



Borough of Douglas

Town Hall,

Douglas,

14th January, 2015

At a MEETING of the COUNCIL of the BOROUGH OF DOUGLAS, duly convened and holden at 2.30 p.m. on WEDNESDAY, the 14th day of JANUARY, 2015, in the COUNCIL CHAMBER, within the TOWN HALL, at which Meeting the following Members were present, that is to say: -

The Mayor

MR COUNCILLOR STANLEY COLVIN CAIN, JP

Councillor

Mrs S.D.A. Hackman

Mr S.R. Pitts

Mr D.J. Ashford

Mrs R. Chatel

Mr D.W. Christian, MBE, JP

Mr E.A. Joyce

Mrs C.E. Malarkey, JP

Mr C.L.H. Cain

Mr G.J. Faragher

Miss D.A.M. Pitts

Mr W.M. Malarkey

Mr R.H. McNicholl

Mr J.E. Skinner

Ms K. Angela

Mrs E.C. Quirk

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillor Mrs C.A. Corlett and Mr Councillor J. Joughin.

The Chief Executive, Borough Treasurer and the Borough Engineer and Surveyor were in attendance.

1. **Minutes – 10th December, 2014**

The minutes of the monthly Council meeting held on Wednesday, 10th December, 2014, were approved and signed.

2. **Standing Order 39 – Question Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford**

The following question addressed by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford to the Leader of the Council, and the Leader's reply, were noted on the minutes:-

Question:

- I) What contingency planning has been undertaken and put in place to protect ratepayers' assets ahead of the extreme storms forecast for the end of January?
- II) What additional contingency planning is in place this year bearing in mind the damage suffered to the Strathallan complex last year?

Reply:

The Officers are monitoring weather and tidal conditions in preparation for the spring tides between 20th and 25th January; they are in liaison with the Department of Infrastructure in relation to the availability of resources, and sandbags are ready for use to protect property, both the Council's and other owners'. Manpower resources are planned to be diverted to the task should it become necessary. Obviously, this far in advance, it is impossible to predict the weather but the relevant managers are monitoring conditions and will take such action as appropriate.

Although damage did occur at the Strathallan Tramshed last year, it was not significant and repairs were carried out speedily. The doors were strengthened at the same time to reduce the risk of similar damage happening again. Additional precautions will be ready for deployment at the building in case they are needed because of the weather and tidal conditions next week.

3. **Standing Order 39 – Question Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts**

The following question addressed by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts to the Chairman of the Housing and Property Committee, and the Chairman's reply, were noted on the minutes:-

Question:

In relation to the budgeted capital scheme, approved by Council on 29th January 2014, for Governor's Hill Playground:

- I) How long has 70 Hillside Avenue been unoccupied?
- II) What is the loss of rent and rates to date?
- III) What works have been carried out and the cost?
- IV) When will the property be ready for occupation?
- V) How many three bedroom properties are vacant at present?

Reply:

- I) 70 Hillside Avenue has been void since 21st October, 2013, a total of 60 weeks.
- II) £5,626.79 altogether, comprising £4,731.70 rent and £895.09 rates.
- III) The work required includes removal of asbestos, installation of central heating system and electrical upgrades. The quoted cost is £7,090.
- IV) Completion is scheduled for mid-February.
- V) As at 9th January, thirteen three-bedroom properties were void, excluding the properties in Willaston used as decant properties. For most of the void period of this specific property, voids were being prioritised according to demand for accommodation and there are currently thirty-four applicants on the housing list requiring a three-bedroom house, but eighty-nine requiring a two-bedroom house and two hundred and four requiring a one-bedroom flat.

4. **Executive Committee – 19th December, 2014 – Clause A8**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, "That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause A8 of report of meeting held Friday, 19th December, 2014 be received by the Council."

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, the Borough Engineer and Surveyor declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

5. **Executive Committee – 19th December, 2014 – Clauses A1 – A7, A9 – A16**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A7 and A9 to A16 inclusive of report of meeting held Friday, 19th December, 2014 be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

6. **Executive Committee – 19th December, 2014 – Clause B17**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in Clause B17 of report of meeting held Friday, 19th December, 2014, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

As a consequence of the Motion being carried, the Constitution: Part 4 – Rules of Procedure – Section 1 – Council Procedure Rules (Standing Orders) – Standing Order 90 was amended to read:

‘Standing Order 90 – Meetings of Committees

That the Pensions Committee will meet the second Wednesday after the monthly Council meeting in February, March, May, October and November at 11.00am and the second Wednesday of the month in September at 11.00am.’

7. **Standards Committee – 22nd December, 2014**

Motion moved by Councillor Mrs R Chatel, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Standards Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Monday, 22nd December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

During debate the Chairman sought the Council’s consent to withdrawal of Clauses A3, A5 and A7 for further consideration by the Committee.

Question put, on whether or not to allow the three Clauses to be withdrawn for further consideration by the Committee. The vote was taken electronically and there voted **For:** Councillor Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, Messrs Councillors S.R. Pitts, D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Messrs Councillors E.A. Joyce, C.L.H. Cain, G.J. Faragher, J.E. Skinner, Councillor Ms K. Angela, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, the Mayor: **11**

Against: Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Messrs Councillors W.M. Malarkey, R.H. McNicholl: **5**

Consent given to withdrawal of Clauses A3, A5, A7.

During further debate, the Chairman sought the Council’s consent to withdrawal of Clause A2 for further consideration by the Committee.

Question put on whether or not to allow Clause A2 to also be withdrawn for further consideration by the Committee. A vote was taken electronically and consent was granted unanimously.

Following the two votes detailed above, the substantive Motion was therefore amended to “That the minutes of proceedings of the Standards Committee, as contained in Clauses A1, A4, A6, and A8 inclusive of report of meeting held Monday, 22nd December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on amended Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

8. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 8th December, 2014 - Clause A8**

Motion moved by Councillor W.M. Malarkey, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in Clause A8 of report of meeting held Monday, 8th December, 2014, be received by Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1985, Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts declared an interest in the item and retired whilst it was considered.

9. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 8th December, 2014 - Clauses A1 – A7, A9 – A12 inclusive**

Motion moved by Councillor W.M. Malarkey, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 to A7 and A9 to A12 inclusive of report of meeting held Monday, 8th December, 2014, be received by Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

10. **Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee – 8th December, 2014 - Clauses B13 – B15 inclusive**

Motion moved by Councillor W.M. Malarkey, seconded by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Eastern District Civic Amenity Site Joint Committee, as contained in Clauses B13 to B15 inclusive of report of meeting held Monday, 8th December, 2014, be received, approved and adopted by Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For:** Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Messrs Councillors E.A. Joyce, C.L.H. Cain, G.J. Faragher, W.M. Malarkey, R.H. McNicholl, J.E. Skinner, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, the Mayor – **12**

Against: Councillor Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Councillor Ms K. Angela – **4**

Motion carried.

11. **Housing and Property Committee – 17th December, 2014 – Clauses A1 – A2 inclusive**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clauses A1 and A2 inclusive of report of meeting held Wednesday, 17th December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

12. **Housing and Property Committee – 17th December, 2014 – Clause C3**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause C3 of report of meeting held Wednesday, 17th December, 2014, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

13. **Housing and Property Committee – 17th December, 2014 – Clause C4**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in Clause C4 of report of meeting held Wednesday, 17th December, 2014, be received, approved and adopted by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously

14. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th December, 2014**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Tuesday, 16th December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

15. **Environmental Services Committee – 15th December, 2014**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in report of meeting held Monday, 15th December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

16. **Election of Chair for the Regeneration and Community Committee**

The Chief Executive advised the Council that Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts had resigned as Chairman of the Regeneration and Community Committee. The Mayor invited nominations to fill the vacancy created by the resignation.

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner was nominated by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford. The nomination was seconded by Councillor Mrs R. Chatel.

Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher was nominated by Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce. The nomination was seconded by Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey.

There being no further nominations, a ballot was held in which the votes were cast as follows:

Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner 9

Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher 7

There were no spoilt papers.

The Mayor declared Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, having obtained a simple majority of the votes of the Members present, was elected Chairman of the Regeneration and Community Committee until April 2016.

17. Adjournment and Resumption of meeting

The meeting adjourned at 5.40pm and resumed at 6.10pm with the following Members present: Councillor Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, Messrs Councillors S.R. Pitts, D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Messrs Councillors C.L.H. Cain, G.J. Faragher, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Messrs Councillors W.M. Malarkey, R.H. McNicholl, J.E. Skinner, Councillor Ms K. Angela, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, the Mayor.

Apologies were submitted by Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce for the remainder of the meeting.

18. Appointment of Members to the Housing and Property Committee and the Regeneration and Community Committee

The Chief Executive and Town Clerk reported that during the adjournment the Executive Committee had met and appointed Members to each of the Committees as follows:

Housing and Property Committee

Councillor Mrs S.D.A. Hackman

Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey

Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts

Councillor Ms K. Angela

Regeneration and Community Committee

Councillor Mrs R. Chatel

Mr Councillor E.A. Joyce

Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher

Mr Councillor S.R. Pitts

Those members of the public still in attendance left the Chamber and the meeting continued in private.

IN PRIVATE

19. Executive Committee – 19th December, 2014

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, seconded by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Executive Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Friday, 19th December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

20. Standing Order 9 – Duration of Meeting

At 6.29pm the Mayor drew attention to the provisions of Standing Order 9 and the Council agreed unanimously to continue the meeting to complete the outstanding business on the agenda.

21. Housing and Property Committee – 17th December, 2014

Motion moved by Mr Councillor D.J. Ashford, seconded by Mr Councillor J.E. Skinner, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Housing and Property Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Wednesday, 17th December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and there voted **For:** Councillor Mrs S.D.A. Hackman, Messrs Councillors S.R. Pitts, D.J. Ashford, Councillor Mrs R. Chatel, Mr Councillor D.W. Christian, Councillor Mrs C.E. Malarkey, Mr Councillor C.L.H. Cain, Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, Messrs Councillors R.H. McNicholl, J.E. Skinner, Councillor Ms K. Angela, Councillor Mrs E.C. Quirk, the Mayor
– 13

Against: Messrs Councillors G.J. Faragher, W.M. Malarkey – 2

Motion carried.

22. **Regeneration and Community Committee – 16th December, 2014**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor G.J. Faragher, seconded by Councillor Miss D.A.M. Pitts, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Regeneration and Community Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Tuesday, 16th December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

Motion carried.

23. **Environmental Services Committee – 15th December, 2014**

Motion moved by Mr Councillor R.H. McNicholl, seconded by Mr Councillor W.M. Malarkey, “That the minutes of proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee, as contained in private report of meeting held Monday, 15th December, 2014, be received by the Council.”

Question put on Motion; a vote was taken electronically, and the Motion was carried unanimously.

The Council rose at 7.30pm.

Town Clerk & Chief Executive