

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, 24 January 2008 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor M Chambers
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland
J Norris MBE
G Rice MBE (out at 9.00 pm)
I Robinson MP MLA (in 8.00pm; out 8.30pm)
J White

COUNCILLORS: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
J Cochrane (out at 9.55 pm)
D Drysdale
Mrs S Duncan
C Hall
B Hanvey
M Henderson
M Long
T Jeffers (out at 9.25 pm)
G Robinson (out at 9.35 pm)
J Spratt
C Tosh
L Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive, Director of Administration & Community Services, Director of Finance, Director of Leisure, Director of Technical and Environmental Services, Planning Service Officer, Senior Professional & Technical Officer, (Minerals Unit, Planning Service), Planning Officer, and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Bunting, Hughes and McCoy

2008/01 : OPENING OF MEETING

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend David McIlveen, opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2007/02 : SYMPATHY

On behalf of Members and Staff, the Mayor passed on good wishes for a speedy recovery to the father-in-law and mother of Councillor Mrs McCoy.

The Mayor also sent best wishes to Councillor Jeffers' wife who had been recently taken ill.

On behalf of the DUP, Councillor Spratt expressed condolences to family and colleagues of former Councillor, Dougie Hegney. Alderman Copeland, on behalf of the UUP, and Alderman Rice, on behalf of Alliance, also forwarded their condolences. Councillor Hanvey thanked the Council for their expressions of sympathy and passed on sympathy on behalf of SDLP.

Noted.

2008/03 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

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

- Finance & General Purposes meetings held on 12 December 2007 and 9 January 2008
- Central Services Committee meeting held on 14 January 2008

(b) the minutes of the Council meeting held on 20 December 2007 be accepted as a true record subject to the following amendments:

Page 6, Minute No 2007/686 2nd Para – that the words “concurring with Councillor Robinson and outlining” be replaced with “concurring with Councillor Robinson. She outlined”.

Page 11, Minute No 2007/699 3rd Para - Replace “12 March 2008” with “20 March 2008”.

(c) That the minutes of the Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 3 January 2008 be accepted as a true record subject to Minutes LS/2008/04, LS/2008/14, and LS/2008/17 being considered in committee

(d) That the minutes of the Technical & Environmental Health Services Committee meeting of 8th January 2008 be accepted as a correct record subject to Minutes T&ES/2008/07 and T&ESC/2008/36 being considered in committee and also subject to the following amendment:

Page 9, Minute no T&ESC/2008/28 – remove “and the DPP” from the resolution.

(e) That the minutes of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board meeting held on 16 November 2007 be noted.

- (f) That the minutes of the Leisure Park Board meetings held on 15 October and 19 November 2007 and the Special Leisure Park Board meeting held on 5 November 2008 be noted.

PLANNING

2008/04 : PRESENTATION BY FRASER HOMES

The Chair welcomed Mr L McCabe, Project Manager, Fraser Homes, and Mr A. Quinn, Planning Consultant, Braniff Associates, to the meeting.

Mr McCabe outlined the history of development at Carryduff, which had been identified in the seventies as a growth area to relieve the pressure of housing in Belfast. He outlined the BMAP proposals for Carryduff and then detailed proposals being put forward by Fraser Homes.

Mr McCabe indicated that Fraser Homes proposals for Carryduff included changes to the Ballynahinch Road which would be widened to four lanes at one point to facilitate the flow of commuter traffic. They also included centrally located parkland, housing close to the centre and a reinvigorated town centre.

Alderman Rice queried whether it would be possible to widen the Ballynahinch Road to four lanes. Mr McCabe advised that a traffic impact assessment had been carried out and that the road widening would affect 7 houses in the area with some of these just losing part of their garden.

In response to a query by Councillor J Beattie, Mr McCabe indicated that Fraser Homes owned some of the land designated for housing development and had options to purchase other land.

Members indicated that it would have been useful to have had copies of the development plan being proposed by Fraser Homes prior to the meeting. After further discussion it was proposed by Councillor Spratt, seconded by Alderman Copeland and

RESOLVED: that a special meeting of the Planning Committee be arranged to consider the development proposals for Carryduff in detail and that copies of Fraser Homes presentation be circulated to Members prior to that meeting.

At this stage Mr McCabe and Mr Quinn left the meeting

It was then proposed by Alderman Rice and

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Planning Officer raise with Roads Service the issue of whether the Ballynahinch Road could be widened to four lanes
- (b) that the Planning Officer enquire with the Water Service regarding the water and sewerage system at Carryduff and whether it would be capable of dealing with further housing development

2008/05 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 JANUARY 2008 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED : That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 10 January 2008 be accepted as a true and accurate record

**SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 24 JANUARY 2008
(copy previously circulated)**

2008/06 : APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN

The Planning Service Officer advised Members that planning applications Y/2007/0464/F and Y/2007/0604/F had been withdrawn by the applicants and planning application Y/2007/0621/F had been withdrawn by the Planning Service

Noted.

2008/06 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2004/0519/F – CASHEL QUARRY, LISDOONAN, SAINTFIELD, BELFAST

The Planning Service Officer introduced the Senior Professional & Technical Officer from the Planning Service's Minerals Unit. She advised that a number of issues had been raised by Members at and following the site meeting. She indicated that the applicant had now agreed to relocate the crusher within the site. The Planning Services Officer advised that amended drawings had been requested and that these would form part of the approval. .

Noted.

2008/07 : SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS

It was proposed by Councillor Spratt, seconded by Councillor J Beattie and

RESOLVED: that the Planning Committee meeting be interrupted and standing orders be suspended to allow Item 8 on the Council agenda to be considered at this stage.

2008/08 : NOTICE OF MOTION

Councillor Spratt put forward the following Notice of Motion:

“that the Council resolves to totally oppose the proposals by Belfast City Council to construct a Cemetery on land within the boundaries of Castlereagh Borough Council at Lisleen, in view of the considerable objections received from local residents and landowners, the adverse effect that such a proposal would have on the landscape, the traffic implications for the Lisleen Road (which is a narrow minor country road) and the fact that Belfast City Council already own over 100 acres of land at Gransha which has been deemed suitable for burials.”

Councillor Spratt expressed sympathy with Belfast City Council in its endeavours to obtain additional burial ground. He stated that the City Council owned land at Gransha, which was suitable for burial purposes. He indicated that the Council had identified four other possible sites at Drumbeg, Hightown, Lisleen and Nutts Corner but that two of these, Drumbeg and Hightown, had been deemed unsuitable for burial purposes. Of the two remaining sites, he indicated that Lisleen was the preferred option.

Councillor Spratt pointed out that the development of a graveyard at Lisleen would require major change to the infrastructure of the area in order to accommodate traffic to and from the cemetery. He stated that the area was located in the green belt with extensive views over Strangford Lough. Dairy farming was carried out in the area and farmers, who had invested heavily in their businesses, as well as local residents were strongly opposed to the development.

He pointed out that the land at Lisleen was quite close to Roselawn cemetery and the wider community in Crossnacreevy and other nearby areas were concerned that so much of this part of Co Down was being given over to burial ground.

Alderman Robinson spoke in support of Councillor Spratt's motion and confirmed the strong local opposition to the proposal. She welcomed the suggestion of a meeting with Belfast City Council to ensure that it was aware of the feelings of the local community and the Castlereagh Borough Council.

Councillor Long supported Councillor Spratt's proposal but queried whether all of the land owned by Belfast City Council at Gransha had been deemed suitable for burial. The Chief Executive indicated that Castlereagh Borough Council had been interested in purchasing a small piece of land at Gransha and had carried out testing on a 5 acre site which had proved suitable for burials but that Belfast City Council, who owned the land, subsequently took it off the market.

Alderman Copeland spoke in favour of the motion and stated that the development of a cemetery at Lisleen would require a major realignment of the roads in the area as well as development of a public transport service.

The motion was amended to take into account points raised in the discussion. Councillor Spratt then proposed, Alderman Robinson seconded and it was unanimously

RESOLVED:

“that the Council resolves to totally oppose the proposals by Belfast City Council to construct a Cemetery on land within the boundaries of Castlereagh Borough Council at Lisleen, in view of the considerable objections received from local residents and landowners, the adverse effect that such a proposal would have on the landscape, the traffic implications for the Lisleen Road (which is a narrow minor country road) and the fact that Belfast City Council already own over 100 acres

of land at Gransha which may have been deemed suitable for burials. Also that discussions between this Council and Belfast City Council commence immediately regarding the proposal and the concerns of residents in relation to the proposed site at Lisleen.”

(Alderman Robinson left the meeting at 8.30 pm)

PLANNING (CONTD)

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 24 JANUARY 2008 (copy previously circulated) (Contd)

2008/09 : APPLICATION NO Y/2007/0390/F – 32 GRAND PRIX PARK, BALLYBEEN, DUNDONALD, BT16 2BD

Councillor Robinson requested a deferral of this application for a site meeting. In response the Planning Service Officer advised that he was not willing to defer the application and wished to proceed to issue the decision.

Noted.

2008/10 : APPLICATION NO Y/2007/0642/0 – ADJACENT TO 300 GILNAHIRK ROAD, GILNAHIRK, BELFAST, BT5 7SJ

The Planning Services Officer indicated that, as PPS 14 was still under review, the Planning Office would defer this application if requested by Council and, in any case, it would not be issuing its decision on this application until the review had been completed.

Noted.

2008/11 : APPLICATION Y/2005/0206/F – 24a LISDOONAN ROAD, LISDOONAN, CARRYDUFF, BT8 8AR

Planning Services Officer advised that the appeal in this application would take the form of an informal hearing rather than written representations.

Noted.

2008/12 : OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK’S COLLEGE

Councillor Spratt referred to this application that had been considered by the Council at its December meeting. He advised that the school was now ready to proceed with the contract and that it was important that the work should commence as soon as possible.

The Planning Service Officer advised that issues had been raised by the Roads Service and that the school’s agents had recently submitted further details for consideration by Roads Service. He stated that, if discussions between the parties led to a resolution of the difficulties, then the Planning Service should be in a position to bring forward an opinion in the near future.

Noted.

2008/13 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 11 DECEMBER 2007 TO 7 JANUARY 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

PLANNING CORRESPONDENCE

2008/14 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM A RESIDENT RE: APPLICATION NO Y/2007/655/F – PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT AT 29 BELVOIRVIEW PARK, BELFAST, BT8 – 34 NO. DWELLING UNITS WITH BASEMENT PARK (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/15 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR ALAN GEORGE RE: APPLICATION NO Y/2007/0470/F – 38,40, 42, 44 AND 46 OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, BELFAST, BT16 2EH (copy previously circulated)

In response to a query by the Chair as to when this application would come back to Council, the Planning Services Officer advised that discussions were still ongoing and modified drawings had been received.

Noted.

2008/16 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DIVISIONAL PLANNING SERVICE DATED 13 DECEMBER 2007 RE: PAC REF 2006/A1235 – PLANNING APPEAL BY MR B WILGAR AGAINST THE REFUSAL OF FULL PLANNING PERMISSION FOR A REPLACEMENT DWELLING AND CONVERSION OF EXISTING DWELLING TO OUTBUILDING ON LANDS AT NO 24a LISDOONAN ROAD, CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/17 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE HEADQUARTERS DATED 19 DECEMBER 2007 RE: MAJOR PLANNING APPLICATION – DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION OF 19 NO. RETAIL UNITS AND 150 NO. APARTMENTS WITH BASEMENT CAR PARKING AND ASSOCIATED LANDSCAPING AT CARRYDUFF SHOPPING CENTRE, CHURCH ROAD, CARRYDUFF, (Copy previously circulated)

The Mayor suggested that the Council might wish to consider this application as part of its consideration of development proposals for Carryduff.

RESOLVED: that the Planning Officer liaise with the Planning Service regarding this application.

(Alderman Rice left the meeting at 9.00 pm)

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2008/18 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 18 JANUARY 2008 FROM COMMUNITY TECHNICAL AID RE: REVIEW OF DRAFT PPS 14 – STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT ON EMERGING FINDINGS (copy tabled at meeting)

Members noted that the Council had been invited to appoint two representatives to attend a stakeholder engagement event and a schedule of dates and times was enclosed. After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Planning Officer contact Community Technical Aid to seek two additional places for the Council at a stakeholder engagement event.
- (b) that Councillors J. Beattie, B Hanvey and G Robinson together with the Planning Officer be appointed to attend the event
- (c) that the Planning Officer liaise with Members to select a suitable date and venue.

2008/19 : INFORMATION FROM UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER RE: SEMINAR ENTITLED “REFORMING PPS14 – IS KINSHIP A SOLUTION?” TAKING PLACE ON 28 FEBRUARY 2008 AT STORMONT HOTEL, BELFAST (copy correspondence tabled at the meeting)

Noted

2008/20 : INFORMATION FROM UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER RE: SEMINAR ENTITLED “PLANNING POLICY & STRATEGY – A REVIEW” TAKING PLACE AT THE PARK AVENUE HOTEL, BELFAST, ON 20 FEBRUARY 2008 (copy correspondence tabled at the meeting)

Noted

2008/21 : INFORMATION DATED 18 JANUARY 2008 FROM THE CHARTERED INSTITUTE OF HOUSING RE: SEMINAR ENTITLED “THE RURAL PLANNING REVIEW: MEETING THE NEEDS OF FUTURE GENERATIONS” BEING HELD IN COOKSTOWN ON 28 FEBRUARY 2008 (copy correspondence tabled at the meeting)

RESOLVED: That Councillor G Robinson be authorised to attend the seminar entitled “The Rural Planning Review: Meeting the Needs of Future Generations” being held in Cookstown on 28 February 2008.

2008/22 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 18 JANUARY 2008 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ORDER NO 1 2007 – BALLYBEEN, GLENEAGLES GARDENS (copy correspondence tabled at the meeting)

Noted.

2008/23 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 21 JANUARY 2008 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RE: EVERY SCHOOL A GOOD SCHOOL – POLICY PAPER FOR CONSULTATION (copy correspondence tabled at meeting).

Noted.

ROADS

2008/24 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 14 JANUARY 2008 RE: QUARRY PRODUCTS ASSOCIATION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/25 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE DATED 13 DECEMBER 2008 RE: QUESTIONS ASKED BY COUNCILLORS FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF ROADS SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2008/27 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 23 NOVEMBER 2007 FROM OSBORNE KING RE: ROAD IMPROVEMENT AT FORESTSIDE JUNCTION, SAINSBURY PFS/DRUMKEEN RETAIL PARK (deferred from last month's Council meeting) (copy previously circulated)

The Chief Executive reported on ongoing discussions with Sainsbury regarding improvements to the Forestside junction to provide an additional exit lane from Bradford Court. He advised that, while Sainsbury owned the land, the Council and Drumkeen Retail Park had rights of access. He advised that Sainsbury had proposed that it would provide additional lands for improvement of the road if the Council would undertake to contribute towards the costs of the construction work. He stated that he had concerns in relation to this proposal as the Council did not own the land and providing funding could set an adverse precedent for similar proposals elsewhere in the Borough.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Council write to Sainsbury to advise that it was not in a position to contribute financially to the improvement works at the Forestside junction.

2008/28 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 2 JANUARY 2008 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE RE: NIFRS DRAFT ROAD SAFETY STRATEGY (copy correspondence previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER ROADS BUSINESS

2008/29 : DISABLED PARKING AT DUNDONALD

Councillor Jeffers referred to recent media coverage of parking problems in Dundonald and indicated that difficulties were being caused by commuters parking their cars in disability parking spaces. He asked the Council's support in requesting that the Roads Service ensure that NCP traffic wardens patrol regularly in Dundonald to address the problem. He also stated that additional disability parking spaces were required in the village to enable people to access the bank and the library.

After discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Jeffers, seconded by Alderman White and

RESOLVED: that the Council write to the Roads Service requesting

- (a) that they ensure that NCP traffic wardens patrol regularly in Dundonald in order to control the problem of commuters parking in disability parking spaces, and
- (b) that the Council also request that the Roads Service provide additional disability parking spaces in Dundonald village to allow people to access the bank and the library.

EDUCATION

2008/30 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION DATED 30 NOVEMBER 2007 RE: DUNDONALD HIGH SCHOOL (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt expressed concern at the Minister declining to meet with the Council's representatives to discuss remedial works required at Dundonald High School

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Council write to the Minister expressing dismay at her decision not to meet with its representatives and making a further request for a meeting with her and her senior departmental officials regarding Dundonald High School

NILGA UPDATE

2008/31 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NILGA DATED 8 JANUARY 2008 RE: NILGA PROCESS AND SUBSCRIPTION PROPOSALS FOR 2008-09 – CONSULTATION PROCESS (copy correspondence previously circulated)

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Director of Finance be asked to review NILGA estimates for 2008-09 and report back

FINANCE

2008/32 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

Capital Account (General)	£85,047.55
General Account (Salaries)	£472,837.07
General Account (Suppliers)	£901,343.15

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS

2008/33 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR JANUARY 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

GENERAL

2008/34 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE VETERANS POLICY UNITY, MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, RE: RESPONSE TO OUR LETTER DATED 28 NOVEMBER 2007 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE ARMED FORCES (copy previously circulated)

Members noted the response dated 9 January 2008 from the Veterans Policy Unit, Ministry of Defence, in response to the Council's letter of 28 November 2007 expressing support for the armed forces. Alderman Copeland referred to bullet points on Page 2 of the letter detailing recent improvements that the Government had delivered to the Armed Forces. In particular he referred to a tax free rebate of £140 on the cost of council tax for Service personnel deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan and he queried where an equivalent rates rebate had been made available to service personnel from Northern Ireland

RESOLVED: that the Council write to the Ministry of Defence, Veterans Policy Unit, to enquire whether service personnel from Northern Ireland received any rates rebate or support equivalent to the tax-free rebate of £140 on the cost of council tax available to service personnel in other parts of the UK.

2008/35 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DATED 16 JANUARY 2008 RE: RAPID TRANSIT (copy letter previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That Councillor Harvey and Councillor Robinson be authorised to join the Regional Development Committee's study trip to Holland on 20-22 February 2008 to look at rapid transit systems.

2008/36 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING DATED 8 JANUARY 2008 RE: THE HOLYWOOD ROAD JOBS & BENEFITS OFFICE FAILURE TO DISPLAY A POSTER ADVERTISING THE COUNCIL'S LEISURE SERVICES DEPARTMENT JOBS FAIR (copy previously circulated).

Noted.

2008/37 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NI POLICING BOARD DATED 4 JANUARY 2008 RE: NEW PSNI DISTRICT COMMAND UNIT STRUCTURE (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Spratt expressed concern at the response received from the Northern Ireland Policing Board. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the Northern Ireland Policing Board to enquire about the form and timing of consultation on the development of protocols for the relationship between DPPs and the PSNI command structure and request that it be included in the consultation process.

(Councillor Jeffers left the meeting at 9.25 pm)

2008/38 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND PERSONNEL DATED 10 JANUARY 2008 RE: FRAMEWORK TO UNDERPIN DECISIONS ON THE LOCATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR JOBS RESULTING FROM THE REVIEW OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the correspondence be referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2008/39 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND INVESTMENT DATED 11 JANUARY 2008 RE: INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND: APPOINTMENT OF BOARD MEMBERS (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the Minister responsible for the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Investment to express the view that the Board of Invest Northern Ireland should include representation from elected members in addition to any board members recruited through public advertisement.

2008/40 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM MR LIAM FLANIGAN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL DATED 10 DECEMBER 2007 SEEKING CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL SUPPORT FOR THEIR NOTICE OF MOTION (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2008/41 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL DATED 4 JANUARY 2008 RE: ANTRIM TOURISM CONFERENCE – FEBRUARY 2008 (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2008/42 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ADMINISTRATION MANAGER DATED 10 JANUARY 2008 RE: THE BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES & AMUSEMENTS (NI) ORDER 1985 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That Council approve the registration of Moneyrea Young Farmers Club as a Society under the Betting, Gaming, Lotteries & Amusement (NI) Order 1985.

2008/43 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE WILLIAM KEOWN TRUST DATED 10 DECEMBER 2007 RE: WILLIAM KEOWN TRUST NEWSLETTER (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2007/44 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS RE: CONFERENCE IN BLACKPOOL FROM 29 FEBRUARY TO 2 MARCH 2008 “DELIVERING SAFER COMMUNITIES – TACKLING DISORDER & ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR” (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2008/45 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 15 JANUARY 2008 FROM ALAN CHAMBERS, NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL, RE: SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL CONFERENCE TO BE BASED IN BELFAST IN JULY 2009 (copy previously circulated)

Noted

2008/46 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 16 JANUARY 2008 FROM THE N.I. ASSEMBLY’S COMMITTEE FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: CHARITIES BILL (copy previously circulated)

The Mayor suggested that this correspondence should be passed to Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration. It was noted however that the Committee would not meet before the deadline for consultation which was 5 February 2008. Accordingly, it was

RESOLVED: That, due to the imminent consultation deadline, the Mayor be authorised to respond on behalf of the Council to the Committee for Social Development re: the Charities Bill

2008/47 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE SOMME HERITAGE CENTRE DATED 17 JANUARY 2008 RE: GILNAHIRK WIRELESS STATION AND EXHIBITION OF THE SOMME HERITAGE CENTRE (copy previously circulated)

Members considered a request from the Somme Heritage Centre to cover the costs of a booklet detailing the workings of Gilnahirk Wireless Station at a cost of £484 for 3,000 copies (VAT not applicable). It was also noted that a week of lectures and workshops on codes, ciphers and spying was being organised by the Somme Heritage Centre taking place from 11 – 15 February 2008 with free admission.

It was proposed by Alderman White, seconded by Councillor Duncan and

RESOLVED: That the Council cover the costs of printing of 3,000 copies of booklet on the Gilnahirk Wireless Station to be produced by the Somme Heritage Centre in the sum of £484.

REPORTS/ANNUAL REPORTS

2008/48 : EVALUATION REPORT OF PLATO BELFAST PROGRAMME – MAY 2007 (referred to Council by F&GP Committee) (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Beattie advised that the Plato Belfast Programme was seeking financial assistance in the sum of £1,680 for 2008/09.

RESOLVED: That the Council provide funding of £1,680 for the Plato Belfast Programme 2008/09.

2008/49 : ANNUAL REPORT 2006-07 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (copy letter previously circulated, report available from www.nihrc.org)

Noted

2008/50 : ANNUAL REPORT 2006/07 FROM THE NI FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE RE: PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITY (copy available at Member's request)

Noted.

2008/51 : ANNUAL REPORT OF THE REGISTRAR GENERAL 2006 RECEIVED FROM THE NI STATISTICS & RESEARCH AGENCY (report available at www.nisra.gov.uk)

Noted.

2008/52 : DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN – 2008-2011 – NICCY (NORTHERN IRELAND COMMISSIONER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE (copy letter previously circulated; report available at Member's request)

Noted

2008/53 : DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN – 2008-2011 FROM THE CONSUMER COUNCIL (Draft Plan available at www.consumercouncil.org.uk)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2008/54 : EAST BELFAST PARTNERSHIP

RESOLVED: That Councillor Walker replace Councillor Tosh on the East Belfast Partnership

2008/55 : MOBILE PHONES

The Mayor referred to the distribution to Members of new mobile phones and asked Members to note that Vodafone would contribute £5 to the Mayor's charity for every old handset returned

Noted.

(Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 9.35 pm)

IN COMMITTEE

2008/ : MINUTES OF LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 JANUARY 2008

Alderman White referred to Minute No LS/2008/17 with regard to the installation of plasma screens at Robinson, Lough Moss and Belvoir Centres and asked officers to ensure that any advertising material broadcast should comply with the Council's standards.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED:

(a) that the Director of Leisure Services ensure that any advertising on plasma screens in Council facilities adheres to Council's required standards (Minute No LS/2007/17 refers)

(b) That the following amendments be made to the minutes:

Minute No LS/2007/14 – last line of Para 2 be omitted.

Minute No LS/2007/04 – change "confirm that" in 3rd line to "confirm whether"

2008/57 : SECURITY GATES AT BILLY NEILL CENTRE (Minute No T&ES 2008/07 refers)

Alderman White queried why the Council was covering the cost of security gates, signage and road ramps at the Billy Neill Centre when these security measures had arisen as a result of the Greenway development by Sustrans.

Councillor Spratt stated that the Greenway development was already proving a very popular tourist attraction for East Belfast and was being used extensively by the local community. He felt that any monies spent by the Council in facilitating the development were well spent. The Director of Technical & Environmental Services clarified that the security measures were considered necessary to protect the Council's site and facilities. He also indicated that, in view of progress already made with the Greenway development, it was considered important that these measures and the associated work commence as soon as possible.

After discussion it was

RESOLVED: That the Council ask Sustrans to share the costs of providing security gates, speed ramps and signs at the Billy Neill Centre on the basis that these measures were required as a result of the Greenway development. Also that officers be authorised to proceed with the necessary work with or without an agreement to split costs.

2008/58 : HOLIDAY BIN COLLECTION TIMES (Minute No T&ESC/2007/36 refers)

The Mayor referred to a resident in Grays Park who had not had her bin collected for 5 weeks. She also indicated that her own brown bin had not been lifted for 9 weeks. The Director of Technical & Environmental Services indicated that cancellation of the brown bin collection in week commencing 7 January 2008 had arisen due to the very adverse weather conditions that had pertained during the previous week and the consequent disruptions to the black bin collections. The change to the brown bin collection arrangements had been unavoidable in these circumstances and had been notified to householders on the Council's website and through press releases. The previous brown bin collection had been, as scheduled, during week commencing 10 December 2007.

Noted.

2008/59 : VAT REPAYMENT

The Director of Finance advised Members that he had been alerted by a Consultant from Price Waterhouse Coopers to the possibility of the Council making a claim for a repayment of VAT. He indicated that there was a case currently going to the House of Lords and, if that was successful, then the Council's claim should also succeed.

The Director advised that, in order to ensure that the Council's claim was registered in time, the Chief Executive had authorised Price Waterhouse Cooper to proceed on behalf of the Council. He stated that this would be on a no win, no fee basis and that, if the Council was successful, the consultancy charge would be 20% of any repayment obtained.

Councillor Duncan suggested that the officers of the Council should be congratulated for proceeding so promptly on this issue.

RESOLVED: That the Council give retrospective approval for Price Waterhouse Cooper to register a claim on behalf of the Council for repayment of VAT and that, if successful, a payment of 20% of the value of the claim be made to Price Waterhouse Coopers in respect of their work on the matter.

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

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE