

Council

Monday, 1st June, 2009

ANNUAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hartley) (Chairman); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor D. Browne); the High Sheriff (Councillor McCoubrey); and Councillors Adamson, Attwood, Austin, M. Browne, W. Browne, Brownlee, Campbell, Cobain, Convery, Crozier, Cunningham, Cush, D. Dodds, N. Dodds, Ekin, Empey, Hendron, Humphrey, Jones, B. Kelly, N. Kelly, Kirkpatrick, Kyle, Lavery, Long, Maginness, A. Maskey, C. Maskey, P. Maskey, McCann, McCarthy, McCausland, McClenaghan, McGimpsey, McKenzie, McMillen, Mhic Giolla Mhín, Mullaghan, Newton, O'Neill, O'Reilly, Patterson, Rodgers, Rodway, Smyth, Stalford and Wilson.

Reading of Scriptures

In accordance with Standing Order 9, the Lord Mayor read a passage from the Scriptures.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apology

An apology for inability to attend was reported from Councillor Stoker.

Expression of Sympathy

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hartley) expressed regret at the recent death of Councillor N. Kelly's grandfather and, on behalf of the Council, extended to the family circle his condolences and deepest sympathy.

Mr. Michael Stoker

The Lord Mayor referred to a recent incident in Afghanistan in which Councillor Stoker's son, Michael, had been seriously injured and, on behalf of the Council, wished Michael a speedy recovery from his injuries.

Filming and Recording of Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from a number of broadcasting companies for permission to film and record the election and installation of the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor. He asked that the Council indicate whether it wished to accede to those requests.

The Council granted the permission sought.

Expression of Thanks

The Lord Mayor (Councillor Hartley) reviewed his year in Office and expressed his appreciation for all those who had supported him during his term as Lord Mayor. He thanked also the staff who had assisted him during the previous year and placed on record his appreciation of the support which he had received from the Members of his Political Party.

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor D. Browne) reviewed his year in Office and expressed his gratitude for the support which he had received from the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hartley). He placed on record his thanks for the support he had received from all Members throughout his term and for the advice and assistance of all staff.

Tributes

Representatives of each of the Party Groupings on the Council paid tribute to the Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor for the manner in which they had fulfilled their duties during their year in Office.

Election of Lord Mayor

Nominations were invited for the Office of Lord Mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor Long was proposed by Councillor Jones and seconded by Councillor Ekin; while Councillor Humphrey was proposed by Councillor Crozier and seconded by Councillor D. Dodds.

A division was immediately demanded. A poll having been taken on the nominations, there voted for Councillor Long twenty-six Members, viz., the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Hartley); and Councillors Attwood, Austin, M. Browne, Brownlee, Convery, Cuunningham, Cush, Ekin, Hendron, Jones, B. Kelly, N. Kelly, Lavery, Long, Maginness, A. Maskey, C. Maskey, P. Maskey, McCann, McCarthy, McClenaghan, Mhic Giolla Mhín, Mullaghan, O'Neill and O'Reilly; and for Councillor Humphrey twenty-four Members, viz., the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor D. Browne); the High Sheriff (Councillor McCoubrey); and Councillors Adamson, W. Browne, Campbell, Cobain, Crozier, D. Dodds, N. Dodds, Empey, Humphrey, Kirkpatrick, Kyle, McCausland, McGimpsey, McKenzie, McMillen, Newton, Patterson, Rodgers, Rodway, Smyth, Stafford and Wilson.

It was accordingly

Resolved – That Councillor Naomi Long be and is hereby elected Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2010.

Councillor Long, having been conducted to the dais by Councillors Jones and Ekin, was installed in Office and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

(The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor, Councillor Long, in the Chair.)

Councillor Long expressed her gratitude to the Members for the honour which they had bestowed upon her by electing her to the Office of Lord Mayor and paid tribute to the previous Lord Mayor and to the Deputy Lord Mayor for the manner in which they had carried out their duties. She then outlined what she hoped to achieve during her term of Office.

Election of Deputy Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the post of Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor Lavery was proposed by Councillor McCann and seconded by Councillor Cunningham; Councillor Humphrey was proposed by Councillor Crozier and seconded by Councillor D. Dodds; while Councillor McMillen was proposed by Councillor McCoubrey and seconded by Councillor Rodgers.

A division was immediately demanded. A poll having been taken on the nominations, there voted for Councillor Lavery twenty-six Members, viz., the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Long); and Councillors Attwood, Austin, M. Browne, Brownlee, Convery, Cunningham, Cush, Ekin, Hartley, Hendron, Jones, B. Kelly, N. Kelly, Lavery, Maginness, A. Maskey, C. Maskey, P. Maskey, McCann, McCarthy, McClenaghan, Mhic Giolla Mhín, Mullaghan, O'Neill and O'Reilly; and for Councillor Humphrey fifteen Members, viz., Councillors W. Browne, Campbell, Crozier, D. Dodds, N. Dodds, Humphrey, Kirkpatrick, Kyle, McCausland, McKenzie, Newton, Patterson, Rodway, Stalford and Wilson; and for Councillor McMillen nine Members, viz., the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor D. Browne); the High Sheriff (Councillor McCoubrey); and Councillors Adamson, Cobain, Empey, McGimpsey, McMillen, Rodgers and Smyth.

It was accordingly

Resolved – That Councillor Danny Lavery be and is hereby elected Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2010.

Councillor Lavery, having been conducted to the dais by Councillors McCann and Cunningham, was installed in Office and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. He then thanked the Members for his election.

(The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Lavery, in the Chair.)

Minutes

Moved by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Lavery),
Seconded by Councillor P. Maskey and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 5th May be taken as read and signed as correct.

Request for Deputations

Planning Application: 47 and 49 and Rear Garden of 45 Diamond Gardens

The Chief Executive informed the Members that a request for permission to address the Council had been received from objectors in respect of the above-mentioned application. He reported that both the objectors to the application and the applicant were in attendance.

The Council agreed to the deputations being received and Mr. S. Crawford and Mr. J. McVeigh, the objectors to the application, were admitted to the meeting.

Mr. McVeigh proceeded to outline their objections to the application which included:

- the overdevelopment of a residential amenity;
- the intensification of the site would result in dominance of adjacent residential properties; and
- the mass and style of the development was totally inappropriate for a residential area.

The deputation was therefore seeking the Council's support and requested that it recommend to the Divisional Planning Manager that the application be rejected.

The deputation thanked the Council for receiving them and they retired from the meeting.

The applicant, Mr. D. McAffrey, was admitted to the meeting.

Mr. McAffrey stated that the planning application consisted of a mix of semi-detached and detached housing as opposed to apartments which were presently being developed in the area. He stated that the application would improve the area and was within the guidelines which had been established by the Planning Service.

Mr. McAffrey thanked the Council for receiving him and he retired from the meeting.

It was noted that consideration would be given to the representations which had been made when the minutes of the Town Planning Committee were being discussed later in the meeting.

Appointment of Members to Standing Committees

The Council considered the appointment of Members to the Standing Committees and it was

Resolved – That the Standing Committees as set out below, having been constituted in conformity with Acts of Parliament, Standing Orders and Resolutions of the Council, be and they are hereby appointed for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2010:

Membership of Standing Committees – May, 2009

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Sinn Féin Group (6)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor Lavery
Councillor Hartley
Councillor A. Maskey
Councillor P. Maskey
Councillor McCann

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor W. Browne
Councillor Crozier
Councillor D. Dodds
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor Newton
Councillor Rodway

Ulster Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor D. Browne
Councillor Rodgers
Councillor Stoker

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Attwood
Councillor Convery
Councillor N. Kelly

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Hendron

Development Committee

Sinn Féin Group (6)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Lavery
Councillor C. Maskey
Councillor P. Maskey
Councillor Mhic Giolla Mhín

Democratic Unionist Party Group (5)

Councillor Campbell
Councillor Crozier
Councillor D. Dodds
Councillor Humphrey
Councillor McCausland

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor D. Browne
Councillor Rodgers
Councillor Stoker

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (4)

Councillor Convery
Councillor N. Kelly
Councillor Mullaghan
Councillor O'Reilly

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Ekin

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Kyle

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Sinn Féin Group (5)

Councillor Austin
Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Cush
Councillor Mhic Giolla Mhín
Councillor O'Neill

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor W. Browne
Councillor Campbell
Councillor Humphrey
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Rodway

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor D. Browne
Councillor McCoubrey

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Attwood
Councillor B. Kelly
Councillor McCarthy

Alliance Party Group (2)

Councillor Hendron
Councillor Jones

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Kyle

Licensing Committee

Sinn Féin Group (5)

Councillor Austin
Councillor Brownlee
Councillor Lavery
Councillor C. Maskey
Councillor O'Neill

Democratic Unionist Party Group (5)

Councillor Crozier
Councillor D. Dodds
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor Rodway
Councillor Stalford

Ulster Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor McCoubrey
Councillor McMillen
Councillor Rodgers
Councillor Stoker

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Attwood
Councillor N. Kelly
Councillor Mullaghan

Alliance Party Group (2)

Councillor Ekin
Councillor Jones

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

Parks and Leisure Committee

Sinn Féin Group (6)

Councillor Austin
Councillor Cush
Councillor Hartley
Councillor C. Maskey
Councillor McCann
Councillor McClenaghan

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor Humphrey
Councillor McCausland
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Newton
Councillor Patterson
Councillor Stalford

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor Rodgers
Councillor Stoker

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor B. Kelly
Councillor McCarthy
Councillor O'Reilly

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Ekin

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Kyle

Town Planning Committee

Sinn Féin Group (5)

Councillor Brownlee
Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Lavery
Councillor McClenaghan
Councillor O'Neill

Democratic Unionist Party Group (5)

Councillor Campbell
Councillor McCausland
Councillor Patterson
Councillor Rodway
Councillor Wilson

Ulster Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Cobain
Councillor Empey
Councillor McCoubrey
Councillor McGimpsey

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor B. Kelly
Councillor Maginness
Councillor McCarthy

Alliance Party Group (2)

Councillor Hendron
Councillor Jones

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

**Appointment of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen
of Standing Committees**

The Council considered the appointment of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees and it was

Resolved – That, in accordance with Standing Order 42, the Chairmen and the Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees as set out below be and they are hereby appointed for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2010:

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chairmanships</u>	<u>Deputy Chairmanships</u>
	<u>Party</u>	<u>Party</u>
Strategic Policy and Resources Committee	SF Councillor Tom Hartley	DUP Councillor Ian Crozier
Development Committee	DUP Councillor William Humphrey	SF Councillor Michael Browne
Health and Environmental Services Committee	SDLP Councillor Patrick McCarthy	UUP Councillor Ian Adamson
Licensing Committee	SF Councillor Gerard O'Neill	SF Councillor Janice Austin
Parks and Leisure Committee	UUP Councillor Bob Stoker	SDLP Councillor Peter O'Reilly
Town Planning Committee	DUP Councillor May Campbell	ALL Councillor Máire Hendron

Change of Membership on Outside Body

The Council was advised that notification had been received from the Sinn Féin Party Grouping indicating that it wished Councillor Brownlee to fill the vacancy on the membership of the West Belfast Partnership Board, consequent upon the death of Councillor Marie Moore.

The Council approved the aforementioned change.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hartley,
Seconded by Councillor M. Browne,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 8th and 22nd May be and are hereby approved and adopted.

Variation of Minute - The Belfast Wheel

The Council's attention was drawn to the minutes of the meeting of 22nd May in relation to the Belfast Wheel where the vote on the further proposal had been recorded incorrectly. It should have read:

“On a vote by show of hands ten Members voted for the proposal and four against and it was accordingly declared carried.”

The Council approved the variation to the minute.

Requests for Matters to be Taken Back for Further Consideration

Review of Public Administration – Transition Committee in Statute

At the request of Councillor Mullaghan and with the consent of the Council, the Chairman (Councillor Hartley) agreed that that portion of the minute under the heading “Review of Public Administration – Transition Committee in Statute” in so far as it related to question 8 of the response, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Consultation on Severance Arrangements for Councillors

At the request of Councillor Humphrey, the Chairman (Councillor Hartley), with the consent of the Council, agreed that the minute under the heading “Consultation on Severance Arrangements for Councillors” be taken back to the Committee to allow the Party Groupings to give further consideration to the proposals.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing variation and omissions, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 8th and 22nd May were approved and adopted.

Parks and Leisure Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Reilly,
Seconded by Councillor Ekin and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 11th, 14th and 18th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Development Committee

Moved by Councillor Humphrey,
Seconded by Councillor Campbell and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 13th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Connswater Community Greenway

The Council agreed that the Development Committee give consideration to the implications of the transport proposals contained in the Connswater Community Greenway scheme in light of the Council's Transport Policy.

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Moved by Councillor McCarthy,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 6th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Neill,
Seconded by Councillor C. Maskey and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 29th April and 20th May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Town Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Campbell,
Seconded by Councillor O'Neill,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 7th and 21st May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

**Request for Matter to be
Taken Back for Further Consideration**

**Planning Applications –
4 Willowfield Crescent**

At the request of Councillor Empey and with the consent of the Council, the Chairman (Councillor Campbell) agreed that the minute of the meeting of 21st May under the heading "Planning Applications – 4 Willowfield Crescent" be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Amendment

**Planning Application Reconsidered Items –
47 and 49 and Rear Garden of 45 Diamond Gardens**

Moved by Councillor B. Kelly,
Seconded by Councillor A. Maskey and

Resolved – That the decision of the Town Planning Committee of 7th May under the heading “Planning Applications Reconsidered Items – 47, 49 and Rear Garden of 45 Diamond Gardens” be rejected and accordingly that the opinion of the Divisional Planning Manager to approve the application for the demolition of two dwellings and the erection of six two-storey semi-detached and two-storey detached houses at 47-49 and the Rear Garden of 45 Diamond Gardens be rejected on the grounds that the development would be detrimental to the local residential amenity by reason of its overdevelopment, intensification of the site would result in dominance of adjacent residential properties.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing omission and amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 7th and 21st May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, were approved and adopted.

Chairman