh facility based on the higher specification.

Alderman Peter Robinson arrived at the meeting at this point at 10.00 p.m.

Following a detailed discussion, it was proposed by Councillor J Beattie, and seconded by Councillor White, and

RESOLVED : That the Council

- (a) approves the Minutes of the Special Central Services Committee meetings held on 31st August and 4th October 2006 as a true and accurate record
- (b) the Director of Administration & Community Services be authorised to confirm with the Big Lottery that the Council would be accepting the £90,000.00 funding, on the basis of Moneyreagh Primary School being provided with a maximum of 14 hours free use of the facility per week
- (c) the Director of Administration & Community Services table at the next Central Services Committee meeting, a copy of the "Heads of Agreement" in respect of Moneyreagh Primary School's use of the community centre

2006/679 : SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17th OCTOBER 2006 (Minute No. PC/2006/36 – Approval for Actions)

Councillor Chambers outlined that it was her understanding that it was not possible for a Committee to grant itself with executive powers, as this was a decision for full Council.

Councillor Robinson suggested that the Minute be deleted, and the matter be considered at a future date.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That Minute No PC/2006/36 be deleted from the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 17th October 2006.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.15 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR