

ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY 6 JUNE 2016

Key Decisions

No	Item	Decision
4	Nominations to Positions of Responsibility Year 2	
4.1	Election of Mayor	<i>Alderman Hickey</i>
4.2	Election of Deputy Mayor	<i>Councillor McCorkell</i>
4.3	Nominations by Parties for Positions of Responsibility - Year 2016/17	<i>Members Confirmed</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING
HELD IN COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HEADQUARTERS
MONDAY 6 JUNE 2016 AT 7 PM**

In the Chair: Councillor Knight-McQuillan
Alderman Hickey

Present: Aldermen Campbell, Cole, Finlay, King, Hillis, McKeown, McKillop S and Robinson. Councillors Baird, Beattie, Blair, Callan, Chivers, Clarke, Deighan, Douglas, Duddy, Fielding, Fitzpatrick, Holmes, Hunter, Loftus, McCandless, McCaul, McCorkell, McGlinchey, McKillop MA, McLean, McShane C, McShane P, Mulholland, Nicholl, Quigley, Stevenson, Watton, Wilson.

Officers Present: D Jackson, Chief Executive
M Quinn, Director of Performance
R Baker, Director of Leisure & Development
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer
E Johnston, Head of Democratic and Customer Service
D Dixon, Head of Planning
P Donaghy, Democratic Services Manager
E McCaul, Committee and Member Services Officer

Also in attendance: Press x 2

1 APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded from Councillor McGuigan.

2 OUTGOING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Before seeking nomination for the position of Mayor for 2016/17, the outgoing Mayor took the opportunity to reflect on her time in office as follows:

"It has been an honour being in office for 14 months and a privilege to have been the first citizen of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. I am not saying it has not been a challenge, being the first is not always easy in a new organization. You don't have a mentor to guide you through it and I decided I was going to do it my way.

With the help of Eithne in the Mayor's Office I've been able to find out that I had attended over 800 engagements, 100 receptions and still managed to attend most of my Committee meetings as well in what has been an extremely busy 14 months. The numbers does not express the breadth of the great work of the local people I have had the privilege to support. It is almost impossible to pick out the most memorable highlights as we are so blessed to have a Borough with so many good people in it.

I suppose one of many stand-out occasions was the visit of Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall during a visit to Corrymeela in May 2015. There was a little bit of a language barrier between Prince Charles and my husband with him coming with Aughadowey, but the Royal visit was not the only highlight, we had a number of other honourable guests, including the President of Honduras and representatives from Belize, Hungary, France, Spain, Canada and the USA. I enjoyed the chance to sell our Borough to each of them.

It was a most poignant moment when I visited the commonwealth grave of the Ballymoney born WWII airman, Flight Sergeant McCluskey in Rhenen (Netherlands) for the 70th anniversary commemorations of the end of WWII and was proud to represent Council in pausing to reflect on an extremely important occasion which will stay with me for a lifetime.

Our war dead were also honoured and remembered at a number of commemoration ceremonies throughout the year I attended including VE Day, the Battle of the Somme, Armistice Day, Remembrance Sunday and, of course, the Battle of Jutland this week and the many other church services. It often struck me how the stories of bravery and tragedy experienced by our veterans were echoed from the oldest veteran of one of the World Wars to younger service-people such as a Borough resident and Iraq veteran taking part in the Invictus Games recently, which I had the pleasure of meeting and wished him well before his trip.

Another obvious highlight was the chance to host over 100 receptions for a range of impressive and inspirational people and groups across the Borough, including a number held in legacy Council areas.

I was able to hear about and celebrate sporting groups across the Borough from archery, running, football and rugby to bowling, hurling and camogie. It was a treat to applaud achievement from all ages from primary school-age footballers to a bowler aged in his 90s who was still active.

Obviously, occasions marking our long history of residents involved motor-sport in the Borough were also very memorable.

The great work of groups of all types in our community was recognised by meeting organisations such as our Royal British Legions, church groups, scouting groups, RNLI Lifeguards, Young Farmers, Mothers' Union and Women's Institute members as well as Coastguard, GB and Community Rescue Service representatives. It was a pleasure to have spoken to everyone and to get an understanding of the many hours of community service they undertake.

Our first Christmas was also a memorable event and it was quite a challenge to get all the Christmas lights switched on throughout the Borough. I had the pleasure of hosting Christmas receptions for over 100 community and 200 business representatives from across the Borough.

For me this year, my chosen charities were Air Ambulance NI and Headway and with the support of the NW200 and Armoy Road Races, I was particularly glad to present an £5,000 donation to each of these charities, which they were delighted to receive.

Staying on the subject of successful sporting events in our Borough, another treat was in store for motorsport fans – including myself! – was the visit of the Circuit of Ireland Rally. I was proud to see that local people and visitors alike had a chance to take a closer look at the cars and at the Bushmills distillery. The pupils from Leaney Primary School were so excited they were making more noise than the cars at the service stop in Ballymoney.

Our financial and logistical support for the event meant amazing footage from the Dark Hedges, the Antrim Glens and the magnificent Torr Head could be broadcast to a potential audience of 40 million people. Among those deeply impressed with our Borough were top drivers who Tweeted comments such as astonishing and world class.

The event went on to win a Northern Ireland 'best event' award at the NI Tourism Awards and I had the pleasure of attending the event to receive the award.

There have been many other significant events and we should be very proud of along our coast, one of them being the Air Waves Portrush Air Show. Last year's show was particularly successful and this year's is shaping up to be looking just as good.

One of the most common questions I was asked by visitors from other countries was about Game of Thrones. I had to admit that I never watched the programme and was happy to explain about the areas within the Borough and sell these as being real and not fictitious as in the programme. In fact, I recall that when the President

of Honduras visited our area one of his first questions was about the local Game of Thrones locations and I subject I was proud to discuss with him.

There have been number of projects in the area to enhance our towns, including Ballycastle, Coleraine, Portrush and Portstewart is just about to be completed. All these improvements add to the magnificence and competitive advantage of our tourism industry.

One final event in which I had the opportunity to mark a special occasion with citizens who have made significant contributions in all areas of community life - from charity work to volunteering – came about last Thursday when I hosted a celebration for the Queen’s 90th birthday. But that was only one of a number of events to mark the Queen’s birthday, others included the planting of a rose bed and a beacon being lit at Harbour Hill, Portstewart.

It has been a very proud and significant year in my life and it has not come about without difficulties. The reason I choose Headway for my charity was for personal reasons. A head injury gave me the motivation to push myself into this position and I gave it every ounce of my being. It has not all been without difficulties because as you know, I suffer from migraines and quite often sitting here some nights, it has been hard to focus on individuals and on one occasion, I had to abandon the Chair.

One of the last things I did tonight was one of my first ideas. During my first few days in tenure, someone asked me what my vision was for the Borough and I responded that it was like a patchwork quilt, you had all these squares of colourful activity and you had to figure how to put them all together to complement each other and be lasting as in the quality of stitching. My job was to try and get all the squares together and that idea grew to reality when I put this to the community and a Causeway Coast and Glens quilt was created, which now hangs in the Bann Gallery. This is a lasting legacy and the four corners represents the four legacy councils.

On personal note, I want to thank staff, especially Eithne and Ivy for their support. It has been a learning curve for everyone, both them me with a new Council being formed. I want to thank all Council staff who have been so gracious to me and helped me out when needed. The Chief Executive and Directors who supported me and been there when I was not sure of what was expected. I thank members of my own party; members in the chamber and to those members who challenged me with some very difficult meetings. For someone inexperienced, I have learned from that.

Finally, I want to thank my family, my husband children and parents because without them I could not have done this. They have been a great wall of support to me and it has been an experience I will never forget. I want to thank them and along with everyone who has been of support to me these last 14 months.”

Several members on behalf of their parties paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the work carried out during their term in office. Comments made included:

- The lead taking by the Mayor had been impressive.
- The outgoing Mayor would be a hard act to follow.
- The Mayor had coped extremely well as first citizen in newly formed Council.
- The Mayor had reflected Council in a good way and acted with integrity and dignity.
- The whole Borough had been well represented by the Mayor
- The Mayors attitude was had been forthcoming and she had coped well at functions, especially during illness.
- The Mayor had ended her term in office with dignity.

Councillor Knight-McQuillan thanked members were their generous comments.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were recorded.

4 POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY YEAR 2

4.1 Election of Mayor

Councillor Loftus nominated Alderman Hickey to the position of Mayor.

Alderman Hickey was declared Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2016/17.

Councillor Knight-McQuillan relinquished position of Chair at 7.25 pm.

4.2 Election of Deputy Mayor

Alderman Finlay nominated Councillor McCorkell as Deputy Mayor.

Councillor McCorkell was declared Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2016/17.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor were both congratulated by members on their nominations.

4.3 Nomination by Parties for the Remaining Positions for Year 2016/17

Committee Positions	Nomination	Party
Chair of Environmental Services	Alderman King	UU
Vice Chair of Environmental Services	Councillor Watton	PUP
Chair of Leisure & Development	Councillor Douglas	TUV
Vice Chair of Leisure & Development	Councillor Wilson	UU
Chair of Corporate Policy & Resources	To be confirmed	SF
Vice Chair of Corporate Policy & Resources	Councillor Duddy	DUP
Chair of Planning	Councillor Loftus	SDLP
Vice Chair of Planning	Councillor Fitzpatrick	ALL
Chair of Audit	Councillor McShane	SF
Vice Chair of Audit	Councillor Beattie	SDLP
Partnership Panel	Alderman Finlay	DUP
Northern Ireland Housing Council	Alderman Finlay	DUP
Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association	Councillor McCandless	UU

5 COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS – APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Members received a report which outlined that Council had agreed at its meeting on 26 February 2015 to establish five committees made up of 16 members using the quota greatest remainder. Details of appointments to the 5 committees had been agreed for the 4 year term of Council circulated previously.

It was **AGREED**: that if there were any changes to the membership of the committees Democratic Services would be informed.

6 APPOINTMENTS TO PARTNERSHIPS AND EXTERNAL BODIES

A schedule outlining nominations to partnerships and external bodies was circulated to members for information.

7 INCOMING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

In her opening remarks, Alderman Hickey welcomed newly elected Councillor Deighan to his first annual meeting and extended congratulation to him on being co-opted to the SDLP in place of Gerry Mullan, MLA.

Alderman Hickey stated that it was a great honour to be Mayor, a privilege that carried great responsibility with so much to do. She thanked those who voted for SDLP at the

last election, with 6 candidates being elected and first SDLP Mayor for the Borough. She gave an assurance that although she came from nationalist background, she would be first citizen for all the people of the Borough.

Alderman Hickey indicated that she was proud to serve the Borough and intended to promote it as a place of excellence in which people live, work and do business. She pledged to promote Causeway Coast and Glens Borough as a tourist destination, second to none in the Island of Ireland and that she would endeavour to promote businesses from farming, manufacture to technology. She added that she was aware of the importance of creative culture and social lives of citizens and would support all communities in their diversity.

Alderman Hickey outlined that she challenged MLA's Councillors, Ministers and organisations to see what could be achieved when they worked together collectively and that she wanted everyone in the Borough to feel that they were all working together, rather than in silos.

Alderman Hickey explained that at times there had been division and despair, which often overshadowed the hard work done by Councillors and Council staff. In going forward, she would acknowledge and promote the many achievements of the new Council, of which she was sure there was many in the year to come.

It was confirmed that during her time in office, Alderman Hickey would support charities as appropriate. However, with her SDLP colleagues, Autism NI and Children's Hospice had been selected as the Mayor's charities for the year.

Finally, Alderman Hickey said she hoped that all Councillors committed to the helping the concerns of the communities and to work together, irrespective of party politics.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Mayor extended an invitation to elected members and staff to join her for a small reception in the Mayor's Parlour.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.55 pm.

Mayor