



SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 2026

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3.	To consider a Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Boyle, seconded by Councillor Mairs (Hannah Scott)	<i>Support The Notice of Motion</i>
4.	To consider a Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Callan, seconded by Alderman Fielding (Northern Ireland Prison Service)	<i>That Council Support The Notice of Motion; that the five families who have been bereaved, be invited to attend.</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ON
TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 2026 AT 6.07PM**

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

Present : Alderman Callan (C), Coyle (R), Fielding (C), Knight-McQuillan (C), S McKillop (C), Scott (C), Stewart (C)

Councillors C Archibald (C), N Archibald (C), Bateson (C) Chivers (R), Elder (C), Holmes (C), Huggins (C), Hunter (C), Kane (C), Kennedy (C), Kyle (C), Mairs (C), McCully (C), McGlinchey (C), MA McKillop (R), McQuillan (R), McShane (C), Nicholl (R), Peacock (C), Schenning (R), Storey (C), Watson (C), Watton (C), Wisener (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Quinn, Director, Corporate Services (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (C)
M Jones, Council Solicitor, Planning and Regulatory (R)
A Hamilton, Democratic & Central Services Manager (R)
S Duggan, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)

In attendance : L Boyd, ICT Officer (C)
C McTaggart, ICT Officer (C)

Press 3 no. (R)

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

Upon reaching a quorum, 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 procedure.

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

There was no Mayor's Business.

At this point in the meeting, The Mayor invited the Chief Executive to address Council.

The Chief Executive advised that, given the road conditions a number of approaches had been made to him as to whether Standing Orders allowed a hybrid format. The Chief Executive clarified that Standing Orders did not allow this and in order to hold a hybrid meeting Standing Orders would have to be suspended by a Qualified Majority Vote to allow Councillors online to engage remotely.

Proposed by Alderman Hunter
Seconded by Councillor Peacock and

RESOLVED – That Council suspend Standing Orders (to allow a hybrid meeting).

The Chief Executive clarified the rationale for the suspension was due to adverse road conditions and the inability of rural Councillors to attend the meeting. The Chief Executive advised that the same vote would be required to adopt hybrid format at the 7pm Council Meeting.

* **Councillor Kyle arrived in The Chamber at 6.09pm.**

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Boyle, Councillors Callaghan and Wallace.

At this point in the meeting, the Chief Executive undertook a roll call of Elected Members present.

3. TO CONSIDER A NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN BOYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MAIRS

Citation previously circulated.

“That this Council award the Freedom of the Borough to Hannah Scott, in recognition of her outstanding achievement in winning a Gold Medal in the Women’s Quadruple Sculls, as part of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland team, at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games. Hannah is the first woman from Northern Ireland to win an Olympic Gold Medal since 1972. Granting the Borough’s highest honour to her would be a fitting recognition of her success, and status as a role model to all young people in this Borough, especially young women and girls.”

On behalf of Alderman Boyle, Councillor McCully addressed Council:

“Hannah Scott’s rowing career is an inspiring story of hard work, dedication and success at the highest possible level.

On 31 July 2024, as part of the Great Britain & Northern Ireland Women’s Quadruple Sculls rowing team, Hannah won the Gold Medal at the Olympic Games in Paris. In doing so, she became the first Northern Irish woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal since Mary Peters in 1972.

Learning to row at Bann Rowing Club, Coleraine, she has followed in the footsteps of fellow club members and Olympic medallists Alan Campbell, and brothers Peter and Richard Chambers. Hannah has spoken of how she was inspired by their achievements at London 2012, and her desire to use her own

success on the water to inspire the next generation of athletes from our Borough.

A former pupil of Coleraine High School, her incredible rowing talent resulted in her winning a place at Princeton University, where she won two Ivy League Championships.

Hannah's Olympic success marks a new high in a career already bursting with achievement at elite level. Her Olympic gold was built upon victories at the 2023 World Championships and the 2024 European Rowing Championships. Outside of her achievements in the boat, Hannah has been a vocal advocate for women's health in sport specifically regarding Relative Energy Deficiency in Sport (RED-S) and osteopenia. Since winning an Olympic gold medal at Paris 2024, she has been continued to be active as an ambassador for women's health and returned to elite competition.

Scott competed in the 2025 World Rowing Championships in Shanghai in September winning a silver medal with a new-look quadruple sculls crew.

She has officially confirmed her intention to compete for another gold medal at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics, noting she is motivated to see what she can achieve in her second Olympic cycle.

Scott was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2025 New Year Honours for services to rowing. She received the award from the Princess Royal in March 2025, having received her Olympic medal from her in Paris.

Hannah came home to Bann Rowing Club after being awarded £20,000 through the Olympic Medallist Fund from the Department for Communities. She donated her award to the rowing club thanking the coaches and volunteers for their grassroots support. The club bought new boats, including a quadruple scull named the "Hannah Scott".

Hannah's services to rowing and local sport deserve our recognition and highest honour. Granting her the Freedom of the Borough would be a fitting acknowledgement of her achievement and further highlight her as a fantastic role model for the young people of this Borough, especially young women and girls."

- * **Councillors C Archibald and N Archibald arrived in the Chamber at 6.15pm.**
- * **Councillor C McShane arrived in The Chamber at 6.19pm.**
- * **Councillor Bateson arrived in The Chamber at 6.20pm.**

Councillor Mairs seconded the motion and addressed Council:

"I'm so pleased to second this motion.

Hannah is an incredible role model for young people, particularly young women and girls who dream of succeeding in sport. Her willingness to give back to her club and her hometown speaks volumes about her character and her commitment to inspiring the next generation.

This honour sends a powerful message about the value we place on achievement, ambition, and community, and I call on this Council to come together to recognise Hannah in this way.

The conferral of the Freedom of the Borough would formally recognise Hannah Scott's outstanding contribution to sport, her historic Olympic success, and the pride that she has brought to Coleraine and Causeway Coast and Glens."

Councillor Elder addressed Council:

"I'm delighted to fully support this nomination to award the Freedom of the Borough to Hannah Scott, and I had also intended on bringing this forward myself. So I'm pleased to join in celebrating Hannah's incredible success, even if, on this occasion, Alderman Boyle has pipped me to the post.

Hannah's Gold medal achievements at Paris 2024 Olympic Games is a moment of immense pride for our Borough and for Northern Ireland. She is the first woman from Northern Ireland to win an Olympic Gold since 1972, a truly historic milestone.

Her exceptional contribution to sport was further recognised in 2025 when she was awarded with an MBE, which she received in a ceremony in London, a national honour that reflects the scale and the significance of her achievements.

A proud woman from Coleraine who continues to support Bann Rowing Club, and represents the very best of our community: dedication, resilience and excellence.

She is an inspirational role model for young people, particularly young women and girls, and awarding the Freedom of the Borough is a richly deserved recognition of the pride that she brings to our area.

Just as Mary Peters is affectionately known as the Golden Girl, Hannah Scott has now earned her place as Coleraine's Golden Girl."

Councillor Holmes addressed Council:

"Much has already been written and said about the achievements of Hannah Scott that have already been listed here tonight so I'll not go into it in any more detail but superlative really can't do Hannah justice and to win the Olympic gold in the final stroke of the oars is just about as nail biting a finish as I've ever seen in my life.

She's graced the world stage as a Champion.

She's been proud of her local roots.

She's lifted our hearts and I have to say she'd be a worthy recipient of the Freedom of the Borough."

Councillor Peacock addressed Council:

"We're certainly happy to support this motion.

Hannah has seen immense success in women's sporting history. It's only fitting that we celebrate our outstanding athletic talent in our area. Hannah deserves every recognition for her achievements to date and no doubt the many achievements to come."

Councillor Kyle stated support and endorsed all that had been said, Councillor Kyle stated he was of the opinion that at a Council Meeting on the 3rd September 2024 that this had already been dealt with.

The Chief Executive responded and advised there were a number of Notice of Motions received simultaneously. One of those Notice of Motions included the Homecoming event to mark Hannah Scott's return, that Notice of Motion had to be brought to the Council meeting to agree the Homecoming event. The Chief Executive explained it had been previously agreed by Council that when Freedom of the Borough nominations were brought forward, they would be brought together and therefore there needed to be a formal decision at a Special Council meeting to agree the awarding of the Freedom of the Borough.

Councillor Schenning stated she agreed with everything that had been said and was happy to support the Notice of Motion.

Councillor MA McKillop stated she was happy to support the Notice of Motion, that it was fantastic to see a female reaching the highest accolade of her sport.

The Mayor stated the Notice of Motion was unanimously agreed.

RESOLVED – That Council Support The Notice of Motion.

4. TO CONSIDER A NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN CALLAN, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN FIELDING

Citation previously circulated.

"That Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council confers the Freedom of the Borough upon the Northern Ireland Prison Service. Recognising the immense sacrifice of those prison officers who served in Northern Ireland through its most difficult times, and indeed who continue until the present day to serve this community with great bravery; and under the most trying of circumstances, to uphold the rule of law and democracy in our prisons. Furthermore, it remembers and salutes those officers who gave the supreme sacrifice for King and Country."

Alderman Callan addressed Council:

"Mayor, fellow councillors —

It is with humility and pride that I propose the Freedom motion.

I feel it is fitting that we as a Council, recognise the Prison Service as one of the few Councils to have a Prison within our area, which is in my DEA of Limavady. I see this as not a ceremonial act alone. It is a recognition of courage, of endurance, and of an unshakeable commitment to the principles of law and order that underpin our society.

During what became some of the darkest decades in Northern Ireland's history, the men and women of the Prison Service stood as a quiet but vital line of defence for democracy and the rule of law. They worked each day behind high walls and locked gates, facing not only danger within but also mortal threat beyond those walls.

In that time, 32 members of the Northern Ireland Prison Service were murdered because of their employment. Many more—men, women, and their families—were permanently or seriously injured. Others endured relentless and prolonged intimidation: their homes attacked, their children threatened, their movements watched. Physical, verbal, and psychological abuse became part of the price they paid for serving the justice system of this country. Yet, even under such strain, they continued to perform their duties with remarkable courage and professionalism.

Here, within our own Borough, that sacrifice is written deeply into the local story. The prison at Magilligan has served the justice system for over half a century—and its officers have paid an immense price in service to the Crown and to their community.

We remember tonight:

- *Officer Patrick Dillon, murdered on 8 April 1976. A prison officer at Magilligan Prison, he was shot by the IRA outside his home near Omagh as he was about to get into his car. He was the first officer to die in the IRA's campaign following the government's decision to phase out 'special category' status in the prisons. He left behind a wife and five children.*
- *Officer Robert John Hamilton, aged 25, murdered on 8 October 1976. He had joined the Northern Ireland Prison Service just over a year earlier. He was shot by the IRA as he got out of his car at his home in Londonderry. A young man, unmarried, living with his mother and sister—his life was cut tragically short while in the earliest years of service.*
- *Officer Thomas Graham Fenton, aged only 20, murdered on 22 July 1977. A member of the Prison Service for less than a year, he was shot dead by the IRA while off duty, having a quiet drink in Molloy's Bar in Ballymoney. Even away from the prison gates, he was not safe.*
- *Officer Graham Cox, aged 35, murdered on 18 January 1980. He was shot while driving home from Magilligan Prison along the Limavady Road*

near Derry. A husband and father, his murder left yet another family broken.

- *Mr Leslie Jarvis, aged 62, murdered on 23 March 1987. A civilian Chief Instructor at Magilligan, he was shot dead as he sat in his car outside Magee College in Londonderry, where he was attending night classes. Minutes later, a bomb planted in his car exploded, killing two police officers who had arrived to investigate. Mr Jarvis left behind his wife and family—a devastating reminder that service and sacrifice extended beyond the uniformed staff.*

Each of these names represents a family shattered, a colleague lost, a community wounded. Their stories should be told, retold, and remembered. They were sons and fathers, husbands and neighbours people who simply sought to do their duty to their country.

The bravery of those years did not cease with the coming of peace. The Northern Ireland Prison Service continues to face immense challenges in the modern era working with individuals involved in violence, addiction, and mental health crises often under constant scrutiny, yet with limited recognition. The professionalism and humanity of today's officers remain a cornerstone of a just society.

By granting the Freedom of the Borough, this Council would affirm our deep respect and enduring gratitude for both past and present service. It would say clearly: we remember the fallen, we honour the serving, and we will never forget the cost of stability and order bought through such courage.

The motto of the Prison Service is "Serving the Community." How fitting that we, the community they have served and protected, now have the opportunity to serve them in return through remembrance, through recognition, and through honour.

As we reflect on the names Patrick Dillon, Robert Hamilton, Thomas Fenton, Graham Cox, and Leslie Jarvis let them stand as symbols of many others across Northern Ireland who gave their lives for the principles of law, justice, and decency. Their sacrifice and the endurance of their colleagues secured the peace and stability we now enjoy.

Mayor, councillors granting the Freedom of the Borough to the Northern Ireland Prison Service is not only right; it is overdue. It is our solemn duty to ensure that those who stood for the rule of law in the hardest of times are not forgotten in more comfortable days.

Let this honour be our Borough's tribute an act of enduring gratitude to those who served, those who continue to serve, and those who, from Magilligan and beyond, gave the supreme sacrifice for King and Country."

* **The Director of Environmental Services arrived in The Chamber at 6.25pm.**

Alderman Fielding addressed Council:

"I am pleased to second Alderman Callan Notice of Motion Freedom of the Borough to the Northern Ireland Prison Service. I agree with all his words and the deep gratitude we owe the Prison service.

It's important we recognise the establishment of the Northern Ireland Prison Service on 1 December 1921 taking over from the Prison Board of Ireland and initially managed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, and that we acknowledge all those who were employed in the Prisons in Northern Ireland from its formation. On reading of this subject, I learned that after the First World War a number of ex-servicemen army and navy became Prison Officers. From a family perspective my Grandfather George Fielding who was from Dublin, after he himself came out of the army in the Great War (as First World War is referred to) became a Prison Officer in Mountjoy Prison and later transferred to Crumlin Road Prison Belfast after the border was created. He was there for a brief period and transferred to the Prison in Londonderry in the same year 1921 and was there for 32 years until it closed in March 1953. An historical landmark single tower part of the old structure remains today in Bishop Street and functions as a heritage centre, near the historic city walls.

I concur on what Alderman Callan has said and it is right and fitting that this Borough remembers and salutes those 32 Prison Officers who gave the supreme sacrifice for King and Country. We all should acknowledge and remember all those employed by the NI Prison Service both in Magilligan Prison in our own Borough and in other Prison establishments in Northern Ireland.

I support Council conferring the Freedom of the Borough upon the Northern Ireland Prison Service."

Alderman Stewart addressed Council:

"Throughout the Troubles, Prison Service staff worked under an extraordinary and constant threat. Thirty-two members of staff were killed during that period, 5 of them from Magilligan and many more lived with the daily reality that simply going to work placed them and their families at risk. That legacy of threat has not entirely disappeared, and prison officers today still operate in an environment where violent actors remain a concern. Despite this, they continue to serve their communities with professionalism, dedication and resilience.

Since the devolution of justice in 2010, the Northern Ireland Prison Service has continued to evolve into an organisation with a strong focus on rehabilitation and addressing the underlying causes of offending behaviour. The work taking place in Magilligan and across the prison estate plays a vital role in keeping our streets safe, reducing reoffending and, ultimately, preventing future victims of crime.

The commitment and professionalism of staff in Magilligan is something this entire community can be proud of. Their work often goes unseen, but its impact

is felt right across our society. Any recognition from this Council of their service, sacrifice and dedication is to be warmly welcomed, and for those reasons Alliance is pleased to support this motion.”

Councillor Wisener concurred with everything that had been said and reflected on his previous time as a Sergeant and stated support for the Notice of Motion.

* **Councillor Nicholl joined the meeting remotely at 6.33pm.**

Councillor Kyle stated he was happy to support and endorse all that had been said, and supported Alderman Callan and Alderman Fielding.

Councillor Peacock addressed Council:

“Regrettably, this motion from the DUP concerning the extension of the Freedom of the Borough to the Prison Service is clearly designed to sow division in the Council and within our wider community.

The DUP, in an attempt to upstage the TUV, are bringing forward motions and public statements which create negative and contentious headlines, which they hope will entice a particular group of voters back to them at the next elections.

It's very clear in the wording of the motion, particularly with the use of slogans like King and country.

Despite conflicting narratives of the present history here, no element of our public services should be affiliated to one community, political affiliation or another, and certainly not for party political gain.

That's exactly what the DUP are doing here, and we will not be supporting this motion.”

Councillor Watton stated support for the Notice of Motion, he said it had been brought forward very late. Councillor Watton reflected on his time in the care of the Prison Service and members that had been murdered.

Alderman Callan clarified the earlier comment about the motion being electioneering, he stated he submitted the Notice of Motion in December 2024 and it was about recognising the service and commitment of those who served in the Prison Service and it was also within his own DEA (District Electoral Area).

Councillor Storey stated it was not a political stunt, he stated his late colleague Alderman John Finlay, when he was on and both served on Ballymoney Borough Council, had considered bringing forward a motion in regards to the Prison Service, however, because of the amalgamation of the Councils, it had been decided to be done at a point when it was appropriate in the new Council. Councillor Storey stated there was nothing in the Notice of Motion which was about trying to score political points within unionism or beyond the confines of unionism, it was about a recognition of men, women, families and communities

who suffered, who served, and who, for the entire community, provided, unfortunately, a service that was needed then and is still needed today.

Councillor Schenning referred to some controversy, stated she did not appreciate some of the language that had been used either, but she would be supportive due to the fact that she had worked alongside the Prison for over 10 years, in relation to the Foyle View project; to look at what the officers do, to go out of their way of their job description to help people rehabilitate themselves into the community.

Councillor Kyle suggested that if Alderman Callan and Alderman Fielding were content, he considered it would be poignant to add to the Notice of Motion that the five families who had been bereaved be invited to attend.

The Mayor confirmed with the Proposer and Seconder that they were content with the addition suggested by Councillor Kyle; the proposer Alderman Callan and seconder, Alderman Fielding confirmed they were content.

The Mayor put the motion to the Council to vote.
20 Members voted For, 11 Members voted Against.
The Mayor declared the motion carried.

RESOLVED – That Council Support The Notice of Motion; that the five families who have been bereaved, be invited to attend.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 6.47pm.

Mayor