

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, 26 April 2007, at 7.10 pm.

PRESENT: Councillor J Spratt MLA
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice MBE
PD Robinson MP MLA

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Ms J Bunting (from 7.30 pm)
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
Mrs S Duncan
D Drysdale
C Hall
B Hanvey
Miss R Hughes MBE
M Long
T Jeffers
G Robinson (from 7.20 pm)
C Tosh

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman Mrs I Robinson and Councillors M Henderson, Mrs V Stevenson and J White

2007/155 : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend Brown opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2007/156 : CONDOLENCES

On behalf of Members and staff, Councillor Spratt passed on sincere sympathy to Councillor Mrs Chambers on the sudden death of her husband. He added that Members' thoughts and prayers were with her and her family.

Alderman Mrs Rice thanked Members for condolences expressed to her in respect of her mother's death. She further offered her sincere sympathy to Councillor Mrs Chambers and speedy recovery to Alderman Mrs Robinson following her stay in hospital.

Noted.

2007/157 : SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

Councillor Jeffers requested a suspension of Standing Orders to enable Mr Hill from Dundonald to make a presentation to the Council regarding events that took place in Cumberland Road at the previous weekend.

RESOLVED: That Members agree to a suspension of the relevant Standing Order to enable a presentation by Mr Hill from Dundonald regarding events that took place in Cumberland Road at the previous weekend.

2007/158 : PRESENTATION BY MR HILL, RESIDENT IN CUMBERLAND ROAD, DUNDONALD, REGARDING RECENT CRIMES COMMITTED IN CUMBERLAND ROAD

Mr Hill informed Members that he represented the residents of Cumberland Road. He went on to describe that, following a bomb alert in the area, all residents had been evacuated by the PSNI. While the houses had been empty, many of them had been burgled. Mr Hill stated that the general opinion in the area was that residents in a development on Leatham Place were responsible, therefore residents of Cumberland Road requested that the Council erect a secure fence at Eastlink Road in order to improve security. Furthermore, Mr Hill stated that residents felt that there was a lack of policing in the area, which was due to the fact that Dundonald was now being policed from Castlereagh.

Councillor Spratt advised that he had visited the area at the weekend, and he agreed that many people were still traumatised by the events. He continued to say that he had met with PSNI Officers to express concern and request additional resources, and he had received assurances that additional community policing and detective resources would be deployed to the area. However, Councillor Spratt stated that, due to the bomb alert, the PSNI had to put the safety of local residents first and evacuate the area immediately.

Councillor Tosh commented that he had visited the residents of Cumberland Road, many of them elderly, on Sunday morning, and he extended his sympathy to them.

On behalf of his party, Councillor Long stated that these events had been disgraceful, and he hoped that the burglars would be caught soon.

Councillor Drysdale added his sentiments, and he condemned the burglars.

Alderman Robinson joined in the condemnation of the events in Cumberland Road. As there had been a number of burglaries in the area recently, he felt that there was a requirement on police to do everything they could to ensure the burglars were caught.

Councillor Hanvey offered his sympathy on behalf of his party, and he raised concerns about the long-term impact these atrocities would have on the people in the area.

Councillor Jeffers then thanked Mr Hill for his presentation and stated that everything possible would be done to help the residents of Cumberland Road.

Noted.

2007/159 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

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

- Council meeting held on 22 March 2007
- Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14 March 2007
- Special Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 28 March 2007
- Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 5 April 2007

(b) the Minutes of the following meetings be accepted as a true record, subject to the following changes:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 11 April 2007 – Note apology for Councillor J Cochrane
- Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 3 April 2007 – Note apology for Councillor Mrs S Duncan

(c) the Minutes of the following meetings be noted:

- Leisure Park Board meeting held on 19 February 2007
- Leisure Park Board meeting held on 29 March 2007
- Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board meeting held on 16 February 2007

MATTERS ARISING

2007/160 : HONORARIUM REQUEST – VACANCY OF OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER AND THE COUNTRYSIDE AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER POSTS (Minute F&GP/2007/118 refers)

Councillor Beattie asked that discussion in respect of this request take place In Committee.

RESOLVED: That discussion of Minute F&GP/2007/118 take place In Committee.

2007/161 : MINUTES OF THE CENTRAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2007

Due to the Easter break, it had not been possible to include the Minutes of the Central Services Committee meeting in the agenda. However, as there were several items that needed the Council's approval, Councillor Chambers asked that Members consider these. She outlined the details, and following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council grant approval for the resolutions of the following Minute numbers of the Central Services Committee meeting held on 18 April 2007:
- CS/2007/94
 - CS/2007/95
 - CS/2007/98
 - CS/2007/103
 - CS/2007/104
 - CS/2007/106
 - CS/2007/108
 - CS/2007/109
 - CS/2007/111
 - CS/2007/113
 - CS/2007/115
 - CS/2007/116
 - CS/2007/117
- (b) That IT staff ensure that the hard drives of all obsolete computers are thoroughly cleaned before their disposal.

PLANNING

2007/162 : NOTES OF THE OFFICE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2007 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the Notes of the Office meeting held on 30 March 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

2007/163 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2007 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 30 March 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

2007/164 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 13 MARCH TO 16 APRIL 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

**SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 22 MARCH 2007
(copy previously circulated)**

APPLICATIONS FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

2007/165 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0025/F – 29 GLENVIEW PARK, CARNAMUCK, BELFAST – PROPOSED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF APARTMENTS FOR THE ELDERLY (30 NO X 3 PERSON / 2 BEDROOM)

Councillor Long raised concerns regarding flooding, parking and overall layout, therefore he proposed that an office meeting take place with the applicant.

Councillor Bunting stated that the Council supported the erection of additional social housing in the area. However, there were concerns regarding construction vehicles entering and exiting a narrow cul-de-sac, therefore she seconded the request for an office meeting.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council approve Planning Application Y/2006/0025/F, and an office meeting be convened in due course in order to clarify a number of site work issues with the Housing Association.

2007/166 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0623/F – TO REAR OF 26 NEWTOWNBREA ROAD, BREA, BELFAST – ERECTION OF 1 NO TWO-STOREY DETACHED DWELLING WITH CONSERVATORY AND DETACHED GARAGE TO REAR OF EXISTING RESIDENCE

Councillor Duncan advised that the applicant had asked for deferment of the application. However, the Planning Service Officer replied that, if the applicant wished to modify the application, it would be more appropriate to resubmit the application.

Noted.

2007/167 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0627/F – 26 GORTIN PARK, TULLYCARNET, BELFAST – ERECTION OF REPLACEMENT DWELLING

Councillor Cochrane advised Members that, while she lived in the vicinity of the site, she had no reason to declare an interest in the application. She went on to request that consideration of the application be deferred to allow for a site meeting to take place to consider the impact of the development in residential and visual amenity terms.

RESOLVED: That consideration of Planning Application Y/2006/0627/F be deferred to enable a site visit to be arranged in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

2007/168 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0057/F – LAND ADJACENT TO 90 CLONDUFF DRIVE, LISNASHARRAGH, BELFAST – ERECTION OF END TERRACE DWELLING TO BE ATTACHED TO 90 CLONDUFF DRIVE

The Planning Service Officer advised Members that Application Y/2007/0057/F had been withdrawn by the applicant.

Noted.

**PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE
(copy previously circulated)**

2007/169 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED RE: PETITION IN RESPECT OF PROPOSED DEMOLITION / REBUILDING OF 26 GORTIN PARK

Noted.

2007/170 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 11 DECEMBER 2006 RE: PROPOSED DEMOLITION / REDEVELOPMENT OF 26 GORTIN PARK

Noted.

2007/171 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNCIL'S PLANNING OFFICER TO THE DIVISIONAL PLANNING OFFICER RE: THE COUNCIL'S OBJECTION TO THE PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF EXISTING DWELLINGS AND REDEVELOPMENT TO PROVIDE 24 APARTMENTS AT 9 GALWAY DRIVE, DUNDONALD

Noted.

2007/172 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: CONSULTATION DRAFT – ADDENDUM TO PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 7 – RESIDENTIAL EXTENSIONS AND ALTERATIONS

Noted.

2007/173 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 6 APRIL 2007, RE: ERECTION OF 8 NO DWELLINGS ON A SITE ADJACENT TO 28 CREGAGH PARK CREGAGH

Noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2007/174 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 APRIL 2007 (copy tabled at meeting)

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 26 April 2007 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

2007/175 : UPDATE ON BMAP

The Planning Officer provided Members with an update on BMAP. She stated that she had reiterated the Council's objection regarding a lack of land

allocated for housing in Castlereagh. The Planning Service had conceded that there was a requirement for additional housing, and the Planning Officer had asked that the Council's views be considered. The Planning Officer continued to say that she expected to receive a consultation paper in June, which she would bring to Council for consideration.

Alderman Rice stated that Members should examine the strategic plan for the Saintfield Road area in more detail, as additional traffic could not be accommodated. She further stated that, due to an inconsistency within the Planning Service, there was a lack of affordable housing.

Councillor Beattie raised concerns regarding over-development of Carryduff. Alderman Robinson agreed that there was a danger of over-development in this area. However, he stated that there was not sufficient land available in BMAP for development, and furthermore, developers saw land as an asset and held on to it. For this reason, Alderman Robinson suggested that there should be time restrictions attached to planning permission. Furthermore, he felt that the availability of land should be increased in appropriate locations, which, in turn, would reduce the cost of land and, ultimately, the cost of houses. Attention should also be paid to the existence of appropriate infrastructure in the BMAP proposals, for example the proposed E-way, as developers would otherwise be required to contribute to the cost of putting relevant measures in place.

Alderman Robinson went on to raise concerns that a conflict of interest might arise at a later stage, which could result in the resignation of MLAs, as Ministers would be involved in decision-making and would not be able to remain in local government.

The Planning Officer reiterated that Members would be able to comment in the forthcoming consultation paper. In respect of developer contributions, she stated that the Council's views had been made known in the BMAP written submissions.

Councillor Hanvey raised concerns regarding the development at Primrose Hill. There had been a requirement for the developer to erect traffic lights, but to date this had not been done. The Planning Officer replied that the developer was waiting for approval from the Roads Service. She added that she had contacted the Roads Service to request a speedy progression of this matter.

Noted.

EDUCATION

2007/176 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DUNDONALD HIGH SCHOOL, DATED 29 MARCH 2007, RE: PRESENTATION ON 14 FEBRUARY 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/177 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE SOUTH-EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD, DATED 21 MARCH 2007, RE: DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL 184 – THE LINDSAY SCHOOL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

HOUSING

2007/178 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE, DATED 17 APRIL 2007, RE: EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ORDER NO 1 2006, CREGAGH, CAPPAGH GARDENS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/179 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE, DATED 16 FEBRUARY 2007, RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO RULE WE INTIMIDATION POINTS OF THE HOUSING SELECTION SCHEMES (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

NILGA UPDATE

2007/180 : RECENT UPDATE

Councillor Beattie provided Members with an update regarding the following:

- Farming issues had been dealt with
- Recycling
- Councils had been issued with guidance notes in respect of Planning
- There had been concerns regarding the policy statement from the Planning Service
- Councillors' allowances

Noted.

2007/181 : SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

RESOLVED: That Members agree to a suspension of the relevant Standing Order to enable a Notice of Motion to be brought forward by Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA.

NOTICE OF MOTION

2007/182 : NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN P ROBINSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR G ROBINSON RE: ABUSE OF OLDER PEOPLE IN NORTHERN IRELAND

“This Council condemns the abuse of older people in Northern Ireland and supports Help the Aged’s campaign to help stop elder abuse. Furthermore, we call on Government to:

- Establish a cross-government taskforce to produce an action plan on elder abuse to follow through on recommendations of the Health Select Committee in Northern Ireland.
- Recognise that all government departments and agencies have a role in preventing, detecting and tackling elder abuse by developing a mechanism which would enable them to come together in seeking to achieve this objective.
- Increase access to independent advocacy for all older people, and in particular those affected by abuse, to enable them to speak out and secure support and redress.
- Secure better protection of older people’s equality and human rights through mechanisms such as the Bill of Human Rights and the Single Equality Bill.
- Ensure the criminal justice system effectively and efficiently prosecutes perpetrators of elder abuse.
- Introduce compulsory training of all health and social care workers on human rights and recognising, reporting and preventing elder abuse.
- Increase and improve the body of knowledge and research on elder abuse in Northern Ireland.”

Alderman Robinson stated that incidents of elder abuse were on the increase and took many different forms, for example, in the Castlereagh area there had been abuse and burglaries. Help the Aged had presented this issue to District Councils to raise awareness, as older people were very vulnerable and found it more difficult to communicate their concerns. Alderman Robinson felt that the Government should take cases of elder abuse very seriously, and the seriousness of these offences should be recognised by the criminal justice system by raising the level of punishment for offenders, and he urged Members to support Help the Aged.

Councillor Robinson rose to second the Motion. He hoped that all 26 Councils would support the campaign by Help the Aged. There were many concerns regarding elder abuse, and Councillor Robinson read out statistics relating to it, for example, it was estimated that at any time there were 500,000 elderly at risk of abuse in the UK. Furthermore, in Northern Ireland, 55% of people questioned were unaware of this issue. As many older people were afraid to speak out, Councillor Robinson urged Members to give this Motion their full support.

Alderman Mrs Rice rose to support the Motion on behalf of the Alliance party. She reported that she was aware of five elderly residents in her area who had been robbed between Christmas and January, and there were concerns about physical and psychological abuse. Furthermore, homes for the elderly were often understaffed, which sometimes meant that residents who could not reach their food were not being fed.

Councillor Miss Hughes thanked Alderman Robinson and Councillor Robinson for bringing this Motion forward. As she worked with many elderly people, she commented that she had come across many incidents of abuse, some of which was carried out by family members.

Councillor Spratt welcomed the Motion. As Castlereagh had a high percentage of elderly residents, he hoped that the Assembly or the Government in Westminster would investigate incidents of elder abuse.

Councillor Mrs Chambers stated that elderly people could be very vulnerable, therefore she felt that Social Services should be asked to visit them to ascertain their well-being.

Councillor Mrs Duncan also supported the Motion. Furthermore, she felt that the situation faced by many carers should also be taken into consideration. There were many elderly wives looking after husbands with dementia, for example, who found it difficult to cope because of lack of care facilities and no respite. She hoped that Alderman Mrs Robinson, in her capacity of Chair of the Health Committee, would take this matter forward.

Councillor Mrs Beattie also thanked Alderman Robinson and Councillor Robinson for bringing this Motion forward, as many elderly people were lonely and had nobody to look after them. Some even died of neglect, starvation and loneliness.

Councillor Ms Bunting rose to support the Motion. She felt that, even though a taskforce had been set up to deal with elder abuse, too little was done to catch perpetrators. Many people who had been abused found it difficult to get the support they needed, therefore there was a need to bring issues such as this forward and protect the elderly.

Councillor Beattie stated that many elderly people were trying to keep up appearances even though they were facing financial hardship, and he felt that this should also be taken into consideration.

Councillor Jeffers reminded Members that there was an ongoing murder inquiry, where a 91-year old man had been attacked in his own home.

Councillor Drysdale also supported the Motion and stated that he would be in favour of the establishment of a taskforce to deal with elder abuse.

Alderman Robinson welcomed Members' comments. He stated that responsibility for the protection of the elderly lay with everyone in society. The Council also had a responsibility for community services and should, therefore, give consideration to support and protection of elderly residents.

RESOLVED (unanimously): That

“This Council condemns the abuse of older people in Northern Ireland and supports Help the Aged’s campaign to help stop elder abuse. Furthermore, we call on Government to:

- Establish a cross-government taskforce to produce an action plan on elder abuse to follow through on recommendations of the Health Select Committee in Northern Ireland.
- Recognise that all government departments and agencies have a role in preventing, detecting and tackling elder abuse by developing a mechanism which would enable them to come together in seeking to achieve this objective.
- Increase access to independent advocacy for all older people, and in particular those affected by abuse, to enable them to speak out and secure support and redress.
- Secure better protection of older people's equality and human rights through mechanisms such as the Bill of Human Rights and the Single Equality Bill.
- Ensure the criminal justice system effectively and efficiently prosecutes perpetrators of elder abuse.
- Introduce compulsory training of all health and social care workers on human rights and recognising, reporting and preventing elder abuse.
- Increase and improve the body of knowledge and research on elder abuse in Northern Ireland."

FINANCE

2007/183 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£103,475.16
General Account (Salaries)	£454,730.63
General Account (Suppliers)	£975,033.04

LEGAL

2007/184 : APPROVAL FOR THE MAYOR / CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO SIGN THE LEASES BETWEEN THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE AND CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THE LANDS REQUIRED FOR BOTH PHASE I AND PHASE II OF THE HANWOOD DEVELOPMENT AT TULLYCARNET, DUNDONALD

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to the Mayor/Chief Executive to sign the leases between the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Castlereagh Borough Council in respect of the lands required for both Phase I and Phase II of the Hanwood development at Tullycarnet, Dundonald.

2007/185 : APPROVAL FOR THE MAYOR / CHIEF EXECUTIVE TO SIGN THE LEASE BETWEEN TULLYCARNET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF THE SIGHTLINE REQUIRED FOR PHASE II OF THE HANWOOD DEVELOPMENT AT TULLYCARNET, DUNDONALD

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to the Mayor/Chief Executive to sign the lease between Tullycarnet Presbyterian Church and Castlereagh Borough Council in respect of the sightline required for Phase II of the Hanwood development at Tullycarnet, Dundonald.

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2007/186 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR APRIL 2007 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2007/187 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION, DATED 27 MARCH 2007, RE: REPORTING ON THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/188 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS, NORTHERN IRELAND REGION, DATED 27 MARCH 2007, RE: ONE-DAY CONFERENCE ENTITLED 'PREPARING FOR 2009' (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt informed Members that the above conference would be open to all Councillors. Councillor Bunting proposed that Councillor Duncan, Councillor Chambers and Alderman Norris should attend. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mrs Beattie, and it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for Councillor Duncan, Councillor Chambers and Alderman Norris to attend a one-day conference, held in the Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown, on 25 May 2007, entitled 'Preparing for 2009', arranged by the National Association of Councillors.

2007/189 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY, DATED 5 APRIL 2007, RE: NOMINATIONS TO HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCILS (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Henderson had been appointed to the Eastern Health & Social Services Council until 31 March 2008.

Noted.

2007/190 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM BELFAST HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST, DATED 29 MARCH 2007, RE: REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (RPA) – CHANGES TO HEALTH TRUSTS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/191 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, CRIMINAL LAW BRANCH, DATED 2 APRIL 2007, RE: TIGHTENING THE LAW ON THE POSSESSION OF NON-PHOTOGRAPHIC VISUAL DEPICTIONS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE – A PUBLIC CONSULTATION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/192 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL, DATED 30 MARCH 2007, RE: SUPPORT FOR THE POST OFFICE COUNTER NETWORK (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council support the motion brought forward by Ards Borough Council in respect of support for the Post Office Counter Network.

2007/193 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING GROUP, RECEIVED ON 12 APRIL 2007, RE: BUILDING CAPACITY FOR CHANGE – A MAJOR CONFERENCE EXAMINING THE CAPACITY BUILDING IMPLICATIONS OF THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for Councillor Ms Bunting and Councillor J Beattie to attend a conference held on 22 May 2007 at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast, entitled 'Building Capacity for Change – a Major Conference examining the Capacity Building Implications of the Review of Public Administration', arranged by the Local Government Training Group.

2007/194 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY, DATED 28 MARCH 2007, RE: RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY – GALA AWARDS DINNER INVITATION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/195 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM A JOURNEY OF REMEMBERING – ISLAND OF IRELAND PARTNERSHIP, RECEIVED ON 19 APRIL 2007, RE: PATHFINDING CONFERENCE IN FLANDERS AND THE SOMME (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2007/196 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE SOMME ASSOCIATION, DATED 20 APRIL 2007, RE: DINNER TO COMMEMORATE THE 90TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATTLE OF MESSINES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2007/197 : SIGNAGE AT THE JUNCTION OF GILNAHIRK DRIVE AND GILNAHIRK PARK

Councillor Robinson advised that he had received complaints regarding a lack of signage at the junction of Gilnahirk Drive and Gilnahirk Park. He suggested that the Council write to the Roads Service, advising them of the number of accidents in the area and requesting that a stop sign be erected.

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the Roads Service, advising them of the number of accidents at the junction of Gilnahirk Drive and Gilnahirk Park and requesting that a stop sign be erected.

2007/198 : NEWSPAPER SELLERS AT THE JUNCTION OF UPPER GALWALLY AND KNOCK DUAL CARRIAGEWAY

Councillor Bunting reported that she had been accosted by persons selling the Big Issue newspaper at traffic lights. Another person had also handed out a note attached to a candle, saying 'I have no work, have child, please buy this product'. Councillor Bunting stated that she had felt harassed, but she was also concerned about road safety.

Alderman Robinson agreed that these activities should be stopped, as they could result in traffic accidents, although he did have some sympathy with Big Issue sellers.

Councillor Spratt stated that he had sought advice from the PSNI. The newspaper sellers operated within the legislation, but any incidents of begging would be dealt with.

Noted.

2007/199 : TRAFFIC AT NEW TESCO STORE TO MILLTOWN ROAD

Councillor Tosh raised concerns regarding traffic coming from the new Tesco store in Newtownbreda towards Milltown Road. Many cars were driving at dangerous speed, and Councillor Tosh felt that traffic-calming measures should be erected at the roundabout.

Noted.

2007/200 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM LAGANVALLEY REGIONAL PARK LTD RE: MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD

The Chief Executive informed Members that he had received correspondence from Laganvalley Regional Park Ltd, inviting the Council to nominate two Members to serve on the Board of the newly formed company. Councillor Beattie suggested that this item should be deferred until after the Council's AGM.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive write to Laganvalley Regional Park Ltd, informing them of the Council's decision to defer discussion of membership to the Board of Laganvalley Regional Park Ltd until after the Council's AGM.

IN COMMITTEE

2007/201 : LEGAL UPDATE ON MCALLISTER CONSTRUCTION LTD (Minute 2007/154 refers)

The Director of Administration & Community Services reiterated that, as agreed last month, the Council's legal advisers had given McAllister Construction Ltd notice to vacate the site of Lagan Valley Relief Sewer, as the conditions stipulated by the Council had not been met. The contractor had now apologised and given assurances that all conditions would be met, including the agreed payment.

RESOLVED: That Officers continue to monitor this matter and ensure that conditions are met.

2007/202 : NEW NO-SMOKING LEGISLATION (Minute F&GP/2007/69 refers)

The Director of Administration & Community Services reiterated the Central Services Committee's resolution to ban smoking at the front and near exit/entrance doors of the Civic & Administrative Offices.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Bunting raised concerns regarding staff who are smokers and visitors to the Civic Offices and felt it would not be possible to enforce an entire ban in the grounds of the Civic Offices.

The Director of Administration & Community Services also reported that relevant Officers were looking at each specific site and operational issues and would report any issues to the relevant Committees.

Following some discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That Minute F&GP/2007/69 be extended to include the side of the Civic Offices and the La Mon Garden.

2007/203 : HONORARIUM TO ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES UNIT (copy circulated at meeting)

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services referred to the report provided by the Human Resources Manager to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting of 11 April 2007, which included a recommendation that the Administrative Officer in the Operational Services Unit be paid an acting-up honorarium during the vacancy of the Countryside & Administrative Officer's post. However, the amount stated in the Human Resources Manager's report was incorrect, and the Director of Technical & Environmental Services provided details of the correct amount payable. The Director of Technical & Environmental Services therefore sought approval that

the Administrative Officer be paid at the first point of Scale 6, £20,895 per annum.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for payment of an honorarium (first point Scale 6 £20,895 per annum) to the Administration Officer in the Operational Services Unit during the vacancy of the Countryside & Administrative Officer's post.

2007/204 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: DISPOSAL OF LANDS IN CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer outlined the details of the sale of land at Edgar Avenue to the Elim Church, Carryduff, and land at Comber Road. She advised that the land at Elim Church had been valued at £70,000 for car parking. There was also a recommendation to include a restrictive covenant for use of car parking/amenity to prevent the land from being sold on for commercial gain.

The land at Comber Road had been valued at £300,000 as it would become industrial land, although the purchaser's intention was to use the land for additional car parking. At the Council meeting in January 2007, Members had agreed to impose conditions to relocate the boundary fence and to redirect any services that might be affected. Although the land has no real development potential in its own right, the Local Government Auditor has recommended that a restriction be put in place that the land was to be used for car parking only.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor Chambers commented that a further covenant should be included that the Council should have first refusal if the land was being sold on at a greater value than it was bought for. The Chief Executive replied that any such covenant might decrease the original valuation, as it would place a restriction on the site and its usage.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Chief Executive seek advice from the Council's solicitors in respect of a covenant giving the Council first refusal should the land be sold on at a greater value than it had been bought for.
- (b) That approval be granted for the sale of lands at Edgar Avenue and Comber Road directly to the purchaser, subject to achieving the valuation and the conditions attached.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.45 pm.

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE