

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2021

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No.	Item	<i>Decision</i>
1.	Apologies	<i>Councillors Bateson, McAuley, McCandless</i>
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3.	Condolences and Tributes on The Passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke Of Edinburgh	<i>Condolences and Tributes paid on The Passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke Of Edinburgh</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE
SPECIAL COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA
VIDEO CONFERENCE ON
THURSDAY 15 APRIL 2021 AT 7:04PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Alderman Fielding (C)

Present : Alderman Baird (R), Boyle (R) Duddy (C), Finlay (R), Hillis (C), McCorkell (R), McKeown (R), S McKillop (C) Robinson (R)

Councillors Anderson (C), Beattie (R) Callan (C), Chivers (R), Dallat O'Driscoll (R), Holmes (C) Hunter (R), Knight-McQuillan (R), McCaw (R), McGlinchey (R), McGurk (R) MA McKillop (R), McLaughlin (R), McLean (R), McMullan (R), McQuillan (C), C McShane (R), Mulholland (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (R), Scott (R), Wallace (R), Watton (C) and Wilson (R)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
M Smyth, Interim Finance Director (R)
P Donaghy, Democratic and Central Services Manager (R)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (R)

Officers In: C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)
Attendance A Lennox, Mobile Operations Officer (C)

Press (2 No) (R)

Key (C) = Attended In The Chamber
(R) = Attended Remotely

The Mayor read the remote meetings protocol at the beginning of the meeting:

Welcome to the Council Meeting.

I extend a welcome to members of the press and public in attendance. You will be required to leave the meeting when Council goes into committee. You will be readmitted by Democratic Services Officers as soon as the meeting comes out of committee. I would also remind you that the taking of

photographs of proceedings or the recording of proceedings for others to see or hear is prohibited.

If you are having technical difficulties try dialling in to the meeting on the telephone number and Conference ID provided. If you continue to have difficulties please contact the number provided on the chat at the beginning of the meeting for Democratic Services staff and ICT staff depending on your query.

The meeting will pause to try to reconnect you.

Once you are connected

- Mute your microphone when not speaking.
- Use the chat facility to indicate to that you wish to speak. The chat should not be used to propose or second.
- Please also use the chat to indicate when you are leaving the meeting if you are leaving before the meeting ends.
- Unmute your microphone and turn your camera on when you are invited to speak.
- Only speak when invited to do so.
- Members are reminded that you must be heard and where possible be seen to all others in attendance to be considered present and voting or your vote cannot be counted.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillors Bateson, McAuley and McCandless.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest.

3. CONDOLENCES AND TRIBUTES ON THE PASSING OF HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE PHILIP, DUKE OF EDINBURGH

Alderman Fielding

"It was with profound sadness that we all learned of the death of His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh on Friday 9th April 2021.

As Mayor on behalf of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council I wish to express my sincere sympathy to Her Majesty The Queen and to all members of the Royal Family.

I was pleased along with Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for County Londonderry to open a Book of Condolence at Coleraine Town Hall on Monday alongside an online book of Condolence. The Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim visited and signed the Book of Condolence on Tuesday, this will remain open until Saturday 5:00pm.

In a year when we are marking a Centenary, Prince Philip was seven weeks from reaching the centenarian milestone. Prince Philip was a husband of 73 years of those 99 to Her Majesty the Queen and as the longest Consort in British History supported Her Majesty in her Royal duties with unfailing service and dedication.

In Her Majesty's own words on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary 23 years ago in 1997 she said of Prince Philip "He has quite simply been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know.

Prince Philip will be sorely missed across the generations. He had a distinguished naval career serving in the second world war and was also a keen conservationist and environmentalist and this was evident on many of his visits to a number of countries across the world.

He stalwartly supported many charities, One of His Royal Highness Prince Philip's lasting legacy will be the scheme which bears his name, the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme and the tremendous positive impact it has made on thousands of young people including many in our Borough.

Prince Philip had a unique charm, and was known for his sharp wit and humour. When I met him during Her Majesty The Queens visit to Coleraine in 2014 I will never forget his amusing replies in particular to Councillors that day and also when he returned with Her Majesty in 2016 when I met him at Royal Portrush Golf Club.

On both occasions his humour and infectious smile throughout was evident to all who met him.

His loss is being mourned across our community, our nation, the Commonwealth and beyond. His dedication will be an inspiration to us all. And to Her Majesty may she draw comfort in her steadfast Christian Faith.

I conclude with the words of Prince Philip only daughter Princess Royal Princess Anne tribute to her father 'example of A life well lived and service freely given'.

The Mayor invited Party Leads and Elected Members, thereafter, to pay tribute on the Passing of His Royal Highness, Prince Philip.

Councillor Callan

"Mr Mayor, I would join with you, on behalf of the DUP group, in offering our condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and the Royal Family on this sad occasion.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh was a remarkable man who led a remarkable life. His passing is a tremendous loss to our nation and commonwealth.

Can I also congratulate you Mayor and the staff on organising the council during this difficult period. In cancelling our meetings, flying the Union flag at half mast in our main towns and in opening the book of condolence as a mark of respect to the Duke. In doing so we have given the citizens of our Borough the opportunity to join in the national mourning.

I would like to end with the prayer that the Church of England issued on the news that Prince Philip had passed;

*God of our lives,
We give thanks for the life of Prince Philip,
For his love of our country,
And for his devotion to duty.
We entrust him now to your love and mercy,*

*Through our redeemer Jesus Christ.
Amen.*

God Save the Queen”.

Councillor Holmes

“On behalf of Ulster Unionist Group, many words have been written and spoken about Prince Philip since the announcement of his sad passing last Friday.

His devotion to his wife, The Queen, was apparent for all to see as was his service to the nation. Summing himself up as the world’s most experienced plaque unveiler was just one of many memorable and sometimes edgy quotes to his name.

But what has amazed me in the coverage since his death is the sheer breadth of his interest and how, as with most fathers, these traits have been carried on to a new generation.

Those of us in middle age will have focused more on the dramas of Charles and Di, Andy and Fergie and the next generation. And in that focus it was easy to dismiss Prince Philip as only having contributed the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme. Had that been his sole legacy, it would have been more than most, helping as it did millions of young people who went through the scheme.

But Prince Philip gave outstanding service in The Royal Navy being mentioned in Despatches for “bravery and enterprise” at the battle of Cape Matapan. That military service carried through to his son Prince Andrew who saw action in the Falkland’s and Prince Harry in The Middle East.

He was a lover of horses and as the longest serving president of the Federation Equestre International, introduced carriage driving as a discipline. He used his engineering interest to develop state-of-the-art carriages for competition. His design for the bendy pole is still used today. Princess Anne didn’t lift her interest in horses from the water.

It’s been said he was green before there was green and nothing exemplified this more so than his Presidency of the WWF, a position since taken up by Prince Charles.

These areas of his life only scratch the surface of man who lived to within 2 months of his 100th birthday.

But it will be his 73 years by the side of his wife, The Queen, which will be his greatest contribution. His love and devotion to her led her to say:

"He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know."

Prince Philip's passing leaves a hole in our nation and in our Royal Family and for them we pray that they will know God's comfort surrounding them at this time".

Councillor MA McKillop

"On behalf of the SDLP group can I begin by expressing my sincere condolences and those of our party to Queen Elizabeth and her family following the death of Prince Philip.

This is an immensely difficult time for them, compounded by the restrictions which have made saying goodbye so difficult for people and families.

My thoughts are particularly with the Queen who has lost her husband of 73 years.

Can I also send my sincere condolences to people within our communities across Causeway Coast and Glens who feel a special connection with Prince Philip and The Royal Family.

He was a much loved husband father grandfather and great grandfather and his was a life of public service to a family that he clearly cherished and who held him in the highest regard .

A sorrowful time and our thoughts are with you .

May he rest in peace".

Councillor Peacock

"On behalf of the Sinn Féin Group on Causeway Coast and Glens we extend our sincere condolences to Queen Elizabeth and her family on the death of her husband Prince Philip.

The loss of a loved one has a profound impact regardless of one's position in society.

We also acknowledge the deep sense of loss that will be felt within our community in this council area and across these islands and by those of a British and unionist identity. Our thoughts are with all of those people who are impacted by this loss at this time".

Councillor McCaw

"I would like to join you and others in expressing my deepest sympathy on part of the Alliance Party to Her Majesty The Queen, following the passing of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh.

I never got to meet him personally but I did get to see him and Her Majesty The Queen in Dublin in 2012 as I was living there at the time. The State Visit was a very significant occasion. I saw Her Majesty The Queen on the evening she spoke Irish at Dublin Castle. Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip were gladly received by the people of Dublin. Differing views aside they realised the significance of the occasion and remembered the past is the past and we look to the future. I would like to join others in bring to attention His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh was a passionate supporter of environmental issues at a time when this was not yet fashionable. He was a steadfast support to Her Majesty The Queen for 73 years, and wouldn't we all love to have someone so devoted to us.

I would like to pay tribute to his devotion, his Service, his faithfulness to Her Majesty The Queen for many years.

May he rest in peace".

Alderman Finlay

"In rising to pay tribute to His Royal Highness, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, I will keep my remarks brief - for I know he would have wanted me to do so. He wasn't happy when praise was being heaped upon him, preferring instead to focus on others.

He also once famously remarked about speeches and sermons that "the mind cannot absorb what the backside cannot endure".

Prince Philip was a man devoted to service. He sacrificed a glittering naval career when he married Princess Elizabeth in November 1947, over 73 years ago. When she became Queen in 1952, he spent the remainder of his life serving her as her consort. As she herself stated in 1997, "He has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years".

Time does not permit me to refer to the Duke of Edinburgh's many achievements, but I know that he was greatly loved and revered across the nation, and no more so than here in Northern Ireland.

Some will remember the historic scenes at Ballymoney and Coleraine railway stations in June 1953 when the Queen and the Duke were met by cheering crowds shortly after the Coronation. This would be the first of many such Royal visits to our Province.

Prince Philip's legacy will live on in many different ways, but with his passing, comes the passing of an era.

I want to assure Her Majesty the Queen and the other members of the Royal Family of my deepest sympathy at this sad time. Her Majesty will need our prayers, not only at the funeral on Saturday, but in the days that lie ahead. God Save The Queen!"

Councillor Mulholland

"Thank you Mayor and fellow Councillors, I wish to express my deepest condolences to Her Majesty The Queen and The Royal Family on the passing of His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh. He will be forever remembered for his life long commitment to not only Her Majesty The Queen his wife, but also the rest of his immediate family and that of the extended family within the Commonwealth. Thank you".

Alderman McKeown

"I would like to offer my deepest condolences and heart felt sympathy to HM Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family on the death of HRH Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

For over 70 years Prince Philip has shown such great dedication and devotion to our nation and beyond in the commonwealth.

One of his many legacies is The Duke of Edinburgh award which has impacted the lives of many young people greatly throughout our nation - including my own son who completed his bronze award as a teenager.

I (also) had the great privilege of meeting Prince Philip when he and Her Majesty the Queen visited Northern Ireland in 2016.

Her majesty the Queen when talking about Prince Philip at their 50th wedding anniversary in 1997 said that "[Prince Philip] is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments, but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years."

And this is perhaps one of his greatest attributes that he served and supported the queen throughout their marriage and service to the nation.

Again my deepest condolences".

Alderman Boyle

"I was moved and saddened to hear of the death of Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh. I send my sympathy to her Majesty, the Queen, and her family for their great loss.

I was pleased to have achieved my Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award and received it with school friends at Buckingham Palace from Prince Philip in the 1970s.

He noticed my Gold Award brooch on his visit to Coleraine in 2014 when I met him with other Coleraine Councillors in the Town Hall. He came over to our group and spoke to me about it.

As often happens we learn more about people from tributes after they die.

I learnt from an acquaintance and university contemporary, Martin Palmer, who was a friend of the Prince Philip, of his interest in interfaith dialogue and the environment. Together they set up the Alliance of Religions and Conservation in 1995 to help faiths develop environmental and conservation projects based on their beliefs and values. This went on to influence the World Wildlife International Beliefs and Values Programme.

Martin noted that he was honest, smart, funny, very well read, straightforward and passionate about the things he cared about.

He will be missed by many here and around the world”.

Councillor Quigley

“Thank you Mayor for the opportunity to speak this evening and firstly can I thank you for all you have done this week as a mark of respect for the passing of His Royal Highness Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh.

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and the entire Royal family at this sad time.

His Royal Highness Prince Philip lived a very long and full life and tonight we thank God for the gift of His life.

I had the pleasure of meeting him in 2016 when he and the Queen visited the Borough.

I was struck by his wit, charm and lovely sense of humour.

His love and dedication to the Queen will be remembered as his greatest accolades, in her words, “Her strength and stay “. May he rest in peace”.

Councillor Watton

“My deepest condolences to Her Majesty The Queen from myself and my party, I liked Prince Philip he was a very witty man, he had a more common touch than people think”.

Councillor Watton recalled a meeting with Prince Philip at Royal Portrush Golf Club.

“I didn’t know Prince Philip had the Service he had, one of the youngest First Lieutenants in the Royal Navy, Service to the Queen and Country. I wrote in the Condolence Book, ‘Thank you Sir for your Service and Dedication to your Queen and Country’ ”

Alderman S McKillop

“I sense a great loss amongst members this evening and understandably so. His Royal Highness Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh was indeed an incredible man. He was not only our Queen's consort for 73 years but he was her husband and rock, in her own words she described The Duke as 'her constant strength and stay'. It was clear for all to see that their relationship was unshakable.

In serving our Queen he faithfully served us all. We owe him a great deal and I'd like to pay tribute to him for his loyalty, love and devotion to our Queen on behalf of my constituents.

I'd like to thank him for his insightful initiative the Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are all familiar with this Award because of it's success in empowering and equipping our young people to cope with life's challenges.

The Duke was a practical person he knew that not all learning happens in the classroom. This initiative gave young people living in our borough, in my constituency, regardless of circumstance or ability, an opportunity to experience challenge and adventure, to acquire new skills and to make new friends.

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award has to date motivated over 10 million youth in over 130 countries to undertake a variety of voluntary and challenging activities. His Royal Highness Prince Philip leaves us with an incredible legacy.

I had nothing but the deepest respect and admiration for him for what he achieved in his lifetime.

I'll watch the Ceremonial Royal Funeral along with the Nation on Saturday and do so with great sadness.

May God's blessings be bestowed upon all those in mourning and Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. God Save the Queen”.

Alderman McCorkell

“Mayor, it is with great sadness that we come together this evening to pay tribute to His Royal Highness, The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to do so in this manner.

Her Majesty the Queen and Prince Philip visited our Borough in 2016 and Mayor Moira Hickey and myself had only just taken up our respective roles. It was truly a daunting prospect when told who was going to be visiting. I would like to include Mayor Hickey in my sentiments tonight as she was an integral part of that visit at the time.

The Queen and Prince Philip put everyone at ease the minute they stepped out of the Royal car at Royal Portrush. The Duke was highly enamoured with the Deputy Mayoral chain of office. As I see his prestigious collection of insignia and awards today, that moment really came into perspective to me.

To meet the Queen and to dine with the Duke for over an hour in such intimacy is without a doubt one of life's greatest honours. I told the Duke of Edinburgh this at the end of the lunch. He responded by telling me that I can now go and tell people that I had met one of the last surviving veterans of WW2 who had witness the surrender of the Japanese fleet.

This puts his attitude to service into perspective. Indeed it focussed my own attitude to public life and service at what was the beginning of my term as Deputy Mayor.

There is so much more I could say about that visit and encounter with Prince Philip. I want to just leave one final thought about that day.

As I watched Her Majesty sign the visitor's book at Royal Portrush, I watched on in awe as she used the special gold pen provided. Her signature bold and eloquent. Then the Duke stepped forward and used his own average pen from his coat pocket. I was rather bemused at such an act. Yet today if you look at the photograph of the visitor's book from the visit, you will see the Queen's signature – standing out, bold as the day it was written. Prince Philip's is like a shadow compared. It was as if he had done it purposely.

This really sums Prince Philip up. Always there in the background, a step behind the Queen... her shadow.

I join with other members and our nation in expressing our deepest condolences to the Queen at the loss of the grandfather of the nation and the commonwealth.

Our thoughts and prayers will no doubt be with her in the days and weeks ahead.

May God Bless her”.

Alderman Duddy

"Thank you Mr. Mayor;

Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh was an exemplar and consummate professional in his role. He had an exceptional gift and a great way of setting those he met at ease with his quick wit and smile.

I recall Her Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II visit in June 2014, when I met him as the Mayor of Coleraine Borough Council. I remember the intense briefings which I received from Miss Tara Cunningham and the Chief Executive, Mr. Kieran Doherty on everything which was going to take place. As I walked out of the Town Hall prior to Her Majesty The Queen and His Royal Highness Prince Philip arrival, my mind went blank. When I was introduced to him and he shared a joke, everything came flooding back to me. When Prince Philip was in the Town Hall, there was a display of old Chronicle newspapers, the broadsheets. His jovial approach to his recollection of reading the old broadsheets and how long your arms needed to be to open the paper fully and hold it to successfully read the paper. He took an active interest in his brief, giving of his undivided attention to what people were saying and responding to him. This was actively listening at its best and something all of us here could take a lesson in.

I will never forget meeting and conversing and listening to Prince Philip. He truly is the end of an era and I'm grateful to have had the honour and privilege of meeting him. My thoughts and prayers are very much with Her Most Gracious Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal family at this time".

Chief Executive

"It was my privilege to meet His Royal Highness on a number of occasions. As part of his security detail in the late 1990's, I accompanied him during a carriage driving event at Baronscourt. I was in the helicopter with him during his historic visit to Áras an Uachtaráin on 10th November 1998.

As already mentioned by Elected Members in more recent years, I spoke with him in Coleraine Town Hall in 2014, impressed as always by his detailed knowledge of what was going on in the local area and his interest in the pending Local Government Reform. In 2016 I briefed His Royal Highness and Her Majesty across the table during their journey from Coleraine to Bellarena.

Tempting as it may be to dwell on those special moments, like Alderman Boyle, my personal connection comes from participation in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme. An expedition hike from Carnlough to Ballycastle and back over the Antrim Hills was as tough as anything subsequently faced in working life, but importantly introduced many of us to the virtues of public service. Along

with ten million other participants, we are eternally grateful for those life changing moments”.

The Mayor sincerely thanked every Councillor who spoke, The Mayor reflected on the memories and of His Royal Highness Prince Philip’s affectionate smile and the need to remember the Royal Family at this time in the run up to His Royal Highness’ Funeral.

The Mayor advised St Patrick’s Church, Coleraine, would be towing the Bell ninety-nine times at the conclusion of His Royal Highness’ Funeral.

The Mayor thanked Council for participating in the Special Meeting.

The meeting concluded at 7.43pm.

Mayor