

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Monday, 3rd December, 2012
at the hour of 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor
(Alderman Robinson) (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Cunningham);
the High Sheriff (Alderman Campbell);
Aldermen Browne, Humphrey, McCoubrey, R. Newton,
R. Patterson, Rodgers, Smyth, Stalford and Stoker; and
Councillors Attwood, Austin, M. E. Campbell, Convery,
Corr, Curran, Garrett, Groves, Haire, Hanna, Hargey,
Hartley, Hendron, Hussey, Jones, Keenan, Kelly, Kingston,
Kyle, Lavery, Mac Giolla Mhín, Mallon, Maskey, McCabe,
McCarthy, McKee, McNamee, McVeigh, Mullan, A. Newton,
Ó Donnghaile, Ó Muilleoir, O'Neill, L. Patterson, Reynolds,
Spence, Thompson and Webb.

The Duke and Duchess of Cambridge

With the permission of the Lord Mayor, Alderman R. Patterson referred to the announcement earlier that day that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were expecting their first child.

Accordingly, the Lord Mayor agreed that he would write to the Royal couple to convey best wishes on the announcement

'Movember' Charity Appeal

With the permission of the Lord Mayor, Councillor Webb expressed his gratitude to all the Members and officers of the Council who had partaken in the annual 'Movember' charity appeal.

The Council endorsed the sentiments of Councillor Webb.

Reading of Scriptures

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

Chief Executive to Submit Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman Ekin.

Requests from Media to Film Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that a number of requests to film and record the proceedings of the meeting had been received from broadcasting organisations.

It was

Moved by Alderman Stalford,
Seconded by Alderman R. Patterson,

That the representatives of 'An Phoblacht' be excluded from the meeting.

On a vote by show of hands twenty-one members voted for the proposal and twenty-nine against and it was accordingly declared lost.

The representatives of the broadcasting organisations were admitted to the meeting.

To confirm the minutes of the Special and Monthly Meetings of the Council

Moved by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor,
Seconded by Councillor Lavery and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Monthly and Special Meetings of the Council of 1st November be taken as read and signed as correct.

Change of Membership on Committees and Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Democratic Unionist Party indicating that it wished Alderman McCoubrey to replace Councillor Kingston on the West Belfast District Policing and Community Safety Partnership.

The Council approved the aforementioned change of membership.

**Strategic Policy and Resources Committee and
Voluntary Transition Committee**

Moved by Councillor Hargey,
Seconded by Councillor Lavery,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 9th and 23rd November and the Voluntary Transition Committee of 9th November be approved and adopted.

Amendment

Flying of the Union Flag at the Belfast City Hall

Moved by Councillor Hendron,
Seconded by Councillor Jones,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November under the heading "Flying of the Union Flag at the Belfast City Hall" be amended to provide that this Council should adopt the practice of flying the Union Flag on designated days, as applied at Parliament Buildings. This reflects the agreed sovereignty of Northern Ireland confirmed in the Good Friday Agreement and accepted by all its

signatories. By doing it regularly and with dignity, we recognise that we live in a society and City made up of people who are British, Irish and both. The designated days' solution does justice to these principles; the agreement by all on British sovereignty; the fact of a shared society; and the need for respect and avoiding all triumphalism and the arrangements currently operating at Stormont. It also reflects the preferred determination of the Equality Commission.

A division on the amendment was demanded.

A poll having been taken, there voted for it twenty-nine Members and against it twenty-one Members and it was declared carried:

<u>For 29</u>	<u>Against 21</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Cunningham); and Councillors Attwood, Austin, M.E. Campbell, Convery, Corr, Curran, Garrett, Groves, Hanna, Hargey, Hartley, Hendron, Jones, Keenan, Kelly, Lavery, Mac Giolla Mhín, Mallon, Maskey, McCabe, McCarthy, McNamee, McVeigh, Mullan, Ó Donnghaile, Ó Muilleoir, O' Neill and Webb.	The Lord Mayor (Alderman Robinson); the High Sheriff (Alderman M. Campbell); Aldermen Browne, Humphrey, McCoubrey, R. Newton, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Smyth, Stalford and Stoker; and Councillors Haire, Hussey, Kingston, Kyle, McKee, A. Newton, L. Patterson, Reynolds, Spence and Thompson.

THE COUNCIL STOOD ADJOURNED FOR 50 MINUTES.

Further Amendment

Flying of the Union Flag at the Belfast City Hall

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Browne,

That the decision of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 23rd November under the heading "Flying of the Union Flag at the Belfast City Hall" be further amended to provide that the Council's Joint Group of the Party Leaders' Forum and the Historic Centenaries Working Group be requested to consider a proposal that the Union Flag be flown 365 days a year in the civic space in the Garden of Remembrance in the grounds of the City Hall with a view that a report thereon be submitted for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 14th December.

A division on the amendment was demanded.

A poll having been taken, there voted for it thirty-four Members and against it sixteen Members and it was declared carried:

<u>For 34</u>	<u>Against 16</u>
The Lord Mayor (Alderman Robinson); the High Sheriff (Alderman M. Campbell); Aldermen Browne, Humphrey, McCoubrey, R. Newton, R. Patterson, Rodgers, Smyth, Stalford and Stoker; and Councillors Attwood, Convery, Curran, Hanna, Hendron, Haire, Hussey, Jones, Kelly, Keenan, Kingston, Kyle, Mallon, Mullan, McCarthy, McKee, McNamee, A. Newton, L. Patterson, Reynolds, Spence, Thompson and Webb.	The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Cunningham); and Councillors Austin, M. E. Campbell, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Hartley, Lavery, Mac Giolla Mhín, Maskey, McCabe, McVeigh, Ó Donnghaile, Ó Muilleoir and O'Neill.

Local Investment Fund - Update

At the request of Councillor Mallon, and with the permission of the Council, it was agreed that a report be submitted for consideration by the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee at its meeting on 14th December which would outline the governance and expenditure arrangements overseeing the work of the Local Area Working Groups.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the aforementioned amendments, the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 9th and 23rd November, together with the Voluntary Transition Committee of 9th November, were thereupon approved and adopted.

Parks and Leisure Committee

Moved by Councillor McCabe,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers,

That the minutes of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 12th and 15th November be taken as read and signed as correct.

Amendment

Suffolk Football Club

Moved by Alderman Stoker,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers and

Resolved - That the decision of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 15th November under the heading "Suffolk Football Club – Proposed Changing Facilities" be amended to provide that the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee include within its Capital Programme's list of uncommitted programmes the provision of a two-room changing pavilion and meeting area at the Suffolk Playing Fields.

Amendment

Scale of Charges 2013/2014 – Cemeteries/Crematorium

Moved by Councillor Hartley,
Seconded by Councillor McVeigh,

That the decision of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 15th November under the heading "Scale of Charges for Parks and Leisure Services 2013/2014 – Cemeteries/Crematorium" be rejected and the Council agrees not to increase burial and cremation charges for Belfast residents in 2013/2014.

On a vote by a show of hands sixteen Members voted for the proposal and thirty-one against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Amendment

Proposed Redevelopment of Windsor Park

Moved by Alderman Stoker,
Seconded by Alderman Rodgers and

Resolved - That the minute of the meeting of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 12th November under the heading "Proposed Redevelopment of Windsor Park" be amended to provide that monthly progress reports be submitted to the Committee on the project.

Amendment

Scale of Charges 2013/2014 – Belfast Zoo

Moved by Councillor Hartley,
Seconded by Councillor Corr,

That the decision of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 15th November under the heading “Scale of Charges for Parks and Leisure Services 2013/2014 – Belfast Zoo” be rejected and the Council agrees that the number of children gaining admittance to the Belfast Zoo on a family ticket be increased from three to five.

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

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendments in relation to the Suffolk Football Club and the Proposed Redevelopment of Windsor Park, the minutes of the proceedings of the Parks and Leisure Committee of 12th and 15th November were approved and adopted.

Development Committee

Moved by Alderman Stalford,
Seconded by Councillor Ó Muilleoir,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 6th and 20th November be approved and adopted.

Amendment

St. Patrick’s Day 2013

Moved by Councillor Reynolds,
Seconded by Alderman Stoker,

That the decision of the Development Committee of 20th November under the heading “St Patrick’s Day 2013” be referred back to the Committee for further consideration.

On a vote by show of hands twenty-five Members voted for the proposal and twenty-four against and it was accordingly declared carried.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the aforementioned amendment, the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 6th and 20th November were thereupon approved and adopted.

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Moved by Councillor McCarthy,
Seconded by Councillor O’Neill,

That the minutes of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 7th November be approved and adopted.

Request for item to be taken back for further consideration

At the request of Alderman Stoker, the Council agreed that the minute of the meeting of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 7th November under the heading "Local Community Safety Services" be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the omission of the above-mentioned item, the minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 7th November were thereupon approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Councillor M. E. Campbell and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 21st November, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Town Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor L. Patterson,
Seconded by Councillor Kingston and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 29th October, 8th and 22nd November, omitting those matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Notice of Motion: Collective Switching - Councillor McCarthy to move

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda Councillor McCarthy proposed:

“This Council views with interest the collective switching scheme which operates in Belgium whereby a large number of households band together and ask energy companies for the best deal they can offer to the group as a whole. Such a scheme has been shown to result in very significant reductions in household bills.

Fuel poverty in Northern Ireland is a major problem. A family is considered to be ‘fuel poor’ if it spends more than 10% of its income on heating and lighting. A recent study has estimated that up to 44% of households in Northern Ireland fall into this category. The Council has been campaigning for some time to help reduce fuel poverty in the City and has already introduced a fuel stamps’ scheme to help households save for energy bills.

The introduction of a scheme similar to that in Belgium would be a welcome step in helping lift a large number of families out of fuel poverty. To this end, the Council will investigate the possibility of the introduction of such a scheme in Belfast, including opening up discussions with energy providers and liaising with community and other groups throughout the City to ascertain the level of interest and how this might best be achieved.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

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

Accordingly, the Lord Mayor indicated that the Motion would be referred to the Health and Environmental Services Committee without debate.

Notice of Motion: Belfast as a Tourist Destination - Alderman R. Newton to move

Alderman R. Newton indicated that he wished to withdraw the Notice of Motion standing in his name and resubmit it for consideration by the Council at its meeting on 7th January.

Lord Mayor
Chairman