

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of a Special Meeting of the Development Committee of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL on Thursday, 20 August 2015 at 5.00 pm

IN THE CHAIR: Alderman A G Ewart

PRESENT: The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R T Beckett

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE and S Martin

Councillors J Baird, S Carson, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan,
H Legge, U Mackin, Jenny Palmer and M H Tolerton

OTHER MEMBERS Alderman J Tinsley
Councillors P Catney, B Hanvey and B Mallon

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Head of Economic Development
Committee Secretary

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting of the Development Committee and thanked Members for their attendance.

Purpose of Meeting

The Special Meeting had been convened in order to consider a proposal in relation to the Hunday (Harry Ferguson Vintage Tractor) Collection.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor B Bloomfield MBE and T Mitchell, and the Director of Development and Planning.

Councillor J Gray, MBE, whilst not a member of the Development Committee, had submitted an apology for the Special Meeting.

1. Apologies (Cont'd)

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath, whilst having indicated previously that he may be late to the Meeting, was not present.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited Members to declare any Conflicts of Interest they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard, which had been provided at the meeting.

There were no declarations declared at the Meeting.

3. Confidential Business

Report by the Director of Development and Planning

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor M H Tolerton, seconded by Councillor S Carson, and agreed that the following item be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public.

For Decision

3.1 Hunday (Harry Ferguson Vintage Tractor) Collection

The Head of Economic Development presented the above item.

Aldermen W J Dillon and S Martin, Councillors J Baird, H Legge, U Mackin and Jenny Palmer entered the Meeting at 5.04 pm.

Councillor A P Ewing entered the Meeting at 5.06 pm.

The Committee had been circulated with a report prepared by the Head of Economic Development outlining the background to the above proposal, together with related documentation, namely:

- correspondence dated 14 July 2015 on behalf of the vendor, Mr Paul Rackham
- photograph of the Harry Ferguson Memorial Garden at the Homestead at Growell, Hillsborough, Co Down
- photograph of the scale model of the aircraft at the A1 at Hillsborough that Harry Ferguson used in the first powered flight in Ireland
- summary report into the viability of a new visitor attraction based on the tractor collection by Colliers International

3.1 Hunday (Harry Ferguson Vintage Tractor) Collection (Cont'd)

- the original Consultant's presentation by Colliers International on the proposal
- a formal heritage assessment of the Collection
- the original valuation of the Collection, and
- report on the meeting with the Heritage Lottery Fund outlining the reasons why the Council's funding bid had been unsuccessful.

The Head of Economic Development highlighted a number of issues that the Council should consider prior to making any decision to purchase the Hunday Collection.

The Head of Economic Development responded to a number of comments and questions from the Committee in relation to the issues highlighted.

During the discussion a number of Members indicated their support to the purchase of the Hunday Collection by the Council.

It was proposed by Councillor S Carson, seconded by Councillor J Gallen, and agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

On the resumption of normal business it was noted that the Committee had agreed to recommend on a proposal by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer that:

- the Council enter into negotiations with the vendor immediately with a view to purchasing of the Hunday (Harry Ferguson Vintage Tractor) Collection, at a price that best reflected value for money for the Council, and
- a further Special Meeting of the Development Committee be convened to consider the matter further, if necessary.

Following further comments by the Chief Executive it was also agreed to recommend that:

- further work be carried out by Council Officers to ensure that Members have all necessary information to hand in order that the Council was best positioned to make a final decision
- the issue of funding and partnership opportunities be revisited to ensure that all avenues had been exhausted, and
- the Council's solicitors be instructed to negotiate with the vendor on the Council's behalf, without prejudice.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.10 pm.

Chairman