

## **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, 22 November 2007, at 7.15 p.m.

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

**ALDERMEN:** M Copeland  
J Norris MBE  
Mrs G Rice MBE  
J White

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Mrs A M Beattie  
J Beattie  
Ms J Bunting  
D Drysdale  
Mrs S Duncan  
C Hall  
B Hanvey  
M Henderson  
Miss R Hughes MBE  
T Jeffers  
M Long  
Mrs V McCoy  
G Robinson  
J Spratt  
C Tosh  
L Walker

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

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman Mrs Robinson and Councillor Mrs Cochrane

### **2007/626 : OPENING OF MEETING**

Reverend McIlveen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

### **2007/627 : MINUTES**

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:
- Council meeting held on 25 October 2007
  - Special Council meeting held on 18 October 2007
  - Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 1 November 2007
  - Central Services Committee meeting held on 12 November 2007
  - Special Central Services Committee meeting held on 29 October 2007
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record, subject to the following amendments:
- Technical & Environmental Committee meeting held on 6 November 2007
- Page 11, Minute T&ES/2007/425  
refer back to Committee
- (c) the Minutes of the following meeting be deferred for discussion in Committee
- Special Council meeting held on 13 November 2007
- (d) the Minutes of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board meeting held on 21 September 2007 and the Leisure Park Board meetings held on 7 July 2007 and 17 September 2007 were noted.

## **MATTERS ARISING**

### **2007/628 : RIGHT OF WAY – GILNAHIRK (Minute 2007/562 refers)**

Councillor Robinson stated that the inquiry was still ongoing, but he asked that staff members who attended the hearing be sent a letter thanking them for their support in this matter.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive write to all staff members who attended the inquiry hearing regarding the right of way in Gilnahirk, thanking them for their support.

### **2007/629 : REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION – CAMPAIGN FOR STRONG EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (Minute 2007/617 refers)**

Councillor Spratt referred to previous discussion relating to NILGA's request for strong Local Government, and he asked that the Chief Executive write to the Review Board in respect of the recommendation to delay taking a decision on the future of the Local Government Staff Commission.

RESOLVED: That the Chief Executive write to the Review Board, outlining the Council's opposition to the delay in taking a decision regarding the future of the Local Government Staff Commission and recommending that it be abolished in line with all the other quangos.

## **PLANNING**

### **2007/630 : PRESENTATION RE: PROPOSED LISTING OF DUNDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH BY MR AUSTIN BAIRD AND REVEREND DR IVAN MCKAY FROM DUNDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Baird and Reverend Dr McKay to the meeting.

Mr Baird began the presentation by outlining details of correspondence received from the Environment Heritage Service, issuing two Preliminary Notices of Listing in respect of the church building and adjoining old schoolhouse. Mr Baird explained that it was intended to retain the schoolhouse, but that the Church Committee had developed plans for the demolition and replacement of the church building, which had been approved unanimously during consultations with the congregation. Should the building become listed, this would not be possible, therefore the Church Committee sought the Council's support.

Alderman Rice recalled that one person had tried to retain the church building and schoolhouse as listed. She further sought clarification about the condition of the church building, ie that the interior might be dangerous to use. Mr Baird confirmed that the church building no longer complied with present-day safety recommendations but that improvements could be made to bring it in line with current regulations.

Following some further questions, Members were asked to vote in respect of the decision to list the church building. All Members, with the exception of Councillor Duncan, who abstained, agreed to support the request from Dundonald Presbyterian Church regarding the listing of the church building and the schoolhouse.

RESOLVED: That the Council write a letter of objection to the Environment Heritage Service in respect of the listing of the Dundonald Presbyterian Church building and the old schoolhouse.

## **PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE (copy previously circulated)**

### **2007/631 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR PHILLIP TAYLOR, CONGREGATIONAL SECRETARY, DUNDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, DATED 29 OCTOBER 2007, RE: LISTING OF DUNDONALD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

Noted.

**2007/632 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ENVIRONMENT & HERITAGE SERVICE, DATED 24 OCTOBER 2007, RE: PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CHURCH GREEN, DUNDONALD – ADVANCE NOTICE OF LISTING**

Noted.

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

**2007/633 : PLANNING APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN**

The Planning Service Officer advised that Items 10, 18, 24 and 41 had been withdrawn from the Schedule.

Noted.

**2007/634 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2006/0677/F – LAND 120M WEST OF 80 DRUMALIG ROAD, CARRYDUFF – ERECTION OF RETIREMENT DWELLING**

Councillor Spratt stated that he was disappointed at the Planning Service's decision of refusal of this application. He advised that the applicant and his family were very distressed about the length of time it had taken to consider this application, which had been exacerbated by issues relating to the transferral of the farm.

The Planning Service Officer replied that the application had been refused under PPS14, therefore he felt that the best way forward for the applicant would be to appeal the Planning Service's decision.

Noted.

**2007/635 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0519/F – CASHEL QUARRY, LISDOONAN, SAINTFIELD – PROPOSED WESTERN EXTENSION AT CASHEL QUARRY**

Following a proposal by Councillor J Beattie, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council agree that consideration of Planning Application Y/2004/0519/F be deferred to enable a site visit to be convened in liaison with the Chairman of the Planning Committee and Councillor J Beattie.

**WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 16 OCTOBER 2007  
TO 12 NOVEMBER 2007  
(copy previously circulated)**

**2007/636 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0612/F – CARRYDUFF SHOPPING CENTRE – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION OF 19 NO RETAIL UNITS AND 150 NO APARTMENTS WITH BASEMENT CAR PARKING AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING**

Alderman Rice stated that the development would be unsuitable for the area, especially as many elderly residents lived in the area, therefore she felt that residents should be consulted.

Councillor Spratt stated that he represented many residents in Carryduff, many of whom welcomed improvements to the area.

Councillor Hanvey asked it to be noted that the SDLP's views on this matter had not been taken into consideration.

Noted.

**PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE  
(copy previously circulated)**

**2007/637 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNCIL TO THE SPECIAL STUDIES UNIT OF THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 11 JULY 2005, RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0519/F – PROPOSED WESTERN EXTENSION AT CASHEL QUARRY, LISDOONAN, CARRYDUFF**

Noted.

**2007/638 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR JOHN GREER TO THE SPECIAL STUDIES UNIT OF THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 11 NOVEMBER 2004, RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0519/F – PROPOSED WESTERN EXTENSION AT CASHEL QUARRY, LISDOONAN, CARRYDUFF**

Noted.

**2007/639 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNCIL TO THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 22 MAY 2007, RE: RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF 10 APARTMENTS WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS AT 20 BALLYKEEL ROAD, MONEYREAGH (PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2007/0163/F)**

Noted.

**2007/640 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 25 OCTOBER 2007, RE: PPS14 – CURRENT SITUATION**

The Planning Officer advised that the Council was being consulted regarding an enforcement appeal against an alleged unauthorised extension at 4 Carnbrae Avenue.

Councillor Chambers stated that she had advised the residents to contact the Commission to seek advice, and she asked if there was anything the Council could do. She continued to say that the extension had been in place for approximately eight years, and because the family required the additional accommodation, she supported the appeal to the Planning Appeals Commission.

The Planning Service Officer replied that the Council could consider writing to the Planning Service, but there was a policy regarding access to information.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer write a letter in support of the enforcement appeal against an alleged unauthorised extension at 4 Carnbrae Avenue.

### **ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS**

#### **2007/641 : STRIP OF LAND AT HANWOOD HOUSE**

Councillor Robinson sought clarification that a site visit would take place before the Council-owned strip of land near Hanwood House was taken forward for sale, as there might be a detrimental effect on neighbouring sites.

RESOLVED: That a site visit to the Council-owned strip of land near Hanwood House be arranged before any sale was taken forward.

#### **2007/642 : PLANNING OFFICER'S RESIGNATION**

On behalf of the Council, Councillor Robinson thanked the Planning Officer for her good work and the help given to Members and ratepayers, and he offered his best wishes for her new employment.

Councillor Spratt thanked the Planning Officer on behalf of the DUP for her dedication and professionalism, and he wished her well in her new career.

Alderman Rice thanked the Planning Officer on behalf of the Alliance Party for all her good work.

Councillor Henderson added his thanks to the Planning Officer.

Councillor Hanvey added his good wishes to the Planning Officer for the future. He added that she had been a credit to the Council.

Councillor J Beattie offered thanks on behalf of NILGA.

The Planning Service Officer offered his good wishes to the Planning Officer for her new employment.

The Planning Officer stated that she had enjoyed her time with the Council, especially as it meant she could come home from her previous employment in Scotland. She thanked Members for their good wishes and kindness.

Councillor Robinson also advised that the former Economic Development Officer had intended to attend the meeting, but due to prior engagements she had not been able to do so. As Members had intended to present her with a gift, Councillor Robinson offered to present it to her at the earliest opportunity.

RESOLVED: That Councillor Robinson present a leaving gift to the former Economic Development Officer at the earliest opportunity.

**2007/643 : GROWTH OF CARRYDUFF**

Councillor Hanvey referred to the previous discussion regarding housing developments in Carryduff. He hoped that Bmap resolutions would be taken into consideration when approving or rejecting planning applications in the area. Furthermore, he requested that the new Planning Officer carry out a count of new houses erected in the Carryduff area.

Councillor Hanvey also advised that another sign had been erected, advertising further stages in the Primrose Hill development. The Planning Service Officer replied that he would investigate any reported signage.

Noted.

**2007/644 : BUILDING ON BEECHILL ROAD, INDUSTRIAL ESTATE**

Councillor Duncan referred to a previous discussion regarding additional floor height in a building in the Industrial Estate, Beechill Road. The Planning Service Officer explained that approval had been granted to an earlier application, but there had been Health & Safety issues in a subsequent application, which had now been determined, and the Department had been unaware of any significant increase in floor space and height.

Noted.

**HOUSING**

**2007/645 : CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED ON 12 NOVEMBER 2007 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND FEDERATION OF HOUSING ASSOCIATIONS, RE: PERSPECTIVE ON SOCIAL HOUSING (POSH) AUTUMN/WINTER 2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**NILGA UPDATE**

**2007/646 : NILGA ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2006-2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**FINANCE**

**2007/647 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£145,039.33
General Account (Salaries)	£531,336.21

General Account (Suppliers) £835,910.89

## **ANY OTHER FINANCE BUSINESS**

### **2007/648 : COUNCILLORS' EXPENSES**

Members were dismayed about repeated requests from another Member for details of their expenses for 2006-2007. They were particularly disappointed that this Member had also notified the press about delays in supplying this information.

Councillor Spratt proposed that, in future, Councillors' expenses be published in the Council's annual accounts. Councillor Hanvey agreed, as he felt it was important that the Council show transparency to ratepayers.

Councillor Long agreed that it would be beneficial for the Council to show transparency in respect of Councillors' expenses in line with other Councils.

Furthermore, Councillor Bunting requested that Members' Services Officers be asked to record Members entering and leaving the room, even if this was only for short periods of time.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Members' expenses be published annually on the Council's website
- (b) That Members' Services Officers be asked to record Members entering and leaving a meeting, even if this is only for a short period of time.

## **LEGAL**

### **2007/649 : DEED OF DEDICATION RE: MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE BETWEEN BIG LOTTERY AND CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to sign the Deed of Dedication re: Moneyreagh Community Centre between Big Lottery and the Council.

### **2007/650 : RIGHT OF WAY RE: MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE BETWEEN SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD AND CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to sign the Right of Way re: Moneyreagh Community Centre between South Eastern Education & Library Board and the Council.

### **2007/651 : LICENCE FOR CAR PARKING RE: MONEYREAGH COMMUNITY CENTRE BETWEEN SOUTH EASTERN EDUCATION & LIBRARY BOARD AND CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL**

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to sign the Licence for Car Parking re: Moneyreagh Community Centre between South Eastern Education & Library Board and the Council.

### **MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS**

**2007/652 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR NOVEMBER 2007  
(copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

### **GENERAL**

**2007/653 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL,  
DATED 12 NOVEMBER 2007, RE: RESOLUTION PASSED BY THAT COUNCIL  
REGARDING THE ARMED FORCES (copy previously circulated)**

RESOLVED: That the Council support the resolution brought forward by Ballymena Borough Council in support of the Royal British Legion 'calling on Government to honour its life-long duty of care to those making a unique commitment to their country, serving in the Armed Forces'.

**2007/654 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR  
EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING, DATED 5 NOVEMBER 2007, RE: JOINT PUBLIC  
CONSULTATION ON: CURRICULUM PROVISION IN FURTHER EDUCATION  
COLLEGES AND REVIEW OF HIGHER EDUCATION & FURTHER EDUCATION  
(copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/655 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE,  
DATED 8 NOVEMBER 2007, RE: PROPOSED DRAFT CRIMINAL JUSTICE  
(NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2007 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/656 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF MUNICIPAL  
AUTHORITIES OF IRELAND, RECEIVED ON 12 NOVEMBER 2007, RE:  
BROCHURE FOR AMAI SPRING SEMINAR 2008, TO BE HELD ON 15 AND 16  
FEBRUARY 2008 AT THE TRIM CASATLE HOTEL, CO MEATH (copy  
previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/657 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND, DATED 5 OCTOBER 2007, RE: CUSTOMER SERVICE  
& PERFORMANCE STANDARDS CONSULTATION (copy letter previously  
circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/658 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PROBATION BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, DATED 22 OCTOBER 2007, RE: PROBATION BOARD FOR NORTHERN IRELAND CORPORATE PLAN 2008-2011 CONSULTATION (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/659 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DRIVER & VEHICLE LICENSING AGENCY, RECEIVED ON 22 OCTOBER 2007, RE: DVLA TRAIL OF SMART CARD PROVISIONAL DRIVING LICENCES – PUBLIC CONSULTATION (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2007/660 : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT AND QUESTIONNAIRE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY, DATED OCTOBER 2007, RE: MINIMUM AGE FOR SALE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS (copy previously circulated)**

Councillor Long was of the view that the age when people are permitted to buy tobacco products should be raised to 19.

Following some discussion, it was

RERSOLVED: That the Council support raising the minimum age for the sale of tobacco products to 18.

**2007/661 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, DATED 25 OCTOBER 2007, RE: ADVANCING RURAL DEVELOPMENT 2007-2013 (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**REPORTS/ANNUAL REPORTS  
(copy available at Members' request)**

**2007/662 : ROADS SERVICE ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2006-2007**

Noted.

**2007/663 : HOUSING EXECUTIVE ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007**

Noted.

**2007/664 : STAFF COMMISSION ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS 2006-2007**

Noted.

**2007/665 : CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAU ANNUAL REPORT 2006-2007**

Noted.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **2007/666 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL, RECEIVED ON 5 NOVEMBER 2007, RE: BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE – PUBLIC CONSULTATION (copy circulated at the meeting)**

The Chief Executive tabled the above correspondence for information, and he advised that it would be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

Noted.

#### **2007/667 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 NOVEMBER 2007**

Councillor Drysdale referred to Minute 2007/624, the Enler project, and he reiterated that, if this project were rejected, it would have a major impact on the area, particularly relating to the regeneration of the Ballybeen Square.

Noted.

### **IN COMMITTEE**

#### **2007/668 : NOMINATION OF INTERVIEW PANEL FOR SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS OF DPP**

RESOLVED: That the following Members be elected to the interview panel for selection of Independent Members of the DPP: Alderman Mrs Rice, Alderman White, Councillor Mrs Chambers and Councillor Henderson.

#### **2007/669 : DATE AND TIME OF THE DECEMBER 2007 COUNCIL MEETING**

RESOLVED: That the next Council meeting take place on Thursday, 20 December 2007, at 3.00 pm.

#### **2007/670 : DAY'S LEAVE**

Councillor Henderson proposed to grant an extra day's leave to all staff on Christmas Eve in recognition of the assistance given during the floods, and that those staff members who were required to work on Christmas Eve be granted an extra day's leave at a later date. Councillor Spratt seconded the proposal, and it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That all staff be granted an extra day's leave on Christmas Eve in recognition of the assistance given during the floods

- (b) That those staff members who were required to work on Christmas Eve be granted an extra day's leave at a later date.

### **2007/671 : COUNCIL PARTNERSHIPS RE: DARD MONIES**

Councillor Bunting referred to previous discussion about the likely clustering with Lisburn City Council in respect of DARD monies, and she raised concerns that a member of staff had contacted Lisburn City Council, saying that Castlereagh did not wish to cluster with Lisburn and intended to partner with North Down and Ards Borough Councils.

The Chief Executive advised that there were two programmes, DARD and PEACE III, and that PEACE III had been discussed by the Central Services Committee, and Community Services staff had been in contact with Lisburn City Council in this regard and were currently awaiting formal confirmation that Lisburn wished to partner with Castlereagh.

With regard to DARD, the Chief Executive replied that the Council had been approached by North Down and Ards Borough Councils to cluster with them. Lisburn City Council had not yet confirmed that they wished to cluster with this Council.

Councillor Spratt felt that this matter should be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Henderson, and it was

**RESOLVED:** That consideration of clustering regarding the Council's partnership with Lisburn City Council in respect of DARD monies be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

### **2007/672 : CHAIRS IN FUNCTION SUITE**

Alderman White asked if the chairs in the Function Suite could be replaced, as they became uncomfortable during longer meetings.

The Director of Administration & Community Services suggested to refer discussion about replacement chairs in the Function Room to the Central Services Committee and that quotations could be sought.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor J Beattie stated that, rather than incur nugatory additional expenses, Finance & General Purposes Committee meetings be held in the Council Chamber, but that the Mayoral area not be used.

**RESOLVED:** That meetings be held in the Council Chamber, but that the Mayoral area not be used and the meeting being chaired from the floor.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.40 p.m.

**MAYOR**

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**