

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022,
RECONVENED ON WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2022**

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| 1. | Apologies | <i>Alderman Baird and Hillis; Councillor Schenning</i> |
| 2. | Condolences and Tributes on The Passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II | <i>Condolences and Tributes paid on the Passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II</i> |
| | | <i>that the Special Council Meeting adjourn to 21st September 2022 at 6.30 pm; that the Audit Committee Meeting is moved on Wednesday 21st September 2022 to 7.30pm (from 7.00pm)</i> |

**Reconvened Special Council Meeting held Wednesday 21st September at
6.30pm**

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| No. | Item | Decision |
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| 2. | Declarations of Interest | <i>Alderman Duddy, Knight-McQuillan; Councillors McCorkell, C McQuillan, Wilson</i> |
| 3. | Trade Union Local Pay and Condition Demands | <i>that Council award a £550 hardship allowance for staff up to and including Scale 6 with 1 spinal point increment this year and 1 spinal point increment</i> |

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| | | <i>next year in addition to supporting the National agreement</i> |
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UNCONFIRMED

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCE ON WEDNESDAY 14TH SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7PM,
RECONVENED ON WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTMEBER 2022 AT 6.30 PM.**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Wallace (C)

Present : Alderman Boyle (R), Duddy (C), Fielding (C),
Knight-McQuillan (C), A McQuillan (C), McKeown (C),
McLean (C), S McKillop (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Beattie (R),
Callaghan (C), Holmes (C), Hunter (R), McAuley (C),
McCandless (C), McCaw (R), McCorkell (R), McGurk (R),
MA McKillop (R), McMullan (R), C McQuillan (R), C
McShane (R), Mulholland (C), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R),
Quigley (C), Scott (C), Storey (C), Watton (C), Wilson (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

Officers In Attendance: J Winfield, ICT Manager (R)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (R)
C Ballentine, ICT Officer (C)

In attendance : Public (no.)
Press (no 1) (R)

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.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Storey to the Chamber saying he would provide many valuable inputs to meetings.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Baird, Hillis and Councillor Schenning.

2. CONDOLENCES AND TRIBUTES ON THE PASSING OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Mayor advised the format of the meeting would be one of tributes on the sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen.

"I was privileged to have been able to attend the service of reflection and thanksgiving for the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Many of you have watched it. The address started off by the gentleman saying that there were two people who we all never really imagined dying - ourselves and the Queen. It is quite a statistic that one out of every one of us will die. We in our lifetime have never lived under a different Monarch until now. In a matter of a few hours we had two Prime Ministers and two Monarchs. This is a time of change.

It was with deep regret that I, like many others, learned of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II on Thursday 8th September 2022.

Her death will be most keenly felt by her family, but it leaves an undeniable void across our entire society.

On her 21st birthday in 1947, in a speech broadcast via radio from Cape Town, she set out her dedication when she said: "I declare before you all that my whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to our service". Looking back on the past seven decades, her sense of public duty has never wavered and she did indeed devote her life to serving us all.

Having ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service remained resolute and she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth from her coronation in 1952 to the present day.

Her deep sense of faith has been an inspiration, and she shared this publicly with us on many occasions. This commitment to her faith underpinned her commitment to public service. She like her Saviour was a great example of servanthood.

Just on 3rd August she said 'Throughout my life, the message and teachings of Christ have been my guide and in them I find hope.

Many people in our Borough will have their own memories of the five Royal visits which have taken place since the coronation, in 1953, 1977, 2007, 2014 and 2016. These have even more significance now, and I am very proud that Causeway Coast and Glens featured throughout the course of her reign and indeed that her very last visit to Northern Ireland was to this great borough.

On behalf of the Borough, I have offered my thanks for the past 70 years, along with my most sincere sympathies.

The Queen has met her King of Kings. God Save the King.”

Councillor McAuley

“Sadly, we find ourselves in this Chamber yet again mourning the loss of somebody special to us all.

Along with the rest of the nation, we are deeply saddened by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. Our sympathy and prayers are with the Royal Family at this difficult time.

Her Majesty was the longest serving monarch in the history of our United Kingdom, and her death marks the end of an illustrious era. It can truly be said that things will never be the same again.

Since acceding to the Throne on the death of her father in February 1952, Her Majesty set a most wonderful example of tireless and devoted service and of Christian faith, and we held her in the highest possible reverence and esteem. She was much loved and respected by us all.

We remember with fondness her many visits to our Borough, some of them during the years of the Troubles when she and Prince Philip placed themselves at considerable risk.

She is gone, but she will never be forgotten, for she has left an indelible mark upon our nation.

Now we begin the new reign of King Charles III, and we assure His Majesty of our loyalty and prayers as he embarks upon the challenges that lie ahead.

God Save the King”

Councillor McCandless

“Countless number of people would have watched the formal procession from the palace to the Great Hall at Westminster this afternoon and no doubt many had a lump in their throat or a tear in their eye.

Her Majesty was an inspirational lady and of the many attributes we could describe her with, above all was the word duty. Greatness was thrust upon her in 1952 and she did not shirk it. In her Christmas speech of 1952 she had asked the nation to pray that God would grant her wisdom. That prayer was certainly answered.

The longest reigning British monarch, reigning over the UK for 70 years.

Her Majesty has left us many memorable quotes which reflected her great wisdom. Christmas message 1957 “It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.”

Russian invasion of Georgia in 2008 “ When life seems hard the courageous do not lie down and accept defeat. They are all the more determined to struggle for a better future.”.

The Queen is dead, long live the King. Words which are very sombre and ones which we did not wish to hear, though we have realised the inevitability of it for some time.

The phrase originated in France C15th and was adopted by the British Monarchy in the C19th.

These words tell us that the old has gone, replaced by the new, it means that an institution continues to live on.

Very appropriate words for a Queen who lived out her Christian faith throughout her life and it is also a reminder to us of the Resurrection of Christ.

With the Queen’s passing a void has been left which will be difficult to replace, and as we pray for the grieving members of the Royal family, remember particularly to pray for her successor King Charles III that like his mother he will seek God’s wisdom to be a worthy monarch.”

Councillor Scott

“It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth II, on Thursday last. Only four days before, I along with others had gathered at Christ Church in Limavady, to give thanks for the dedicated service her Majesty had given to the United Kingdom and Commonwealth over the past 70 years.

At that time none of us would have expected to hear only 4 days later that her Majesty had been taken from us, to be with her Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I suppose that never having known any other sovereign during our lifetime, other than Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, we had come to expect that she would always be there for us. Whilst logically we knew in our heart of hearts, that this was not possible, we just did not wish to contemplate the idea that we would lose someone who encapsulated such exemplary service, and devotion to her subjects. She set the bar for public service at a very high level and it is one we should all strive to reach, although I doubt that any of us, will be doing it for seventy years. She was the one constant, in an ever changing world.

Our Queen first visited NI as our Monarch in 1953, just a month after her coronation. A Public holiday was called by the Governor of NI, Lord Wakehurst, so that as many people as possible could see the Queen. Travelling by train on that occasion, the Queen visited; Lisburn, Hillsborough, Belfast, Ballymoney and Bellarena in the North West.

Her last visit was in June of 2016, where along with the Duke of Edinburgh she, visited the Giants Causeway, Bushmills, Coleraine, where she took a Steam Train to Bellarena in the north-west. Replicating in part her great train journey in

1953. I remember watching the train from Benone Beach as it emerged from the tunnel at Downhill. Standing on the beach I waved my arms in the hope that she might be looking out the window and notice me, but I suppose that was too much to hope for. In total our Queen made twenty two visits to NI during her reign, showing that we were an integral part of her realm.

Whilst she will be missed by all of us, she will especially be missed by her family and I would pass on my most heartfelt sympathy for their loss of a; mother, grandmother and great grandmother. That wonderful smile of hers will no longer greet them, her arms will no longer comfort them and her wise words will no longer be there to guide them.

Her successor King Charles III has been proclaimed and I am sure he will follow in her footsteps and become a wonderful servant of the people.

God Save The King.”

Councillor McCorkell

“In a world of few constants, HM Queen Elizabeth II was quite possibly one of the last. She had always been there, permeating every part of our lives. She will always be in our hearts and it is so hard to comprehend that she has been called away from us.

She will always be in our hearts. She was our Queen and Head of State, yet she served us, regardless of class, colour or creed and regardless of whether we supported her or not, with a level of loyalty, determination and faithfulness that very few will know or will ever understand.

For every single morning of her reign, she arose, not just to the sound of bagpipes, but to a day of sacrifice and service to her people. A people who she loved dearly. Regardless of what was going on in her life or that of her family, she put on that beautiful smile and made whoever she met, feel like that individual was the only person in the world that mattered, at that particular moment in time, as many of us witnessed first-hand when she came to Bushmills, Portrush, Coleraine and Bellarena in 2016.

Thanks to our constitutional monarchy, we will move on, in grief, under King Charles III, yet her absence has left an enormous gaping hole in our lives. The world will never be the same again and how we will miss even the very eloquent sound of her beautiful reassuring voice. Elizabeth II will forever live in our saddened hearts; she will always be our Queen and many of us will always strive to maintain the United Kingdom that she cherished and defended throughout her lifetime.

A shining example of integrity, respect and love to all our citizens, young and old. She was a woman who stood head and shoulders above all else throughout her lifetime. She was a consummate example to every young woman throughout the world.

My closing words come from my own young daughter, spoken just before the sad news broke of the Queen's death, "The Queen can't die, she will live forever", she said. Thanks to her Majesty's faith and endurance in her Lord and saviour Jesus Christ while she was with us, today, she does live in Him and reigns through Him forever.

For her family and for us her people and loyal subjects, grief is indeed the price we pay for love.

Mr Mayor, on behalf of my family and constituents, I offer my most sincere condolences at this sad time to our new King Charles III and offer to him, my full support.

God Save the King"

Councillor MA McKillop

"On behalf of SDLP may I pass on our condolences to the family of Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen dedicated her life to public service and was loved and admired by people around the world. She was a mother, grandmother and great grandmother and dedicated her life to roles within her family also. She improved British and Irish relations in 2011 when she visited Dublin, spoke in Irish and visited the Garden of Remembrance for those who lost their lives to Irish Freedom. The Queen called for an end to violence and urged reconciliation despite losing her second cousin. She had a desire to see peace achieved. On behalf of SDLP our thoughts are with all those who held Queen Elizabeth II dear.

Councillor Peacock

"On behalf of Sinn Fein I wish to extend sympathy and condolence to the children, grandchildren and extended family circle of Queen Elizabeth II. The profound grief and affection felt was regardless of class. and our thoughts at this time are with our Unionist colleagues and those around the world who have been impacted by the death of such a long serving monarch.

Alderman McKeown

"On behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party group I offer deepest sympathy to the Royal family at this sad time. It is difficult for the family to share grief in private as they live their life in public eye. I pray that God would sustain them at this time. I have fond memories of the Queen when she visited Bushmills and met her at Royal Portrush Golf Club. The Royal couple were welcoming and relaxed and she paused to speak to and receive a gift from a child which she did with gratitude. That is the personality of the Queen we are remember today, someone who took time for everyone. As it moves on from Queen to King.

God save the King"

Councillor Callaghan

“ On 1st January 2007 I was awarded The Queens Police Medal in The New Year’s Honours List by Her majesty The Queen.

On The 13th June that year I attended the Investiture ceremony in Buckingham Palace. I was a day of pomp and ceremony like no other I ever imagine I will be privileged to see again.

I was presented to Her Majesty who invested me with the medal, a moment that was so surreal. I was amazed that Her Majesty was aware who I was, why I was getting the award and a background into where I was working.

Her Majesty asked me how The Good Friday Agreement was benefiting Police officers who were serving on the ground in Northern Ireland. She hoped that there would be a lasting peace that would see future generations grow up and enjoy a life free from the violence of the past. She hoped that I would have a long and healthy retirement, and thanked me for the sacrifices that me and my fellow officers had endured down the years.

I came away that day in awe that a woman in her 80’s would be so aware of what was going on in the four corners of the United Kingdom. She was an unbelievable Lady. It is a day I will never forget; it was an Honour and Privilege to have served Her. On a side note two other Gentlemen of note from the North-West were in attendance at that Investiture. Mr Mervyn White MBE and David Boyle MBE. The Queen served this Nation with dignity and devotion. I doubt we will see her likes again. God Bless The Queen.”

Councillor Mulholland

“I wish to extend my sincerest condolences to King Charles III, the Queen Consort and the entire Royal family on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was the personification of commitment, dedication, duty and service, which she performed impeccably over her seventy years on the throne.

As elected representatives and people in public live we can learn so much from her example and continue to build upon her legacy of peace and reconciliation with respect and courtesy at the core of decision making.

As a Queen, a woman, a mother, a grandmother and indeed a great grandmother she will be remembered for her devotion in all these roles.

Thank you for your service and dedication to the people, Maam and may you rest in peace.

Councillor McCaw

*"I would like to Join with you and others in paying my respect to her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and convey my sympathy to His Majesty The King on the death of his beloved mother. A time of sorry for many, the United Kingdom have lost a dedicated and selfless Queen with an unwavering sense of public duty dignity and respect. She was the last of the War time generation and respect for Queen has brought people from all traditions in Northern Ireland together. The state visit in 2011 was the beginning of a reinvention of relations here and as His Majesty said yesterday she always prayed for the people of Northern Ireland. Millions are grieving the loss of a great public servant but an integral part of our life. As the late Majesty said, 'Grief is the price we pay for love' and as she loved us we loved her. She was a constant that never wavered. Sincere sympathy to His Majesty the King. I convey my best wishes to His Majesty at the start of a new reign.
God Save The King"*

Councillor Watton

"The first thing which struck me about the Queen was that she would always be there. A life time of service and devotion to nation by a lady with a far deeper religious faith than I thought she had has come through in the past few days. She never put a foot wrong. Diana was the peoples Princess but the Queen was the peoples Queen.

I was in a village in South Wales called Aberthorn a couple of days ago. In 1966 there was landslide which came down the mountain killing 116 children and 28 adults. I decided to visit the memorial garden and met a survivor who said that the Queen had visited the village four times since the tragedy and on her first visit was said to have been tearful, something only witnessed again in public at the death of her late husband. The survivor spoke of village having such amazing affection for the Queen. There are major challenges ahead but King Charles III is well prepared at the age of 74 and I don't think he will let us down. My sympathy is with all those who held the Queen in affection.

God Save The King"

Councillor Storey

"Mr Mayor, Aldermen and fellow Councillors it is with sadness that we meet on this occasion.

The passing of Her late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is a moment for our Nation to pause in grateful remembrance of Her service, duty and sacrifice. This historic, and for many deeply personal, moment marks the end of an era for this our United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and the wider world and the beginning of a new era with King Charles III as our new head of State.

We look back on seventy glorious years of dedicated service and our hearts are heavy yet thankful. Her late Majesty's devotion to service marked her out for

the wonderful example she has been to our four nations of the United Kingdom and not least here in Northern Ireland.

We remember with fondness those many occasions that she visited and for those who were privileged to be present, they were days that were never to be forgotten.

The Queen visited Northern Ireland 22 times during her reign, and three times before she was crowned.

I will only mention three:-

Her first visit to Ballymoney On 3rd July 1953, as part of the Royal Couple's Coronation Tour of Northern Ireland, the Royal Train stopped at Ballymoney Railway Station and Her Majesty, the Queen, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh stepped out to be greeted by thousands of well-wishers. The late Alex Blair recalls that when a local lady from Kilraughts was asked after she had returned from the Royal Visit, what was she like the lady replied, "she's just like our Jean".

In response to the visit and a Morocco Bound volume, illuminated by hand and illustrated by water colour, which Her Majesty described as the Queens Book an extract from Wednesday 12th April 2000 when Her Majesty presented the George Cross to the Royal Ulster Constabulary she wrote:

"I am pleased to be here today on this historic occasion, to present the award of the George Cross to the Royal Ulster Constabulary. This award is an exceptional recognition of the outstanding contribution made by the RUC to peace in Northern Ireland. It is a singular acknowledgement of the gallantry and courage shown and in all too many cases, the ultimate sacrifice paid by the members of the Constabulary during the past 30 years of terrorism and civil unrest"

On the occasion of remembering another valiant serviceman, The Monarch unveiled a life-size statue of Victoria Cross Winner Sergeant Robert Quigg on the 28th June 2016 in Bushmills, those of us who were honoured to be there will not forget that historic day.

While we remember the Queens unyielding service there is an aspect of her life that I want to conclude my remarks by mentioning. Queen Elizabeth II had a public role to play in terms of religion – she was the Supreme Governor of the Church of England and, like all monarchs since Henry VIII, held the title of Defender of the Faith. But she had a very strong personal faith as well. As she put it in a message to the Bible Society, of which she was patron, at the time of her 90th birthday: "I have been – and remain – very grateful to you for your prayers and to God for his steadfast love. I have indeed seen his faithfulness."

The Queen's faith was, in many ways, particularly influenced by her grandfather, George V. It is said that he read a chapter of scripture every night until the end of his life.

When Princess Elizabeth was just a child in her teens, she brought a poem to the attention of her father, King George VI, who read it in his annual BBC radio broadcast on Christmas Day in 1939, when Great Britain had entered WWII and the nation was gripped with fear. The poem became known as "The Man at the Gate of the Year" very relevant to us tonight - extract:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown" and he replied "Go out into the darkness and put your hand in the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way" So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East".

May we all put our hand in the hand of God, so that when the dark night of death comes for us we will have the one who is the Light of the World be our guide.

God Save The King"

Councillor Quigley

"My deepest condolences on the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II, a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. What an inspirational woman, leader and monarch. She lived a life of true outstanding servant leadership and was well loved and respected national and globally. On a recent radio programme it was said of her faith that the Queen prayed on her knees every night. Her Christmas messages were full of Godly wisdom and she was evidently a real woman of God and a great peace maker and instrument of great reconciliation and healing. May she exchange her earthly crown for a heavenly crown. God bless King Charles in his new role."

Alderman S McKillop

"Queen Elizabeth II is well known as Head of Armed Forces and Colonel and Chief across the Commonwealth of men and woman who served and are serving. To see army personnel carry her coffin with such care is a testament to this – it is my belief on speaking with army personnel of late that they have an affinity with Her Majesty. On behalf of the army personnel past and present I wish to extend their sincere thanks for she done for the duration of her reign in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. I am in mourning with the nation and feel I have lost a close member of my family. Her Majesty was a great Queen.

I had a small part to play in 2016 as part of the Royal visit to Bushmills for the unveiling of the statue. I take great comfort from the fact that King Charles III has served as an apprenticeship under stewardship of his mother and late father and know he will respectfully and faithfully carry the baton as King Charles III and sovereign and head of state and commonwealth and chief of British Armed Forces. As I wave Queen Elizabeth II good bye I welcome our new monarch King Charles III. God Save The King.

Alderman A McQuillan

"Thank you for giving us the opportunity to pay our respects to the late Queen Elizabeth II. She was truly a remarkable lady, and I had the privilege of seeing her on a few occasions. The first was at a Garden Party at Hillsborough the next was here at the University of Ulster when I had the pleasure of being invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace where the day started lovely and by the afternoon there was thunder and lightning and heavy rain. Then we had a wonderful day at Stormont for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012. The next time I was a Medal investiture at Buckingham Palace when my wife received an MBE which was a very proud day for us all. Then I finally got to meet the lady herself at the Bellarena train stop just outside Limavady even the SDLP turned up that day but they couldn't on Sunday past, but we'll not go there tonight. The Queen seemed to like Northern Ireland and its people because she took time to visit here 22 times as Queen and she made 3 trips here before she ascended to the throne.

Mr Mayor, Sunday past was a bittersweet kind of day because we are welcoming a new King Charles III but also mourning the loss of a great Queen and Head of State the likes we will never see again and to those who stayed away on Sunday and then were fit to go to Hillsborough Castle and St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast yesterday I feel were using the occasion of the Queens death as a publicity stunt and then you have others who said they were for the moss for a week. It's a pity they wouldn't take up permanent residence there. Mr Mayor, can I finish by thanking you and the Chief Executive for the dignity and decorum that you both have showed on behalf of this borough throughout these sad days of morning.

God Save the King."

Alderman Boyle

"Mayor, like other Councillors, I would like to give my condolences to the Royal family in their time of great grief.

I have found the rituals during this period of mourning for the Queen moving: the Proclamations, Church Services, the journey of the Queen's coffin to Buckingham Palace and now as it lies in state at Westminster.

Others have mentioned her contributions to Anglo-Irish relations, including her words in Irish at dinner during her state visit to Dublin in 2011.

I would like to mention her shaking hands with Martin McGuinness at the Lyric Theatre in 2012. This was witnessed by Pádraig O'Tuoma, Corrymeela Leader and poet, who then wrote his poem 'Shaking Hands'. Martin McGuinness asked him to hand write it out for a retirement present for Peter Robinson. Prince Charles, now King Charles, mentioned it during his visit to Cork in 2018 while speaking of 'reconciliation and understanding'.

I would like to read it this evening"

Alderman Boyle read the poem in its entirety.

"Thank-you, Mayor. God save the King."

Alderman McLean

"Like everyone in Chamber the Queen was the only Monarch I have ever known as she was Head of State since I was born. I can remember growing up in our house there was a picture of her and Prince Philip on the wall still in situ to this day. In 1977 I watched all the Jubilee celebrations on television and in 1983 I was chosen as member of Boys Brigade to visit Edinburgh along with other Boys Brigade from Northern Ireland and this was quite an experience. At this event there was a Royal review where the Queen went round and spoke to the boys there and this was indeed a very special occasion and memorable for me. Through the years I was honoured to see the Queen in 2012 and 2016 and in 2019 when my wife and I visited Balmoral and had the opportunity to witness the Queen drive past in her Land Rover and she waved at the onlookers going past. That was the last time I physically saw the Queen. She gave great dedication to her country. She also had a family and managed to raise them despite the work she had to do. Having lost my mother and mother in law recently I can understand the grief the family must be going through while managing their public role and coping with their own grief. Even when she did meet with Prime Ministers and the likes she was more up on brief than they were when she met them.

Also I had the pleasure of meeting King Charles and Consort on a couple of occasions and know that they will follow on in footsteps of his mother in leading the country that she did. Her Christian faith was one of the most important things to her. She was not backward in letting people know that. We can all say as in the National Anthem that God has saved our Queen She is now with him in glory. I pass on my condolences to the family at this time.

God save the King."

Councillor Anderson

"I wish to pay my respects to a special lady Queen Elizabeth II. I was proud to have served under Her Majesty and privileged to do a royal salute in her honour. Of the many quotes that she has been written this best captures her strength. "In times when nothing stood but worsened or grew strange, there was one constant good she did not change" Hard to imagine we will not see such a compassionate and caring Monarch again who at all times led by example and was cherished and loved by all her royal subjects.

Councillor Wilson

"I would like to extend my deepest sympathy to the family of her late Majesty the Queen on her sad passing. I am one of many in this Chamber and many others in United Kingdom who may or may not have been committed royalists but have paid respects, a mark of her flawless leadership and integrity which Her Majesty reigned with for so long. I had the great privilege in 2016 to meet the Queen at Royal Portrush because I was elected as a public representative and this was truly a remarkable occasion. As a nation during times of sadness

and difficulty we looked to the late Queen Elizabeth for words of comfort and she was a magnificent figurehead. She was a truly remarkable woman who was quoted as saying

“To be inspirational you don’t have to save lives or win medals. I often draw strength from meeting ordinary people doing extra ordinary things, volunteers, carers, community organisers, good neighbours and unsung heroes who’s quiet dedication makes them special”.

Her Majesty will continue to be remembered with upmost respect. Long live the king.”

Alderman Knight-McQuillan

“I did not think that the loss of Her Majesty would impact me as deeply as it has, I feel the heavy heartedness and even though we knew the day would come it is still unbelievable. I am honoured and privileged to have precious memories like many in room to have had the opportunity to shake the hand of her Majesty. Also at the trooping of the colour, the last one she took part in 2019 I was amongst the people who stood for hours which signifies how precious she was to so many. I had the honour of attending the Platinum Jubilee celebration London last year and on that occasion Her Majesty appeared on the balcony for the last time. Again there were hundreds of thousands of people in London. It is difficult to celebrate the coming of new King when you are feeling the loss but I have no doubt that King Charles III will carry out his duty and will be different but very great leader. I have felt an incredible pull towards our nation’s capital city London and even if I just see a tiny glimpse for me that will help me be special to the many who will stand for hours in queue to get a final glimpse of our precious Queen Elizabeth II.

God save the king.”

Alderman Duddy

“Thank you very much for arranging this evening to allow us on behalf of our constituents to pay tribute to our Sovereign Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Like others I had the great opportunity, pleasure and honour to meet the Queen in 2014 as last Mayor of Coleraine Borough Council.

Such was the security and secrecy around state visits at the time of Our Sovereign’s visit we only had a short space of time to get to grips with arrangements and had some excellent teachers one of whom was our current Chief Executive who took a leading role along with a former employee Tara Cunningham in Public Relations and Ciaran Doherty, Chief Executive at that time, all of whom were heavily involved in arrangements.

It was a great experience and a fantastic day. Representatives from Royal British Legion from Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland came together on what was an historic day.

The Major General from Republic of Ireland and myself shared the role of introducing guests to Her Majesty. The moment I shook her Majesty's hand a sense of calm and the sense of I am no different from you was evident. It was like in many respects meeting with your own mother, she had such a calming nature and a pleasant smile.

When leaving she joked about the opportune time to begin her journey before it started to rain and there were photos taken, once capturing that moment which I will forever hold dear. I also had the opportunity to share jokes with Her Majesty and the late Duke of Edinburgh and her infectious smile and laugh puts one at complete ease.

What marked the lady is when she had spotted the Royal British Legion representatives after she had entered the car in preparation to leave when she left her vehicle thank them, shake their hand and wish them well. I will always remember this as a mark of the lady she was. She was the Sovereign to us all no matter what or where we were in life.

As a young 18 year old I had like many other veterans before me served and taken an oath of allegiance and I hold dear that I had the honour and privilege to serve under Her Majesty in 2 Regiments and while serving as a Police Officer when I joined the Royal Ulster Constabulary.

We have lost an ever constant and an anchor of our nation and I have no doubt that King Charles III will lead the nation and follow in the footsteps of his late mother. It was his destiny to do so and believe he will. I wish to read a few verses from a poem 'Death is nothing at all' by Henry Scott Holland."

Alderman Duddy read extracts from the poem

"God Save the King."

Councillor Wallace

"I have considered it a honour and privilege to represent the borough as Mayor this last few days and to have the Chief Executive accompany me at special days which we have had. I would like to extend my thanks to the Chief Executive and Council staff publicly for everything which has been put in place which has made things easier than they might have been."

The Chief Executive spoke of his duty to lead arrangements for the Royal visit in the 2016 to the borough by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the fact that it was the last public element of her visit to Northern Ireland.

The Chief Executive recalled the journey he took with Queen Elizabeth II from Coleraine to Bellarena by train when he had the daunting but privileged task of providing a brief on history and virtues of the borough.

The Chief Executive summarised the protocol timeline put in place following the passing of Her Royal Highness on Thursday 8th September 2022:

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|--|---|
| Thursday 8 th September at 6.32 pm | Official communication - announcement from The Northern Ireland Office, confirming the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II |
| | Immediately Union flags across the borough fly at half mast |
| Friday 9 th September at 10.00 am | Mayor greets Lord Lieutenant for County Londonderry to discuss final arrangements for protocol to be put into place |
| | Mayor meets with Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim to discuss and co-ordinate arrangements for North Antrim with emphasis on town of Antrim |
| Friday 9 th September at 12.00 noon | Five books of condolence opened at Civic buildings across borough with first signatories being the Mayor and his Majesty's Lord Lieutenant at Coleraine Town Hall |
| Saturday 10 th September at 11.00 am | Following Proclamation at St James Palace Union flags across the borough return to full mast |
| Sunday 11 th September at 12.00 noon | Mayor Councillor Wallace attends Proclamation of King at Hillsborough by invitation of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland |
| Sunday 11 th September at 1.00 pm | Union flags across the borough resume to half mast |
| Sunday 11 th September at 3.00 pm | Proclamation for County Londonderry read in Coleraine by High Sheriff for County Londonderry |
| Sunday 11 th September at 4.00 pm | Proclamation read in Ballymoney and Limavady |
| Tuesday 13 th September at 3.00 pm | Mayor Councillor Wallace attends Service of Reflection at St Anne's Cathedral by invitation of Secretary of State for Northern Ireland |
| Thursday 15 th September | Mayor travels to City of London to pay the respects of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council at the Lying in State |
| | Mayor makes courtesy visit to the Governor of the Honourable The Irish Society |
| Sunday 18 th September at 3.00 pm | Mayor attends Service of Reflection at St James's Presbyterian Church, Ballymoney |
| | Church Forum Church Service at War Memorial site of Diamond in Coleraine |
| Sunday 18 th September at 3.30 pm | 1 st Kilrea Presbyterian Church Service |
| Sunday 18 th September at 6.00 pm | Christchurch Limavady Church Service |

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|---|--|
| Sunday 18 th September at 8.00 pm | The nation partakes in a minutes silence by local arrangement in homes, streets and through local community arrangements |
| Monday 19 th September from 8.00 am to 6.00 pm | State Funeral being shown on large screen at Diamond, Coleraine |
| Tuesday 20 th September at 8.00 am | Union flags across the borough return to full mast Books of Condolence will close |

The Mayor advised that a proposer and seconder was required for the recommendation that Special Council Meeting business scheduled will adjourn to 21st September 2022 at 6.30 pm and that the Audit Committee Meeting is scheduled for 21st September 2022 at 7.30 pm

Proposed by Alderman Duddy
Seconded by Alderman McKeown and

RESOLVED: that the Special Council Meeting adjourn to Wednesday 21st September 2022 at 6.30 pm; that the Audit Committee Meeting is moved on Wednesday 21st September 2022 to 7.30pm (from 7.00pm).

Alderman Duddy and Knight-McQuillan; Councillor Watton apologised, they would not be in attendance at the Service of Reflection on Sunday afternoon as it was their intention to travel to London to watch the State Funeral.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.30 pm.

Mayor

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
RECONVENED ON WEDNESDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 6.30 PM.**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Wallace (C)

Present : Alderman Boyle (R), Baird (R), Duddy (R), Fielding (R), Hillis (C), Knight-McQuillan (R), A McQuillan (C), McKeown (C), McLean (C), S McKillop (C)

Councillors Bateson (R), Beattie (R), Callan (R), Chivers (R), Dallat O'Driscoll (R), Holmes (C), McAuley (C), McCandless (C), McCaw (R), McCorkell (R), McGurk (R), McGlinchey (R), MA McKillop (R), McMullan (R), C McQuillan (R), C McShane (R), P McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (C), Schenning (C), Scott (C), Storey (C), Watton (C), Wilson (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (C)
A McAuley, Public Relations Manager (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

Officers In Attendance: A Lennox, ICT Mobile operations (R)
C Ballentine, ICT Officer (C)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)

In attendance : Public
Press

Key – C = Attended in the Chamber
R = Attended Remotely

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 Councillors Callaghan, Hunter and Mulholland.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Alderman Duddy declared an interest in Item 3 - Trade Union Local Pay and Condition Demands and did not participate in the Item.

Alderman Knight-McQuillan declared an interest in Item 3 - Trade Union Local Pay and Condition Demands and did not participate in the Item.

Councillor McCorkell declared an interest in Item 3 – Trade Union Local Pay and Condition Demands and did not participate in the Item.

Councillor C McQuillan declared an interest in Item 3 – Trade Union Local Pay and Condition Demands and did not participate in the Item.

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in Item 3 – Trade Union Local Pay and Condition Demands and did not participate in the Item.

- * **Alderman Duddy, Knight-McQuillan; Councillors McCorkell, C McQuillan and Wilson left the meeting at 6.40 pm and did not return.**

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Proposed by Councillor Quigley
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

AGREED – that Committee move ‘*In Committee*’

The information contained in the following items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Councillor Quigley referred to commentary from the Chamber which she stated was unsettling and affected her ability to concentrate on proceedings and asked the Mayor to take relevant action.

Alderman A McQuillan said there was commentary at meetings from many sections of the Chamber.

Councillor Quigley wished to comment further and the Mayor ruled the matter would not be discussed further.

3. TRADE UNION LOCAL PAY AND CONDITION DEMANDS

Confidential report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive advised Elected Members that correspondence had been received from GMB advising of potential course of action by members.

Councillor P McShane spoke of the impact on staff of cost of living crisis as well as stress factors which impact on staff.

Proposed by Councillor P McShane
Seconded by Councillor Peacock

- That Council award a £1,000 hardship allowance for staff up to and including PO12 with 1 spinal point increment this year and 1 spinal point increment next year in addition to the National Agreement.

Alderman Boyle spoke in support of Councillor Quigley's earlier comment saying that she felt some of the comments in the Chamber were gender based.

Councillor McCandless sought clarity on the position of those who had earlier declared an interest, asking if they were a Union member or had a relative employed by Council where they exempt from participating in the decision process. Councillor McCandless said how crucial the vote was in relation to this matter.

The Mayor advised that it was a matter for each individual whether or not they declared an interest.

In response to a question from Councillor Quigley, the Chief Finance Officer advised that a voucher scheme would not be a suitable alternative due to HMRC guidelines and tax being payable.

Councillor McAuley asked for the total cost of the proposal made by Councillor P McShane. The Chief Executive advised that the cost of the proposal would be £3.85 million and with a further spinal point would cost an additional £750,000.

Councillor McAuley felt that Unions would be satisfied with 2 Spinal increments and Councillor Watton concurred with his remarks.

Alderman McLean pointed to the potential scenario where the Unions would not be in agreement with the decision reached at this meeting and said the matter should sit with the National Joint Council for discussion. Alderman McLean referred to the pension and the relatively short working week which Council staff avail of, in comparison with the private sector, and spoke of his concern at what Elected Members were asking ratepayers to fund and the impact on available Reserves.

Councillor Peacock asked for clarity on what Trade Union demands were in official correspondence to Council and anticipated a percentage rates increase which the proposal would have.

The Chief Executive said the official trade union position was detailed in section 2 of the report, previously circulated and confirmed that this was a hardship allowance totalling £1,000 which had already been priced into the rate increase next year. The Chief Executive explained that at section 3 of report, previously

circulated, was an outline what was agreed in other Council's and further explained the impact of 2 spinal point increments and the National wage settlement increase would see rates rise by 6%.

Alderman Hillis spoke of the unprecedented nature of negotiations taking place in the Council Chamber. Alderman Hillis said he sympathised with Council staff who were valued but referred to the large number of rate payers on fixed income which was not inflation linked and the impact on them of an increase in rates. Alderman Hillis said that Council employees benefit from pension benefits and paid sickness absence for 6 months.

Councillor McCandless and Alderman A McQuillan concurred with remarks made by Alderman Hillis.

Councillor Storey referred to challenges faced and the consequences on capital projects and staffing of the proposal to bring £3.5m out of Reserves. Councillor Storey said there were many people who faced hardship, unable to pay for food or heat, some of whom were constituents in the borough and that it was not helpful to spread the burden by increasing the cost of rates.

At the request of Councillor Storey, the Chief Executive clarified the salary for Band 12 was £60,000 which totalled £72,000 including pension and additional costs to Council. The Chief Executive clarified this was the grade below the Chief Officers.

Councillor Holmes spoke of the impact on Reserves and sought clarity on the current Reserves position.

The Chief Finance Officer explained the Accounts would be tabled at the Audit Committee meeting to be held after the Special meeting and summarised the position as at March 2022 as follows: Usable resources in general fund balance of £4.5 million; Other usable reserves of £17 million of which committed reserves £7 million; Recovery reserve just under £9 million which could be used in addition to other reserves including sinking funds which are already earmarked.

The Chief Finance Officer agreed to provide Councillor Holmes with a figure of the potential overspend in Leisure and Development directorate.

Councillor Holmes said that given a potential overspend in Leisure and Development and potentially the same situation for other directorates the fund balance and Useable Reserves would be negatively impacted and that the proposal was not affordable, saying some members appeared not to be concerned.

At the request of Councillor Holmes, the Chief Executive confirmed that a 10% rise including hardship allowance and movement in spinal points would result in a 15% pay rise. The impact on salary at the lowest grade, Scale 2 would cost £28,000 to Council.

Councillor Watton said that staff in the pay band up to PO12 did not need an increase in pay or hardship allowance, thus his proposal for up to Scale 6 and a hardship allowance of £500 and said he wished to make this as an Amendment.

The Mayor advised under Standing Orders a proposal had already been considered and could not be reconsidered for 6 months, although a modified amendment could be put to the floor.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Watton
 Seconded by Councillor Quigley

- That Council award a £550 hardship allowance for staff up to and including Scale 6 with 1 spinal point increment this year and 1 spinal point increment next year, in addition to supporting the National agreement.

The Chief Executive clarified the grading bands for staff, Scale 1 – 6 (lowest staff at Scale 2), SO1 and SO2, PO1 – PO12 (below Director level)

Councillor Watton confirmed he was referring to Scale 1-6 for which the salary at Scale 6 was £25,000 -27,000.

Councillor P McShane requested a Recorded Vote.

At the request of Alderman Hillis the Mayor agreed to take a recess at 7.35 pm.

The meeting resumed at 7.45 pm.

The Mayor put the Amendment to Council to vote.
 16 Members voted For; 15 Members voted Against.
 The Mayor declared the Motion Carried.

Recorded Vote Table

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| For (16) | Alderman Boyle, A McQuillan, S McKillop, McLean |
| | Councillor Beattie, Callan, Dallat O'Driscoll, McAuley, MA McKillop, McCaw, Quigley, Schenning, Watton, Scott, Storey, Wallace |
| Against (15) | Alderman Baird, Fielding, Hillis, McKeown |
| | Councillor Bateson, Chivers, Holmes, McGlinchey McGurk, McMullan, C McShane, P McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, McCandless |

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Schenning

Seconded by Alderman McKeown and

AGREED – that Committee move *'In Public'*

That being all the business the Mayor thanked all those in attendance and the meeting ended at 7.50 pm.

Chair _____

UNCONFIRMED