

THE ANNUAL MEETING TUESDAY 7TH JUNE 2022

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**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL, HELD IN THE
COUNCIL CHAMBER, CIVIC HEADQUARTERS and VIA VIDEO-
CONFERENCE ON**

TUESDAY 8TH JUNE 2022 AT 7.00 PM

- In the Chair** : Councillor Holmes, Outgoing Mayor (C) (Items 1 – 4.1)
Councillor Wallace, Mayor (C) (Items 4.1– 6)
- Members Present** : Alderman Baird (C), Boyle (C), Duddy (R), Fielding (C),
Finlay (C), Hillis (C), Knight-McQuillan (R), S McKillop (R)
- Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (C), Beattie (R), Callan (R), Chivers (C), Dallat O’Driscoll (R), Hunter (R), McAuley (C), McCandless (C), McCaw (C), McCorkell (R), McGlinchey (C), MA McKillop (R), McLaughlin (C), McLean (C), McMullan (C), McQuillan (C), C McShane (C), Mulholland (C), Nicholl (C), Peacock (C), Quigley (C), Schenning (R), Scott (C), Wallace (C), Watton (C) and Wilson (C).
- Officers Present** : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Quinn, Director, Corporate Services (R)
M Smyth, Director, Finance (Interim) (R)
P Donaghy, Democratic & Central Services Manager (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
A McAuley, PR Manager (R)
- In Attendance** : Press 2no. (R)
Public 11no.(C) (supporting Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor)
Public 1no. (R)
- J Winfield, ICT Manager (R)
A Lennox, ICT Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)

Key – C Attended in The Chamber
R Attended remotely

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

The Mayor opened the meeting and extended a welcome to members of the press and public in attendance and provided guidance in relation to Council’s Remote Meetings Protocol and audio recordings.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman McKeown and Councillor P McShane.

2. OUTGOING MAYOR'S ADDRESS / OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes addressed Council:

"It seems no time at all since I was sitting here as a newly installed Mayor. The past year has been a whirlwind of meetings, receptions, photos and of course Covid tests!

I was asked the other day to sum up my year as Mayor and the first thing that went through my head was SIS - Stomach In, Smile. As the year has gone on, the stomach in has become more of a challenge and I lay the blame solely at the feet of Paula McIntyre and Taste Causeway.

But three more appropriate words to sum up my year might be remembrance, celebration and normalisation.

We have celebrated the centenary of Northern Ireland and remembered those who fell at home and abroad in the defence of freedom. In November I travelled to the Ulster Tower at the Somme for the 100th Anniversary of its building. The graves and the poppies a reminder of the battle to stem the machinations of evil men. Sadly today we see the same march in Eastern Europe and we hope and pray that freedom will prevail.

This past weekend has seen the climax of the year long jubilee celebrations and our Borough is playing its part. Who can say whether our gift of a teddy bear to little Albert McAuley, born on 6th February, accession day, perhaps inspired someone else to get involved with a bear!

We celebrated our links with The Honourable Irish Society with a visit to the Lord Mayor's Parade in London in November. It is certainly a sight to behold and one the incoming Mayor may wish to consider! Although I am sure the budget debate around that one might take a while!

I had the pleasure to meet with 11 Centenarians during my year - many of them full of wit, stories and charm. The only man amongst them was Bertie Watson who sadly passed away only a few weeks after his 100th. But what an achievement for them all to make 100. We shared centenary coins last year and Platinum Jubilee paperweights this year. But the greatest part was to share their time and hear their stories. One lady is still baking and singing in the choir. Such a lust for life.

As Covid has retreated society has normalised. Supercup NI was back and whilst it was not the normal tournament, it did take place. Man Utd supported it as ever. And whilst I am Liverpool until I die, I have to admit, United are a class act and we owe them a debt of gratitude for their support for youth football in this area. The bikes were back in Armoy last year and the Triangle this year - and the joy to see and hear them back was palpable.

We celebrated with sports people from across the Borough. Olympians such as Hannah Scott and Katie Mullan from Britain and Ireland competed on the greatest stage of all; GAA teams like Glenariff Oisins from a tiny parish won at an all-Ireland field; And young bowlers from Ballymoney Bowling Club showed that you can never be too young. All joined us as we celebrated the rich sporting life across the Borough. Sadly Coleraine FC were unsuccessful at bringing home the silverware.... But there is always next season!

One of the impressions left with me from my time as Mayor will be the selfless efforts of the many volunteers that I got to meet. I met many yesterday at a reception for Volunteers Week. Others I met whilst hosting receptions for Honours recipients. Others were working in the St Vincent de Paul shop, others in food banks and supporting assisted living. But the meeting with Community Rescue Service had me holding back tears. To see the line up of volunteers, vehicles, equipment and fundraisers was a site to behold. What an inspiration to politicians to ensure we deliver a society to be proud of for everyone.

One of my favourite things is food - and my tastes are more sophisticated than Red Bull and Galaxy, comforting as they are. Meetings with Taste Causeway, Paula McIntyre and food businesses far and wide were a regular feature. Sharon Scott and all at Taste Causeway are putting us on the map for food, driving business and tourism simultaneously.

The year has been exhilarating and informative but tiring and stressful at the same time. For all the amazing moments, probably like most Mayors I looked forward to the passing on the baton and getting back to squash and strimming and a few concerts.

Last year I quoted Bruce Springsteen:

*"My father said "Son, we're lucky in this town,
It's a beautiful place to be born.*

It just wraps its arms around you,

Nobody crowds you and nobody goes it alone"

And as Mayor you certainly don't go it alone.

It is impossible to do this job without the amazing support of staff and other Councillors. My own party have been stalwarts but I would like to thank the other Councillors who have sent texts of support and passed on words of

encouragement. I won't embarrass you or hinder your electoral chances by naming you but rest assured they were appreciated. A special word to John Finlay who has fought his own health battles this year but has been an example to us all by making every council meeting he can. Thanks for being here tonight and for your constant encouragement in my time as mayor. You have walked that path and that encouragement means a lot.

David Jackson has been available day and night and we are fortunate to have him as Chief Executive. Democratic Services keep the Mayor functioning and I appreciate all they have done. The care takers and receptionists ensure the Parlour looks immaculate and welcome visitors with a friendly smile.

I have met staff throughout the organisation that I haven't met before and been blown away by the pride they have in their job. A special word of thanks to Esther and Jamie in Roe Valley and Ballymoney who have been regular features in my calendar for the amazing exhibitions they put on. The Mayor would have a quiet life without arts and museums.

Kevin and Steven have been my regular photographers and they are simply amazing to work with. At the start of the year I saw them so much I think we were in the same bubble!

I cannot leave the thanks without mentioning Kerrie McGonigle. As storm Franklin faded across the Irish Sea she had us on Benone Beach amidst the wreckage tossed up by the sea holding up surf boards and visit CCG signs. It was certainly the triumph of optimism over reality!

The stars of the Mayor's team are of course Eithne and Aine. The job is simply impossible without them and words cannot express how much I am indebted to them.

The Deputy Mayor has been on hand, sometimes at 20 minutes notice to fill in and has been a great support. She always leaves me laughing which is a great gift to have.

To my successor and your deputy I wish you God's richest blessing in this role. It will be a year like no other and I know you'll bring your own unique brand to it. The one critical piece of advice I will offer you is this - always remember the chain! Instagram may be able to add bunny noses and rabbit ears, it may smooth a furrowed brow and nip a sagging chin! But it can't add a mayor's chain - so you have been warned!

I'll now hand over to the Deputy Mayor who is hopefully available all the way from Vegas to say a few words".

The Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning thanked the Mayor stating he was a fantastic Mayor, that it was a privilege to attend the many varied activities and events over the year, and thanked him for giving her the opportunity. The Outgoing Deputy Mayor offered thanks to Aine McAuley for her PR and Eithne Doherty who she stated went above and beyond. The Outgoing Deputy Mayor stated best wishes for the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the year.

Alderman Hillis congratulated the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes on a very successful year, that he did a fantastic job, he stated four legacy Council's stretched a lot of ground, and the Mayor had been representative of the Borough, that it did not matter what Club or section of the Community anyone came from. Alderman Hillis stated the Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning did an outstanding job, the Mayor knew he would have a good ambassador on behalf of the Council and congratulated the Outgoing Deputy Mayor. Alderman Hillis offered his best wishes to the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Peacock, on behalf of herself and Sinn Féin offered congratulations to the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes and Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning on a very busy, successful year, for extending hospitality to Groups and organisations, the Outgoing Mayor's time in the Chair firm, but fair and appreciated.

Councillor MA McKillop congratulated the Outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor on a very successful year, on behalf of her Party thanked them for their time and hard work over the last year. Councillor MA McKillop congratulated the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor and wished them every success in the last year of the Term.

Councillor McCaw echoed the comments made previously and on behalf of Alliance Party thanked the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes and Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning for a very successful year. Councillor McCaw congratulated the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Quigley thanked the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning offering a personal thanks for assistance with the Ukrainian Appeal, she stated a great example and role model for First Citizen.

Councillor Watton thanked the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning for a very successful year, he stated they did reach out to everybody and wished the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor all the best for the incoming year.

Councillor McCandless stated the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes had shown inclusivity, and had carried out a fantastic job, he was a great

ambassador and chaired an excellent meeting. He thanked the Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning and stated best wishes to the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Alderman Fielding commended the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes for what he did, he was very helpful and courteous, and wished him well as he reverts to his normal seat in the Chamber, stating he was good at chairing a meeting. Alderman Fielding stated best wishes to the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Callan thanked the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes on a very good year, and stated personal thanks for attending events and thanked the Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning, both for performing their roles in a courteous and professional manner.

Condolences

The Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes passed sympathy to the husband and entire family circle of Ester Mulholland on her sad passing, former Director, Moyle District Council.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

4. POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY YEAR 4

4.1 Nomination of Mayor 2022 – 2023 / Incoming Mayor's Address

The Outgoing Mayor invited the Party lead of the DUP to nominate the Mayor.

Councillor McAuley congratulated the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Holmes for his year in Office and congratulated the Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Schenning.

Councillor McAuley nominated Councillor Ivor Wallace, who was declared Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2022/2023.

Councillor McAuley invited Alderman Finlay to present the Chain of Office to the Mayor, Councillor Wallace. Alderman Finlay congratulated the Mayor, stating he would be a tremendous Mayor for all the people in the Borough.

*** Councillor Holmes vacated the Chair at this point in the meeting and Councillor Wallace assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.**

The Mayor, Councillor Wallace addressed Council:

“Members. First of all I would like to thank my party for selecting me to be Mayor for this year. It’s not an honour I ever thought I would have. I want to especially mention my friend Alderman Finlay who would liked to have had this honour but due to his failing health he stood aside.

I would also like to record mine and my parties thanks to the Outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Richard Holmes and Councillor Ashleen Scheening.

Councillor Holmes you have done a good job and I thank you for the help and advice you have given me helping the handover to be as seamless as possible.

Knowing what this year will involve and the time spent on the road and at events I would like to thank Vivien and Katie for their understanding and the fact that they’re losing their personal chef for quite a bit of this year.

In Matthew’s gospel we read about the mother of James and John asking Jesus if they can be given special places of honour to sit. Neither Jesus nor the other disciples were too happy with the request. This is how it’s recorded.

“When the ten other disciples heard what James and John had asked, they were indignant. But Jesus called them together and said, “You know that the rulers in this world Lord it over their people, and officials flaunt their authority over those under them. But among you it will be different. Whoever wants to be a leader among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first among you must become your slave. For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.””

I am not here in this chair to be served nor to be any better than anyone else in this Chamber. I am here to serve and I pray that I would be as good an example as I possibly can be of my Lord and saviour Jesus Christ. If you are a prayer I would be very grateful if you too would pray for me.

In conclusion

*Councillor Holmes is the Mayor nae mare
He wasnae bad tae be fair
Fir noo hae is done
Am sure hae his had at least sum fun*

*I’m lookin forward tae this year
Am sure a’ll hae plenty tae fear
A’ll naw please ye all ah know that*

But a'll try tae be fair but a'll be nae dure mat"

The Mayor, congratulated Alan Robinson MLA in the public gallery and thanked him for coming along and thanked his supporters in the Gallery.

4.2 Nomination of Deputy Mayor 2022 – 2023 / Incoming Deputy Mayor's Address

The Mayor, Councillor Wallace, invited the Party lead of SF to nominate the Deputy Mayor. Councillor Peacock congratulated her fellow Ballymoney DEA Mayor, Councillor Wallace on his nomination and looked forward to working together for the incoming year.

Councillor Peacock nominated Councillor Kathleen McGurk who was declared Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2022/2023.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor McGurk addressed Council:

"First of all I would like to congratulate the Mayor on his appointment. It is an honour to represent the citizens of Causeway Coast & Glens as Mayor and I am sure Cllr. Wallace will do a fantastic job in doing just that.

It is certainly an honour for me to have been selected to represent this Council as Deputy Mayor by my party and I thank them for this opportunity. I will support the Mayor in his role in the spirit of unity and cooperation and very much hope we can work together in this final year of the council mandate.

I am looking forward to getting out and about to meet the people, groups and organisations that make this area so special. And whilst the invitations will be addressed to Mayor, I stand willing to deputise where needed and ensure that absolutely no event is left unattended and every corner of our council area is covered.

I relish the opportunity to showcase everything that Causeway Coast & Glens has to offer. Our unique tourism industry, widespread entrepreneurship, committed volunteer sector, dedicated sports people and organisations, fantastic arts and culture sector and our diverse citizens are what makes Causeway Coast & Glens a special place to represent.

It has been heartening to see so many women elected to the role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor, in councils across the north, over the past few days. Representation in politics is extremely important, and for that reason I am proud to stand as a woman in this position. With more women in leadership roles, we can bring a new outlook to governance.

While women are underrepresented, women from ethnic minority, LGBTQI + and disabled backgrounds for example, are even more so. We must make politics and public life more inclusive for women and minorities, and as a result create a more diverse representation of our society.

I know that in these times many of our citizens are struggling with a cost-of-living crisis. Our council must do everything it can to support people and I will do everything I can in my capacity as Deputy Mayor to highlight the needs of our citizens as well as to shine a light on the wonderful work so many groups and organisations do to help people on a day-to-day basis.

However we have an opportunity to deliver real change for Causeway Coast & Glens with our Growth Deal funding and that could be transformative for our economy across the entire council area.

Only by working together and promoting the opportunities that exist in Causeway Coast & Glens, we will deliver for the people. I'm ready to support the Mayor in that task at hand".

4.3 Nominations to remaining Positions of Responsibility Year 4 2022 – 2023

The Mayor invited Party Leads to nominate the Positions of Responsibility.

These were in accordance with d'Hondt picks made at the Annual Meeting in 2019.

The nominations were confirmed by Nominating Officers as follows:-

Appointment/Committee	Elected Member	Party
Chair of Environmental Services	Councillor John McAuley	DUP
Vice Chair Environmental Services	Alderman Mark Fielding	DUP
Chair of Leisure and Development	Councillor Christopher McCaw	ALL
Vice Chair Leisure and Development	Councillor Ashleen Schenning	SDLP
Chair of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Councillor Cara McShane	SF
Vice Chair Corporate Policy and Resources	Councillor Orla Beattie	SDLP
Chair of Planning Committee	Councillor Oliver McMullan	SF
Vice Chair of Planning Committee	Councillor Helena Dallat O'Driscoll	SDLP
Chair of Audit Committee	<i>Councillor Richard Holmes</i> ¹	UU
Vice Chair	Councillor Philip Anderson	DUP
Chair of Finance Committee	Councillor Alan McLean	DUP
Vice Chair of Finance Committee	Councillor Richard Holmes	UU

¹ Party Lead, Alderman Hillis revised the nomination to Alderman Tom McKeown on 08/06/2022.

**5. COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS - APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES
YEAR 4**

Circulated for information.

6. APPOINTMENTS TO PARTNERSHIPS, EXTERNAL BODIES

Circulated for information.

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.39 pm.

Chair