

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 28 January 2010 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councillor M Copeland
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: M Henderson
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice MBE
J White

COUNCILLORS: Mrs A Beattie
J Beattie
Ms J Bunting
Mrs M Chambers
Mrs J Cochrane
Mrs S Duncan
C Hall
B Hanvey
Miss R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
M Long
Mrs V McCoy
G Robinson
J Spratt MLA
C Tosh

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

APOLOGIES: An apology was received on behalf of Councillor Walker

2010/01 : OPENING OF THE MEETING

Reverend Paul Linkens opened the meeting with a prayer.

Noted.

2010/02 : COUNCILLOR WALKER

Councillor Spratt expressed his best wishes to the Mayor and his wife in respect of the very difficult time they had experienced over the past few days waiting on test results. He added that the thoughts and prayers of Members will be with Councillor Walker and his family for a speedy recovery.

Alderman Henderson expressed the view that due to the nature of Councillor Walker's illness, there should be no pressure placed on him to attend Council/Committee meetings.

Alderman Rice and Councillor Hanvey stood on behalf of their Party colleagues to wish the Mayor a speedy recovery and to express their full support for Alderman Henderson's comments.

Councillor Tosh also expressed his best wishes to the Mayor and that he hoped it would not be too long before Councillor Walker was back in the Council Chamber.

Councillor Copeland asked Reverend Linkens to pass on all Members' best wishes to the Mayor.

Noted.

2010/03 : MINUTES

RESOLVED : That

- (a) the Minutes of the following meetings be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings:
 - (i) Central Services Committee meeting held on 11 January 2010
 - (ii) Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 19 January 2010
 - (iii) Leisure Services Committee meeting held on 20 January 2010
- (b) Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 13 January 2010 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, subject to the following amendments:

Page 4 – Minute No. F&GP/2010/04
Insert a third paragraph to read, as follows:

In response to a query from Councillor Cochrane as to whether it was necessary for staff mobile phones to be replaced, the Senior Accountant advised that a number staff phones were broken, coupled with the fact that the phones were no longer retaining any significant level of battery life and were constantly needing to be charged.

Page 10 – Minute No. F&GP/2010/10
Delete "FOI Information" from the body of the Minute and in resolution (b) and replace it with "Publication Scheme"

- (c) Minutes of the Council meeting held on 17 December 2009 be accepted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings, subject to Minute No. 2009/715 being referred for consideration "In Committee"
- (d) Minutes of the Transition Committee meeting held on 21 January 2010 be referred for consideration "In Committee".

- (e) Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 13 January 2010 be referred for consideration "In Committee"
- (f) Minutes of the Special Leisure Park Board meeting held on 4 November 2009 and the Leisure Park Board meeting held on 16 November 2009 were noted

Councillor Robinson left the meeting.

2010/04 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2010

Councillor Long sought clarification as to why the Minutes had not been included with the Agenda papers, particularly given that Minutes of subsequent meetings had been.

The Acting Chief Executive advised that this was due to timescale and the need to ensure accuracy.

Alderman Rice indicated that, in line with the Council's Standing Orders, Members had to be provided with a copy of the Minutes prior to the meeting commencing and should therefore not be adopted this evening.

The Acting Chief Executive outlined that Officers were currently under pressure due to a heavy workload and the Minutes had just been finalised earlier in the day.

Councillor Copeland stated that if Members felt strongly, the Minutes could be tabled for adoption at the next Special Council meeting.

Councillor Drysdale asked if he could be provided with a copy now.

Councillor Copeland advised that the Acting Chief Executive was recommending that the Minutes be considered "In Committee", together with a report on a number of issues referred to within the Special Council Minutes.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Acting Chief Executive should circulate the Minutes.

RESOLVED : That the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 13 January 2010 be considered "In Committee".

Councillor Robinson returned to the meeting.

2010/05 : PRESENTATION BY MR SEAN BROWN, HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT AND CORPORATE SERVICES, HSC PATIENT AND CLIENT COUNCIL

Councillor Copeland welcomed Mr Brown to the meeting.

Mr Brown outlined that the Patient & Client Council was a powerful, independent voice in health and social care for patients, clients, carers and communities. He added that its statutory functions were to engage with the public, help people to make a complaint and provide advice and information.

Alderman Henderson and Councillor Spratt left the meeting.

Mr Brown detailed the current structure of the Patient & Client Council and the locations of its regional and local offices. He took Members through the work that had been carried out to date and the proposed actions for the next 12 months.

Alderman Henderson returned to the meeting.

Mr Brown then addressed Members' queries in respect of the following:

- whether financial provision was in place for the next 12 months
- contact details for the regional and local offices
- advocacy
- complaints being fed back to the relevant bodies
- inspections
- trolley waits

Noted.

Councillor Copeland thanked Mr Brown for attending the Council meeting.

Councillors Spratt returned to the meeting.

**2010/06 : PRESENTATION BY ALISON MILLAR, ASSISTANT SECRETARY,
NIPSA RE: FUTURE LIBRARY PROVISION**

Councillor Copeland welcomed Mrs Millar to the meeting.

Mrs Millar outlined that Members may be aware that Libraries NI intended to close up to 15 libraries across the Belfast area. She detailed what this would mean for library provision in the Castlereagh area, as follows:

- (a) Dundonald and Carryduff libraries are deemed fit for purpose and would be retained
- (b) Newtownbreda library is deemed sustainable but requires significant investment, either on current or new site
- (c) Belvoir, Braniel, Gilnahirk and Tullycarnet libraries are deemed no longer viable and should close

Mrs Millar reported that the reasons given for the libraries being deemed no longer viable had been set out within Libraries NI Consultation document, i.e.

- not fit for purpose
- not capable of delivering on the vision of Libraries NI
- not in the right location; and
- sustainability

She indicated that 70% of the libraries ear-marked for closure were in Protestant working class areas and library provision in Castlereagh would be reduced from 7 to 3.

Mrs Millar outlined that despite widespread opposition to the reduction in opening hours at Braniel, Gilnahirk and Belvoir libraries, the Commissioners of the SEELB pushed through the reduction of hours of these three libraries in 2006/2007. She indicated that it was therefore natural that active borrowers and issues dropped and this drop in usage was now being used to sustain Libraries NI's argument for closure.

Mrs Millar advised that Libraries NI's public consultation meetings had commenced on 1 January 2010 and they had only advised the public of its consultation process this week. She added that it was her view that these meetings had been organised in venues which would not encourage a good turnout from those people living in areas where the libraries were under threat.

She advised that the public consultation meeting for the libraries under threat in Castlereagh was being held in Cregagh library on 3 February 2010. She asked if the Council would consider objecting to the venue and the relatively short notice.

Mrs Millar outlined that NIPSA would be organising a number of protests and asked if the Council would support them by carrying out the following:

- write to the Chief Executive and Chairman of Libraries NI strongly objecting to their proposals
- organise and support local community groups in defending local libraries
- attend the public meetings and register your grave concerns
- be prepared to fight to save the library provision in local areas
- raise the matter with the Culture, Arts and Leisure Committee and with the Minister
- seek a meeting with Libraries NI

A detailed discussion ensued in respect of the following:

- lack of adequate bus routes across the Borough
- closure of libraries in areas of social need
- reduction in hours resulting in a reduction in users
- under-investment
- implications of closures on the local community, in terms of the elderly, young mothers with children, school children, etc
- inappropriate locations to hold consultation meetings
- short notice of consultation meetings
- implications for Protestant working class areas where children were already under achieving
- the need for an equality impact assessment
- loss of local venues to hold cultural events, community meetings, etc

Councillor Copeland referred to the correspondence from Mrs Irene Knox, Chief Executive, Libraries NI in which she was offering to come along and discuss the proposals with Members.

Councillor Long proposed that the Council write inviting Mrs Knox to attend the February Council meeting and Alderman Henderson seconded the proposal.

Alderman Henderson seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Chief Executive, Libraries NI accepting her invitation to discuss the library proposals, and that she be asked to attend the February Council meeting.

2010/07 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM LIBRARIES NI : MEETING THE DEMANDS FOR A MODERN PUBLIC LIBRARY SERVICE WITHIN NORTHERN IRELAND – STAGE 1 : GREATER BELFAST AREAS

Noted.

PLANNING

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

**SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 28 JANUARY 2010
(copy enclosed)**

2010/08 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0285/F – 15-19 BALLYGOWAN ROAD, CARNAMUCK, BELFAST : PROPOSED DEMOLITION OF NUMBERS 17 AND 19 BALLYGOWAN ROAD AND PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 31 THREE PERSON, TWO BEDROOM ECO APARTMENTS (RETAINING NUMBER 15)

In response to a query from Councillor Bunting, the Planning Service Officer outlined that the application had been advertised and neighbourhood notification carried out amongst those properties that shared the boundary with the development, which was in accordance with the proposal. He added that this was a new application and the Planning Service would not reconsider those objections which had been submitted in respect of the previous application.

Councillor McCoy indicated that there was already a lack of adequate parking spaces in the area, and a development of 31 units would exacerbate the problem.

Councillor Long enquired if Roads Service had given an opinion in respect of the volume of traffic along the Ballygowan Road.

The Planning Service Officer noted Members' comments and advised that he would liaise with his Manager with a view to him agreeing to a site visit.

RESOLVED : That a site visit be arranged in relation to Planning Application Y/2009/0285/F, at a date and time to be agreed by the Planning Committee Chairman and Councillor Bunting.

2010/09 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0346/F – 75 LISNABREENY ROAD, CASTLEREAGH, CO DOWN : PROVISION OF BRICK FAÇADE TO EXISTING BUILDING TO MATCH EXISTING BRICKWORK OF BUILDINGS ON SITE

Councillor Spratt outlined that the applicant was a major employer in the area who was attempting to improve the site to match the surrounding area.

The Planning Service Officer indicated that it had not been demonstrated that the proposal was acceptable in the countryside and would contribute to the aims of sustainable development.

Councillor Drysdale indicated that, similar to Councillor Spratt, he was confused by the Planning Service's opinion given that the applicant was attempting to match the existing brickwork on the site.

The Planning Service Officer outlined that the issue was whether the proposal related to the function of the dairy and it was the Planning Service's view that this was not the case.

Noted.

2010/10 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0374/F – 178 DUNLADY MANOR, BELFAST – ERECTION OF TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION TO EXISTING SEMI DETACHED DWELLING

Councillor Long outlined a number of concerns he had in respect of the above application, in terms of over-intensification, number of objections and the fact that the proposal was out of character with the general area.

The Planning Service Officer asked if Councillor Long was referring to a previous application for change of use and extension which the Planning Service had refused. He added that this application was significantly different as it related to an extension of the existing dwelling.

Councillor Long expressed the view that he felt that it was reasonable for the Council to have an opportunity to consider the application further.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that an office meeting be convened in respect of Planning Application Y/2009/0374/F at a date and time to be agreed with the Chairman and Councillor Long.

2010/11 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0410/F – 125 CUMBERLAND ROAD, DUNDONALD : RETROSPECTIVE APPLICATION FOR ERECTION OF TIMBER DECKED AREA AND COMPLEMENTARY STEPS

Councillor Robinson advised that, similar to a number of neighbouring properties, the applicant had put in a decking area. He indicated that as a result of a number of difficulties with the Planning Service the family had sought advice from a legal planning consultant at considerable expense. He outlined that several letters had been sent to the Planning Service but they failed to respond, resulting in the applicant not having an opportunity to discuss ways around the current impasse.

He explained that as this issue has been ongoing for three and half years, it was causing considerable stress to the family. He added that as a resident of Leathem Square, he had no problem with the decking and steps. He advised that 40 letters of support had been written by local residents but the Planning Service did not appear to place much emphasis on these letters.

Councillor Robinson advised that despite the fact the planning application was still before the Planning Service to be assessed, an enforcement notice had been issued. He added that the Planning Service had advised that if the applicant wished to go to appeal a further fee would have to be paid.

He indicated that the family were prepared to make changes to reduce the visual impact from the East Link Road and he proposed that a site visit and office meeting be arranged.

Councillor Cochrane outlined her support for a site visit and office meeting. She expressed the view that it was important for children to have a safe outside space to play, particularly if a property was situated close to a road. She added that when viewing the property from the East Link Road it appeared to be quite a large construction but she felt that suitable planting would reduce the visual impact.

Councillors Drysale and Tosh expressed their concern that an enforcement notice had been issued despite the fact that the Council had not had an opportunity to give an opinion on the application. They outlined their full support for a site meeting.

Councillor Copeland referred to the enforcement notice and asked if the Planning Service could give an assurance that nothing would be progressed until the Members had an opportunity to visit the site and discuss a way forward.

The Planning Service Officer indicated that, given the discussion this evening, it was highly unlikely that enforcement action would be progressed at this stage.

Discussion then ensued in respect of the enforcement and appeals processes.

Councillor Robinson thanked Members for their support. He added that he hoped the applicant would not need to go to appeal, but if this was the case, he asked if Members would agree to the Council's Planning Officer acting on behalf of the applicant during the appeals process.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees the following

- (a) a site visit and office meeting be convened in respect of Planning Application Y/2009/0410/F at a date and time to be agreed with the Chairman and Councillor Robinson
- (b) if necessary, the Council's Planning Officer be authorised to act on behalf of the applicant during the appeals process

Councillor Robinson left the meeting.

2010/12 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0418/F – RETENTION OF DWELLING WITHOUT COMPLIANCE OF OCCUPANCY CONDITION 3 OF APPROVAL Y/2003/0569/0 AND CONDITION 2 OF Y/2004/0638/RM : 160 GLEN ROAD, COMBER

Councillor Spratt outlined that there were currently an industrial unit, stable block, and more recently a sand school on the site which would have required planning permission. He asked if the Planning Officer would write to the Department to check if additional planning applications had been made and enquire what the enforcement section intended to do about the developments.

Following discussion, it was

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 enquire whether the enforcement section intended to take action regarding this development.

2010/13 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 8 DECEMBER 2009 TO 18 JANUARY 2010 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

Councillor Robinson returned to the meeting.

2010/14 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: CONSULTATION ON DRAFT ADDENDUM TO PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 7 – SAFEGUARDING THE CHARACTER OF ESTABLISHED RESIDENTIAL AREAS (copy previously circulated)

Alderman White expressed the view that the Department should be placing a stronger emphasis on the use of permeable paving within new residential developments.

RESOLVED : That the report from the Planning Officer on the Consultation on Draft Addendum to Planning Policy Statement 7 Safeguarding the Character of Established Residential Areas be referred to a Special Planning Committee for consideration.

2010/15 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: BELFAST RAPID TRANSPORT CONSULTATION (copy previously circulated)

Alderman White outlined that the decision as to whether the proposed system was bus or rail would be based on economics and funding.

Councillor Long outlined that some of the questions relating to policy proposals did not appear to have been addressed.

The Planning Officer advised that her report was a synopsis of the consultation document and she felt that it would be inappropriate to answer questions on Members' behalf.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the report from the Planning Officer in respect of the Belfast Rapid Transit Consultation be referred to a Special Planning Committee meeting for consideration.

2010/16 : EMAIL FROM A RESIDENT RE: OBJECTION TO APPROVAL OF PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0374/F – ERECTION OF TWO STOREY SIDE EXTENSION TO EXISTING SEMI DETACHED DWELLING : 178 DUNLADY MANOR, BELFAST (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/17 : 68 LOWER BRANIEL ROAD

In response to a query from Councillor Long, the Planning Service Officer advised that there was work currently being carried out at the site, but this was not by the applicant.

Noted.

2010/18 : PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2009/0188/A – 495 SAINTFIELD ROAD, KNOCKBRACKEN, CARRYDUFF : INTERNALLY ILLUMINATED STATIC SIGN

Alderman Henderson outlined that, following a request by the Council for the sign to be illuminated, the owner of the premises had been contacted by the enforcement section asking if he had obtained planning permission for the erection of the sign.

He continued by stating that he could confirm that the sign had been erected quite a number of years ago before the current owner had taken over the premises.

The Planning Service Officer outlined that the applicant would need to produce evidence of previous planning approval or proof when the sign had originally been erected. He suggested that the Council may be able to assist him in this respect.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Planning Officer liaise with the applicant and the Community Safety Partnership Manager in respect of the internally illuminated static sign at 95 Saintfield Road, Knockbracken, Carryduff

Alderman Norris and Councillor Hughes left the meeting at 10.05 p.m.

Councillor Copeland took the chair.

ROADS

2010/20 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: NEWTOWNBREDA ROAD, CASTLEREAGH – TRAFFIC CALMING SCHEME (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/21 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: IMPROVEMENT OF THE EFFICIENCY OF PUBLIC TRANSPORT ALONG THE SAINTFIELD ROAD/ORMEAU ROAD CORRIDOR (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Chambers expressed the view that the proposal in respect of bus lanes along the Saintfield Road would exacerbate existing traffic problems for the residents in the area.

Councillor Spratt outlined that, as MLA for South Belfast, he was declaring an interest as he was already on record as supporting the new bus lane between Ardmore Avenue and Delhi Street. He added that should the Council write to the Roads Service, reference should not be made in respect of this bus lane.

Councillor Chambers advised that her proposal only related to bullet point (2), i.e. new bus lane between School Road and Upper Knockbreda Road.

Following discussion, Alderman Henderson seconded the proposal.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Roads Service expressing certain concerns as to the provision of a new bus lane between School Road and Upper Knockbreda Road.

2010/22 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE RE: QUESTIONS ASKED BY COUNCILLORS FOLLOWING PRESENTATION OF ROADS SERVICE PROGRESS REPORT (copy previously circulated)

In response to a query from Councillor Hanvey, the Director of Leisure Services reported that as Acting Chief Executive in December, she had written to the Roads Service on 18 December 2009 requesting further clarification on a number of points raised during the Roads Service presentation to full Council. She added that as soon as she had received a response, she would report further on the matter.

Noted.

FINANCE

2010/23 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the undernoted payments:

General Account (Suppliers)	£1,708,124.05
General Account (Emergency Payments)	£ 69,854.45
Subsidiary Account (Wages & Salaries)	£ 823,129.17

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

2010/24 : REPORT FROM THE IT MANAGER (copy previously circulated)

In response to a query from Councillor Drysdale, the Senior Accountant confirmed that the installation and maintenance costs would be met out of the IT budget.

RESOLVED : That Council approves the installation of a 2MB link to Lough Moss, funded in the current financial year from the IT Budget, with annual rental being met out of the Civic Centre budget.

GENERAL

2010/25 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY RE: SUPPORT FOR AUTISM NI REQUEST FOR AN AUTISM BILL (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/26 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BALLYMENA BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOTICE OF MOTION – CONCERN AT THE HIGH RATE OF AUTISM AMONG CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/27 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM ARDS BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: RESOLUTION TO WRITE TO THE FIRST MINISTER, THE DEPUTY FIRST MINISTER AND THE MINISTER FOR EDUCATION RE THE DELAY IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EDUCATION & SKILLS AUTHORITY (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to Ards Borough Council supporting the campaign to have the South Eastern Education & Library Board reinstated.

2010/28 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM DERRY CITY COUNCIL RE: WINTER GRITTING PROGRAMME (copy previously circulated)

Councillor Long proposed that the Council support Derry City Council in respect of the gritting programme and he asked that clarification should also be sought on the criteria used to provide salt boxes.

Councillor Bunting seconded the proposal and outlined that it should be made clear in the correspondence that the Council supported the review of the winter gritting programme, but that this should be a Province-wide review.

RESOLVED : That the Council writes to the Minister for Regional Development supporting a Province-wide review of the winter gritting programme, and that clarification also be sought on the criteria used for the provision of salt boxes.

2010/29 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE MILIBERN TRUST RE: LAND AT ALBERT DRIVE, CREGAGH (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer advised that she had tabled a report on the above matter at a previous Council meeting where it had been resolved that the Council would retain the land for allotments and she had advised Milibern Trust accordingly.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Planning Officer writes again to Milibern Trust reiterating the Council's decision to retain land at Albert Drive for allotments.

2010/30 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND RE: NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS – USE OF COUNCIL PREMISES (copy previously circulated)

The Acting Chief Executive advised that the Chief Electoral Officer had obtained legal advice and he asked Members to note that the Returning Officer would have no liability for income lost by a council if he exercised his statutory right to use any

room. He outlined that the Chief Electoral Officer had also indicated in the letter he had been advised that to address the risk of a compensation claim, a number of councils had inserted a standard term in all their contracts for the hiring out of premises.

Following discussion, Alderman White suggested that Officers ascertain if the Electoral Office had public liability cover in place in the event of an accident due to their negligence, and if not, the Council would require them to provide a signed indemnity.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Officers ascertain if the Electoral Office would have public liability in place when using council premises during elections, and if not, they would be required to provide the Council with a signed indemnity.

2010/31 : EMAIL FROM AWARE DEFEAT DEPRESSION RE: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BAMFORD REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH AND LEARNING DISABILITY (NORTHERN IRELAND) (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the email from Aware Defeat Depression be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2010/32 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM BELFAST HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST RE: CONSULTATION DOCUMENT – THE FUTURE PROVISION OF LEARNING DISABILITY SERVICES IN BELFAST – YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE A SAY (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/33 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE, POLICING POLICY & STRATEGY DIVISION RE: PUBLIC CONSULTATION – DRAFT POLICE & CRIMINAL EVIDENCE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1989 (CODES OF PRACTICE) (TEMPORARY MODIFICATION TO CODE A) ORDER 2010 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

2010/34 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT RE: THE DRAFT LOCAL GOVERNMENT (INDEMNITIES FOR MEMBERS AND OFFICERS) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010 – CONSULTATION DOCUMENT (copy letter previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from the Department of the Environment be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2010/35 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY RE: CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT PALLIATIVE AND END-OF-LIFE CARE STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND (copy letter previously circulated)

RESOLVED : That Alderman Henderson be furnished with a copy of the consultation document on the Draft Palliative and End-of-Life Care Strategy for Northern Ireland.

2010/36 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM CRAIGAVON BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: FORMAL CONSULTATION ON DRAFT EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT: DISPLAY OF THE PORTRAIT OF HM THE QUEEN AT THE CRAIGAVON CIVIC & CONFERENCE CENTRE (copy previously circulated)

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the correspondence from Craigavon Borough Council be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration.

2010/37 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE REGULATION & QUALITY IMPROVEMENT AUTHORITY RE: ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE, ENTITLED 'IS PARTNERSHIP WORKING?' (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

ANNUAL REPORTS

2010/38 : HOUSING EXECUTIVE HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION AUTHORITY RE: HOME ENERGY CONSERVATION REPORT 2009 (copy letter previously circulated)

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2010/39 : MINUTES ON THE WEBSITE

Councillor Robinson left the meeting

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that the Administration Manager and the IT Manager were currently preparing a report for consideration by the Management Team which would then go before the Central Services Committee in March.

Discussion ensued in relation to Minutes containing staffing and commercially sensitive issues.

Councillor Bunting indicated that it was clear that Members were in agreement to the Minutes being put on the website but she recognised the need for proper procedures to be put in place.

Councillor Long asked if the matter could be expedited.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees

- (a) a report on Minutes on the website be tabled at the February Central Services Committee meeting

- (b) following ratification of the above Minutes at the February Council meeting, Officers progress putting the Minutes on the website as quickly as possible

2010/40 : NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Alderman Henderson congratulated Councillor Jeffers for recently being appointed onto the National Association of Councillors Executive Committee.

Noted.

2010/41 : FUEL CHARGES

Alderman Henderson asked if the Council would write to the Consumer Council with regard to increases in home heating fuel.

Councillor Drysdale referred to the fact that diesel was currently more expensive than petrol, and he asked for this to also be highlighted within the correspondence.

Councillor Spratt indicated that he would be happy to also raise these matters at the Assembly.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write to the Consumer Council in relation to increased fuel charges.

2010/42 : LINE RENTAL - BLACKBERRIES

Alderman Henderson sought clarification as to why Members had to meet the costs of the line rental for BlackBerries.

The Senior Accountant advised that he had contacted Lisburn City Council and whilst Members did not pay the full monthly line rental, they did contribute a small amount each month.

Councillor Cochrane left the meeting at 10.30 p.m.

Councillor Spratt expressed the view that mobile phone contracts should be in line with Lisburn City Council.

Following further discussion, the Senior Accountant advised that he would prepare a business case with regard to the provision of BlackBerries to Senior Management and Councillors to ascertain if it represented best value for ratepayers.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that the Senior Accountant prepare a business case in respect of the provision of BlackBerries to Senior Management and Councillor to ascertain if it represented best value for ratepayers.

2010/43 : TRANSITION COSTS

Alderman Henderson sought clarification as to whether consideration had been given with regard to Transition costs.

Councillor Spratt outlined that at the last Transition Committee meeting, it had been agreed to have a meeting with the Minister, and a report would be tabled at the next Transition Committee meeting.

Noted.

2010/44 : ARTS EVENTS

Councillor Duncan expressed her congratulation to the Arts Officer and the Good Relations Officer for a number of recent events that had been organised, i.e. the Burns Night and two events to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.

She advised that she had attended an event in Belvoir Players Studio organised by the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals. She added that during the event she been given a gift and was asked to pass it onto the Council. At this point she presented the Deputy Mayor with the gift.

Councillor Copeland suggested that the Director of Administration & Community Services pass on the Council's appreciation to the staff within the Community Services Section.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees to write a letter of thanks for the crystal gift from the Association of Ulster Drama Festivals.

2010/45 : AUDIT SUB COMMITTEE

Councillor Beattie referred to the December Council meeting where it had been agreed that in order to ensure a quorum at future Audit Sub Committee meetings, substitutes should be appointed. He advised that the DUP substitute was Councillor Mrs A Beattie and the UUP was Alderman M Henderson.

Councillor Duncan advised that the Alliance Party substitute was Councillor J Cochrane.

Alderman White proposed that Councillor Hanvey be appointed a substitute Member and this was seconded by Alderman Henderson.

RESOLVED : That the Council agrees that Councillor Hanvey be appointed a substitute Member of the Audit Sub Committee.

2010/46 : REVIEW OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES

Councillor Bunting sought clarification as to whether the Department was being written to on a regular basis in respect of the transfer of assets.

The Acting Chief Executive outlined that following the last Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, he had written to the Department but as yet a response had not been received. He advised that as the Directors were carrying

out the role of Acting Chief Executive on a rotational basis, a reminder had been included in all of their diaries to ensure that the Department was written to on a regular basis.

Noted

Councillor Robinson left the meeting

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2010/57 : ACTING CHIEF EXECUTIVE – ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES FOR FEBRUARY 2010

RESOLVED: That the Council agrees that assignment of responsibilities for the Acting Chief Executive for February 2010 be transferred to the Director of Administration & Community Services.

2010/58 : THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

The Acting Chief Executive advised Members that he had recently visited the Director of Finance who advised that he hoped to return to work shortly on a phased basis.

Noted.

2010/59 : COUNCIL VACANCY

Councillor Drysdale outlined that it was his understanding that Alderman Mrs Robinson had resigned from the Council as an Independent Member.

Councillor Spratt confirmed that Alderman Mrs Robinson had resigned from Castlereagh Borough Council as a DUP Member.

Noted.

2010/60 : DEPUTY MAYOR

The Director of Administration & Community Services sought clarification that in the absence of the Mayor, the Deputy Mayor would fulfil all the mayoral duties relating to the business of council.

Councillor Spratt outlined that it had been normal practice in the past for the Deputy Mayor to carry out the duties, in the absence of the Mayor.

RESOLVED : That, in the absence of the Mayor, the Council agrees that the Deputy Mayor would carry out the mayoral duties relating to the business of the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 1.15 a.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR