

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 26 January, 2016 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R T Beckett

Deputy Mayor
Councillor A Redpath

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, D Drysdale, A G Ewart,
M Henderson MBE, T Jeffers, W A Leatham, S Martin,
S P Porter, G Rice MBE and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, J Baird, B Bloomfield MBE,
S Carson, P Catney, A P Ewing, J Gallen, O Gawith,
A Girvin, A Givan, J Gray MBE, A Grehan, 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 Scott, M Tolerton and R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Corporate Services
Director of Development and Planning
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure and Community Services
Project Manager – Finance
Head of Central Support Services
Head of Marketing and Communication (Mrs C Bethel)
Lead Head of Planning and Building Control
Community Planning Manager
Committee Secretary
Attendance Clerk

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, welcomed those present to the meeting.

Prayers

At the invitation of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, Pastor Jimmy Ritchie, Hillsborough Elim Pentecostal Church, addressed the Council and said a prayer. Pastor Ritchie expressed condolences in respect of the following recent bereavements and prayed for the families of the deceased:

Prayers (Contd)

- Mr Brian McDowell who had worked for the Council in a voluntary capacity over the last 30 years; and
- Mr Billy Finn, father-in-law of Mrs Melanie Finn, employee in the Council's Economic Development Unit.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, paid tribute to Mr B McDowell who had been a voluntary 'front-of-house' member of staff in the Council over the last 30 years. Brian had been very popular among his colleagues and would be sadly missed by both staff and Elected Members of the Council. Councillor Beckett advised of Brian's funeral arrangements, as well as arrangements for a Service of Thanksgiving that was being held in Lagan Valley Island in his memory.

A number of Members paid tribute to Brian, as follows:

- Alderman J Tinsley, as Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, on behalf of the DUP Party and personally, expressed sympathy to Brian's family and stated that he had been a credit to the Council;
- Alderman W J Dillon, who had known Brian since he started working with the Council 30 years ago and who, over those years, had become a personal friend to him, stated that Brian had played a very valuable role in the work of the Council and a great sadness had fallen on the Council on his passing;
- Alderman S Martin, as past Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, stated that he had had the pleasure of presiding over a celebratory event to mark the occasion of Brian receiving his MBE in 2013. He expressed condolences to Brian's family and work colleagues;
- Councillor P Catney, on behalf the SDLP Party, expressed condolences to Brian's family, friends and work colleagues;
- Councillor J McCarthy, who had known Brian through the Spina Bifida Association before becoming an Elected Member, passed on his condolences and stated that Brian's volunteering with the Council was testament to the kind of person he was; and
- Councillor A Girvin expressed condolences on behalf of the TUV Party.

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, requested that all mobile phones be put on standby or silent for the duration of the meeting.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

The Right Worshipful the Mayor outlined the engagements he had attended during the month as follows:

- launch of the Northern Ireland Motorcycle Event at the Maze Eikon Centre, together with Alderman A G Ewart;
- an event for local school children held at Lagan Valley Island, which was one of a number of events on which the Council was taking the lead to mark the Holocaust;
- 11th Annual Orange Community Awards Ceremony at Lagan Valley Island, together with Alderman W A Leathem; and

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Contd)

- handing over to the French Honorary Consul the Book of Condolence to mark recent tragic events in Paris, together with Alderman J Tinsley and the Director of Corporate Services.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept an apology for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor R Butler.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following non-pecuniary declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor Jenny Palmer in respect of all business relating to the Resurgam Trust;
- Councillor L Poots in respect of all business relating to the Resurgam Trust

Alderman S Martin submitted a non-pecuniary declaration of interest form in respect of the item raised under the Governance and Audit Committee minutes of 12 January, 2016: "Page 60, Item 5.1, Further Consultation on Lisburn Courthouse", as he was a member of the Law Society of Northern Ireland.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council held on 15 December, 2015

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 15 December, 2015 be confirmed and signed.

4.2 Special Meeting of Council held on 11 January, 2016

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of Council held on 11 January, 2016 be confirmed and signed.

4.3 Special Meeting of Council held on 18 January, 2016

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of Council held on 18 January, 2016 be confirmed and signed, subject to page 82 referring to Councillor S Carson returning to the meeting at 7.08 pm rather than Councillor S Scott.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

On a proposal by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor M Tolerton, it was agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- The Representative Body of the Church of Ireland (incorporated under the name of The Representative Church Body) of Church of Ireland House, Church Avenue, Rathmines, Dublin, and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – Licence for Works in relation to temporary use of the cathedral grounds adjoining Christ Church Cathedral, Castle Street, Lisburn;
- Springvale Training Limited, 200 Springfield Road, Belfast, to Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – Lease of ground and second floor of 11-13 Market Square East, Lisburn, BT28 1AE for a term of three years;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ove Arup and Partners Limited of The Linenhall, 8th Floor, 32-38 Linenhall Street, Belfast, BT2 8BG – Consultancy Agreement via a service company for delivery of the Laganbank Quarter Development Scheme; and
- Department for Regional Development with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – Agreement in respect of ice and snow clearance of footways and pedestrian areas.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

It was agreed that the minutes and recommendations of the undernoted meetings be adopted, subject to any changes recorded below:

Special Corporate Services Committee

15 December, 2015

Proposed by Alderman J Tinsley

Seconded by Councillor A Grehan

Leisure and Community Development Committee

5 January, 2016

Proposed by Alderman S P Porter

Seconded by Councillor A McIntyre

Page 16, Item 4.6

Former Derriagh Primary School

Alderman S P Porter referred to the decision at the above meeting to “defer a decision on this matter to the Council meeting on 26 January, 2016 and, if the

Page 16, Item 4.6
Former Derriaghy Primary School (Contd)

report had not been received by that date, to seek delegated authority from the Council to allow the Committee to deal with the issue at its February meeting”.

Alderman S P Porter advised that information had only been received by Officers earlier in the day and, therefore, delegated authority was required for the Leisure and Community Development Committee to deal with this issue on 2 February, 2016.

Verbal Matter – 2015 UK Pool and Spa Awards

Alderman S P Porter advised that Lagan Valley LeisurePlex had won the top award in two categories in the 2015 UK Pool and Spa Awards: “Water Leisure Venue of the Year” and “Commercial Refurbishment Project of the Year”. Alderman Porter stated that these awards were an indication of the work done by staff at the LeisurePlex and asked that the Director of Leisure Services pass on his congratulations to those staff.

Environmental Services Committee
 Proposed by Councillor B Hanvey
 Seconded by Councillor T Mitchell

6 January, 2016

Development Committee
 Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart
 Seconded by Alderman W J Dillon

6 January, 2016

Alderman A G Ewart referred to the fact that this was the last Council meeting at which the Director of Development and Planning, Mr C McClintock, would be in attendance before his retirement from the Council. Alderman Ewart having stated that Mr McClintock would be greatly missed by the Council, on behalf of the DUP Party, wished him and his wife, Carol, all the best for the future and for a long and happy retirement. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, concurred with Alderman Ewart’s comments and offered his best wishes to Mr McClintock, as did the following Members:

- Alderman W J Dillon stated that Mr McClintock was one of the top class Officers, not only in this Council, but in Local Government throughout Northern Ireland. During his many years in the Council, Mr McClintock had been an Officer with a wealth of knowledge and experience and had become a personal friend of Alderman Dillon, whilst still maintaining his professional distance;
- Alderman M Henderson, on behalf of the Planning Committee, thanked Mr McClintock for his guidance and support;
- Alderman S Martin, on behalf of the Alliance Party’s present Members, as well as past Members with whom Mr McClintock had served, expressed thanks to him for the assistance he had offered them over the years. Alderman Martin wished the McClintock family all the very best for the future and stated that Mr McClintock deserved a long and happy retirement;

- Councillor P Catney wished Mr McClintock a happy and healthy retirement;
- Councillor J McCarthy wished Mr McClintock all the best for the future; and
- Councillor A Girvin, having stated that Mr McClintock had been a great help to him, wished him all the best on his retirement.

The Chief Executive, on behalf of all Officers of the Council, expressed appreciation to Mr McClintock for his assistance, knowledge and the calm demeanour with which he conducted himself, particularly during the transition to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Mr McClintock thanked the Chief Executive and Members for their comments and well wishes. He stated that it had been his privilege to have worked in Local Government for almost 40 years. He had worked with a huge variety of people and projects and had gained a great amount of job satisfaction over the years. Mr McClintock expressed his best wishes to Officers and Members for the future.

Governance and Audit Committee

12 January, 2016

Proposed by Alderman W A Leathem

Seconded by Councillor V Kamble

Page 58, Item 4.1

Audit Reports

Alderman W A Leathem stated that there had been nine audit reports considered at the Governance and Audit Committee meeting on 12 January, 2016. The reports' findings and recommendations from the Northern Ireland Audit Office were testament to the Council staff involved and, on behalf of the Committee and Council, Alderman Leathem commended those staff in this regard.

Page 60, Item 5.1

Further Consultation on Lisburn Courthouse

Alderman W A Leathem reminded Members that they had been asked to respond individually to the above consultation. He also referred to the decision to set up a number of meetings and advised that a meeting with the District Judge had been arranged to take place on 3 February, 2016. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, advised that a letter had been received that day in his office from the Law Society in relation to setting up a meeting and this would be arranged accordingly.

Alderman Leathem proposed that a letter be sent to the six MLAs seeking their support for the retention of Lisburn Courthouse. This was seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed.

Corporate Services Committee

12 January, 2016

Proposed by Alderman J Tinsley

Seconded by Councillor A Grehan

For Noting

Planning Committee

4 January, 2016

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 7 December, 2015 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 4 January, 2016.

9. Report from Chief Executive

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Decision

9.1 Community Planning Partnership – Member Involvement

Councillor T Mitchell left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.42 pm and 7.44 pm respectively).

Members were provided with a copy of a report on options for Member involvement on the Community Planning Partnership from the Chief Executive's Office. Having thanked the Community Planning Manager for preparing the detailed paper, it was proposed by Alderman W A Leathem, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed to proceed on the basis of option 3, ie. that representatives be nominated through the application of D'Hondt, that four Members be appointed and that they serve for the Council term.

Alderman G Rice, in agreeing with the decision taken, stated that it was important that everyone on the Council would have an opportunity at some stage to represent the Council on this Partnership.

9.2 National Association of Councillors – Tackling Family Poverty
Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield – 26-28 February, 2016

Members having been provided with details of the above conference, the estimated cost of a Member's attendance at which was £765.60, it was agreed that Alderman T Jeffers would represent the DUP Party at the conference and that the UUP Party would also nominate one Member, whose name would be notified to Members' Services in due course.

9.3 NI Civil Service Departmental Restructuring

Alderman G Rice left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.46 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of a letter sent by SOLACE to the Northern Ireland Assembly providing its views on the NI Civil Service Departmental Restructuring process which was currently underway. The response included comments which had been made by this Council.

9.3 NI Civil Service Departmental Restructuring (Contd)

It was agreed that the response provided by SOLACE on its views on the NI Civil Service Departmental Restructuring process be noted and that any additional comments which Members wished to make be communicated to the Chief Executive's Office for inclusion in the response and submission to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Alderman W J Dillon referred to a Senior Civil Servant having attended a recent NILGA meeting and advised that 20,000 civil servants were leaving. However, Alderman Dillon had read in a news article last week that that number was now being reduced to 10,000 and he enquired how many civil servants were now actually going. Alderman S P Porter suggested that possibly 10,000 employees had opted for voluntary redundancy and the Northern Ireland Civil Service would be required to identify a further 10,000.

9.4 Proposals for Taking Forward NI Climate Change Legislation

Members were provided with (a) a discussion paper on Climate Change seeking Councils' comments by 29 January, 2016 and (b) copy of a press release by the Environment Minister welcoming the UK's Committee on Climate Change statement which advised that the unique circumstances in Northern Ireland meant that locally-led and developed legislation could be an advantage.

In the summary, the paper provided six definitive proposals on a pathway but provided no actual suggestions on how it intended to achieve the reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Without this information, it was difficult to comment on the impact for the population or economy of Lisburn and Castlereagh. Comments could, therefore, only be made on the generality of the paper and the impact to the environment as a whole. Members were provided with a copy of responses to the proposals, which had been considered by the Corporate Management Team (CMT). It was proposed agreed that the responses to the proposals, as considered by the CMT, be approved and forwarded to the Department for the Environment.

9.5 DHSSPSNI Consultation on Health and Social Care Reform

Following the Minister's announcement in November 2015 of his intention to reform the administrative structures for Health and Social Care in Northern Ireland, the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety (DHSSPS) was seeking the views of the public and stakeholders on the preferred option for reform. The consultation would run until 12 February, 2016 and Members were advised that consultation documentation was available on the DHSSPSNI website. It was agreed that, given the timescale for response, delegated authority be granted to the Corporate Services Committee to agree a response at its meeting to be held on 9 February, 2016.

9.6 Business Solutions Tenders

It was agreed that delegated authority be granted to a future meeting of the Development Committee to agree the successful tender for the Business Solutions project submitted for the Israel Trade Development Programme.

Items for Noting

9.7 Councillor Johnny McCarthy – Resignation from NI21 Party

Members noted the contents of correspondence received from Councillor J McCarthy advising that he had resigned as a member of the NI21 Party with effect from 29 December, 2015 and that he intended to remain on the Council as an Independent Councillor.

9.8 Correspondence Received from Northern Ireland Water Following Attendance at Special Meeting of Council on 29 October, 2015

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter dated 21 December, 2015 from Northern Ireland Water detailing responses to matters which had been raised at the special meeting of Council held on 29 October, 2015.

9.9 Correspondence Received from Department for Regional Development Following Attendance at Special Meeting of Council held on 29 October, 2015

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter dated 21 December, 2015 from the Department for Regional Development detailing responses to matters which had been raised at the special meeting of Council held on 29 October, 2015.

Alderman G Rice returned to the meeting at 7.48 pm.

Councillor John Palmer welcomed confirmation from the Department that the footway from Drumard Crescent to Prince William Road was programmed for construction during the 2016-17 financial year, subject to confirmation that the necessary funding was available.

9.10 Away Day – 28 January, 2016

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of an agenda for the Away Day to be held on 28 January, 2016 in Lagan Valley Island.

9.11 Appointments by the Secretary of State

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, information received from the Northern Ireland Office in regard to the appointment of Sheriffs, by the Secretary of State, for Northern Ireland for 2016.

Alderman W J Dillon paid tribute to his Party colleague, Alderman Jim Rodgers OBE, on his appointment to Sheriff for the County Borough of Belfast. Having already held the positions of Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Belfast City Council, being now appointed Sheriff was an honour that few others had obtained.

9.11 Appointments by the Secretary of State (Contd)

Alderman J Tinsley having stated that the Sheriff for County Down, Mr Philip Baxter, resided in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area, it was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr Baxter.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Continued Paramilitary Activity
Councillor T Mitchell and Alderman M Henderson

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor T Mitchell had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“That this Council notes the significant unresolved matters highlighted in the recent Assessment of Paramilitary Groups in Northern Ireland.

The continued existence and activities of the Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF), Red Hand Commando (RHC), Ulster Defence Association (UDA), Provisional Irish Republican Army (PIRA) and Irish National Liberation Army (INLA) all provide serious concern.

Given that Sinn Fein are a party of government, it is of particular concern that the report states that the IRA Army Council remains intact, and is perceived to oversee Sinn Fein’s political strategy. It is also troubling that the Provisional IRA retain weapons, are involved in criminal activity, and that its members continue to carry out acts of violence, including murders.

This Council further agrees that Sinn Fein must accept the truth, that the IRA still exists, and use all their influence to ensure the Provisional IRA, along with all other paramilitary organisations, leave the stage completely”.

Alderman M Henderson, in accordance with section 16.2 (g) of Standing Orders withdrew the above Notice of Motion.

13. Confidential Business

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

13. Confidential Business (Contd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, advised that the matter contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed that the item in the Confidential Report be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

13.1 Evening Economy Business Support Programme

Members having been provided with a procurement report in relation to the above, it was agreed that the tender for the design and delivery of an Evening Economy Business Support Programme be awarded to Nuala Foley & Associates, being the most economically advantageous tender received.

Verbal Matter

13.2 Public Realm Scheme – Legal Case

The Chairman of the Development Committee, Alderman A G Ewart, informed Members that a legal case against the Council in relation to the Public Realm Scheme was to commence the following week. Alderman Ewart stressed the importance of all media coverage being handled by the Marketing and Communications Unit of the Council and urged Members not to speak directly to the press on this matter.

The Chief Executive provided Members with an update in relation to the forthcoming legal case and reiterated Alderman Ewart's comments that Members should not speak to the press as it was important that the Council maintained a corporate view on this matter. Members would be kept apprised of the progress of the case and anything that needed to be communicated urgently to Members would be done though The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Councillor B Mallon – Engagement
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Councillor Jenny Palmer congratulated Councillor B Mallon on the occasion of his recent engagement. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, also offered his congratulations.

14.2 Papers for Away Day on 28 January, 2016
Alderman G Rice

Alderman G Rice stated that papers for the Away Day on 28 January, 2016 were to have been circulated this evening. This had not happened and Alderman Rice enquired why this was the case. The Chief Executive advised that it had been intended that Members would receive the full pack of papers together. There were two presentations from external organisations and there had been a delay in receiving one of those. However, the full pack of papers would be uploaded to SharePoint the following morning.

Alderman Rice stated that she often had difficulties with her IT equipment and requested that she be provided with a hard copy of papers. Alderman S P Porter concurred with Alderman Rice.

Alderman W A Leathem referred to a previous decision of the Council that, if Members were provided with iPads and printers, they would not also be provided with hard copies of papers. Following discussion, during which it was pointed out that hard copies were only being requested on this occasion due to the amount of financial documents they contained, it was agreed that any Member wishing to avail of a hard copy of the Away Day papers remain behind after the meeting.

14.3 Elected Member Development Charter
Alderman S Martin

Alderman S Martin advised that a number of councils had been awarded the Elected Member Development Charter Status. He stated that Members would shortly be receiving a letter from the Council advising them of an upcoming work schedule and he urged everyone to fully participate in that and give up their time to meet individually with a facilitator to discuss areas in which they required additional training. Alderman Martin hoped that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council would achieve Charter Status in the near future.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 8.09 pm.

Mayor