

## **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, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2007 at 7.00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Chambers  
(in the Chair)

**ALDERMEN:** M Copeland  
J Norris MBE

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs A M Beattie  
J Beattie  
Ms J Bunting (from 7.35 p.m.)  
Mrs J Cochrane  
Mrs S Duncan  
C Hall  
M Henderson  
Miss R Hughes MBE  
T Jeffers  
M Long  
Mrs V McCoy  
J Spratt  
C Tosh  
L Walker

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

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received on behalf of Aldermen Robinson, Rice, Councillors Drysdale, Hanvey, Robinson and White

### **2007/559 : OPENING OF MEETING**

Reverend McIlveen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

### **2007/560/ : MINUTES**

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:

- Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 4 October 2007, subject to Minute No. LS/2007/123 Resolution (b) being referred back to the Committee
  - Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings held on 10 October 2007, subject to Minute No. F&GP/2007/269 being considered "In Committee"
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendments:
- Council meeting held on 27 September 2007  
  
Page 2 Minute No. 2007/497  
Delete the first paragraph and replace it with "On behalf of Members and Staff, the Mayor passed on her sincere sympathy and prayers to Councillor Mrs McCoy on learning of her father-in-law's illness"  
  
Page 6 : Resolution (c) – Minute No. 2007/511  
Amend the wording to read:  
"Whether planning approval had been granted for the permanent erection of signs and a large banner at Primrose Hill, advertising wedding cars at David Andrews Ltd"
  - Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 2 October 2007  
  
Page 2 :Minute No. T&ESC/2007/261 – Resolution (a)  
Delete "removal of graffiti and other works" and insert "for work to be carried out"
  - Central Services Committee meeting held on 8 October 2007  
  
Page 3 : Minute No. CS/2007/221 – last paragraph  
Delete 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, and replace it with "Councillor Jeffers was of the view that bag pipes were not the type of instrument best suited to accompanying carol singing"
- (c) the Minutes of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board meeting held on 20 July and 17 August were noted

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **2007/561 : COUNCILLORS' ALLOWANCES (Minute No. 2007/551 refers)**

Councillor Long advised that he had received Councillors' total expenses for the 2006/2007 financial year, but he wished to clarify that he had in fact requested details on individual Councillors' allowances for 2006/2007, but as yet this information had not been forthcoming.

Councillor Spratt requested that before Councillor Long be supplied with this information, the Director of Finance arrange for the relevant deductions from the

allowances to be calculated, and the resultant net payments also be recorded on the schedule.

RESOLVED : That, prior to providing Councillor Long with the information on Councillors' allowances, the Director of Finance arrange for the relevant deductions from the allowances to be calculated, and the resultant net payments also be recorded on the schedule.

**2007/562 : RIGHT OF WAY – GILNAHIRK (Minute No. 2007/498 refers)**

Councillor Spratt outlined that the above Minute related to amendments requested by Members to the August Council Minutes. He advised that he had received correspondence from the Countryside Officer, enclosing Minutes relating to the Right of Way, and he queried whether the amendments requested had been accurately recorded. He asked that the Director of Technical & Environment Services investigate this matter in case it had any bearing on the Inquiry.

RESOLVED : That the Director of Technical & Environmental Services ensure that accurate Minutes relating to the Gilnahirk Right of Way had been forwarded to the the legal advisers representing the Council at the Public Inquiry.

**2007/563 : FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF ROBINSON CENTRE (Minute No. 2007/521 refers)**

Following a proposal from Councillor J Beattie, it was

RESOLVED : That Aldermen Copeland, Norris, Councillors Bunting, Long, McCoy and Walker be appointed to the Robinson Re-development Working Group.

**2007/564 : CHAIRING THE PLANNING MEETING**

In the absence of the Chair and Vice Chair, it was

RESOLVED : That Councillor Chambers remain in the Chair for the Planning meeting.

**PLANNING**

**SCHEDULE OF  
PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 25 OCTOBER 2007  
(copy previously circulated)**

**2007/565 : PLANNING APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN**

The Planning Service Officer advised that the planning applications relating to Items 14 and 25 within the schedule had been withdrawn by the applicants, and the application relating to Item 43 had been withdrawn by the Department.

Noted.

**2007/566 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0229/F – RAMADA HOTEL, MILLTOWN ROAD, SHAW’S BRIDGE : 5M HIGH VERTICAL ROAD SIDE SIGNS, ADJACENT TO FOOTPATH**

Following a query from Councillor Duncan in relation to the above, the Planning Service Officer explained the location of the signs and advised that the Planning Service had consulted with Lagan Valley Regional Park, and they had been content with the proposal.

Noted

**2007/567 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/20070373/F – 10 SOUTH SPERRIN, TULLYCARNET : ERECTION OF PIGEON SHED (RETROSPECTIVE)**

Councillor Spratt thanked the Planning Service for refusing the above application. He stated that in light of the stress and noise caused to neighbouring residents, he asked how quickly enforcement action could be taken.

The Planning Service Officer advised that a decision notice would be issued within the next few days and the matter referred to the Enforcement Section. He added that the applicant had, however, the opportunity to appeal the decision.

Councillor Spratt expressed the view that given the objections to this application in terms of the health and environmental issues, he hoped that the Environmental Health Section would enforce any breach of the legislation.

Noted.

**2007/568 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 18 SEPTEMBER TO 15 OCTOBER 2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/569 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BMF BUSINESS SERVICES RE: “EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF PLANNING IN NORTHERN IRELAND” CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN CULLODEN HOTEL, BELFAST ON THURSDAY 29 NOVEMBER 2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/570 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE WHITE PAPER CONFERENCE COMPANY LTD RE: “MAKING THE PLANNING SYSTEM WORK FOR YOUR APPLICATIONS” CONFERENCE BEING HELD IN RADISSON, BELFAST ON WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

Councillor Bunting arrived at 7.35 p.m.

## **ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS**

### **2007/571 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY – COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DATED 17 OCTOBER 2007 RE: COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

### **2007/572 : REQUEST FROM FRASER HOMES LTD**

The Planning Officer advised that she had received a request from Fraser Homes Ltd to make a presentation to Council in relation to BMAP and the regeneration of Carryduff Town Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor Henderson, seconded by Councillor Spratt, and

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to a representative from Fraser Homes Ltd making a presentation at a future Council meeting in relation to BMAP and the regeneration of Carryduff Town Centre.

### **2007/573 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM COMMUNITY TECHNICAL AID RE: PLANNING ADVICE LINE**

The Planning Officer outlined that, as requested at last month's Council meeting, she had obtained clarification on the eligibility criteria for accessing the advice line, the details of which she outlined for Members' information.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer forward to Members a copy of the correspondence from Community Technical Aid explaining the eligibility criteria for accessing the free planning advice line.

### **2007/574 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2005/0503/O – 2 BAPAUME AVENUE, BALLYMACONAGHY, BELFAST**

The Planning Officer outlined that following a refusal of the above application, the Council had agreed that should an appeal be submitted, the Council would support the applicant. She advised that the Planning Appeals Commission had upheld the decision to refuse the application.

Noted.

## **ROADS**

### **2007/575 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 8 OCTOBER 2007 RE: RE-ADVERTISEMENT – THE OLD MILL DATE, DUNDONALD (ABANDONMENT) ORDER NI 2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

## HOUSING

### **2007/576 : BULLETIN ISSUE NO.5 FROM THE HOUSING EXECUTIVE**

Noted.

## NILGA UPDATE

### **2007/577 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NILGA RE: CAMPAIGN FOR STRONG EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (copy previously circulated)**

Following a proposal from Councillor J Beattie, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from NILGA be considered "In Committee".

## FINANCE

### **2007/578 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£ 78,816.29
General Account (Salaries)	£477,060.05
General Account (Suppliers)	£871,395.50

## MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

### **2007/579 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR OCTOBER 2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

## GENERAL

### **2007/580 : RESPONSE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS & LEISURE RE: POSSIBLE REDUCTION IN FUNDING FOR SPORT IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)**

Discussion ensued in relation to the above.

Councillor Spratt outlined that one of the main issues was that there had been cutbacks in the provision of Lottery Funding throughout all regions of the United Kingdom in order to provide financial resources towards the 2012 Olympics.

Noted.

### **2007/581 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE BOUNDARY COMMISSION FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RE: RECOMMENDED PARLIAMENTARY CONSTITUENCIES (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/582 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD RE: DRAFT CODE OF PRACTICE (copy previously circulated)**

Councillor Spratt expressed his concern that the Chief Constable had changed the policing boundaries to 8 new "Super" District Command Units, and the Unit for Castlereagh also covered the areas of Down, Ards and North Down. He outlined that based on Patten's recommendations there should be one DPP for each of the 26 Council Districts, and similar to Newtownabbey and other DPP's, he had concerns that this change was totally illegal. He outlined that it was also worrying that there would be no Statutory or Independent Body to oversee the work of these Units, and therefore no public accountability. He proposed that the Council writes a strongly worded letter to the Northern Ireland Policing Board expressing the Council's concerns.

Councillor Henderson seconded the proposal, and expressed the view that the reason given for setting up the DPP's in the first instance had been to give a local voice to local policing.

Following further discussion, it was

**RESOLVED :** That the Council writes to the Northern Ireland Policing Board expressing concern at the legalities of the introduction of the 8 "Super" District Command Units, and the fact that there will be no public accountability for these bodies.

**2007/583 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE SERVICE RE: GILNAHIRK AVENUE TO GILNAHIRK ROAD PUBLIC PATH EXTINGUISHMENT ORDER (copy previously circulated)**

Councillor Chambers outlined that the Public Inquiry into the above was being held on 8<sup>th</sup> November which was the same date as the official opening of Cregagh playground. She advised that staff and the Council's legal advisers would be in attendance, should Members representing the Central area wish to leave the Inquiry for a short period to attend the official opening of the playground.

Councillor Spratt emphasised the importance of Councillors from all areas of the Borough attending the Inquiry.

Noted.

**2007/584 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT - EQUALITY UNIT RE: ADVANCE NOTICE OF CONSULTATIONS AND POLICIES SCREENED OUT BY DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT (copy letter previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/585 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM FARRANS UTILITIES RE: WATER MAINS REHABILITATION PROGRAMME (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/586 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND WATER RE: IMPROVED PAYMENT SCHEME FOR BUSINESS CUSTOMERS (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/587 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE POST OFFICE RE: NETWORK CHANGE PROGRAMME (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/588 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM L'ESTRANGE & BRETT RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR DECLARATION OF FINAL GRANT OF A LICENCE : LA MON HOUSE HOTEL (copy previously circulated)**

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to the granting of a Final Licence to La Mon House Hotel.

**2007/589 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MKB RUSSELLS SOLICITORS RE: NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR A TRANSFER : THE AULD HOUSE, 27 CHURCH ROAD, MONEYREAGH (copy previously circulated)**

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to the transfer of a licence in relation to the Auld House, Church Road, Moneyreagh.

**2007/590 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM TUGHANS SOLICITORS RE: APPLICATION FOR THE EXTENSION OF A LICENCE : CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB (copy previously circulated)**

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to the extension of a licence in relation to Castlereagh Hills Golf Club.

**2007/591 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: MODERNISATION SEMINARS (copy previously circulated)**

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from the Department of the Environment be considered "In Committee".

**2007/592 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, RE: THE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2002-2012 MONITORING REPORT FOR 1 APRIL 2005 TO 31 MARCH 2007 (copy letter previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/593 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM CLARE TOURISM CONFERENCE RE: NATIONAL TOURISM CONFERENCE – "TOURISM FOR CHANGING LIFESTYLES" (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/594 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE LORD'S DAY OBSERVANCE SOCIETY RE: PROLIFERATION OF DIFFERENT EVENTS ON SUNDAYS (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/595 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND RE: HLF CONFERENCE – DIGGING DEEPER : SHARING OUR PAST OUR FUTURE ON 15 NOVEMBER 2007 AT W5, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

#### **REPORTS/ANNUAL REPORTS**

**2007/596 : WATER SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2006-2007**

Noted.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**2007/597 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY – COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: COMMITTEE INQUIRY INTO TOWN CENTRE REGENERATION (circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/598 : RESPONSE FROM TRANSLINK RE: USE OF SENIOR SMARTPASS ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Councillor Chambers outlined that at last month's meeting, Members had asked whether Translink would consider allowing elderly passengers who had forgotten their bus passes to be allowed to pay later rather than being asked to leave the bus. She added that the response did not address this particular matter.

The Chief Executive stated that he had clearly outlined Members' comments in his letter to Translink.

Noted.

**2007/599 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM TRANSLINK RE: SEAT BELTS AND OVERCROWDING ON SCHOOL BUSES (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/600 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – LOCAL GOVERNMENT REFORM AND MODERNISATION (copy circulated at the meeting)**

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from the Department of the Environment in relation to the Review of Public Administration be considered "In Committee".

**2007/601 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD RE: KNOCKBREDA PRIMARY SCHOOL – APPLICATION FOR CONTROLLED INTEGRATED STATUS (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/602 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: CHURCH ROAD, CASTLEREAGH – PROPOSED 40 MPH SPEED LIMIT (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Members welcomed the introduction of the above speed limit.

Noted.

**2007/603 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT RE: ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND 2015 DRAFT ACTION PLAN 2007-2009 (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/604 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT RE: DELIVERY MECHANISMS FOR THE NEW EUROPEAN UNION NORTHERN IRELAND RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (copy circulated at the meeting)**

The Chief Executive explained that the Council had previously expressed its wish to join a cluster group to be eligible for DARD funding. He added that he had previously informed Council that he had received expressions of interest from North Down and Lisburn, however, Lisburn had now indicated that they were considering clustering with Newtownabbey and Antrim. He confirmed that both North Down and Ards had expressed a willingness for Castlereagh to cluster with them, with Ards taking the lead in the administration of the scheme. He outlined that Down may also wish to join the cluster.

The Chief Executive confirmed that he was waiting on written confirmation from North Down and Ards Councils and that this would be tabled once received.

Noted.

**2007/605 : CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR EPIZOOTIC DISEASE AGREEMENT TO MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN DARD AND DISTRICT COUNCILS (copy circulated at the meeting)**

The Chief Executive explained that the above arrangement was not legally binding, and should there be an Epizootic emergency, Council staff would be asked to be involved in a voluntary capacity, and only if work commitments permitted. He added that there would be full cost recovery for the Council.

Councillor Henderson proposed that the Council sign the agreement, and this was seconded by Councillor Beattie, subject to there being no cost to Council.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the DARD and the Council in relation to Epizootic Disease, subject to there being no costs to Council.

**2007/606 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HEALTH PROMOTION AGENCY RE: "SHARING LEARNING AND INFORMING THE FUTURE OF INVESTING FOR HEALTH" CONFERENCE ON 5 DECEMBER 2007 (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/607 : COPY EMAIL FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL UNIT RE: CONFERENCE IN THE HILTON, TEMPLEPATRICK ON 21 NOVEMBER 2007 (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/608 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU RE: FIRST ANNUAL REPORT OF THE DEALING WITH DEBT PROJECT (copy letter circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/609 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR M LEAVY RE: INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ECUMENICAL REMEMBRANCE SERVICE BEING HELD ON SATURDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2007 (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/610 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ISLAND OF IRELAND PARTNERSHIP RE: PATHFINDING CONFERENCE ON 1 DECEMBER 2007 IN DUBLIN (copy circulated at the meeting)**

Noted.

**2007/611 : NORTHERN IRELAND SOLACE CONFERENCE**

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to meet the costs involved in the attendance of the Chief Executive and the Director of Finance at the Northern Ireland Solace Conference being held on 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2007 in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle.

**2007/612 : NILGA CONFERENCE IN LONDONDERRY**

Councillor Bunting outlined that as she could not be accommodated in the conference hotel last year, she was the only Castlereagh Council delegate who had to stay in a hotel quite some distance from the conference. She proposed that to avoid a similar situation occurring that Officers pre-book a number of places on this year's conference.

Councillor Henderson seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that a number of places be booked for the NILGA representatives and the Chief Executive on the conference being held in Londonderry in February 2008.

### **IN COMMITTEE**

#### **2007/613 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DUNDONALD GREEN BELT ASSOCIATION RE: FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST, TOGETHER WITH THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S DRAFT RESPONSE (copies circulated at the meeting)**

The Planning Officer sought approval for the content of the Chief Executive's response to the correspondence from Dundonald Green Belt Association.

Councillor Long outlined that he represented Castlereagh Central but had been mentioned in the response as representing Castlereagh East.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council approves the content of the Chief Executive's response to Dundonald Green Belt Association, subject to the removal of the word "East".

#### **REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER (copy previously circulated)**

#### **2007/614 : PROPOSED DISPOSAL OF STRIP OF LAND AT HANWOOD HOUSE, OLD DUNDONALD ROAD**

The Planning Officer took Members' through the detail in her report in relation to the above. She advised that the strip of land was being sought to serve as amenity space to a residential development.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to sell the strip of land at Hanwood House to serve as amenity space to a residential development, subject to the developer:

- (i) paying the market value for the land as residential
- (ii) meeting all the Council's legal costs.

#### **REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES (copy previously circulated)**

#### **2007/615 : BREACHES OF COUNCIL DRINKING BYE-LAWS BY A JUVENILE ON 25<sup>TH</sup> MAY AND 5<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

Councillor Spratt outlined that Officers had not dealt with the above incidents in accordance with the Council's policy, in that, a formal caution should have been issued for the first offence, and prosecution for the second offence.

Councillor Duncan outlined that, although she totally agreed with Councillor Spratt's comments with regard to adherence to the Council policy, the Technical & Environmental Services Committee had considered the sequence of events surrounding these two incidents and had agreed not to proceed with prosecution.

Councillor Spratt expressed the view that there was no point in Members complaining about the lack of convictions by the police for such offences if the Council's own policy was not being adhered to, and this was why Councillor Chambers had asked for the matter to be referred to full Council.

Following further discussion, the Chief Executive advised Members that procedures had now been put in place to speed the administrative process up.

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

**RESOLVED** : That Officers ensure that the Council's policy in relation to consuming alcohol in designated areas be strictly adhered to, and that Officers proceed with prosecution in relation to the juvenile who had offended on 25<sup>th</sup> May and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2007, as outlined in the Director of Technical & Environmental Services' report.

**2007/616 : IT SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR (Minute No. F&GP/2007/269 – Resolution (a) refers)**

Councillor Spratt advised that the Finance & General Purposes Committee had requested that a temporary freeze be placed on the recruitment of the above post. He added that this request had been made on the basis that the IT Committee was meeting the following day to discuss the Consultant's recommendations in this respect.

He outlined that the Consultant had subsequently recommended to proceed with this appointment, and he proposed that the Council agrees to lift the temporary freeze.

Following a query from Councillor Cochrane with regard to the specification for the post, the Director of Finance outlined that it was hoped to increase the desirable criteria in an effort to attract a wider range of candidates.

**RESOLVED** : That the Council agrees to lift the temporary freeze on the recruitment of the IT Systems Administrator, and that Officers be authorised to advertise the post.

**IN COMMITTEE**

**2007/617 : TWO LETTERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT  
RE: REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND CORRESPONDENCE FROM  
NILGA RE: CAMPAIGN FOR STRONG EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
(deferred from earlier in the meeting)**

Councillor Spratt outlined that he was disappointed at the Department's decision to defer the abolition of the Local Government Staff Commission. He added that he would want to see the removal of all such quangos, and responsibility placed with Local Government.

He proposed that a strongly worded letter be forwarded to the Review, advising that the Council was very discouraged to see the deferment of this decision when clearly other bodies and quangos were being disposed of.

He outlined that the position of the NIJC is job proliferation going on and better if transferred to Local Government.

Councillor Chambers briefed Members on a recent conference which she and the Chief Executive had attended in relation to the emerging findings of RPA. She advised that as all responses had to be with the Review by 16<sup>th</sup> November, she proposed that a Special Council meeting be convened. She further advised that she had obtained a copy of NILGA's response, but asked Members to note that this had not been finalised and was currently in draft form. She expressed the view that the Council should be supporting NILGA.

Councillor Bunting outlined that she could not help but be disappointed at what was being proposed for Councils. She added that this was a time when a strong Local Government Association should come into its own in order to send out a clear and collective message on behalf of the entire sector. She referred to Councillor Spratt's proposal to write to the Review with regard to the Staff Commission, and expressed the view that as there were a number of issues of equal importance that the Council defer writing to the Review until all aspects of the Review had been fully discussed at the Special Council meeting.

Councillor Spratt agreed to withdraw his proposal.

The Chief Executive advised that a conference was being held in Lisburn Civic Centre at 12.00 noon on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007 on the emerging findings, and he asked that if any Members wished to attend that they should contact Members' Services.

Councillor Chambers, Bunting, Hall and Henderson advised that they would be interested in attending and asked for the details to be forwarded to them.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to convene a Special Council meeting to consider the Emerging Findings from the Review of Administration, together with NILGA's response, in order that a response could be prepared and submitted by 16<sup>th</sup> November 2007.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 9.05 p.m.

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**MAYOR**

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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**