

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 28 July, 2015 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R T Beckett

Aldermen D Drysdale, A G Ewart, T Jeffers, W A Leathem,
S Martin, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, J Baird, B Bloomfield MBE,
R Butler, S Carson, P Catney, A P Ewing, J Gallen,
O Gawith, A Givan, J Gray MBE, B Hanvey, H Legge,
J McCarthy, A McIntyre, 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 and Community Services
Director of Finance and the Convergence of IT Systems
Head of Central Support Services
Head of Marketing and Communication (Mrs C Bethel)
Head of Economic Development
Head of Human Resources and Organisational
Development
Transition Manager
IT Officer
Committee Secretary
Attendance Clerk

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, having welcomed those present to the meeting, requested that all mobile phones be put on standby or silent for the duration of the meeting.

Prayers

Alderman T Jeffers arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.03 pm).

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.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, expressed condolences in respect of the following recent bereavements:

- Ruth Liggett, former employee of Lisburn City Council during the period 2006-2012
- Samuel Graham, father of Mrs Gillian Allen, Receptionist at Lagan Valley Island

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed Councillor J Baird to the meeting, which was the first he had attended since his recent illness. Councillor Baird thanked those Elected Members and Council Officers who had enquired after him, visited him or sent cards during the time he was unwell. He stated that the support and kindness shown by everyone had been appreciated.

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

- ‘The Boyne’ Exhibition in Lisburn Museum to mark the 325th anniversary of the Battle of the Boyne
- a Council-supported Summer Scheme in Trinity Methodist for Autism NI
- the institution of a new Minister in Eglantine Parish Church
- the launch of a Golf Expo at Eikon Exhibition Centre, Balmoral

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also referred to the following engagements he would be attending on Saturday, 1 August:

- Pipe Band Championships at Moira Demesne, at which the Mayor would be Chieftain
- Mayoral Reception for the Mayor and Lady Mayoress of Warrington who would be visiting Lisburn this weekend as part of the Peace Cup, organised by Crewe United Football Club

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath, Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, M Henderson MBE and G Rice MBE, Councillors A Girvin, A Grehan, V Kamble and U Mackin and the Director of Development and Planning.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at this point in the meeting; however, during the meeting, the following declarations were made:

3. Declarations of Interest (Contd)

- Alderman A G Ewart declared an interest in Item 9.13 'Consultation Paper on Proposal for a Special Advisers Amendment Bill' in view of his position of Special Advisor in the Department for Social Development (DSD);
- Councillor Jenny Palmer declared an interest in Item 9.13 'Consultation Paper on Proposal for a Special Advisers Amendment Bill' as it was directly linked to the Stephen Brimstone/Red Sky/DSD matter;
- Councillor S Skillen declared an interest in Item 9.1 'European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020 Match Funding Proposals' as her mother worked for one of the organisations that had applied for funding.

4. Council Minutes

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 23 July, 2015 be confirmed and signed, subject to references to 'Chinese Knotweed' in Item 14.3 being amended to 'Japanese Knotweed'.

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:

- Belfast City Council, City Hall, Belfast, BT1 5GS and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – Licence Agreement to permit Council to construct the Erin Thompson Memorial Playground project;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Northern Ireland Local Government Association of Unit 5B, Castlereagh Business Park, 478 Castlereagh Road, Belfast, BT5 5BQ – Lease of office accommodation and 10 car parking spaces at Bradford Court, Belfast;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Citizens Advice Bureau of 50 Railway Street, Lisburn, BT28 1XP – Lease of office accommodation at Bradford Court, Belfast.

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 Governance and Audit Committee

26 June, 2015

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart

Seconded by Alderman D Drysdale

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, Alderman W A Leathem, thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, for having chaired the special meeting on 26 June, 2015, in the absence of both himself and the Vice-Chairman.

Councillor O Gawith left the meeting at this point (7.23 pm).

For Noting

Planning Committee

6 July, 2015

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 6 July, 2015 were circulated for noting as the Planning Committee had delegated authority on all matters. It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor M Tolerton and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

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

Items for Decision

9.1 European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020
Match Funding Proposals

Councillor O Gawith returned to the meeting at this point (7.24 pm).

Members having been provided with an update on the current position with the European Social Fund (ESF) locally, focusing in particular on a number of project requests for Council match funding, it was agreed that match funding be provided to the following projects in 2015-2016:

- (i) Workforce III, Stepping Stones - £30,000
- (ii) Exploring Enterprise 3 Programme, Enterprise NI - £10,311
- (iii) CO-MENT, GEMS NI - £24,842

It was further agreed that the Council could sign the match funding certificates for the above projects for year 1 ESF project activity to ensure project promoters could return these to the Department for Employment and Learning (DEL) by the deadline of 4 August, 2015.

9.1 European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020
Match Funding Proposals (Contd)

It was further agreed that the funding be allocated for one year only at this stage, with a commitment to further match funding in years 2 and 3 dependent upon a positive Economic Appraisal, as per the Council's financial appraisal policy.

9.2 InnoMot+ Proposal for Interreg

The Chief Executive reported that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council had been invited to be the lead partner in a new funding bid to Interreg Europe. Members were provided with a brief overview of the proposed project, including the role of lead partner, indicative funding and transitional partners. It was agreed that the Council be lead partner as part of the InnoMot+ application to Interreg Europe, with a further report being brought to Council, should the bid be successful.

9.3 Junior Parkrun – Request for Use of Moira Demesne

Members were advised that the weekly Parkrun in Wallace Park on a Saturday morning had been very successful, with an average of 180 participants each week. Parkrun was a worldwide programme, with over 70,000 participants in the UK alone on any given Saturday, and worked on a number of key principles, including that it was free to all participants and was organised and delivered by volunteers. An integral part of the Parkrun family of events in the UK and further afield had been the development of Junior Parkrun, aimed at 4-14 year olds, over a shorter 2km long course. Junior Parkruns took place on Sunday mornings and, as with the Senior Parkrun, was managed by community volunteers who were Access NI checked and covered by UKA Insurance. At present, there were no Junior Parkruns in NI.

An approach had been made to the Council by Parkrun UK and a number of Moira-based parents with the view to Moira Demesne hosting the first Junior Parkrun in NI. The initial cost associated with the event, including the purchase of the electronic timing system, was in the region of £3,000, with the Public Health Agency agreeing to meet this cost. If the request to use Moira Demesne was approved, it had been agreed with organisers that the event would commence at 9.00 am each Sunday to minimise any potential conflict with local Church services.

Alongside the use of Moira Demesne, the organisers had requested that the Council measure and mark the course in a similar manner to the course at Wallace Park and ensure the Demesne was open in sufficient time to ensure volunteers could prepare for the start.

It was agreed that the Council approve the request from the Regional Manager of Parkrun for the use of Moira Demesne and associated support to organise NI's first Junior Parkrun on Sunday mornings at 9.00 am, it being noted that appropriate insurance would require to be in place.

9.4 Milk Cup & Foyle Cup: Requests for Financial Assistance for Local Participants

Members were advised that, in previous years, the former Lisburn City Council had provided financial assistance (£100 per participant) to local residents selected to represent County Antrim and County Down teams participating in the NI Milk Cup football competition. This assistance was towards each player's costs in participating.

The Chief Executive reported that similar requests for assistance had been received this year and staff were working with the Secretaries of the County Antrim and County Down Associations to confirm the exact number of local youngsters involved, which was anticipated to be in the region of six.

In addition, a request had been received for financial assistance towards four local youngsters selected to participate in the Newtownards & District Primary Schools FA Representative Team participating in the Foyle Cup.

It was agreed that, subject to confirmation of participant details, £100 financial assistance be awarded to each of the local residents selected to represent County Antrim, County Down and the Newtownards & District Primary Schools representative teams in the Milk Cup and Foyle Cup.

9.5 Proposed Amendments to the Polling Scheme

Members were provided by a copy of a letter dated 30 June, 2015 from the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (EONI) seeking comments in regard to proposed changes to the Polling Scheme, to be submitted by 22 September, 2015. Members were advised that the grounds for objection and/or proposal should be included in any submission, together with the preferred alternative to the premises referred to in the proposal document.

It was agreed that any objections or alternative proposals to the changes be submitted to EONI by 22 September, 2015.

Alderman S P Porter welcomed the proposals, particularly in relation to Seymour Hill. He thanked Councillors S Carson and M Tolerton, who, as a result of complaints from constituents during the last election, had worked with Mr J Craig MLA, to have changes brought about in that area.

9.6 Institute of Revenues, Rating & Valuation (IRRV) Conference
1 October, 2015 – Malone House, Belfast

Members having been provided with details of the above conference, the estimated cost of attendance at which was £91.04, it was agreed that the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, or their nominees, be nominated to attend. It was noted that the Chief Executive had been asked to address the conference on the issue of "The Reorganisation Challenges Facing the New Councils".

9.7 Planning for Climate Change Conference
28 October, 2015 – Dublin

Members having been provided with details of the above conference, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed that no nominations be made for attendance.

9.8 Translink Ulster in Bloom Community Champion 2015

Members were provided with (a) a copy of correspondence received from NILGA seeking nominations from within the areas entered into the 2015 Ulster in Bloom competition to the Translink Ulster in Bloom Community Champion Award 2015; and (b) a list of entries to the 2015 Translink Ulster in Bloom competition.

Each council may submit up to three nominations for their council area, which should be for an individual from a local community (group) who was an Ulster in Bloom 2015 competition participant. Nominations, which excluded Elected Members and council employees, should be based on the person's individual contribution to Ulster in Bloom.

It was suggested by Councillor Jenny Palmer that it would be appropriate to seek the advice of the Officers involved in the Ulster in Bloom competition, among others, in relation to nominations.

9.9 Gallipoli Centenary Commemoration Service
9 August, 2015 – Lisburn Cathedral

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence received from the Rt Hon Jeffery Donaldson MP, in his capacity as Chairman of the Northern Ireland World War One Centenary Committee, extending an invitation to Members to the Gallipoli Centenary Commemoration Service at Lisburn Cathedral on 9 August, 2015.

It was agreed that any Member interested in attending the Gallipoli Centenary Commemoration Service at Lisburn Cathedral advise Members' Services Unit accordingly.

9.10 Britain's Longest Reigning Monarch

Members were advised that, on Wednesday, 9 September, 2015, Queen Elizabeth II would become Britain's longest reigning Monarch, serving the country for 63 years, 7 months and 4 days, exceeding the record set by Queen Victoria.

It was noted that, to mark this occasion, at the request of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, a Service of Thanksgiving would be organised during September 2015, arrangements for which would be made by Central Support Services.

9.11 Request for the Use of Car Parking Space in Hillsborough for the Oyster Festival Event

Members having been provided with a report from the Head of Service (Environmental Health) regarding a request for the free-of-charge use of the Chimes car park, Ballynahinch Street, for the Hillsborough Oyster Festival, it was agreed that this request be approved.

9.12 Heart City Initiative

Members having been provided with an update report on the City Heart Initiative, it was agreed that the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council affirmation of the previous extant Lisburn City Council pledge to the British Heart Foundation be approved.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart and agreed that a Steering Group be created to assist in the delivery of the pledge, such Steering Group to consist of the Chairman of the day of the Corporate Services, Environmental Services and Leisure Services Committees, together with Councillor M Tolerton, who had been involved with the Heart City Initiative since its inception.

9.13 Consultation Paper on Proposal for a Special Advisers Amendment Bill

Alderman A G Ewart left the meeting for consideration of this item of business (7.32 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence from the office of Mr Jim Allister MLA seeking comments on the above. It was agreed that any comments Members wished to make on the consultation paper be submitted by political parties directly to Mr Allister.

Alderman A G Ewart returned to the meeting at this point (7.32 pm).

9.14 Draft Local Government Reorganisation (Compensation for Diminution of Emoluments) Regulations (NI) 2015

Members were provided with a copy of the above consultation document, a response on which had been requested by the Department of the Environment (DOE) by 13 August, 2015. It was agreed that Members convey their comments on the consultation document to the Head of HR and OD by 7 August, 2015 to allow a submission to be made to the Department.

It was further agreed that the response be reported to the meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on 8 September, 2015 for information purposes.

Items for Noting

9.15 Community Festivals Fund: Outcome of Appeals 2015-2016

Members were reminded that, at the Council meeting held on 23 June, 2015, the awards made under the above grant programme had been noted. Four groups

9.15 Community Festivals Fund: Outcome of Appeals 2015-2016 (Contd)

had been unsuccessful in their initial applications but had a right of appeal within the grant scheme. Appeals required to be lodged with the Council within 7 days of the date of receipt of the letter advising the group their application had been unsuccessful.

Members were advised that, by the closing date, two submissions had been lodged. An additional appeal had been received outside the appeal timescale and, as a result, this had not been considered.

In the absence of the Director on leave, an Appeals Panel, made up of the of Head of Cultural & Community Services and the Head of Sports Services, had considered the two appeals. Members noted the outcome of the Appeals Panel's decision, as set out in the Chief Executive's report.

As a result of the appeals, it was noted that an additional allocation of £2,000 had been awarded under the Community Festivals Fund Programme 2015/16, bringing the total allocation to £56,200. Members were reminded that 50% of this allocation was funded through the Department of Culture Arts and Leisure (DCAL).

Alderman S P Porter welcomed the successful outcome of the appeals submitted and commended Council Officers involved in this for their hard work. He urged Members to work with groups interested in applying for future grants and asked that they encourage such groups to avail of training offered by the Council.

9.16 Beechlawn School, Hillsborough – Sixth Form Entry September 2015

Pastor J Ritchie left the meeting at this point (7.37 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of a letter dated 6 July, 2015 from the Minister for Education in response to representations by the Council to meet with a delegation and representatives from Beechlawn School to discuss the sixth form intake at the school. It was noted from the Minister's letter that 16 pupils had been enrolled in the sixth form in 2014/15 and that confirmation had been received from the Education Authority, South Eastern Region, that the Principal of Beechlawn Special School had been advised of its plans to continue to place 15 pupils in the first year of the sixth form. Now that the matter had been resolved, the Minister considered that there was no longer a need for a meeting.

In the absence of Councillor U Mackin, who had brought this matter to the Council's attention in May, Alderman A G Ewart, on his behalf, welcomed the plans to continue to place 15 pupils in the first year of the sixth form in Beechlawn Special School.

9.17 Proposals by the NI Courts and Tribunals Service for the Rationalisation of the Courts Estate

Members noted the contents of a letter dated 9 July, 2015 from the Chairman of the Northern Ireland Assembly Committee for Justice expressing his thanks to the Council for attending the evidence event in regard to the above and advising

9.17 Proposals by the NI Courts and Tribunals Service for the Rationalisation of the Courts Estate (Contd)

that the official transcript of the evidence session should be available in due course and that this would assist the Committee when it considered the final proposals to rationalise the courts estate which the Department was due to bring in the autumn.

9.18 Department of Justice Consultation – Access and Use of DNA/Fingerprints Data by the Historical Investigations Unit

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence dated 25 June, 2015 from the Department of Justice seeking comments from the Council in relation to the above, such comments to be submitted by 20 August, 2015.

It was noted that, following consultation by the Director of Corporate Services with Members on this matter, no comments were received.

9.19 Performance Improvement

Members were notified of receipt of recent correspondence from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) in relation to the Performance Improvement Audit and Assessments for 2015. Officers were currently working the NIAO on the audit and it was noted that a detailed report, together with the audit letter, would be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee meeting in September 2015.

9.20 Northern Ireland Assembly Committee of the Environment Inquiry Into Wind Energy

Members noted receipt of correspondence from the Environment Committee of the Northern Ireland Assembly in regard to its inquiry into wind energy, a detailed report on which would be presented to a future meeting of the Planning Committee.

9.21 Transport NI – Removal of Accessible Parking Bay – Manor Park, Lisburn

Members noted the contents of correspondence dated 8 July, 2015 from Transport NI regarding a proposal to remove an accessible/disabled parking bay at Manor Park, Lisburn.

9.22 Roads (NI) Order 1993

9.22.1 Stopping Up of Public Right of Way

Members noted the contents of a Notice of Commencement, together with related attachments, received from Transport NI in respect of the stopping up of a public right of way at Ballinderry Road/Glenavy Road, Lisburn.

9.22.2 Proposed Abandonment and Stopping Up

Members noted the contents of a notice of proposed abandonment and stopping up of land/footpath, together with related attachments, received from Transport

9.22.2 Proposed Abandonment and Stopping Up (Contd)

NI in respect of Temple Crossroads. Members were requested to provide any comments they had on this proposal to the Director of Environmental Services.

9.23 Ombudsman Annual Report 2014/15

Members were advised that the above Annual Report was available to download from the NI Ombudsman's website.

9.24 Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry
"Growing Something Brilliant – An Action Plan for Growing the Northern Ireland Economy"

Members noted that a copy of the above publication had been received in the Council offices and could be made available to any Member wishing to have sight of its contents.

9.25 Safeguarding Board Northern Ireland Annual Report

Members noted that a copy of the above publication had been received in the Council offices and could be made available to any Member wishing to have sight of its contents.

9.26 BBC Audience Council Northern Ireland Annual Review 2014/15

Members noted the contents of an email dated 14 July, 2015 from Dr Aideen McGinley, BBC National Trustee and Chair, Audience Council Northern Ireland, advising of the publication of a review of BBC performance in Northern Ireland 2014/15 which had been carried out by the BBC Audience Council Northern Ireland, an independent advisory body to the Trust.

9.27 Report from Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick
"Children's Independent Mobility on the Island of Ireland"

Members noted receipt of the above report, which was also available to download, presenting data collected from over 2000 children and their parents/guardians across the island and dealing with several issues that were relevant to local authorities, including infrastructure, footpaths, lighting, cycle lanes, parks, playgrounds, the environment, sports amenities and education, among others.

At the request of Alderman W A Leathem, it was agreed that the above report be forwarded to the Community Planning Manager as it contained information that could be useful in terms of community planning.

Additional Report

Items for Noting

9.28 Public Transport Provision – Old Dundonald Road Route

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence dated 17 July, 2015 from the Minister's Office, Department for Regional Development, in response to concerns expressed by the Council about public transport provision along the Old Dundonald Road route between Dundonald Ice Bowl and the Comber Road. It was noted that the Minister had requested Transport NI to review a previous decision not to undertake road works required to allow low floor buses to negotiate this junction and that the Minister should be in a position to provide an update on this matter within the next few weeks.

Alderman T Jeffers welcomed the contents of the Minister's response.

9.29 Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – Longest Serving Monarch

It was noted that this matter had been dealt with under Item 9.10.

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

There were no Notices of Motion.

13. Confidential Business

Report by the Chief Executive

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, advised that the items contained in the Chief Executive's confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" for the following reasons:

- (i) they contained information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council;
- (ii) they contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor having thanked members of the public present for their attendance, asked that they leave the meeting. The Head of Central Support Services left the meeting at this point (7.44 pm).

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman D Drysdale, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed that the items in the Confidential Report be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

Items for Decision

13.1 Organisation Design – Post of Senior Administrative Assistant with PA Duties

Members having been provided with a copy of a report outlining a business case for the appointment of a Senior Administrative Assistant with PA Duties to each Directorate within the new structure, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale and agreed that such appointments be approved subject to review after six months, when it was anticipated the organisational design would be completed.

13.2 Accommodation

13.2.1 Office Accommodation

Members having been provided with a copy of a report on the outcome of an accommodation review carried out by the Corporate Management Team, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale and agreed that:

- (a) the Environmental Health Service and Technical Services be based at Bradford Court, with the Director of Environmental Services retaining an office in both Bradford Court and Lagan Valley Island, which would address the immediate accommodation needs and provide a senior staff presence in Bradford Court;
- (b) Corporate Services staff at Bradford Court relocate to Lagan Valley Island (less Registration, Reception and Facility Management staff);
- (c) Building Control staff at Bradford Court relocate to Lagan Valley Island; and
- (d) Head of Sports Services and appropriate administrative support staff relocate to Bradford Court from the LeisurePlex.

The Director of Corporate Services pointed out that the above arrangements were a temporary solution to ease management difficulties being experienced where staff in Council Units were split over two locations.

It was noted that necessary consultation would be carried out with affected staff and the Trade Unions and that all reasonable measures to assist staff who were transferring locations would be considered.

13.2.1 Office Accommodation (Contd)

Members were advised that it was intended that a further review of the Council's accommodation needs would be carried out in 2016 once the new organisational structure had been agreed and 'bedded in' and the Estate Strategy had been completed. The intention would be to centralise all staff in Lagan Valley Island, but this may require modification of the existing building; therefore, a timeframe of up to 3 years would be expected

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale and agreed that the Council's accommodation needs be reviewed immediately following completion of the Estate Strategy.

13.2.2 Rental of Office Space at Bradford Court

Members noted that the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) would be moving to Bradford Court with effect from 1 September, 2015 on a 12 month lease, taking over the office space vacated by Eastern Group. Details of the agreed rental was set out in the Chief Executive's report. The lease had been drawn up by the Council's legal advisors and had been agreed earlier in the meeting under Item 7.

13.3 Appointment of Sports Development Consultant to Undertake an Audit of Pitch Provision and the Preparation of a Playing Pitches Strategy – Tender Evaluation Report

Members having been provided with a copy of a tender evaluation report in respect of the above, it was agreed that the contract for the audit of playing pitches and preparation of a Playing Pitch Strategy be awarded to Otium Leisure Consultancy.

13.4 Arts Service Design and Publishing Services 2015-2016: Tender Evaluation Report

Members having been provided with a copy of a tender evaluation report in respect of the above, it was agreed that tender for the Arts Service Design and Publishing Services be awarded to Walker Communications.

Items for Noting

13.5 The Hunday (Harry Ferguson Vintage Tractor) Collection - Correspondence

Members were provided with a copy of a letter dated 14 July, 2015 to the Chief Executive from Mr William King of Cheffins, on behalf of one of his clients, offering the Council the opportunity to purchase the Hunday Collection. The vendor having requested that any agreement to purchase be concluded by the end of August, it was noted that the Chairman of the Development Committee had agreed to hold a special meeting of that Committee in August to consider this matter.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 PGA Award
Alderman S P Porter

The Head of Central Support Services returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.51 pm).

Alderman S P Porter advised that the resident PGA Golf Professional at Castlereagh Hills Golf Course, Mr Roy Skillen, had recently received an award from the PGA in respect of work he had carried out with schools in the community. Alderman Porter commended this member of staff on this achievement and asked that the Director of Leisure and Community Services convey these sentiments to Mr Skillen. Alderman Porter further advised that Mr Skillen would be donating the money he had been awarded to the Mayor's Charity.

14.2 Green Flag Awards
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter advised that Castle Gardens (for the eighth year) and Wallace Park (for the first time) had recently been awarded the Green Flag Award. He commended the staff in the Council's Leisure and Community Services and Environmental Services Departments for their work in helping achieve these awards and asked the Directors to convey these sentiments to relevant staff.

14.3 Death of Dr John Hinds
Councillor A P Ewing

Councillor L Poots left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.55 pm).

Councillor A P Ewing referred to the tragic death of Dr John Hinds during the Skerries 100 Road Race in July. In paying tribute to Dr Hinds, Councillor Ewing stated that Dr Hinds had been a valuable asset to motorcycle racing and had made a huge contribution to saving lives throughout his career. Dr Hinds had given assistance over the years at the Ulster Grand Prix locally, as well as at many other races across Ireland. It was agreed, on a proposal by Councillor Ewing, seconded by Councillor J Gray, that a letter of condolence be forwarded to Dr Hinds' family.

Councillor Ewing further referred to Dr Hinds' well-documented campaign to have an emergency medical helicopter in Northern Ireland. As a fitting tribute to the memory of Dr Hinds, it was proposed by Councillor Ewing, seconded by

14.3 Death of Dr John Hinds (Contd)
Councillor A P Ewing

Councillor J Gray and agreed that the Council support efforts being made locally to deliver this life-saving service.

Councillor O Gawith advised Members of a petition on the www.change.org website which was campaigning to the Northern Ireland Ministry of Health to get an air ambulance in Northern Ireland and advised that Members could sign that as a means of support.

14.4 Council Representative on Lagan Valley Regional Park
Alderman A G Ewart (This item was subject to a Call-In. These Minutes were ratified by Council on 25 August, with the exception of this item.)

Alderman A G Ewart having stated that the Council had still to appoint a representative to the Lagan Valley Regional Park, proposed that Councillor P Catney be nominated to take this position. This proposal was seconded by Alderman D Drysdale and agreed.

14.5 Weed Spraying at Dromore Road, Hillsborough
Councillor John Palmer

Councillor John Palmer expressed his thanks to the Director of Environmental Services for having agreed to have weed spraying carried out at Dromore Road, Hillsborough.

14.6 Council Representative on Lagan Valley Regional Park
Councillor Jenny Palmer(This item was subject to a Call-In. These Minutes were ratified by Council on 25 August, with the exception of this item.)

Councillor Jenny Palmer referred to Item 14.4 and stated that it was her understanding that the protocol for nominating Council representatives to outside bodies was that such nominations were made at relevant Committee meetings. Councillor Palmer, therefore, understood that the nomination to the Lagan Valley Regional Park would be considered by the Development Committee. Alderman Ewart explained that he had raised the matter at tonight's meeting as Committees did not meeting during the summer period. He further stated that any Committee decisions were required to be ratified by full Council in any case.

Councillor Palmer expressed her dissatisfaction and asked that this matter be referred to the Development Committee for consideration.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, pointed out that this matter had already been agreed under Item 14.4. Councillor Palmer stated that she did not pick up on the matter until it had been agreed and asked that the matter be reconsidered and referred to the Development Committee.

Alderman D Drysdale pointed out that it was normal practice, when Committees were not meeting, to bring matters to the Council meeting.

Alderman S Martin referred to Item 13.5, where it had been noted that the Chairman of the Development Committee had agreed to hold a special meeting of that Committee in August to consider another matter. Alderman Martin

14.6 Council Representative on Lagan Valley Regional Park (Contd)
Councillor Jenny Palmer

suggested that, in terms of governance and to ensure that precedents were not set, the nomination to the Lagan Valley Regional Park be considered at the special meeting of the Development Committee.

Alderman S P Porter reiterated Alderman Drysdale's comments that, during the summer period when Committees did not meet, many issues were reported to the Council meeting. Alderman Porter pointed out that a proposal had been made and agreed, in line with Standing Orders, the meeting had moved on. Alderman Porter was concerned about a precedent being set whereby Members could ask later in a meeting to debate decisions that had been agreed at an earlier point in the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, stated that no Member had raised any issue under Item 14.4 when Councillor Catney's nomination to the Lagan Valley Regional Park had been agreed and, as far as he was concerned, this matter was final.

Councillor L Poots returned to the meeting at this point (8.07 pm).

Alderman Martin stated that a precedent had been set in recent months when a matter had been agreed and further debate had taken place later. He stated that, from a corporate governance point of view and in line with due process, the nomination to the Lagan Valley Regional Park should be considered the way it had always been and suggested again that the matter be referred to the special meeting of the Development Committee in August.

Following consultation with the Chief Executive, The Right Worshipful the Mayor quoted section 28 of Standing Orders 'Interpretation of Standing Orders' – "The ruling of the Chairperson as to the Interpretation, construction or application of any of these Standing Orders or as to an proceedings of the Council, shall not be challenged at any meeting of the Council". Councillor Beckett, therefore, stated that, as Alderman Ewart's proposal under Item 14.4 had been seconded and agreed, the matter was final and ruled that the meeting should move on.

14.7 Community Planning Public Consultation Events
Alderman W A Leathem

Alderman W A Leathem made Members aware of a series of forthcoming Community Planning Consultation Events throughout the Council area and encouraged Members to attend those events taking place within their District Electoral Area. Alderman Leathem pointed out that the date of the event in Maghaberry had been changed from 4 August to 20 August. He commended the Community Planning Manager and other staff involved in the public consultation events.

14.8 Wedding Congratulations – Councillor S Skillen
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, stated that Councillor S Skillen was to be married next month and wished her and her fiancé every success.

14.9 Hillhall Road Closure
Councillor A McIntyre

Councillor A McIntyre referred to the current closure of Hillhall Road, due to roadworks, and the resultant difficulties caused to residents and businesses of that area. It was proposed by Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale and agreed that a letter be forwarded to Transport NI expressing the Council's disappointment over the handling of this road closure and enquiring (i) if local residents and businesses were notified of the road closure; and (ii) the exact location of the roadworks and why the entire road required to be closed.

14.10 Wedding Congratulations – Mrs C Roe
Councillor M Tolerton

Councillor M Tolerton expressed congratulations to the Committee Secretary in attendance, Mrs C Roe, and her husband Ronnie on the occasion of their recent marriage.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 8.13 pm.

Mayor