

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 February 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor M Copeland
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: J Norris MBE
G Rice MBE

COUNCILLORS: AM Beattie
J Beattie
J Bunting
M Chambers
S Duncan
D Drysdale
C Hall
B Hanvey
R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long
V McCoy
G Robinson
J Spratt
C Tosh

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

APOLOGIES: An apology was received on behalf of Aldermen Henderson & White, Councillors Cochrane & Walker

2010/68 : OPENING OF THE MEETING

Reverend Paul Linkens opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2010/69 : MAYOR'S ILLNESS

Reverend Linkens passed on the Mayor's thanks to all Members and staff for their expressions of concern on his recent illness and he updated Members on the Mayor's progress. The Deputy Mayor asked Reverend

Linkens to convey to the Mayor the Council's continuing concern and hopes for a smooth and speedy recovery.

Noted.

2010/70 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) Minutes of the Council meeting held on 29 January 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings subject to the following amendments:
- Minute No 2010/12, P9, replace Lines 2 & 3 with “check if additional planning applications had been made and enquire what the enforcement section intended to do about the developments” and amend resolution to read as follows:
“Resolved: that the Council agrees that the Planning Officer writes to the Planning Service with regard to 160 Glen Road to check if additional planning applications had been made and to enquire whether the enforcement section intended to take action regarding this development”
 - Minute No 2010/30 - P13, 2nd Para, 1st line, replace “Councillor Bunting” with “Alderman White”
 - Minute No 2010/46 – 1st Para, 2nd line, replace “of the above” with “of the transfer of assets”
 - Minute No 2010/48 – Include the following before the resolution:
“Abstained:
Councillor S Duncan
Councillor B Hanvey
Councillor M Long”
- (b) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:
- (i) Special Council meeting held on 22 February 2010
 - (ii) Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 4 February 2010
 - (iii) Central Services Committee meeting held on 8 February 2010
 - (iv) Draft Transition Committee meeting held on 18 February 2010 (subject to no substantive changes by the Transition Committee)
- (c) Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 11 February 2010 be referred for consideration “In Committee”
- (d) Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 10 February 2010 be referred for consideration “In Committee”
- (e) Minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held on 21 December 2009 be noted

- (f) Minutes of the Golf Club Board meeting held on 20 November 2009 be noted.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

2010/71 : VACANT POST OF CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Minute No 2010/66 refers)

Councillor Hanvey referred to Minute No 2010/66 agreeing that consideration of this matter be deferred to the February Council meeting and he enquired why it had not been included in the agenda. Councillor Beattie advised that legal advice was being obtained but had not been available in time to include it in the agenda of tonight's meeting.

Noted.

2010/72 : TALKBACK PROGRAMME (Minute No 2010/48 refers)

Alderman Rice asked the Acting Chief Executive to confirm whether the Council had received correspondence from her solicitor regarding the above minute. The Acting Chief Executive confirmed that this correspondence had been received and had been referred to the Council's solicitors.

Noted.

2010/73 : PRESENTATION BY LIBRARIES NI REGARDING FUTURE LIBRARY PROVISION

Councillor Copeland welcomed to the meeting the following representatives of Libraries NI: Ms Irene Knox, Chief Executive; Ms Helen Osborn, Director of Service Delivery and Ms Adrienne Adair, Business Manager.

Ms Knox reported that Libraries NI had been established in April 2009 as a result of RPA and was now responsible for all public libraries in Northern Ireland. She explained that the organisation was carrying out a strategic review with the aim of rationalising and modernising library provision in Northern Ireland.

Ms Knox explained that there would be 3 stages to the review: Stage 1 would look at library provision in the Greater Belfast area, Stage 2 would look at library provision in the rest of Northern Ireland and Stage 3 would review mobile libraries.

She reported that the vision for libraries would be that some would be open for a minimum of 30 hours per week, 10 of which would be outside working hours; they would provide up to date stock in a variety of formats, free internet access, and other cultural and other activities. Larger libraries would open a minimum of 50 hours per week, 15 of which would be outside working hours; they would offer all and more of the facilities provided by the smaller libraries and would also offer specialist collections and resources, meeting rooms and exhibition space.

Ms Knox stated that, in the Castlereagh area, the proposal was to retain and invest in 4 libraries: Carryduff, Cregagh, Dundonald and Newtownbreda and to close 4 libraries: Belvoir, Braniel, Gilnahirk and Tullycarnet.

Ms Knox advised that consultation about the strategic review was ongoing until 5 April 2010. She advised that an assessment of equality impacts of the strategic review was being undertaken and consultation was also being carried out in this regard.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Ms Knox for her presentation and opened the meeting to Members' questions.

Councillor G Robinson recognised the need to modernise the library service but expressed concern that the libraries marked for closure were all located in working class areas. He referred in particular to Tullycarnet which was recognised as an area of social deprivation and he expressed the view that, rather than removing facilities, efforts should be made to direct additional resources and investment into the area.

Ms Knox replied that the location of the library in Tullycarnet was part of the problem in that it only attracted users from the immediate vicinity. She stated that additional funding had been provided in an effort to improve usage but that this had not been successful. She advised that in areas of social deprivation, consideration was being given to alternative means of service provision such as taking the service out to people in schools, community centres, etc rather than asking people to access the service at the library. She advised that the intention was not to remove the library service but to investigate other means of provision.

Councillor Long stated that he had attended the public meeting in Cregagh Library. He enquired whether Libraries NI intended to hold consultation meetings in those areas where libraries were being closed. He also raised the issue of library accessibility and pointed out that library provision within a 2 mile radius was reasonable for people with cars or in areas with good transport links but that transport links within the Borough were particularly poor. He stated that libraries provided important services in areas of social deprivation and reduced the isolation of elderly people, people with young children and people from ethnic minorities. He also queried the statistics quoted by Libraries NI regarding reduced usage in libraries marked for closure and stated that the reduction of library opening hours in these areas had had a direct effect on usage figures.

Ms Osborn stated that consultation meetings had been held in libraries that had adequate facilities to accommodate the meetings in terms of size, accessibility and health and safety issues. She advised the DCAL had set the standard that 85% of the population must live within 2 miles radius of a library. She stated that the review of library services would include considering provision of mobile services to schools and other locations and could also be a one-to-one, house-based service. She referred to the fact that the service had finite resources and the objective was to establish a network of libraries and services that were fit for purpose, safe, accessible,

etc. She stated that, with regard to social deprivation, DCAL required Libraries NI to concentrate on the 10 most deprived areas within Northern Ireland.

Councillor Hall referred to the proposed closure of Belvoir Library. He stated that this area had already lost its health centre, post office and community building. He stated that the library was attached to the clinic and he hoped that the building could be retained for public use. He referred to the poor east-west transport links within the Borough which would create problems for people from Belvoir to easily access other libraries. He issued a plea to Libraries NI to allow the Belvoir Library to remain open.

Councillor Bunting stated that the spate of proposed closures followed a reduction in library opening hours which had resulted in decreases in the user base. She stated that this had followed decades of under-investment in the library service within the Borough. She stated that closure decisions had been based on budgetary considerations and had been taken with little local knowledge and no local accountability.

Councillor Bunting stated that library provision in the area was being decimated with only 4 libraries being left to service a population of 68,000. She made the point that it was acknowledged that the protestant community lagged behind in terms of community development. She stated that libraries were an integral part of the community and their closures would have a significant detrimental impact on community development within the Borough. She also stated that the sector of the population that had been identified as having the lowest educational attainment were protestant working class boys and the closure of libraries in protestant working class areas could only worsen these statistics. She referred to the plight of isolated elderly people for whom libraries provided the only contact with anyone outside their own homes.

She reiterated other Members' concerns that poor transport links within the Borough would deny affordable or convenient access to the 4 remaining libraries for people from those areas where libraries were being closed.

Ms Knox stated that the consultation process was still ongoing and that no final decisions would be taken until consultation had been completed. She stated that many of the points made by Members had also been voiced at the public consultation meetings. She referred Members to the equality impact assessment that was also out for consultation.

Councillor Spratt felt it was unfair for the library service to reduce hours and days when libraries were opened and then come back with statistics indicating that usage had decreased. He referred to the fact that closures were located in protestant working class areas in Belfast as well as in Castlereagh. He also stated that the library service was not giving a clear message as to what services would be available in areas where libraries were being closed. In the case of Tullycarnet, he pointed out that the library was used by the Council and other groups for cultural and community activities on a regular basis and that its closure would deprive the community of a facility that had been well used over the years.

Councillor Drysdale supported Councillor Spratt's comments. He stated that budgets had to be managed but queried whether the only answer was to close down services. He felt that the library service had not investigated all available options for those areas where closures were proposed such as looking at alternative premises or creating partnerships with other agencies. He stated that Libraries NI should review its proposals in light of the comments being made.

Councillor Duncan stated that she had attended the public consultation meeting at Cregagh Library and, while people in the area welcomed the improvement of library services at Cregagh, they were not happy that this should be at the expense of other libraries. She referred to the difficulties of someone from Belvoir trying to access one of the remaining libraries. She asked Libraries NI not to close the smaller libraries but to maintain and increase resources in areas of social deprivation.

Councillor Chambers expressed the view that, if Libraries NI had wished to hold consultation meetings in those areas where libraries were being closed, appropriate facilities could have been provided by the Council or other local organisations. She also stated that the reduced opening hours of smaller libraries had had a direct impact on usage levels.

While welcoming investment in the library at Carryduff, Alderman Rice expressed disappointment at the proposal to close other libraries. She referred to the importance of books and educational materials being available to people living in more deprived areas and she expressed fears that the needs of the elderly were being ignored.

Councillor Hughes supported comments made by Members and referred to the benefits of a library to all sections of a community. She also issued a plea to Libraries NI to keep all libraries in the Borough open.

Councillor Tosh also spoke in favour of maintaining services at all libraries within the Borough.

The Deputy Mayor concluded by stating that it was clear that no Member of Council was happy with the proposals being put forward for library provision in Castlereagh and he asked that the representatives of Libraries NI take this message back to its Board. Councillor Spratt stated that he felt it noteworthy that, while the Libraries NI representatives had initially been willing to reply to Members' comments, they had ceased doing so as more and more Members spoke.

The representatives of Libraries NI then left the meeting.

RESOLVED; that the Council write to Libraries NI indicating its opposition to the proposed closures of libraries within the Borough.

2010/74 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 26 JANUARY 2010 FROM LIBRARIES NI RE: STRATEGIC REVIEW OF LIBRARIES IN GREATER BELFAST – EQUALITY IMPACTS

Noted.

Councillors Bunting, Chambers and Copeland left the meeting at 8.25 pm

PLANNING

Councillor Mrs A Beattie took the Chair for this part of the meeting.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 25 FEBRUARY 2010 (copy enclosed)

2010/75 : APPLICATION WITHDRAWN – Y/2009/0245/F – NI WATER

The Planning Service Officer reported that Planning Application Y/2009/0245/F had been withdrawn by the Department. In response to queries as to why the application had been withdrawn, he advised that he was not aware of the reasons for withdrawal but would enquire about these.

It was proposed by Alderman Rice, seconded by Councillor Spratt and

RESOLVED: that the Planning Officer write to NI Water advising that improvements to treatment works were essential in view of new housing developments in the Saintfield Road area and elsewhere in the Borough.

2010/76 : APPLICATIONS WITHDRAWN – PPS21

The Planning Service Officer also advised that, as a result of PPS21 not being adopted, the following applications were being deferred:

Y/2009/0376/F
Y/2009/0398/O
Y/2009/0399/O
Y/2009/0428/O
Y/2009/0480/F

Noted.

2010/77 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2005/0237/F – EXPANSION TO EXISTING GENERAL INDUSTRIAL UNIT WITHIN EXISTING GENERAL INDUSTRIAL SITE - EDM,CECO, BEECHILL INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, CEDARHURST ROAD, BELFAST, BT8 7RH

Councillor Duncan welcomed the Planning Service's decision to take account of the concerns and objections of local residents and to issue a refusal for this application.

Noted.

2010/78 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2008/0378/F – ERECTION OF 5 NO DWELLINGS: 1 NO DETACHED AND 2 NO PAIR OF SEMI-

DETACHED AND ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS – 292 COMBER ROAD, BALLYMAGLAFF, DUNDONALD, BT16 1UR

Councillor McCoy advised that new drawings had been submitted by the applicant and she asked for a deferral to allow these to be considered. The Planning Service Officer indicated that he would agree to a deferral to allow an office meeting to be held.

RESOLVED : that an office meeting be convened in respect of Planning Application Y/2009/0378/F at a date and time to be agreed with the Chairman and Councillor McCoy.

2010/79 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0394/F – 228 KINGS ROAD, DUNDONALD, BELFAST, BT16 – ERECTION OF A TWO STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR OF EXISTING DWELLING

Councillor Robinson stated that, in view of the fact that there had been previous attempts to erect apartments on this site, he would ask the Planning Service to monitor progress with this application to ensure that the building was not changed to apartments.

Noted.

2010/80 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0403/RM – KNOCKBREDA HIGH SCHOOL, UPPER KNOCKBREDA ROAD, BELFAST – ERECTION OF A NEW (600 PUPIL) POST PRIMARY PROVISION ON EXISTING SCHOOL CAMPUS TOGETHER WITH ASSOCIATED SITE WORKS (DEMOLITION OF THE EXISTING BUILDINGS)

In response to a query by Councillor Long regarding access to the site from Wynchurch Road, the Planning Service Office confirmed that the original access had been maintained and he indicated that he had application drawings with him if any Member wished to view them.

Noted.

Alderman Rice, Councillors Drysdale and Robinson left the meeting at 8.35 pm

2010/81 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2010/0011/F – FIRST FLOOR TERRACE WITH ACCESS STEPS TO REAR ABOVE EXISTING FLAT ROOF GARAGE (RETROSPECTIVE) : 17 MARTINVILLE PAR, BALLYLENAGHAN, BELFAST, BT8 7JH

Councillor Duncan queried the position in view of the fact that this application for retrospective planning approval had been turned down. The Planning Service Officer advised that it was now a matter for the Department's Enforcement Section and he also indicated that the applicant had the option of appealing the planning decision.

Councillors Bunting, Chambers and Robinson returned to the meeting at 8.37 pm.

2010/82 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 19 JANUARY 2010 TO 15 FEBRUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/83 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING OF 17 FEBRUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Special Planning Meeting of 17 February 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Alderman Rice and Councillor Drysdale returned to the meeting at 8.40 pm

2010/84 : REPORT BY THE PLANNING OFFICER RE SITE VISIT - APPLICATION Y/2009/0285/F: 15-19 BALLYGOWAN ROAD, CARNAMUCK, BELFAST – PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF NOS 17 & 19 BALLYGOWAN ROAD AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 31 NO 3 PERSON 2 BEDROOM 'ECO' APARTMENTS (RETAINING NUMBER 15) (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer reported on a site meeting that had been held on 22 February 2010. She advised that, while Members supported the development of social housing, there were a number of issues of concern, details of which were outlined and included matters relating to access, parking, sewerage, overlooking of neighbouring properties and potential damage to neighbouring properties due to the need for deep piling of foundations.

Councillors Long and McCoy both expressed concerns about the impact of the development on traffic on the Ballygowan Road including access to the development. Councillor Long also raised a query as to whether NI Water could ensure that the sewerage and drainage system could accommodate further housing development without increasing risks of flooding in the area. The Planning Service Officer confirmed that consultation had taken place with both Roads Service and NI Water in relation to this application.

RESOLVED:

- (a) that the Planning Officer be asked to write to the Planning Service outlining Members concerns in relation to Application Y/2009/0285/F
- (b) that the Planning Officer also be asked to write to NI Water enquiring about the extent of its statutory powers in relation to new developments and whether these powers are being used.

Councillor Copeland returned to the meeting at 8.45 pm

2010/85 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: SITE VISIT – APPLICATION Y/2009/0410/F – 125 CUMBERLAND ROAD, DUNDONALD, BT16 2BB – RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF TIMBER DECKED AREA AND COMPLEMENTARY STEPS (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer reported on a site meeting held on 23 February 2010. She advised that Members were of the view that the Planning Service should be asked to reconsider its opinion to refuse the application and outlined detailed reasons why Members supported the application. These included the fact that the decking changed unusable garden space to a safe and usable area; there had been no letters of objection and 40 letters of support from neighbours; the visual impact of the decking could be mitigated by planting, staining and erecting trellis; and the application did not set a precedent in the area as the same set of circumstances did not apply to any other garden.

RESOLVED: that the Planning Officer be asked to write to the Planning Service putting forward the Council's support for this application.

2010/86 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING OF 24 FEBRUARY 2010 (copy tabled at the meeting)

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Special Planning Meeting of 24 February 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings

2010/87 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 1 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE RE: PLANNING APPLICATION BY DUNDONALD LEISURE LLP – LANDS AT OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, BELFAST, OPPOSITE DAVID LLOYD LEISURE CENTRE (copy previously circulated)

In response to query by Councillor Robinson, the Planning Officer advised that this location had originally been zoned in BMAP as a leisure park and the change of use to office accommodation would be taking it further away from that designated usage.

Noted.

2010/88 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 10 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY RE: STRATEGIC PLANNING APPLICATIONS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER PLANNING BUSINESS

2010/89 : CHANGE TO TIME OF SPECIAL PLANNING MEETING

RESOLVED: that the time of the Special Planning Meeting taking place on Thursday 4 March 2010 be changed from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm

2010/90 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM GT DESIGN RE: PLANNING APPLICATIONS Y/2009/0480/F, Y/2009/0428/O, Y/2009/0398/O AND Y/2009/0399/O (copy tabled at the meeting)

Noted.

Councillor Copeland took the chair.

ROADS

2010/91 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 21 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: THE GLENSHARRAGH PARK, CASTLEREAGH (ABANDONMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/92 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 9 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: THE GLENSHARRAGH PARK, CASTLEREAGH (ABANDONMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/93 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 21 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: WORKS ON SAINTFIELD ROAD (copy previously circulated)

Members expressed disappointment with the response received from the Roads Service. Alderman Rice stated that the £6k spent on building a retaining wall at the rear of the bus shelter near the junction with Mealough Road could have been better spent elsewhere.

Councillor Hanvey was unhappy with the response regarding the lack of compensation to businesses that had suffered financial loss due to roadworks affecting their trade. He referred to ongoing disruption on the Saintfield Road caused by Roads Service works that had then been followed by more disruption and loss of electricity due to works by a utility company. Councillor Spratt pointed out that drivers who suffered damage to their cars due to pot holes were entitled to compensation and he felt that businesses whose trade was adversely affected by road works should also be compensated.

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

RESOLVED: that the Council write to Road Service asking them to review the regulations relating to entitlement to compensation for businesses who suffered financial loss as a result of road works.

2010/94 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 3 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: RAVENSWOOD PARK, CASTLEREAGH – UPGRADE OF EXISTING TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/95 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 3 FEBRUARY 2010 RE: ROADS (NI) ORDER 1993 – PROPOSED ABANDONMENT OF LAND AT 183 SAINTFIELD ROAD, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/96 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT DATED 3 FEBRUARY 2010 RE: ROADS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL (REFERRED TO COUNCIL BY THE F&GP COMMITTEE) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

HOUSING

2010/97 : EMAIL FROM CONSTRUCTING EXCELLENCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND RE: SUSTAINABLE REFURBISHMENT OF HOUSING CONFERENCE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/98 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 8 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: HITTING THE HOUSING CHALLENGE HEAD-ON (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/99 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 19 JANUARY 2010 FROM bmf BUSINESS SERVICES RE: NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING CONFERENCE 2010 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that Alderman White, if available, be nominated to attend this conference on behalf of the Council

2010/100 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 22 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RE: PROPOSED HOUSING BILL (NORTHERN IRELAND) – REMINDER

Noted.

2010/101 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 29 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: EXTINGUISHMENT

**OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ORDER NO 2 2009 – TULLYCARNET,
GRANTON HEIGHTS (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

**2010/102 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 8 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM
THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE: DRAFT
CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PLANS (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

FINANCE

2010/103 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

General Account (Suppliers)	£655,429.68
General Account (Emergency Payments)	£120,560.00
Subsidiary Account (Wages & Salaries)	£851,147.14

LEGAL

**2010/104 : PERMISSION TO SIGN THE EASEMENT AND WAYLEAVE
FOR EASTPOINT IN RESPECT OF THE HANWOOD TRUST**

(Alderman Norris and Councillors Drysdale and Robinson declared an interest in this matter)

RESOLVED : that the Council approve the signing of the easement and wayleave for Eastpoint in respect of the Hanwood Trust.

**2010/105 : LETTING BY LEISURE PARK BOARD OF UNIT IN
EASTPOINT VILLAGE, DUNDONALD**

It was reported for Members' information that Leisure Park Board, as superior landlord, had approved the letting of a unit in Eastpoint village Dundonald, to Rooster (NI) Ltd for proposed use as a restaurant trading as Yermanos.

Noted.

GENERAL

**2010/106 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL RE: REVIEW OF NON-
DOMESTIC VACANT RATING AND EXCLUSION OF COMPANIES IN
ADMINISTRATION (copy previously circulated)**

Noted.

2010/107 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NILGA RE: REVIEW OF NON-DOMESTIC VACANT RATING AND EXCLUSION OF COMPANIES IN ADMINISTRATION (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/108 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 20 JANUARY 2010 FROM AWARE RE: DEPRESSION AWARE WEEK: CHANGING MINDS ABOUT DEPRESSION (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that the correspondence from Aware re: Depression Aware Week be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2010/109 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 21 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE DIRECT COMMUNICATIONS UNIT AT 10 DOWNING STREET RE: BRITISH FORCES POST OFFICE (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/110 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND RE: PROPOSED BUDGET CUTS TO SPORTS BUDGETS 2010/11 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Bunting referred to the template letter defending sports funding that the Council was being asked to submit and queried why this was being sent to the Chair of the Culture Arts & Leisure Committee rather than to the Minister. After discussion it was

RESOLVED: that the Council endorse and forward the letter defending sports funding to the Minister.

2010/111 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 27 JANUARY 2010 FROM HSENI RE: CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENT: PROPOSALS FOR REMOVING THE DOCKS FORM FROM THE DOCKS REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1989 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/112 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 1 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE (CONSTRUCTION AND USE) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1989 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/113 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE 3RD EC DIRECTIVE ON DRIVING LICENCES (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/114 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: ROSE ENERGY (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/115 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 25 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY RE: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT: NORTHERN IRELAND STRATEGY FOR NURSING AND MIDWIFERY 2010-2015 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/116 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 8 JANUARY 2010 FROM AGE CONCERN HELP THE AGED NI RE: REQUEST THAT THE COUNCIL ENDORSE THE FIT FOR PURPOSE PROGRAMME (copy letter previously circulated)

RESOLVED : that the Council endorse Age Concern Help the Aged's Fit for Purpose Programme.

2010/117 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 4 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM NILGA RE: UPDATE FROM NILGA FULL MEMBERS (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/118 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 31 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: RPA (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/119 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 21 JANUARY 2010 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND AUDIT OFFICE RE: CONSULTATION – STUDY FOR IMPROVING ECONOMY, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS (ABSENTEEISM IN NORTHERN IRELAND COUNCILS 2009-10) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/120 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 11 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES AND PUBLIC SAFETY RE: PROPOSED SUNBED BILL TO REGULATE THE SUNBED INDUSTRY IN NORTHERN IRELAND- REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that this correspondence be referred to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee for consideration.

2010/121 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 9 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM WWF NORTHERN IRELAND RE: EARTH HOUR INITIATIVE (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that the Council support the Earth Hour initiative taking place on Saturday 27 March 2010 at 8.30 pm

2010/122 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 8 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM LARNE BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: DISPLAY OF FLAGS AND EMBLEMS (copy correspondence previously circulated)

RESOLVED: that this correspondence be referred to Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

ANNUAL REPORTS

2010/123 : CORRESPONDENCE DATED 11 FEBRUARY 2010 FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD RE: 5TH HUMAN RIGHTS ANNUAL REPORT MONITORING THE COMPLIANCE OF THE PSNI WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ACT 1998 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2010/124 : COSTS OF BY-ELECTION

Councillor Drysdale sought clarification as to whether it was customary for the Council to include provision in the rates for the costs of holding a by-election. The Acting Chief Executive advised that this could vary from year to year but that it was her understanding that provision for the costs of a by-election had been included in the estimates for the incoming year. Some Members stated that, as Members had agreed in the event of a vacancy to co-opt rather than to hold a by-election, it had not therefore been necessary to include provision in the estimates for by-election costs.

Noted.

2010/125 : JENNIFER McCORKELL

Councillor Duncan referred to the fact that the Olympic skater, Jennifer McCorkell, used to practise at Dundonald Icebowl and suggested that the Council should write to her congratulating her on reaching the Olympics and wishing her the best in her future career.

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

RESOLVED: that the Council write to Jennifer McCorkell congratulating her in reaching the Olympics and wishing her the best in her future skating career.

Councillor Robinson left the meeting at 9.25 pm

IN COMMITTEE

2010/126 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 11 FEBRUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Long referred to 3rd Para, Page 3, and advised that he had not been a member of the Estimates Working Group and therefore felt that this reference should be removed.

RESOLVED : that the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 11 February 2010 be approved as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, subject 3rd Para, Page 3 in Minute No. 2010/61 being amended by removal of “in particular Councillor Long”

2010/127 : MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE OF 10 FEBRUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Beattie stated that there were issues of accuracy relating to minutes dealing with draft estimates and also to the minute dealing with the Consilium Software Contract.

Councillor J Beattie proposed that the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee of 10 February 2010 be adopted subject to the following amendments:

- Replacement of Minutes F&GP/2010/51, F&GP/2010/52, F&GP/2010/53 and F&GP/2010/54 with the following minute:

“F&GP/2010/51: Draft Estimates 2010/2011 year

The Senior Accountant (SA) referred Members to the content of his report in respect of final draft estimates for the 2010/2011 year. He drew specific attention to the following matters:

- a) Council Reserves as at 31 March 2011*
- b) Capital funding position*
- c) Capital expenditure – 3 year plan*
- d) Final projection of District Rates for 2011/12 year (assuming RPA is delayed)*
- e) DOE guidance on RPA expenditure and District Fund requirements*

Councillor Chambers expressed concern that, once the new Council merged following RPA and if a substantial part of the existing rate base moved to Belfast City Council, the ratepayers of Castlereagh would receive a large hike in their rates.

Councillor Duncan referred to Council’s applied reserves amounting to £1.25m and asked if the Council had any remaining funds, to which

the SA responded by stating that the Council had adequate reserves left in accordance with RPA guidance. The SA further stated that the projected reserves did not include provision for redundancies and pension liabilities.

Councillor Bunting asked how realistic the final projections were as contained in the Officer's report and also what impact the utilisation of the capital fund on capital outlay would have on leisure capital projects. The SA replied that the Council was taking prudent steps through its implementation of an expenditure moratorium and also a tightening up of the invoice procedures to ensure that the projected underspends were realistic. He also commented that future leisure projects would have to be financed by drawing down loans and utilizing the balance on the capital fund. He did however state that the DOE were tightening up its policies on capital spend in the lead up to RPA.

Councillor Jack Beattie referred to the impact of loan charges for DIIB and the SA clarified that provision had been made in the estimates for initial consultancy costs. The SA further clarified that loan sanction applications would have to be submitted to the DOE along with the economic appraisals.

In response to a question from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Copeland, the SA advised that he had consulted with the LPS to ensure that the Council had received the most up-to-date financial information following the recent closures of industrial premises in the Borough.

Councillor Chambers then expressed her view that the Council should only have to repay any loans in respect of RPA expenditure, when it had generated surplus funds. Councillor Bunting further expressed concern that whilst Castlereagh took a prudent fiscal approach, they were being penalised for those Councils who did not adopt a similar stance.

Following further detailed discussion it was resolved that

- a) The final draft estimates for 2010/2011, as tabled by the Senior Accountant be recommended to the Council for approval*
 - b) Officers circulate a copy of the detailed estimates to Members prior to the start of the Council meeting on 11 February 2010 to strike District Rates for the year 2010/2011."*
- Replacement of Minute F&GP/2010/58 with the following minute:

"F&GP/2010/58 CONSILIUM SOFTWARE CONTRACT

It was reported that, as Members would be aware, the Environmental Health Service Unit had been using Consilium software for approximately 12 years. A new 3 year contract had been drawn up

by officers from the Best Practice Group which had been finalised by Tughan and Co, Solicitors, Belfast, and was available for perusal in the Environmental Health Service Unit.

Members were advised that the contract had gone to all 16 local authority Consilium users including Lisburn City Council who had signed the 3 year contract with an option of quitting after Year 2. This option allowed merging Councils to migrate their data and determine whether or not to stay with the present software provider. This would allow both Lisburn and Castlereagh in September 2011 to consider whether or not to sign up for the additional third year or change to an alternative software provider. The continuation of this contract would ensure that both Councils would be able to migrate environmental health information and would assist in the delivery of service post RPA.

Financial provision had been included in the budget and subsequent estimates for the continuation of the existing contract and approval was now sought for signing of the contract on behalf of the Council

RESOLVED: that the Council authorise the IT Manager to sign the Consilium contract for which financial provision had been secured at a cost of £5,000 per annum”

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the Finance & General Committee meeting of 10 February 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings subject to replacement of Minutes F&GP/2010/52, F&GP/2010/53, F&GP/2010/54 and F&GP/2010/58 as detailed above.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.55 pm

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR