

Council

Monday, 1st November, 2010

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery) (Chairman); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Humphrey); the High Sheriff (Councillor Stalford); and Councillors Adamson, Attwood, Austin, Bostock, D. Browne, M. Browne, W. Browne, Brownlee, Campbell, Crozier, Cush, Ekin, Hartley, Hendron, Jones, B. Kelly, N. Kelly, Kingston, Kirkpatrick, Kyle, Lavery, Mallon, A. Maskey, C. Maskey, McCabe, McCann, McCarthy, McCoubrey, McKee, McKenzie, McMillen, McNamee, Mac Giolla Mhín, Mhic Giolla Mhín, Mullaghan, Newton, O'Neill, O'Reilly, L. Patterson, R. Patterson, Robinson, J. Rodgers, Rodway, Smyth and Stoker.

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.

Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported from Councillors Empey and F. Rodgers.

Minutes

Moved by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery),
Seconded by Councillor Hendron and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of 4th October be taken as read and signed as correct.

Welcome to New Councillor

The Lord Mayor extended, on behalf of the Council, a warm welcome to Councillor Gareth McKee who had been appointed to replace former Councillor McCausland in the Oldpark District Electoral Area.

Expressions of Sympathy

The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery) expressed his regret at the recent deaths of the grandmother of Councillor Mallon and the sister and sister-in-law of Councillor Smyth and, on behalf of the Council, extended to their respective families his condolences and deepest sympathy.

Office of High Sheriff for 2011

The Chief Executive reported that the High Sheriff (Councillor Stalford) had received from the Northern Ireland Office a letter inviting him, in accordance with normal practice, to submit to the Secretary of State the names of three persons suitable for the appointment of High Sheriff of Belfast for the year 2011. The Chief Executive reminded the Council that, in previous years, it had decided to submit one name only to the Secretary of State and had requested that the Council decide how it wished to proceed.

The Council agreed to submit one name only to the Northern Ireland Office for appointment to the Office of High Sheriff and, accordingly, the Lord Mayor invited nominations from the Council.

Councillor Adamson was proposed by Councillor Rodgers and seconded by Councillor Kirkpatrick.

Accordingly, it was agreed that Councillor Ian Adamson be nominated to the Northern Ireland Office for appointment to the Office of High Sheriff for the City of Belfast for the year 2011.

Change of Membership on Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Democratic Unionist Party Grouping indicating that it wished Councillor McKee to fill the vacancies on the North Belfast Partnership Board and the Greater Shankill Partnership Board, consequent upon the resignation of former Councillor McCausland.

He reported further that correspondence had been received from the Sinn Féin Party Grouping indicating that it wished Councillor Mac Giolla Mhín to replace Councillor M. Browne on the Board of the West Belfast Partnership.

The Council approved the aforementioned changes.

Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Crozier,
Seconded by Councillor J. Rodgers,

That the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 8th and 22nd October be approved and adopted.

Amendment

**Proportionality for the Offices of
Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor**

Moved by Councillor Hendron,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the decision of 22nd October under the heading "Proportionality for the Offices of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor" be rejected and accordingly that the offices of Lord Mayor and Deputy Lord Mayor continue to be elected at the Annual Council meeting in accordance with existing procedure.

On a vote by show of hands six Members voted for the amendment and forty-two against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Amendment

**Live Streaming and Archiving of
Council Proceedings on the Internet**

Moved by Councillor Hendron,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the decision of 22nd October under the heading "Live Streaming and Archiving of Council Proceedings on the Internet" be rejected and accordingly that no such system be purchased at this time.

A division on the amendment was demanded. A poll having been taken on the amendment, there voted for it thirteen Members, viz., the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Humphrey); the High Sheriff (Councillor Stalford); and Councillors Bostock, Crozier, Ekin, Hendron, Jones, Kirkpatrick, McKee, McNamee, R. Patterson, J. Rodgers and Rodway; and against it twenty-nine Members, viz., the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery); and Councillors Adamson, Attwood, Austin, M. Browne, W. Browne, Brownlee, Campbell, Cush, Hartley, B. Kelly, N. Kelly, Kingston, Kyle, Lavery, Mallon, C. Maskey, McCabe, McCann, McCarthy, McKenzie, Mac Giolla Mhín, Mhic Giolla Mhín, Mullaghan, O'Neill, O'Reilly, L. Patterson, Robinson and Stoker.

The amendment was accordingly declared lost.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 8th and 22nd October were thereupon approved and adopted.

Parks and Leisure Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Reilly,
Seconded by Councillor McCarthy,

That the proceedings of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 14th October be approved and adopted.

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

Ulster Farmers' Union

The Chairman (Councillor O'Reilly), at the request of Councillor Stoker and with the consent of the Council, agreed that that portion of the minute under the heading "Ulster Farmers' Union" in so far as it related to the withdrawal of interest at the Lisleen site be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Boost Card: Means-Tested Benefits

At the request of Councillor Robinson, the Chairman (Councillor O'Reilly), with the consent of the Council, agreed that the minute under the heading "Boost Card: Means-Tested Benefits" be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 14th October were thereupon approved and adopted, subject to:

- (i) the omission of that portion of the minute under the heading "Ulster Farmers' Union" in so far as it related to the withdrawal of interest in the Lisleen site which, at the request of Councillor Stoker, is taken back to the Committee for further consideration; and
- (ii) the omission of the minute under the heading "Boost Card: Means-Tested Benefits" which, at the request of Councillor Robinson, is taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Development Committee

Moved by Councillor C. Maskey,
Seconded by Councillor M. Browne,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 13th and 26th October be approved and adopted.

Amendment

**Consultation Response – Policy to Support
Owner-Occupiers in Redevelopment Areas**

Moved by Councillor Crozier,
Seconded by Councillor Stoker and

Resolved – That the decision of the Development Committee of 13th October under the heading "Consultation Response – Policy to Support Owner-Occupiers in Redevelopment Areas" be amended to make mention of urban renewal areas on a City-wide basis.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 13th and 26th October were thereupon approved and adopted, subject to the foregoing amendment.

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Moved by Councillor Adamson,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 11th October be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Building Control – Naming of Streets

Moved by Councillor Attwood,
Seconded by Councillor Mallon,

That the decision under the heading “Building Control – Naming of Streets” be amended to provide that consideration of the naming of the street be deferred to enable residents therein to submit an appropriate name.

On a vote by show of hands twenty Members voted for the amendment and twenty-two against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 11th October were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor N. Kelly,
Seconded by Councillor C. Maskey and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 20th October, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Town Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Brownlee,
Seconded by Councillor McCarthy,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 7th and 21st October, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Amendment

176 Upper Malone Road

Moved by Councillor B. Kelly,
Seconded by Councillor Ekin,

That the minute of the meeting of 7th October under the heading "176 Upper Malone Road" be rejected and accordingly that the Council opposes the opinion of the Divisional Planning Manager to approve the application on the basis of the visual detriment which the proposal would cause in the local area of the Lagan Valley Regional Park.

On a vote by show of hands eighteen Members voted in favour of the amendment and ten against and it was accordingly declared carried.

Adoption of Minutes

The minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 7th and 21st October were thereupon approved and adopted, subject to the above-mentioned amendment.

Notices of Motion

**Refurbishment and Improvements to
Windsor and Casement Parks and
Ravenhill Rugby Grounds**

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor N. Kelly proposed:

"This Council welcomes the £110 million commitment of capital investment by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure for the refurbishment and improvement of Windsor and Casement Parks and the Ravenhill Rugby Ground; welcomes, in light of the current economic downturn, the guaranteed boost to local employment particularly within the construction industry, should the proposed multi-million pound grants to improve respective stadia be released; and urges the Minister to proceed with the release of funding for upgrade work at Casement Park and Ravenhill while the independent review of the Irish Football Association is carried out."

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Mallon.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Crozier,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the Notice of Motion standing in the name of Councillor N. Kelly be replaced with the following:

“This Council welcomes £110 million commitment of capital investment by the Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure for the refurbishment and improvement of Windsor and Casement Parks and the Ravenhill Rugby Ground; welcomes, in light of the current economic downturn, the guaranteed boost to local employment particularly within the construction industry, should the proposed multi-million pound grants to improve respective stadia be released; and urges the Minister to proceed with the release of funding for upgrade work at Casement Park, Ravenhill and the stadia supported by the Irish Football Association.”

After discussion, the amendment was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

Leadership in an Economic Crisis

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor Ekin proposed:

“This Council recognises that Northern Ireland’s economic problems are complicated and cannot be blamed simply on a lack of wealth creators and hence genuine tax contributors. The problems can be resolved, in part, by the adoption of a more positive attitude in seeking urgently to find tenable and sustainable solutions. We need to stop talking and start taking action. We need to set ourselves goals which challenge us to become world leaders in business and industry.

This Council recognises that leaders in society have a vital role to play in achieving these goals and calls on all leaders, whether from the political, business, public or community sector, to inject a sense of urgency into their decision-making and to adopt a positive attitude in these testing economic times.

At times like this, the City needs clear, focussed leadership. As politicians we must accept our responsibility to give focus to what the City and its people need to do over the next five years. I therefore call on us all to come together and agree a five-year programme of action for the City and build the recovery for this into our estimates setting and planning process.

This Council agrees that it would be useful, in the first instance, to examine best practice of progressive and accountable political leadership from both home and abroad and seek to introduce this into how we provide Council services.”

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Hendron.

Prior to the Notice of Motion being considered, the Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery) reminded the Council that Standing Order 11(e) specified that, if the subject matter of any Motion of which Notice had been given comes within the province of any Committee, upon being moved and seconded, it shall stand referred without discussion to that Committee or such other Committee as the Council may determine for consideration and report.

Accordingly, the Lord Mayor indicated that the matter would be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee without debate.

Cuts to Public Services

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor C. Maskey proposed:

“This Council believes that the Tory/Liberal government’s approach of trying to cut a way out of recession is deeply flawed and a huge mistake.

This Council believes that all political parties, the trade unions, community organisations and business organisations, should work together to defend jobs, vital public services and the most vulnerable in society.

Working in partnership with the Stormont Executive and civic society, Belfast City Council will do everything that it can to invest in our local economy, to stimulate economic regeneration and growth and protect its workforce and the most vulnerable in our City.”

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Hartley.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor Crozier,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the Notice of Motion standing in the name of Councillor C. Maskey be replaced with the following:

“This Council believes that the Tory/Liberal Government’s approach of using cuts to get out of a recession is deeply flawed and a huge mistake. We need a balanced approach which reduces inefficiencies and increases investment.

This Council believes that all Political Parties, the Trade Unions, community organisations and business organisations, should work together to defend jobs, vital public services and the most vulnerable in society. This Council believes that realistic efficiencies and investment are also key to addressing the current economic climate.

Belfast City Council will now work to produce a list of practical solutions to help our City through the next period and we will seek to work in partnership with the Assembly, Trade Unions and the wider community to make these proposals a reality.”

After discussion, the amendment was put to the meeting and passed unanimously.

Lord Mayor
Chairman