

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, 26 May 2011

PRESENT: Councillor J White
(in the Chair)

ALDERMEN: J Beattie MBE
S Duncan
M Henderson MBE
G Rice MBE
G Robinson

COUNCILLORS: A Beattie
M Chambers
J Cochrane
M Copeland
D Drysdale
M Gregg
C Hall
B Hanvey
C Howard
T Jeffers
M Long
V McCoy
T Morrow
P J O'Reilly
T Sandford
J Spratt
D Vitty

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

APOLOGIES: No apologies had been received

2011/260 : DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of interest were put forward as follows:

Director of Finance in respect of the report into the award of the lease of the Lock Keeper's Inn

Alderman Robinson in respect to items relating to the Hanwood Trust

Councillor Spratt in respect of items relating to the Department for Regional Development, as he is Chair of the Committee

Councillor Copeland in respect of items relating to the Department for Social Development, as he is a member of the Committee

Councillor Cochrane in respect of items relating to the Department for Social Development and the Department of Finance & Personnel, as she is a member of the Committees

Noted.

2011/261 : MINUTES (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED : That

- (a) The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 24 March 2011 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the proceedings.
- (b) The Minutes of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board meeting held on 24 February 2011 be noted.
- (c) The Minutes of the Leisure Park Board meeting held on 21 February 2011 be noted.
- (d) The Decisions Register for the election period 26 March 2011 to 25 May 2011 be approved.
- (e) That the Supplementary List of Decisions for the election period 26 March 2011 to 25 May 2011 be approved.

MATTERS ARISING

2011/262 : HOUSING DEVELOPMENT IN KILLYNURE (Minute 2011/156 refers)

Alderman Beattie recalled that residents in the area had intended to erect a community centre on a piece of land in Killynure. However, Oaklee Housing Association had intended to use the land for allotments. Alderman Beattie stated that he would prefer that the erection of a community centre would not be approved.

Alderman Henderson referred to previous agreement to erect a community centre, which the Council had been asked to fund or part-fund. Alderman Henderson advised that he had attended meetings in order to declare not to build the community centre. The land had been reserved for allotments and the Council would be able to negotiate further development, therefore Alderman Henderson asked that Officers arrange a meeting with representatives from Oaklee Housing Association in respect of further development of the land.

Alderman Rice requested that Members be notified of the date of the meetings as she felt that, as an Elected Member of that area, she should be in attendance.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That Officers arrange a meeting with representatives from Oaklee Housing Association in order to discuss the development of land in Killynure that had previously been intended for the erection of a community centre.
- (b) That Members be notified of the date of the meeting.

2011/263 : DECISIONS REGISTER – ITEM 21

Councillor Long enquired which sites had been represented in the application from Castlereagh Community Cultural Forum for funding towards a family-friendly fun day activities during the 11 July period. He recalled that he had previously raised concerns and, although he did not wish to infer that the decisions included in the Decisions Register were incorrect, he merely wished to point out that he might have disagreed with some of them. The Director of Administration & Community Services replied that eight sites had been represented and that she could forward the details to Councillor Long.

RESOLVED: That the Director of Administration & Community Services forward details of the eight sites that had been represented in the application from Castlereagh Community Cultural Forum for funding towards family-friendly fun day activities during the 11 July period.

Councillor Chambers joined the meeting at 7.11 pm.

The Chief Executive, the Director of Administration & Community Services, the Director of Finance, the Director of Leisure Services and the Director of Technical & Environmental Services left the meeting at this point.

PLANNING

Councillor Beattie took the chair for this part of the meeting.

Councillor Cochrane declared an interest in Planning Application Y/2010/0310/F.

Alderman Robinson left the meeting at 7.15 pm.

SCHEDULE OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS DATED 26 MAY 2011 (copy previously circulated)

2011/264 : APPLICATION Y/2010/0047/F – ERECTION OF THREE NO TWO-BEDROOM APARTMENTS AND TEN NO ONE-BEDROOM

APARTMENTS FOR USE AS SHELTERED DWELLINGS WITH COMMON ROOM, TO BE HOUSED IN THREE NO NEW BUILDINGS IN GROUNDS OF EXISTING RESIDENTIAL HOME AND TO BE OPERATED IN CONJUNCTION WITH RESIDENTIAL HOME ON THE GROUNDS OF DUNLADY HOUSE NURSING HOME, 18 DUNLADY ROAD, DUNDONALD

Councillor Gregg questioned the suitability of the land as it was at the entrance of a very busy residential estate. The Planning Service Officer replied that the Roads Service had carried out surveys, including a parking survey, which had demonstrated spare capacity, and the results had been satisfactory.

Noted.

2011/265 : APPLICATION Y/2010/0150/O – SITE FOR A PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED CHALET BUNGALOWS, WITH FINISHES IN KEEPING WITH ADJACENT BUNGALOWS IN BRACKENWOOD DRIVE ON LAND ADJACENT TO 6 AND 7 BRACKENWOOD DRIVE, KNOCKBRACKEN

Councillor Hanvey commented that the land intended for the chalet bungalows was marshland and he enquired whether the flood risk assessment had been satisfactory. He sought reassurance that the existing infrastructure would be able to support the development. The Planning Service Officer agreed that an application for a crèche had been refused because of previous flooding history, but the relevant risk assessment in respect of this application had been found satisfactory. He further stated that the Water Service had confirmed that the sewerage infrastructure would be able to support the development.

Noted.

2011/266 : APPLICATION Y/2010/0310/F – REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING DETACHED DWELLING WITH TWO SEMI-DETACHED HOUSES AND DOUBLE BAY GARAGE TO REAR AT 791 UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, DUNDONALD

Councillor Gregg enquired in respect of the reasons for the previous refusal of the above application. The Planning Service Officer stated that the previously submitted scheme had been deemed to cause harm to residential amenity. The amended application for two semi-detached dwellings was more sympathetic.

Noted.

2011/267 : APPLICATION Y/2010/0388/F – ERECTION OF A TWO-STOREY EXTENSION TO SIDE AND REAR OF DWELLING AND A DORMER WINDOW TO FRONT OF DWELLING TO ACCOMMODATE LIVING SPACE AT FIRST-FLOOR LEVEL AT 7 GLENCREGAGH DRIVE, BELFAST

Alderman Duncan enquired about issues raised in the eight objections received in respect of the above application and whether these objections had been raised in relation to the original application. The Planning Service Officer replied that the original application had been for a two-storey block with a flat roof and there had been concerns about the impact on the character of the area as well as the issues relating to dominance and overlooking. There had been significant changes to the application, ie the dwelling had been set back by a metre and the roof had been changed.

The Planning Service Officer further stated that there had been seven objections to the original application and one to the second. However, the latter objection had been from a resident some distance from the proposed dwelling, therefore it had not deemed justified. Furthermore, the application had been refused on the grounds of incompatibility with PPS7, but the amended scheme was acceptable.

Noted.

Councillor Drysdale declared an interest in respect of Application Y/2010/0432F.

2011/268 : APPLICATION Y/2010/0498/F – ERECTION OF SMALL TO MEDIUM-SIZED WIND TURBINE WITH 30-METRE HUB AND 20-METRE ROTOR SPAN

Councillor Gregg enquired which criteria had not been met in the above application. He referred to another application, which appeared to be very similar and had been approved. The Planning Service Officer replied that there had been a lack of information and the exact location of the wind turbine was unclear.

Alderman Beattie asked for a deferral of the application until more information would become available, as there would be no reason for refusal, as the wind turbine would be located in a big quarry.

Councillor Spratt felt that this type of development should be encouraged due to its environmentally-friendly nature. He reiterated Alderman Beattie's request for a deferral.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer contact the applicant in respect of Application Y/2010/0498/F in order to arrange a meeting with representatives from the Planning Service.

2011/269 : APPLICATION Y/2008/0375/F – ERECTION OF NEW SOCIAL HOUSING RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR THE ACTIVE ELDERLY, CONSISTING OF 15 NO APARTMENTS AT 68 LOWER BRANIEL ROAD, BELFAST

Councillor McCoy referred to previous discussion in respect of the above application. She stated that she spoke on behalf of constituents and she

recalled that the late Councillor Walker had been very much opposed to this development due to concerns regarding road safety. Councillor McCoy was disappointed to note approval for this application and she proposed that the Council write to the Management Board seeking refusal.

Councillor Drysdale left the meeting at 7.38 pm.

Councillor Copeland recalled that, during a site visit, questions relating to the accuracy of the traffic survey had been raised by Members. The survey had not identified any danger from speeding traffic, but Councillor Copeland was of the view that this would change once the development was completed, therefore he felt that the traffic survey should be repeated.

Councillor Long seconded Councillor McCoy's proposal. He felt that the main issue related to car parking along the main road and he raised concerns that the area was unsuitable for the four allocated parking spaces.

Councillor Drysdale returned to the meeting at 7.43 pm.

The Planning Service Officer advised that the traffic survey had examined the effect that traffic would have and it had demonstrated that the effect would be minimal.

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer write to the Planning Service Management Board, stating the Council's concerns in respect of dangers arising from increased traffic following the erection of the development and to ask for refusal of Application Y/2008/0375/F.

2011/270 : APPLICATION Y/2010/0212/F – ERECTION OF A SINGLE-STOREY SIDE EXTENSION AND EXTENSIONS TO THE ROOF TO CHANGE EXISTING HIPPED-ENDED ROOF TO GABLE-ENDED TO ACCOMMODATE A ROOF SPACE CONVERSION PLUS ALTERATIONS INCLUDING NEW FIRST-FLOOR SIDE GABLE WINDOWS AT 29 OAKWOOD AVENUE, CARRYDUFF

Councillor McCoy commented that the site visit had been positive and she welcomed the change of opinion by the Planning Service and approval of the above application.

Noted.

2011/271 : APPLICATION Y/2010/0384/F – ERECTION OF WOODEN GARDEN SHED TO REAR OF DWELLING (RETROSPECTIVE) AT 35 KINROSS AVENUE, TULLYCARNET

Councillor Jeffers enquired as to the reasons for refusal of the above application and he asked for deferral. The Planning Service Officer advised that the impact on neighbours had been assessed and there had been concerns that the scale of the shed would be detrimental to neighbours.

Councillor Copeland stated that he had received correspondence from the applicant, advising that revised drawings had been submitted to the Planning Service and he enquired whether these had been received. The Planning Service Officer replied that the drawings had been received, but there had been issues relating to the accuracy of the drawings and omission of some details, therefore the Planning Service had been satisfied that the development would not be acceptable.

Noted.

**MINUTES
(copy previously circulated)**

2011/272 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 MARCH 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Special Planning Committee meeting held on 25 March 2011 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

2011/273 : MINUTES OF THE PLANNING WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 21 APRIL 2011

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Planning Working Group meeting held on 21 April 2011 be adopted as a true and accurate record of proceedings.

Councillor Copeland left the meeting at 7.54 pm.

2011/274 : WEEKLY PLANNING APPLICATIONS FOR THE PERIOD 15 MARCH TO 16 MAY 2011 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2011/275 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 31 MARCH 2011, RE: THE PLANNING (GENERAL DEVELOPMENT) (AMENDMENT) ORDER (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011 (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That Members be advised of the website on which the Planning (General Development) (Amendment) Order (Northern Ireland) 2011 can be viewed.

Councillors Spratt and Jeffers left the meeting at 7.55 pm.

2011/276 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE PLANNING SERVICE, DATED 29 MARCH 2011, RE: AGRICULTURAL LANDS APPROXIMATELY 30M NORTH – OPPOSITE 35 KNOCKBRACKEN ROAD, BELFAST – ERECTION OF ONE FREESTANDING ADVERTISEMENT HOARDING (RETROSPECTIVE) (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

2011/277 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: NEW PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer advised that the Planning Services ceased to exist on 31 March 2011. It was now the Department of the Environment and the managers for the Castlereagh Team were located in Downpatrick. The functions of the Planning Service had also been reorganised in preparation for transfer from the Department to councils. This would result in a Local Planning Division with operational responsibility for the development plan and development management (formerly known as development control) functions and a Strategic Planning Division, which would take forward the responsibilities that would remain with the Department following local government reform.

Councillor Long left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

There had been some managerial changes within both the Local and Strategic Planning Divisions in order to accommodate the proposals, with some reallocation of the councils that each Area Planning Manager was responsible for. The Planning Officer provided Members with a map showing the new boundaries for Planning areas.

During the ensuing discussion, Councillor White commented that these new arrangements were not practical, particularly face-to-face discussions, if the management was situated in Downpatrick and the rest of the team in Belfast.

Councillors Jeffers, Vitty and Spratt rejoined the meeting at 8.04 pm.
Alderman Henderson left the meeting at 8.04 pm.

Members agreed that the Planning Service reorganisation could present difficulties in the future. Councillor Harvey proposed to write to the Minister for the Environment, asking him to examine planning strategy and improvements for the Planning Service. Councillor Chambers seconded the proposal. She felt that current guidelines were very unclear and she felt it would be important to seek clarification in this respect as well as the location of the future Planning Service.

Alderman Henderson and Councillor Harvey rejoined the meeting at 8.08 pm.
Alderman Duncan left the meeting at 8.08 pm.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer write to the Department of the Environment to seek clarification in respect of guidelines as well as the location of the future Planning Service.

2011/278 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: CONSULTATION ON PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2011/0130 FOR A RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT OF EIGHT NO DETACHED DWELLINGS AND ONE NO PAIR OF SEMI-DETACHED DWELLINGS (TEN DWELLINGS IN TOTAL); ACCESS FROM BARONSCOURT PARK; IN-CURTILAGE CAR PARKING AND LANDSCAPED OPEN SPACE AT 25 BARONSCOURT PARK, CARRYDUFF AND APPROXIMATELY 60 METRES NORTH OF EDGAR ROAD, CARRYDUFF (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer outlined the details of the above application and she pointed out issues raised by the proposed development. She explained that the Council's land ownership maps showed that the Council owned to the middle of the river which divided the site from the park. The drawings accompanying the planning application suggested that the developer owned the whole width of the river, which required clarification, as there could be an implication if it was proposed to culvert the river.

The Planning Officer went on to say that there were flooding issues in and around the Carryduff Household Recycling Centre (HRC). The developer might intend to culvert the part of the river which adjoined his site and this could cause more flooding closer to St Ignatius' Church of Ireland and the HRC.

The Planning Officer stated that the footpath linking the site to the park was to be welcomed as it could encourage greater use of under-utilised space, bringing with it the benefits of greater security and safety for those using the park. However, she added that it would be important for the Council to know to what standard the path would be constructed and whether there would be street lights to illuminate it. Furthermore, the developer and the Council would need to agree access to the park to allow for the construction of the path.

Councillor Drysdale left the meeting at 8.14 pm.

Alderman Rice advised that she had received many complaints regarding flooding and bad odour from the river. Furthermore, the new development would impinge on the park. It had taken a lot of effort to secure this green area and Alderman Rice was concerned that it might be lost through the new development.

Alderman Rice went on to remind the Planning Service Officer that there were flooding issues in the area. Due to over-development of the area, the river had been culveted and this had caused problems.

Councillor Hanvey agreed that, due to flooding issues in the area, it would be important to carry out a comprehensive flood risk assessment and that the Council should ask to be allowed access to reports etc.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Planning Officer write to the Planning Service to object to Planning Application Y/2011/0130, stating the Council's concerns regarding flooding issues and impingement on the park adjacent to the proposed development.

Alderman Duncan and Councillors Cochrane and Long rejoined the meeting at 8.20 pm

2011/279 : VERBAL REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2010/0087/O FOR THE DEMOLITION OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A RETAIL STORE (USE CLASS A1); PETROL FILLING STATION (SUI GENERIS); INDUSTRIAL UNITS (USE CLASS B2 AND B4); HOTEL (SUI GENERIS) AND ASSOCIATED HIGHWAY, FOOTPATHS, LANDSCAPING AND OTHER WORKS AND IMPROVEMENTS ON LANDS AT THE FORMER ROLLS ROYCE FACTORY, UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD / CARROWREAGH ROAD, DUNDONALD

RESOLVED: That discussion in respect of Planning Application Y/2010/0087/O be postponed until the special Planning Committee meeting in June 2011.

2011/280 : REPORT FROM THE PLANNING OFFICER RE: CONSULTATION ON PLANNING APPLICATION Y/2010/0081 FOR INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT ON LAND 80 METRES SOUTH-EAST OF THE JUNCTION OF COMBER ROAD AND MILLMOUNT ROAD (copy previously circulated)

The Planning Officer referred to her report at the March meeting of Council. She sought Members' views whether the application was acceptable or whether the Council wished to object.

Councillor White felt that more information was required. He stated that, although there was sufficient space in that part of the Borough, Castlereagh Enterprises were encountering difficulties in letting units similar to those proposed in this application. Furthermore, there were issues regarding access from the Comber Road. Councillor White proposed to arrange an office meeting in order to discuss the application in more detail. Councillor Long felt it would be useful to ask representatives from Sustrans and the developer to the meeting.

RESOLVED: That an office meeting in respect of Application Y/2010/0081 be arranged at a date and time agreed by the Committee Chairman and Councillor White.

The Mayor returned to the Chair.

The Chief Executive, the Director of Finance, the Director of Leisure Services and the Director of Technical & Environmental Services returned to the meeting.

Councillor Copeland returned to the meeting at 8.29 pm.

ROADS

2011/281 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROADS SERVICE, DATED 15 APRIL 2011, RE: KNOCKWOOD PARK AT KNOCK ROAD, BELFAST – PROHIBITION OF RIGHT TURN MOVEMENT (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

HOUSING

2011/282 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE, DATED 31 MARCH 2011, RE: EXTINGUISHMENT OF PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY ORDER NO 1 2010, DUNDONALD, GRAHAMSBRIDGE ROAD (copy previously circulated)

The Mayor advised that the path was used by residents of Ballybeen as a shortcut. He went on to say that the NIHE had permission to develop the land and the Council was not in a position to prevent the extinguishment of the right of way. However, he felt that an alternative right of way should be provided.

Councillor Morrow and the Director of Administration & Community Services rejoined the meeting at 8.31 pm.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor McCoy, seconded by Alderman Henderson and

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council write to NIHE to request an explanation for the extinguishment of Public Right of Way Order No 1 2010, Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald and to request that an alternative be provided.
- (b) That the Council write to Helm Housing Association asking for support to provide an alternative path following the extinguishment of Public Right of Way Order No 1 2010.

Councillor Vitty left the meeting at 8.34 pm.

2011/283 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING EXECUTIVE, DATED 9 MAY 2011, RE: HOUSING SELECTION SCHEME PRELIMINARY CONSULTATION (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED:

- (a) That consideration of the Housing Selection Scheme Preliminary Consultation be deferred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.
- (b) That the Finance & General Purposes Committee be granted executive powers to comment on the Housing Selection Scheme Preliminary Consultation.

FINANCE

2011/284 : ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED : That the Council approve the under noted payments:

April 2011

General Accounts (Suppliers)	£1,247,920.55
General Accounts (Emergency Payments)	£260001.06
Subsidiary Account (Wages & Salaries)	£947,371.04

May 2011

General Accounts (Suppliers)	£1,510,067.97
General Accounts (Emergency Payments)	£59,715.63
Subsidiary Account (Wages & Salaries)	£867,315.95

2011/285 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING GROUP, DATED 23 MARCH 2011, RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT TRAINING GROUP – BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2011-12 (copy previously circulated)

Noted.

MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS (copy previously circulated)

2011/286 : MAYOR/DEPUTY MAYOR'S BUSINESS FOR APRIL AND MAY 2011

Noted.

Councillor Copeland left the meeting at 8.41 pm.

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & COMMUNITY SERVICES
(copy previously circulated)**

2011/288 : SOMME PILGRIMAGE

The Director of Administration & Community Services referred to the October 2010 meeting of the Central Services Committee, when it had been agreed that Officers be authorised to make hotel reservations for the 2011 Somme Pilgrimage. She advised that four double/twin rooms had been booked at the Ariane Hotel, Ypres. The Director of Administration & Community Services now sought Members' consideration of the following:

- Members attending the 2011 Somme Pilgrimage from 28 June to 2 July 2011
- Officers accompanying the visiting party

The Director of Administration & Community Services also sought approval to make appropriate car hire provision, based on the nominations provided. She advised that costs for the Somme Pilgrimage were met from the Councillors Travel & Subsistence budget.

RESOLVED: That consideration of the Somme Pilgrimage be deferred to take place 'In Committee'.

2011/289 : BONFIRE INFORMATION ROADSHOW

The Director of Administration & Community Services advised that, as part of the Council's Good Relations Programme, Officers were planning a Bonfire Information Roadshow, in conjunction with the Bonfire Inter-Agency Working Group. The roadshow aimed to address the issue of bonfires, encouraging safer, more family-friendly cultural celebrations. Advertising for the programme would be facilitated by the Castlereagh Community Cultural Forum and the following agencies:

- Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service
- PSNI Community Safety
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Community Safety Partnership

The Director of Administration & Community Services sought approval for expenditure of the sum of £500, to be covered from the Good Relations Hard Issues budget, for the following:

- Refreshments £100
- Flying printing £200
- Comment card printing £200

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for expenditure of the sum of £500 from the Good Relations Hard Issues budget as outlined above towards the cost of facilitating the Bonfire Information Roadshow.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2011/290 : ARTS COMMUNITY GRANTS SCHEME

The Director of Administration & Community Services asked for nominations from each party for the assessment panel of the Arts Community Grants Scheme.

Following a proposal from Alderman Henderson, it was

RESOLVED: That Alderman Duncan and Councillors Copeland, Gregg, Hanvey and Sandford be nominated as members of the assessment panel for the Arts Community Grants Scheme.

2011/291 : ROYAL WEDDING EVENTS

Alderman Henderson congratulated the Director of Administration & Community Services and all staff involved in the preparations for the Royal wedding events for all their hard work, which had resulted in the events being hugely successful.

Noted.

Councillor Copeland returned to the meeting at 8.47 pm.

2011/292 : BELFAST YOUTH ORCHESTRA TOUR

Councillor Spratt outlined details of a request from the Belfast Youth Orchestra, which intended to begin a tour on 8 July 2011, beginning in Paris and travelling through Belgium and France. The tour was a regular event, taking place every two years. There were 144 young people from Castlereagh enrolled in the orchestra, and approximately 14 of these were taking part in the tour. The orchestra had asked for support towards the cost of the tour in the sum of £1,000. Councillor Spratt felt this was an important event for the orchestra and he proposed that the request be approved. The proposal was seconded from Alderman Henderson and it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for a donation of £1,000 to the Belfast Youth Orchestra in support of their tour through France and Belgium, beginning on 8 July 2011.

REPORT FROM THE CLIENT MANAGER (copy previously circulated)

2011/293 : TENDER FOR THE COLLECTION, KERBSIDE SORT AND RECYCLING OF MIXED DRY MULTI-MATERIALS (REF T01/11) (Minutes T&ES/2010/238, T&ES/2010/431 AND T&ES/2011/100 refer)

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that, due to the number of clarification requests received from potential bidders prior to submission of tenders, the deadline for tender submissions had to be extended until 15 April 2011. It was now, therefore, not possible to finalise the evaluation and award processes by the end of the current kerbside contract period and the Director of Technical & Environmental Services sought approval to extend the current contract until 30 June 2011 initially in order to ensure no disruption of service.

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services further requested that the Council grant delegated authority to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee regarding the award of the new service contract.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That approval be granted to extend the current service contract with Bryson House for the collection, kerbside sort and recycling of mixed dry multi-materials by one month until 30 June 2011.
- (b) That the Council grant delegated authority to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee relating to the award of the service contract for the collection, kerbside sort and recycling of multi-materials (Tender Ref T01/11).

Councillor O'Reilly left the meeting at 8.51 pm.

2011/294 : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT POLICY DIVISION RE: CONSULTATION ON GUIDANCE TO BE MADE UNDER PART 1 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE BILL – GUIDANCE ON MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION FOR DISTRICT COUNCILS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (copy document previously circulated)

The Director of Finance advised that the introduction of the new Finance Bill in April 2011 meant that the Council would be able to borrow from the Public Works Loans Board without seeking loan sanction approval from the Department of the Environment, therefore allowing a certain amount of flexibility in the management of the Council's capital finances. However, councils would be expected to finance their capital expenditure over the useful life of the assets by providing a Minimum Revenue Provision to service the loans portfolio.

The Director of Finance went on to say that Castlereagh Borough Council had always financed its capital expenditure by taking account of the useful life of the assets, with provision currently being made under the equal instalment method and then drawing down maturity loans. Furthermore, the Council also stated the borrowing limit and the ratio between fixed and variable loans at the beginning of each financial year in its Treasury Management Policy and Statement.

RESOLVED: That the Council write in support of the consultation document from the Department of the Environment Local Government Policy Division re: Consultation on Guidance to be made under Part 1 of the Local Government Finance Bill – Guidance on Minimum Revenue Provision for District Councils in Northern Ireland.

GENERAL
(copy previously circulated)

2011/295 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 24 MARCH 2011, RE: WHITE PAPER ON ENABLING LEGISLATION FOR NATIONAL PARKS

Noted.

2011/296 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, RECEIVED ON 4 APRIL 2011, RE: CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LEARNER AND RESTRICTED DRIVER SCHEMES AND ON GRADUATED DRIVER LICENSING

Noted.

2011/297 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, DATED 15 MARCH 2011, RE: DRAFT HSENI CORPORATE PLAN 2011-2015

Noted.

2011/298 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR EMPLOYMENT & LEARNING, DATED 28 MARCH 2011, RE: BELFAST METROPOLITAN COLLEGE

Noted.

2011/299 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DRAINAGE COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND, DATED 7 APRIL 2011, RE: RECONSTITUTION OF THE DRAINAGE COUNCIL FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

Councillor Jeffers rejoined the meeting at 8.53 pm.

2011/300 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND FUEL POVERTY COALITION, DATED 21 MARCH 2011, RE: INVITATION TO JOIN THE NORTHERN IRELAND FUEL POVERTY COALITION

Councillor Hanvey commented that this matter had previously been considered by the Technical & Environmental Services Committee and it had been agreed that Officers prepare a report in respect of stamp provision. He

went on to say that residents were experiencing difficulties due to rising fuel costs, which might increase during the winter months.

Alderman Rice asked that Officers investigate the possibility of introducing a voucher scheme, particularly for elderly residents.

Following some further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of correspondence from the Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Coalition re: Invitation to join the Northern Ireland Fuel Poverty Coalition be deferred to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

2011/301 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND INDEPENDENT RETAIL TRADE ASSOCIATION, DATED 21 MARCH 2011. RE: PROPOSALS FOR ADDITIONAL CAR PARKING CHARGES

Noted.

2011/302 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, DATED 16 MARCH 2011, Re: THE FUTURE OF BUS OPERATOR LICENSING IN NORTHERN IRELAND – SYNOPSIS OF RESPONSES

Noted.

Councillor Spratt returned to the meeting at 8.56 pm.

2011/303 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE CONSUMER COUNCIL, DATED 24 MARCH 2011, RE: CONSULTATION – DRAFT CORPORATE PLAN AND EQUALITY SCHEME 2011-2015

Noted.

2011/304 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, DATED 15 MARCH 2011, RE: PUBLIC CONSULTATION – RETENTION AND DESTRUCTION OF FINGERPRINTS AND DNA IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Noted.

2011/305 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, NORTHERN IRELAND DISTRICT, DATED 5 MAY 2011, RE: NORTHERN IRELAND GREAT POPPY PARTY, THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION 90TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT, SATURDAY, 4 JUNE 2011, BALMORAL SHOWGROUNDS, BELFAST

Noted.

2011/306 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, SOCIAL SERVICES & PUBLIC SAFETY, DATED 9 MAY 2011, RE: REPLY

TO CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COUNCIL RE FUNDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RADIOTHERAPY CENTRE BASED AT ALTNAGELVIN HOSPITAL

Noted.

2011/307 : EMAIL FROM NILGA, RECEIVED ON 12 MAY 2011, RE: LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION EVENT – REVISED REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION STRATEGY 2011 ‘A SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUTURE’ – 15 JUNE 2011, GLENAVON HOUSE HOTEL, COOKSTOWN

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for Members to attend the Local Government consultation event – Revised Regional Transportation Strategy 2011 ‘A Sustainable Transport Future’ on 15 June 2011, Glenavon House Hotel, Cookstown.

2011/308 : EMAIL FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT, DATED 9 MAY 2011, RE: DRD CONSULTATION ON EQIA FOR STEM PROPOSALS FOR BELFAST CITY CENTRE

Noted.

2011/309 : EMAIL FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT ROADS SERVICE EASTERN GROUP RE: PRESENTATION OF THE ROADS SERVICE SPRING REPORT

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Spratt, seconded by Councillor Chambers and

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for the Roads Service to present their Spring Report at the full Council meeting in July 2011.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2011/310 : BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY AWARD CEREMONY

Alderman Beattie advised that the Council had been asked to take a table at the Business in the Community Award Ceremony, taking place on 9 June 2011. He felt that, as Mr David Hassard, a former Chairman of the Hanwood Trust Board, had been successful in achieving an award at the ‘Business in the Community’, it might be appropriate for Members to be present at the ceremony. However, as the event coincided with the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting, he proposed to postpone the meeting.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That approval be granted to book a table at the Business in the Community Award Ceremony on 9 June 2011.
- (b) That approval be granted to postpone the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting to a later date.

2011/311 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM INVEST NORTHERN IRELAND, DATED MAY 2011, RE: INVEST NI'S DRAFT COMMUNICATIONS & ACCESS EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT – INVEST NI DRAFT DISABILITY ACTION PLAN (copy tabled at the meeting)

Noted.

2011/312 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS RE: NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS CONFERENCE, DALMENY HOTEL, LYTHAM ST ANNES, ENTITLED 'WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP', ON 1 TO 3 JULY 2011 (copy tabled at the meeting)

The Chief Executive pointed out that the date of the conference coincided with the date of the Somme Pilgrimage.

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for the Council's representatives to the National Association of Councillors to attend the National Association of Councillors Conference, Dalmeny Hotel, Lytham St Annes, entitled 'Working in Partnership', on 1 to 3 July 2011.

Alderman Duncan left the meeting at 9.08 pm.

IN COMMITTEE

2011/313 : ARTICLE 55 REPORT AND PROPOSED AFFIRMATIVE ACTION PLAN FOR 2011-14 (copy previously circulated)

The Director of Administration & Community Services took Members through the key points of the Affirmative Action Plan 2011-2014.

The Director of Administration & Community Services commented that, since the previous review, the statistics presented in the document would suggest that the affirmative action had been effective. The Affirmative Action Plan was setting out new measures that would assist the Council to ensure better balance in the workforce.

Councillor Drysdale enquired whether the Affirmative Action Plan would be made public. The Director of Administration & Community Services replied that the deadline for submission to the Equality Commission was 31 May 2011 and following evaluation, it would be placed into the public domain.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Spratt, seconded by Alderman Rice and

RESOLVED: That the Council accept the Article 55 Report and Proposed Affirmative Action Plan for 2011-14.

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE
(copy previously circulated)**

2011/314 : DEFERMENT OF REPORT

RESOLVED: That consideration of the report from the Director of Finance be deferred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting in June 2011, with the exception of Items 2 and 4.

Councillor Long returned to the meeting at 9.12 pm.

2011/315 : VARIABLE INTEREST RATE LOANS

The Director of Finance tabled correspondence from the Department of Finance & Personnel regarding variable interest rate loans and the Department's intention to terminate the option to convert variable interest loans to fixed. He then outlined details of the Council's current five loans with the Department that are on variable interest rates. He commented that the savings to date indicated that it was definitely advantages for the Council to consider variable interest rate loans. However, due to the change in circumstances, the risk of exposure to the Council would increase.

The Director of Finance provided Members with a projection of interest rates over the next ten years and outlined the possible savings to be achieved by keeping the five loans on variable interest rates.

Alderman Duncan returned to the meeting at 9.14 pm.

The Mayor stated that he was unhappy about the restriction imposed by the Department of Finance & Personnel and he suggested that the Council seek the support of NILGA and other councils. In the meantime, however, the Council needed to decide whether to retain variable interest rate loans or whether to move them to fixed rate interest. He was of the view that the variable interest rate should be retained.

Councillor Chambers raised concerns in respect of future loans. She felt that the Council would be penalised by the new restriction for safeguarding ratepayers' money and that it could prove detrimental for the Council and ratepayers.

Following further discussion, Councillor Spratt proposed, Alderman Henderson seconded and it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to retain the Council's current variable interest rate loans and not move to fixed interest rates.

2011/316 : NILGA SUBSCRIPTION

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for payment of the NILGA Annual Subscription 2011-2012 at a cost of £17,881 plus VAT.

IN COMMITTEE – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2011/317 : SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE – SEMINAR ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME (NI) FOR COUNCILLORS (copy previously circulated)

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for Members to attend one of the seminars outlined in the supplementary report from the Director of Finance in respect of the Local Government Pension Scheme (NI) for Councillors.

Councillors Hanvey and Sandford returned to the meeting at 9.22 pm.
The Director of Finance left the meeting at 9.22 pm.

STAFF IN COMMITTEE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2011/319 : SOMME PILGRIMAGE

RESOLVED: That approval be granted for Alderman Robinson, Councillors Hanvey and Spratt, the Director of Administration & Community Services and the Administration Manager to attend the Somme Pilgrimage.

2011/320 : IRISH GUARDS HOMECOMING CEREMONY

Alderman Henderson proposed to hold a further homecoming ceremony for the Irish Guards, at a date to be confirmed, later in the year. The proposal was seconded by Councillor Copeland and it was

RESOLVED: That approval be granted to hold a homecoming ceremony for the Irish Guards, at a date to be confirmed, later in the year.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR