

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Wednesday 1 April 2015 at 11.00 am

PRESENT:

(Out-going) Presiding Councillor
Alderman J Tinsley

(Out-going) Deputy Presiding Councillor
Alderman S Martin

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R T Beckett

Deputy Mayor Councillor A Redpath

Aldermen W J Dillon, D Drysdale, A G Ewart,
M Henderson, T Jeffers, W A Leathem, S P Porter and
G Rice

Councillors N Anderson, J Baird, B Bloomfield, R Butler,
S Carson, P Catney, A P Ewing, J Gallen, O Gawith, A
Girvin, A Givan, J Gray, B Hanvey, V Kamble, H Legge,
J McCarthy, A McIntyre, U Mackin, B Mallon, T Mitchell,
T Morrow, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer, L Poots, S Skillen,
M Tolerton and R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Corporate Services
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure Services
Director of Finance & Convergence of IT Systems
Assistant Director of Corporate Services (Central
Administration)
Assistant Director of Corporate Services (MCU)
Committee Secretary

The (Out-going) Presiding Councillor, Alderman J Tinsley, welcomed everyone to the Inaugural Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, in particular to Pastor Jimmy Ritchie, who was in attendance at the Inaugural Meeting as Chaplain to the incoming Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett.

The (Out-going) Presiding Councillor reminded the Council that, in line with new legislation, the proceedings of the Meeting were being recorded.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the Meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor A Grehan.

2. Presiding Councillor's Address

The (Out-going) Presiding Councillor, Alderman J Tinsley, addressed the Council during which he outlined the journey to date in relation to the Local Government Reform process. He referred to the establishment in 2012 of the Castlereagh District Council and Lisburn City Council Voluntary Transition Committee, the Statutory Transition Committee in 2013, and subsequently the Shadow Council in June 2014.

The (Out-going) Presiding Councillor also referred to the significant workload that had taken place since the Annual Meeting of the Shadow Council, and highlighted the following:

- the establishment of six Standing Committees with associated Terms of Reference and Work plans
- the development of a communications strategy
- legal and governance arrangements
- the appointment of a new Chief Executive and Management Team. The (Out-going) Presiding Councillor paid tribute to the leadership and commitment of the new Chief Executive and Directors.
- a new Council name, Council charter, and Council brand
- the transfer of assets and liabilities to Belfast City Council
- the new rates programme for the new Council, being one of the lowest rates both non domestic and domestic, in the Province
- the development of a capital programme
- the development of an Equality Scheme
- the transfer of Planning Service staff to the Council's headquarters at Lagan Valley Island
- the development of a capacity building and staff training programme
- a business continuity plan
- the development of a community planning strategy
- the progressing of winding up arrangements for the two extant Councils
- nominations to positions of responsibility for the next four years.

The (Out-going) Presiding Councillor commended all the staff of both extant Councils for their efforts during the transition period. He also paid tribute to the manner in which all elected members had conducted themselves during a challenging and difficult year, which he said was encouraging for the future.

In concluding the (Out-going) Presiding Councillor assured the ratepayers of both extant Council areas that the new Council would continue to deliver quality services.

3. Deputy Presiding Councillor's Address

The (Out-going) Deputy Presiding Councillor wished to be associated with the sentiments and comments of the (Out-going) Presiding Councillor, in particular the thanks and appreciation to all Council Officers and staff.

3. Deputy Presiding Councillor's Address (Cont'd)

The (Out-going) Deputy Presiding Councillor stated that it had been an honour to have held the office of Deputy Presiding Councillor for the Shadow Council and expressed thanks to everyone for their support during the past nine months, and put on record the significant contribution and leadership of the (Out-going) Presiding Councillor, Alderman J Tinsley, during this time. He welcomed the fact that all political parties on the Shadow Council had reached agreement on the way forward for the new Council.

The (Out-going) Deputy Presiding Councillor congratulated the incoming Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett and the incoming Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath, on their elevation to the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor of the new Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and wished them success in their respective offices for the year ahead.

At this juncture Alderman M Henderson, on behalf of the UUP, thanked Alderman J Tinsley and Alderman S Martin on the manner in which they had carried out their duties, as did Councillor P Catney, Alderman G Rice, Councillor A Girvin, Councillor J McCarthy and Alderman A G Ewart, on behalf of their respective political parties.

Alderman A G Ewart, on behalf of the DUP, also extended congratulations to Councillor R T Beckett on his elevation to the position of Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, and wished Councillor Beckett and his wife, Linda, a successful year ahead.

4. Installation of Mayor

Alderman J Tinsley (Out-going) Presiding Councillor invited Councillor R T Beckett to come forward. After being congratulated and invested with his Chain of Office by the (Outgoing) Presiding Councillor, and having signed the Declaration on Acceptance of Office, Councillor R T Beckett stated that he was honoured to accept the Office of Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Alderman J Tinsley wished Councillor R T Beckett and his family God's richest blessings for the year ahead.

5. The Right Worshipful the Mayor's Address

Councillor R T Beckett expressed thanks to his party colleagues for their faith and support and thanked all Members for their support in bestowing such an honour. He stated that he would endeavour to instil a sense of unity and bring an identity to the new Council area, and looked forward to working with his fellow elected members on the Council with a shared vision and commitment to the new Council.

Councillor R T Beckett announced that his Mayoral Chaplain for the ensuing year was Pastor Jimmy Richie, of Hillsborough Elim Pentecostal Church. Councillor Beckett thanked Pastor Ritchie for his attendance at the Inaugural Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and for having agreed to take on the role of Mayoral Chaplain.

5. The Right Worshipful the Mayor's Address (Cont'd)

Councillor R T Beckett announced that his Mayoral Charity was the Mary Peters Trust and welcomed the fact that 25 people from the Council area to date had received funding from the Mary Peters Trust, one in particular recipient being in the Council Chamber today, Councillor Dr Janet Gray, who was a world champion blind water skier.

6. Installation of Deputy Mayor

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, invited Councillor A Redpath to come forward. After being congratulated and invested with his Chain of Office by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, and having signed the Declaration on Acceptance of Office, Councillor A Redpath stated that he was honoured to accept the Office of Deputy Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor congratulated Councillor Redpath on his elevation to the position of Deputy Mayor and looked forward to working with him in the year ahead.

7. Deputy Mayor's Address

Councillor A Redpath having thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor for his good wishes congratulated him on his elevation to the position of Mayor of the new Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and wished him a successful year in office. The Deputy Mayor stated that he looked forward to an excellent working relationship with Councillor Beckett during their time in office.

The Deputy Mayor having indicated that he would endeavour to support and assist all Elected Members, wished everyone a successful first year in the new Council.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Tributes to Presiding Councillor and Deputy Presiding Councillor

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, paid special tributes to the (Out-going) Presiding Councillor and the (Out-going) Deputy Presiding Councillor, Aldermen J Tinsley and S Martin, respectively.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that the (Out-going) Presiding Councillor's role had been pivotal to the new Council's success, but which had been a role that was carried out without the pomp and ceremony that comes with the Office of Mayor. He commended the (Out-going) Presiding Councillor for his efforts in bringing political leadership to the new Council, working alongside the Deputy Presiding Councillor, Alderman S Martin, the Committee Chairmen and the Chief Executive, during this time.

8.1 Tributes to Presiding Councillor and Deputy Presiding Councillor (Cont'd)

At this juncture The Right Worshipful the Mayor, invited the (Out-going) Presiding Councillor, Alderman J Tinsley, to accept a gift on behalf of the Council in recognition of his hard work and commitment during the past year.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor proceeded to pay tribute to the work of the (Out-going) Deputy Presiding Councillor, Alderman S Martin, who had worked alongside the Presiding Councillor during the past year, and invited the (Out-going) Deputy Presiding Councillor to accept a gift on behalf of the Council.

Alderman M Henderson, Alderman G Rice, Councillor P Catney, Councillor A Girvin, Councillor J McCarthy, on behalf of their respective political parties, extended congratulations and best wishes to newly elected Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Councillor P Catney welcomed the decision of The Right Worshipful the Mayor in choosing the Mary Peters Trust as his Mayoral Charity.

Councillor J McCarthy expressed thanks for the help and support of the Chief Executive and Council staff during the past year.

There being no further business for the Inaugural Meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, closed the Meeting at 11.47 am, it being noted that following a Tree Planting Ceremony to be held outside the Island Civic Centre, a Civic Luncheon would be provided in the Island Hall, Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, followed by speeches, to mark the occasion.

Mayor