

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Annual General Meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council, held in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Thursday 14th June 2007 at 4.25 p.m.

- PRESENT:** Councillor Spratt
(in the Chair until 4.45 p.m.)
- ALDERMEN:** M Copeland (from 5.05 p.m.)
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice MBE
Mrs I Robinson MP MLA (from 4.35 p.m.)
Rt Hon P D Robinson MP MLA
- COUNCILLORS:** Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Ms J Bunting
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs S Duncan
D Drysdale
C Hall
B Hanvey
M Henderson
Miss R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long
G Robinson
C Tosh
J White
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Chief Executive, Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Director of Administration & Community Services, Director of Finance, Acting Director of Leisure Services and Members' Services Officer
- APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Stevenson and Cochrane.

2007/253 : OPENING OF MEETING

Reverend Brown thanked the Council for giving him the opportunity to open the Council meetings, and outlined that although he had been ill during the first six

months of the year, it had been interesting to see how business had been conducted.

He then opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

At this point, Alderman Mrs Robinson arrived at the meeting at 4.35 p.m.

2007/254 : OUTGOING MAYOR

Councillor Spratt thanked Reverend Brown for all his support throughout the year and was delighted to see him back to full health and strength. He added that he and his wife Linda deeply appreciated Reverend Brown's support, spiritual guidance and friendship.

He then thanked his Party colleagues for selecting him, and stated that he had been honoured that his nomination had been agreed to unanimously. He outlined that he had been proud to take on the role of First Citizen, and from the very outset he had hoped that he would be able to represent everyone in the Borough. He thanked his wife Linda and the rest of his family for all their support, without whom he could not have carried out all his duties. He added that he took away some wonderful memories, and he commented on a number of particular highlights during his year in office, which included:

- 90th Anniversary of the Somme
- Lichfield – unveiling and dedication of memorial obelisk in memory police officers throughout the United Kingdom who had lost their lives serving which included the names of RUC Officers
- Parade and final review of Home Service Battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment
- Meeting Salto Special Olympic Gymnasts after their success in the Special Olympics in June
- Reception for RUC GC Widows Association
- Sod Cutting ceremony for new community center in Moneyreagh
- La Mon Awards Ceremony

Councillor Spratt stated that it had been a privilege to work with his Deputy Mayor, Councillor Brian Hanvey. He added that, given the number of Mayoral events this year, he had been very grateful to Councillor Hanvey who had carried out a number of these engagements, sometimes at very short notice. He paid tribute to Councillor Hanvey's wife Margaret and the rest of his family for all their support.

He passed on his thanks to the Chief Executive, and added that since he had taken up the position he had realized the dedication of the entire Management

Team and Council staff. He outlined that this was particularly evident during the recent floods in the Borough when staff had worked side by side with the Salvation Army and the NIHE, helping those living at Cregagh flats.

He added that he would like to pay tribute to Mrs Joan McCoy, the Director of Administration & Community Services and her team for their support. He outlined that he would like to pass on his appreciation to the Administration Manager, Mrs Edel Patterson who had provided him with tremendous support, and to his Secretary, Mrs Hilary Cromie for all her assistance throughout the year.

Councillor Spratt advised that to date £15,000.00 had been raised for his chosen charity "Living Rooms Appeal", with further monies still to come in. He thanked all those who had helped to raise this amount, and in particular, the Deputy Mayor who was participating in a Charity Run in Lisburn..

He added that it had been a very humbling experience to visit the Marie Currie Centre, and he knew that Marie Currie staff would want him to thank all those who had supported him in his fund raising efforts.

In conclusion, Councillor Spratt thanked his Group Leader, Alderman Peter Robinson and his DUP colleagues for all their support, and he wished the incumbent Mayor success in the forthcoming year.

Alderman Peter Robinson began by stating that Councillor Spratt had carried out his Mayoral duties on behalf of all citizens of the Borough and to the highest standard. He added that people had nothing but praise for Councillor Spratt's dedication and the dignified way in which he had carried out all his Mayoral duties. He outlined that only those who had previously held the post of Mayor would know the tremendous amount of work involved, and he would therefore also like to pay tribute to Councillor Spratt's wife, Linda for her assistance throughout the year. He congratulated the Mayor for a job well done, and added that Councillor Spratt still had plenty of work to do as a Member of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

He also expressed his appreciation to the Deputy Mayor and his wife Margaret for the excellent support they had provided to the Mayor.

He concluded by thanking Reverend Brown for his spiritual guidance throughout the year.

Alderman Mrs Rice stood on behalf of the Alliance Party to thank Councillor Spratt for the way in which he had represented everyone within the Borough, and the how he had carried out his duties with such good grace and professionalism. She added that on a personal level, she would like to thank the Mayor and his wife for their support and kind words during her illness.

Councillor Henderson stood on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party to congratulate the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the way in which they had represented the Borough ably supported by both their families.

Councillor Hughes passed on her appreciation-* to the Mayor and his wife, and in particular, for their kindness to her during recent personal difficulties.

Councillor Spratt thanked Members for their kind words.

Councillor Hanvey expressed his gratitude to all Members for their support and outlined that it had been a privilege to have such an honour bestowed on him. He then thanked the staff within Members' Services and all other Council Officers who had assisted him

Noted.

2007/255 : ELECTION OF MAYOR

Alderman P Robinson outlined that this was the second time he had nominated this Councillor for the position of Mayor, such was the confidence he and his colleagues had in her. He added that she had retired from Local Government in 2001, but he was delighted that in 2005 she had agreed to stand again and to continue the excellent service she had always provided the ratepayers. He outlined that he had great pleasure in proposing Councillor Chambers as Mayor of Castlereagh for the 2007/2008 year.

Alderman Mrs Robinson stated that she knew that Councillor Chambers would carry out the role with her usual commitment and dedication. She added that Councillor Chambers had devoted many years of service to Castlereagh and had ensured best value for Castlereagh ratepayers, particularly during the estimates process. She added that she had great pleasure therefore in seconding the proposal.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Spratt asked Members to vote on the proposal in the name of Alderman P Robinson, and with all Members in favour, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) That the Council agrees that Councillor Mrs Chambers be appointed Mayor of Castlereagh for the 2007/2008 year.

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

At this point Alderman Copeland arrived at the meeting at 5.05 p.m.

2007/256 : MAYOR'S THANKS

Councillor Chambers thanked Members for bestowing the honour of First Citizen on her for the second time and for the confidence placed in her. She added that as a Council, she looked forward to the challenges ahead, such as RPA, and as a Councillor she would continue to serve the ratepayers of Castlereagh to the best of her abilities.

She advised that her chosen charity during her year in office would be Cancer Research, which she had worked for in a voluntary capacity for a number of years. She hoped that she would raise plenty of money to help the fight against a disease that could afflict anyone, no matter what age or gender.

Noted.

2007/257 : ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR

Councillor Chambers called for nominations for the appointment of Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Henderson congratulated Councillor Chambers and wished her great success in the year ahead. He outlined that he had great pleasure in proposing Councillor Drysdale as Deputy Mayor.

Alderman Copeland seconded the proposal.

As there were no other nominations, Councillor Chambers asked Members to vote on the proposal in the name of Councillor Henderson, and with all Members voting in favour, it was

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor Drysdale be appointed Deputy Mayor of Castlereagh for the 2007/2008 year.

Prior to signing the Declaration of Acceptance of Office of Deputy Mayor, Councillor Drysdale thanked Members for his nomination and unanimous support.

2007/258 : MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES

(At the June Council meeting, Members approved the above Minute, with the exception of the membership of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, which was referred back to the Committee for further consideration)

Councillor J Beattie stated that Members had discussed the above matter and had agreed membership of the Committees.

RESOLVED (unanimously) That the Council agrees to the Committee structure for the 2007/2008 year as follows:-

Planning Committee

All 23 Members

Technical & Environmental Services Committee

10 Members plus 2 ex officio

DUP – 6 Members

Alderman J Norris MBE

Rt Hon P D Robinson MP MLA

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie

Councillor J Beattie

Councillor T Jeffers

Councillor Miss V Stevenson

Alliance - 2 Members

Alderman Mrs G Rice MBE

Councillor Mrs S Duncan

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member

Councillor M Henderson

SDLP – 1 Member

Councillor B Hanvey

Councillor Mrs M Chambers

(Mayor ex officio)

Councillor D Drysdale

(Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Leisure Services Committee

10 Members plus 2 ex officio

DUP - 6 Members

Alderman J Norris MBE

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie

Councillor J Beattie

Councillor Ms J Bunting

Councillor V Stevenson

Councillor C Tosh

SDLP – 1 Member

Councillor B Hanvey

Alliance - 2 Members

Councillor Mrs S Duncan

Councillor M Long

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Councillor C Hall

Councillor Mrs Chambers (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor D Drysdale (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Leisure Park Board

9 Members plus 2 ex officio

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

Alliance - 1 Member
Councillor M Long

SDLP
Councillor B Hanvey

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Councillor M Henderson

Councillor Mr Chambers (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor D Drysdale (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

Central Services Committee

10 Members plus 2 ex officio

DUP - 6 Members
Rt Hon Alderman P D Robinson MP MLA
Councillor Mrs A Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Councillor C Hall

Alliance - 1 Member
Alderman Mrs Rice MBE

SDLP – 2 Members
Councillor Miss R Hughes MBE
Councillor B Hanvey

Councillor Mrs Chambers (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor D Drysdale (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB BOARD

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

DUP - 4 Members
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor J Spratt
Councillor J White

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Councillor M Henderson

Alliance Party - 1 Member
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane

SDLP – 1 Member
Councillor B Hanvey

Councillor Mrs Chambers (Mayor)
Councillor D Drysdale. (Deputy Mayor)

Finance & General Purposes Committee

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

DUP - 8 Members
Alderman J Norris MBE
Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor J Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor C Tosh
Councillor J Spratt

Alliance Party – 3 Members
Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor Mrs S Duncan

Councillor M Long

Ulster Unionist – 1 Member
Alderman M Copeland

SDLP – 1 Member
Councillor B Hanvey

Councillor Mrs Chambers (Mayor ex officio)
Councillor D Drysdale (Deputy Mayor ex officio)

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

2007/259 : CHAIR/VICE CHAIR OF COMMITTEES

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That a meeting of the Standing Committees be convened after the Annual General Meeting in order to elect the Chair and Vice Chairs.

2007/260 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EAST BELFAST REGENERATION GROUP

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor Mrs J Cochrane, Alderman M Copeland and Councillor G Robinson be appointed to represent the Council on the East Belfast Regeneration Group for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/261 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CASTLEREAGH LOCAL STRATEGY PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor Mrs A M Beattie, Councillor J Beattie, Councillor Ms J Bunting, Alderman Mrs Rice, Councillor D Drysdale, Councillor Mrs S Duncan, Councillor C Hall, Alderman J Norris, Councillor T Jeffers and Councillor C Tosh represent the Council on the Local Strategy Partnership for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/262 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EASTERN GROUP ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor T Jeffers and Councillor M Henderson represent the Council on the Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee, with Alderman Mrs G Rice as substitute for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/263 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO SOUTH EASTERN GROUP BUILDING CONTROL COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor G Robinson, Councillor C Hall and Councillor Miss Hughes (substitute) represent the Council on the South Eastern Group Building Control Committee for the 2007/2008 year.

At the Council meeting held on 26th July 2007, it was agreed that as Councillor Robinson was not represented on the Technical & Environmental Services Committee that the DUP put forward a replacement nomination to site on the South Eastern Building Control Committee for the 2007/08 year.

2007/264 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor White represents the Council on the Northern Ireland Housing Council for the remaining of the four year appointment which ends on 2008/2009.

2007/265 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO LAGAN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tabled : Correspondence from Environment & Heritage Service re: replacement of Lagan Valley Regional Park Advisory Committee to Board of Lagan Valley Regional Park Limited (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillors Mrs A M Beattie and Mrs S Duncan represent the Council on the Board of Lagan Valley Regional Park Limited for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/266 : RESERVE FORCES & CADETS ASSOCIATION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor Jeffers represent the Council on the Reserve Forces & Cadets Association for Northern Ireland for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/267 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COURT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Alderman Mrs Rice represent the Council on the Court of the University of Ulster for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/268 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – NORTHERN IRELAND REGION

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Alderman J Norris, Councillor J White, Councillor M Henderson and Councillor Mrs M Chambers represent the Council

on the National Association of Councillors – Northern Ireland Region for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/269 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor J Beattie, Councillor Ms J Bunting, Councillor Mrs M Chambers, Councillor J Spratt, Councillor Mrs S Duncan and Councillor M Henderson represents the Council on the Northern Ireland Local Government Association for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/270 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE EAST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Alderman P D Robinson, Councillor J Beattie, Councillor C Tosh, Councillor G Robinson represent the Council on the East Belfast Partnership for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/271 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CASTLEREAGH ARTS FORUM

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor T Jeffers, Councillor C Tosh, Councillor Mrs S Duncan and Alderman M Copeland represent the Council on the Castlereagh Arts Forum for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/272 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CASTLEREAGH SPORTS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Alderman J Norris, Councillor C Tosh, Councillor T Jeffers, Councillor C Hall and Councillor B Hanvey represents the Council on the Castlereagh Sports Advisory Committee for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/273 : FORUM FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND THE ARTS

Tabled : Correspondence from the Forum for Local Government and the Arts re: Nominations (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor Jeffers represents the Council on the Forum for Local Government and the Arts for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/274 : CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT POLICING PARTNERSHIP

The Chief Executive explained that Councillor Robinson had requested to stand down from the DPP due to other work commitments.

Councillor Spratt proposed Councillor Jeffers replace Councillor Robinson, and this was seconded by Councillor Bunting.

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor T Jeffers replace Councillor G Robinson on the Castlereagh District Policing Partnership.

2007/275 : LA MON BURSARY COMMITTEE

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Alderman I Robinson, Alderman J Norris, Councillor M Henderson, Councillor M Chambers, Councillor J Spratt and Councillor M Long represent the Council on the La Mon Bursary Committee for the 2007/2008 year.

2007/276 : INTER AGENCY BONFIRE WORKING GROUP

Councillor Robinson proposed that Councillor Hughes be included in the membership of the above Working Group.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Long.

RESOLVED (unanimously) That Councillor D Drysdale, Councillor B Hanvey, Councillor M Long, Councillor C Tosh and Councillor Miss R Hughes represent the Council on the Inter Agency Bonfire Working Group.

2007/277 : APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE CENTRE ADVISORY COMMITTEES FOR A ONE YEAR PERIOD, AS FOLLOWS:-

Councillor J Beattie proposed that the membership of the above Committees remain the same as last year, and this was seconded by Councillor Henderson.

RESOLVED (unanimously) That the Members appointed to represent the Council on the following Centre Users' Advisory Committees, etc for the 2007/2008 year, is as follows:-

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Branie Community Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor M Long
Alderman J Norris

Castlereagh Community Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting
Alderman M Copeland
Councillor Miss V Stevenson

Cregagh Youth & Community Centre

Councillor M Long
Alderman J Norris
Councillor V Stevenson

Dungoyne Community Centre

Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor C Tosh
Councillor J White

Tullycarnet Community Resource Centre

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson

Ballybeen Centre

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor J White

Ballyoran Centre

Councillor D Drysdale
Councillor G Robinson
Councillor C Tosh

Greenway Women's Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting

Summer Scheme Community Projects Committee

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor C Hall
Councillor Miss V Stevenson

Tullycarnet Neighbourhood Partnership

Councillor Mrs J Cochrane
Councillor T Jeffers
Councillor G Robinson

Tullycarnet Community Forum

Councillor J White

LEISURE SERVICES

Belvoir Activity Centre

Councillor Mrs A M Beattie
Councillor C Hall
Councillor J Spratt

Lough Moss Leisure Centre

Councillor J Beattie
Alderman Mrs G Rice MBE
Councillor J Spratt

Robinson Centre

Councillor Ms J Bunting
Councillor C Hall
Alderman J Norris MBE

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Billy Neill Advisory Committee

Councillor M Long
Alderman J Norris
Councillor G Robinson

2007/278 : REPORT ON ALDERMEN'S/COUNCILLORS' ATTENDANCES FOR THE PERIOD 1ST JUNE 2006 TO 31ST MARCH 2007 (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2007/279 : ELECTION OF CHAIRMEN AND/VICE CHAIRMEN

Councillor J Beattie advised that following the Annual General Meeting, meetings of the various Committees would be convened for the purpose of electing the Chairmen and Vice Chairmen.

Noted.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 5.20 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR