

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Wednesday 2 December 2015 at 4:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R T Beckett

Deputy Mayor
Councillor A Redpath

Aldermen: A G Ewart, M Henderson MBE, T Jeffers, S Martin, S P Porter, J Tinsley and J Dillon MBE

Councillors: N Anderson, J Baird, B Bloomfield MBE, R Butler, S Carson, P Catney, O Gawith, A Girvin, A Givan, J Gray MBE, A Grehan, B Hanvey, H Legge, A McIntyre, U Mackin, T Mitchell, T Morrow, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer, L Poots, M Tolerton and R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Director of Development and Planning
Director of Corporate Services
Head of Economic Development
Head of Environmental Health
Head of Marketing and Communications
Transition Manager
Environmental Health Manager
Marketing Officer
Committee Secretary
Attendance Clerk

Commencement of the Meeting

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, thanked those present for their attendance. He reminded Members regarding the dress code for Council meetings. He then outlined the background to the request for a special Council meeting to consider free car parking during the Christmas period at Council owned car parks.

(Councillor H Legge arrived at 4.01 pm and Councillor A Grehan arrived at 4.02 pm; Councillors John Palmer and Jenny Palmer and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath, arrived at 4.04 pm)

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen WA Leatham, Alderman G Rice MBE, Councillor AP Ewing, Councillor J Gallen, Councillor V Kamble, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor S Scott and the Director of Leisure and Community Services.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, sought Declarations of Interest from Members and reminded them to complete the supporting forms which had been left at each desk.

During the course of the meeting, the following declaration of interest was made:

- Councillor T Mitchell declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 3.1 'Car Parking Charges at Council-Owned Car Parks in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Area during the Christmas Shopping Period' on the basis that he was employed in the retail sector in Lisburn.

3. Confidential Business "In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor L Poots and agreed that the Council consider the next item "In Committee".

(Alderman S Martin arrived at 4.06 pm)

In Committee

3.1 Car Parking Charges at Council-Owned Car Parks in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Area during the Christmas Shopping Period

It was proposed by Alderman Dillon, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed that the Council remain 'In Committee' to consider the legal advice but that it then go 'Out of Committee' in order to consider the options available to it in respect of car parking charges at Council owned car parks during the Christmas shopping period.

The Chief Executive outlined the conclusions contained within the legal advice document. Alderman S Martin asked that it be recorded that he had not had the opportunity to fully read the legal advice and would therefore note it rather than accepting its conclusions.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath, seconded by Councillor R Butler and agreed that the Council come 'Out of Committee' and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

Members considered 3 options for car park charges during the Christmas period, namely:

- Option 1: Do nothing and retain existing arrangements
- Option 2: Waiver of car parking charges in December
- Option 3: Waiver of car parking charges every Saturday in December

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley and seconded by Alderman AG Ewart that the Council adopt Option 3.

Councillor R Butler proposed an amendment that free car parking be available for extended weekends, i.e. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, and on weekday evenings.

It was pointed out however that car parking was already free on Sunday and after 6.00 pm on weekdays. Councillor Butler then changed his amendment to propose that free car parking be made available on Fridays and Saturdays in December. Councillor T Mitchell seconded Councillor Butler's amendment.

During discussion on the proposal the following points were made by Members:

- Members commended officers for obtaining legal advice and producing a detailed report on the issue at very short notice
- Members considered that, as there were only three weekends left before Christmas, the introduction of free car parking at this stage was too late to have any great impact.
- Members pointed out that car parking was already available in Lisburn at a cost of £1 for 5 hours
- Members queried whether provision of free car parking would be used by people working in the city rather than increasing footfall for the retail sector.

It was proposed by Councillor A Grehan, seconded by Councillor O Gawith that the Council adopt Option 1. On the advice of the Chief Executive, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor RT Beckett, stated that, as there was already a proposal under discussion together with an amendment, a further proposal could not be taken at this stage.

(Alderman M Henderson MBE and Councillor R Butler left the meeting briefly at 5.10 pm and returned at 5.12 pm)

Following discussion, Councillor R Butler indicated that he would withdraw his amendment to the proposal in favour of Councillor A Grehan's proposal.

The proposal by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman AG Ewart that the Council adopt Option 3 was put to the meeting and, on a show of hands, 15 Members voted in favour of the proposal and 16 Members voted against. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor RT Beckett, declared that the proposal was not passed.

It was agreed that, as proposed by Councillor A Grehan, seconded by Councillor O Gawith, the Council adopt Option 1.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson MBE and agreed that the opening and closing times for car parking at Castle Street Car Park be brought into line with those at the Castle Gardens Car Park.

(Councillor B Hanvey left the meeting briefly at 5.27 pm and returned at 5.28 pm; Councillor N Anderson left the meeting at 5.27 pm; Councillor T Morrow left the meeting at 5.28 pm)

There being no further business, the Special Meeting of Council concluded at 5.29 pm.

Mayor