

5 December 2011

MINUTES of the Meeting of Carrickfergus Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Carrickfergus, on **MONDAY**, the **FIFTH** day of **DECEMBER** 2011, at the hour of **7.00** o'clock pm pursuant to the Acting Town Clerk's summons calling the Meeting, the following Members were present:

Alderman J McClurg, Mayor Presiding

Aldermen: M Beattie C J Brown J L Neeson

Councillors: W Ashe T Clements I E Day
S C Dickson D Emerson E Ferguson
W S Hamilton D W Hilditch L McClurg
B McKnight J Stewart A Wilson

An apology for non-attendance was received on behalf of Councillor Johnston.

The following Officials were in attendance:-

Mr S Johnston	Acting Town Clerk & Chief Executive
Miss A Beacom	Senior Committee Clerk
Mr K O'Connell	Department of the Environment, Planning Service

C.343/11
(C.313/11)

SCRIPTURE READING AND PRAYER

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Paul Lyons opened the meeting with a Scripture Reading and Prayer.

C.344/11
(C.314/11)

OBITUARIES

The Mayor referred to the deaths of Rev S Allen, Retired Minister of West Street Methodist Church and Mrs Eileen Craig, mother of Kathy Brown, part-time Receptionist at the Amphitheatre.

Members stood in silence for a few moments as a mark of respect and it was agreed that the Acting Chief Executive forward a letter of condolence to the bereaved families.

MINUTES

The Acting Town Clerk reported that each Member of Council had been furnished with a copy of the Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 24 October 2011, Reconvened Special Council meeting held on 4 November 2011 and Council meeting held on 7 November 2011.

C.345/11
(C.322/11)

Special Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 24 October 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record by the Mayor on the Proposal of Alderman Beattie, Seconded by Councillor Clements, subject to the inclusion of an apology from Councillor Wilson.

C.346/11
(C.345/11)

Reconvened Special Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Reconvened Special Council meeting held on 4 November 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record by the Mayor on the Proposal of Councillor Clements, Seconded by Councillor Ferguson.

C.347/11
(C.316/11)

Council Meeting

The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 7 November 2011 were taken as read and signed as a correct record by the Mayor on the Proposal of Alderman Brown, Seconded by Alderman Ashe, subject to:-

C.324/11 - Page 7 Paragraph 2 to be deleted and replaced by *'Councillor Ashe queried why the Line Manager paid for the responsibility was not carrying out that function, rather than bringing in a Consultant'*.

The Acting Chief Executive undertook to submit a response to Members.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Acting Town Clerk reported that each Member of Council had been furnished with a copy of the Minutes of Committee meetings held on 14 and 21 November 2011.

C.348/11
(C.317/11)

Development Services Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Development Services Committee held on 14 November 2011 were confirmed and adopted as Resolutions of the Council on the Proposal of Councillor Ashe, Seconded by Councillor Hilditch.

C.349/11
(C.318/11)

Building Services Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Building Services Committee held on 14 November 2011, were confirmed and adopted as Resolutions of the Council on the Proposal of Councillor McKnight, Seconded by Councillor L McClurg.

C.350/11
(C.319/11)

Chief Executive's Office

The Minutes of the meeting of the Chief Executive's Office held on 21 November 2011, were confirmed and adopted as Resolutions of the Council on the Proposal of Councillor Stewart, Seconded by Councillor Ferguson.

C.351/11
(C.320/11)

Support Services Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Support Services Committee held on 21 November 2011, were confirmed and adopted as Resolutions of the Council on the Proposal of Alderman Beattie, Seconded by Alderman Neeson.

C.352/11
(C.321/11)

Environmental Services Committee

The Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 21 November 2011, were confirmed and adopted as Resolutions of the Council on the Proposal of Councillor Ferguson, Seconded by Councillor Emerson.

MATTERS ARISING

IT WAS PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR HILDITCH, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR FERGUSON, & RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS BE DISCUSSED 'IN COMMITTEE'.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR HILDITCH, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR FERGUSON, & RESOLVED THAT THE MEETING DO NOW RESUME.

C.355/11
(C.278/11)
(BS.68/11)

A2

Councillor Hilditch reported on a recent opportunity in the Assembly to question Minister Danny Kennedy in relation to the A2 issue. While there did not appear to be any announcement pending, there were still three areas of work which required to be carried out. He felt it was imperative that Senior Officers continue to progress this matter with the Minister on behalf of Council.

He referred to the current expenditure of £16M to date and in relation to best spend in Central Government, requested that the attention of the Audit Office be drawn to the need for the A2 project to continue to be progressed.

Councillor Dickson was of the view that the Minister's comments had been the most positive made to date and supported the need for Council to maintain pressure on the Minister to ensure that as finance became available, it was allocated to the A2 scheme. He hoped that the one year time frame for procurement could be reduced in light of the current economic climate.

Councillor Ashe reminded Members that at the meeting he had attended with the Minister and Civil Servants, they had confirmed that no other road infrastructure was as far advanced as the A2 scheme. In relation to Council's previous request for a further meeting with the Minister, the Acting Chief Executive undertook to pursue a response.

Councillor Wilson advised that he had an up-coming opportunity to meet the Minister and he would again raise the A2 issue.

COUNCILLOR ASHE DECLARED A PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM AND LEFT THE MEETING DURING DISCUSSION THEREON.

ALDERMAN NEESON AND COUNCILLOR DAY DECLARED NON-PECUNIARY INTERESTS IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

COUNCILLOR McKNIGHT DECLARED A PECUNIARY INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING ITEM.

C.356/11
(SS.52/11)

ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

Members had been circulated with copy Treasurer's Report dated 30 November 2011, which was recommended be authorised for payment.

The report also detailed petty disbursement cheques to the value of £500.00 and over.

In response to Alderman Brown, Councillor Hilditch reminded Members of the facility available whereby Members can raise queries with the Finance Department in advance of the meeting and it was crucial that this was utilised.

It was

Proposed by Alderman Beattie,
Seconded by Councillor Hilditch,

That payment orders be issued as follows:-

Cheques	£ 8,034.60
BACS	£436,630.19
Total Amount	<u>£444,664.79</u>

On the Proposal being put to the meeting, 11 Members voted in favour, with none against.

The Mayor declared the Proposal carried.

COUNCILLOR ASHE RE-ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

C.357/11
(C.325/11)

PLANS FOR APPROVAL

Mr K O'Connell, representing the Planning Service, Department of the Environment, was in attendance in connection with this item of business. He outlined the applications and recommendations as contained in the schedule, a copy of which had been circulated to Members on 21 November 2011.

It was agreed that the Planning Service be informed that Council had no comments or observations to make on the recommendations as contained in the schedule.

C.358/11
(C.325/11)

BT Fibre Infrastructure – Deferred Planning Applications

Councillor Ashe reported on the recent site visit with BT and Planning Service to consider deferred planning applications for BT Fibre Infrastructure. BT had been very helpful and agreed to move the cabinet out of High Street some 55 metres to a less obscure location. He had found Planning Service very difficult to deal with on the day and in fact its insistence on submission of a new planning application was ‘abysmal and petty’. BT hoped to submit the new planning application through the streamlined process so that works could be co-ordinated with the Council’s Environmental Improvement Scheme in the Town Centre. He highlighted the value of site visits with the applicant.

In supporting Councillor Ashe, Alderman Brown expressed disappointment with the attitude of the Planning Officer in the Chamber and at the site meeting. In the face of such intransigence by Planning Service, he felt that BT should be given some form of de minimus fee for the new application.

C.359/11
(C.246/11)

Wind Turbine – SW of 55 Knockagh Road

Councillor Dickson referred to current planning application for wind turbine south west of 55 Knockagh Road and stated that it would be important to obtain a schematic view of how the application impacted on the landscape.

Mr O’Connell confirmed that a visual assessment would be carried out. In this connection, Councillor Dickson undertook to contact the Planning Officer with regard to a location in order that the Agent could take on board any concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE

C.360/11

Housing Rights Service - AGM

Members had been circulated with copy correspondence dated 22 November 2011, from the Housing Rights Service Limited, inviting a proxy to attend its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 13 December 2011. Council was a company member.

Noted.

COUNCILLORS DICKSON AND WILSON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

C.361/11
(C.324/11)
(C.353/11)

Carrickfergus Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Members had been circulated with copy report outlining the relevant background issues to be addressed for the Carrickfergus Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

As Council needed to make a decision about the staffing model it wished to adopt, it was recommended that Council provide approval to proceed with all processes to recruit and appoint Officers to perform the required functions of the new Carrickfergus Policing and Community Safety Partnership with due regard for the timing parameters and the requirement to have arrangements in place by 1 April 2012.

In Proposing that Council proceed with the recommended structure and timetable, Councillor Ashe put on record his concern that the new body would not succeed until the structure issue was resolved.

In Seconding the Proposal, Councillor Hilditch reinforced the need to sort out the issues involved.

COUNCILLOR DICKSON RE-ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

Councillor Ashe highlighted that the structure and salaries proposed in Annexe B were in line with other neighbouring Councils.

On the Proposal being put to the meeting, 13 Members voted in favour with 1 against and 1 Member not voting for specific reasons.

C.362/11
(C.298/11)

Whitehead Royal British Legion – Acknowledgement

Members had been circulated with copy letter dated 16 November 2011, from Whitehead Royal British Legion, thanking Members for their support at the War Memorial Service in Whitehead on Remembrance Sunday and for the up-grade of the War Memorial.

Noted.

C.363/11
(C.329/11)

Conferences/Courses

Members had been circulated with copy details of the following conference:-

5 December 2011

- (1) Correspondence dated 25 November 2011, from the Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland, advising of its Spring Seminar 2012 – 10/11 February 2012, at Kilmore Hotel, Cavan. Seminar fee £172.00 approximately. Accommodation extra, travel £127.00

Noted.

C.364/11
(C.330/11)

Consultation Documents

Members noted that the following consultation documents had been received recently. It was recommended that Members should submit any comments to the Acting Chief Executive, by the deadline shown in each case:

- (1) Correspondence dated November 2011, from the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety – Proposed Statutory Rule – The Mental Health (Private Hospitals) Regulations (20 December 2011).
- (2) Correspondence dated 16 November 2011, from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Review of Corporate and Business Plans and objectives for 2012/13 (8 December 2011).
- (3) Correspondence dated 18 November 2011, from the Department of Justice – The Upper Age Limit for Jury Service: A Consultation (6 February 2012).

It was RESOLVED That any comments be forwarded by the deadlines shown.

C.365/11

Planning Fees

Members had been circulated with copy correspondence dated 22 November 2011, from the Department of the Environment, advising of Regulations to apply an inflationary increase in planning application fees based on the GDP deflator which was forecast for 2011/12 at 2.9%. The Planning (Fees) (Amendment No.2)

Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 (SR 2011 No.398) could be viewed at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr>.

Noted.

C.366/11

Entrance to Parade Ground – Unauthorised Parking

Alderman Neeson reported that increasingly the entrance into the Council's parade ground had been blocked by unauthorised parking and he requested that action be taken to stop this practice. He was supported in this matter by Councillor Hamilton.

The Acting Chief Executive undertook to investigate and report back.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ASHE, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN BEATTIE, & RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING ITEM BE DISCUSSED 'IN COMMITTEE'.

ALDERMAN NEESON LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

IT WAS PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR FERGUSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR L McCLURG, & RESOLVED THAT THE MEETING DO NOW RESUME.

C.368/11

Season's Greetings

On behalf of the Mayoress and himself, the Mayor wished everyone a Happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. He then extended an invitation to the Parlour.

COUNCILLOR WILSON RE-ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE.

CONCLUSION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 8.10 pm, when those Members present were as listed on page 1, with the exception of Alderman Neeson who left the meeting at 8.05pm.