

THE ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY 1 JUNE 2026

Table of Contents

No	Item	Summary of key Adoptions
1.	Apologies	Councillors C Archibald, Bateson, McGlinchey, McQuillan, Scott, Watson
2.	Outgoing Mayor's Address	Received
3.	Outgoing Deputy Mayor's Address	Received
4.	Declarations of Interest	None
5.	Positions of Responsibility Year 4	
5.1	Nomination of Mayor 2026 – 2027	Received
5.2	Nomination of Deputy Mayor 2026 – 2027	Received
5.3	Nominations to remaining Positions of responsibility Year 4 2026-2027	Received
5.4	Veteran's Champion and Deputy Veteran's Champion	That the Veterans' Champion and Deputy Veterans' Champion are henceforth appointed for the full term of the mandate.
6.	Incoming Mayor's Address	Received
7.	Incoming Deputy Mayor's Address	Received
8.	Committee Allocations - Appointments to Committees	Information
9.	Appointments to Partnerships, External Bodies	Received

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ON
MONDAY 2 JUNE 2025 AT 7.00PM**

In the Chair : Councillor McMullan, Outgoing Mayor (Items 1 – 5.1)
Councillor Huggins, The Mayor (Items 5.2– 9)

Present : Alderman Boyle, Brown Stewart, Callan, Coyle, Fielding,
Hunter, Knight-McQuillan, McAuley, S McKillop

Councillors Anderson, N Archibald, Callaghan, Chivers,
Elder, Holmes, Kane, Kennedy, Mairs, McCully, McGurk,
MA McKillop, McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Schenning,
Storey, Wallace, Watton, Wilson, Wisener

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive
A Hamilton, Democratic & Central Services Manager
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture
U Harper, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Z Hunter, Public Relations Officer
N Neill, Public Relations Officer

A Lennox, Acting ICT Manager
L Boyd, ICT Officer
C Taggart, ICT Officer

In Attendance : Press 3no. (R)

Key – R Attended remotely

The Mayor opened the meeting and provided guidance in relation to the audio recording of the meeting.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor C Archibald, Councillor Bateson, Councillor McGlinchey, Councillor McQuillan, Councillor Scott, and Councillor Watson.

2. OUTGOING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Outgoing Mayor, Councillor McMullan, addressed Council:

"I want to thank each and every one of you for all your help over the year. I didn't have one awkward moment in the Chamber from anybody, and that's a credit to you all and to your parties.

A lot happened over the year, starting with The Open Championship, and the other sporting events including the North West 200 and the Armoy Road Race. Council staff rose to the occasion, especially at the golf, where they were pivotal in helping to run a world-class event, proving that this Council is able to do that - well done to you all.

One of the big things this year was the Growth Deal of over £70 million coming into the area. This will make a big difference, and we need to get it out on the ground.

As Mayor, I met all sorts of diverse groups and individuals. Including Chairing the Council meetings, I've attended over 400 events, and I didn't have one bad time. I believe I've been everywhere, and I've been treated with the greatest respect everywhere I went. It proved that the public want to see and speak to the Mayor and they want to know all about the Council. The position of Mayor is not a position just in name; it is something that the community looks up to. Thank you all for your support over the year."

The Chief Executive invited Elected Members to watch a screening of the Year in Office.

Councillor Peacock addressed Council:

"Thank you, Mayor. Throughout your tenure, you have carried out the responsibilities of the mayoral role with a unique blend of professionalism and personal warmth. You've been more than a figurehead, you've been a visible, active presence at all the local events, a listening ear for our residents' concerns and a passionate advocate for the growth and the wellbeing of this area. On behalf of the Sinn Féin team, thank you for your hard work, for your long hours, and your sincere devotion to the Office of Mayor and to all the residents of Causeway Coast and Glens. You have handled the role and the demands that come with it with grace and distinction, providing a reliable pillar of support that allowed the Council to function effectively and cohesively, and you have been an approachable figure for all those young people we've seen in the video today, and all of the residents and community groups that you worked very closely with throughout your year. I know you thoroughly enjoyed it, and that's reflected in the video we have just seen."

Councillor Wilson addressed Council:

"Thank you, Mayor. We can see by that video footage that you covered a lot of ground in the year, which is very important when you're representing the entire Borough. You certainly didn't leave any stone unturned, and you should be commended for that. Throughout the last 12 months, there has very seldom been a cross word in this Chamber; we may have opposing ideologies throughout the Chamber, but business was kept to business and conducted in a civil manner. On behalf of the DUP, we thank you and commend you for your year in office."

Councillor Holmes addressed Council:

"Thank you, Mayor. Being Mayor is always a very enjoyable role, but you're probably the first to have been literally walking on air - congratulations for that. While The Open was probably one of your biggest highlights of the year, I'm sure you will look back on some of the smaller things, maybe something that someone said or did at an event, that you will probably cherish more. We have had a very good year, with, as Councillor Wilson said, not a cross word in the Chamber. On a personal note, thank you for a few receptions that you hosted for me throughout the year for visitors and groups."

Alderman Coyle addressed Council:

"Thank you, Mr. Mayor. It certainly was a good year in the Chamber. Thankfully everything went well, and you handled all the meetings very well. I don't know how you managed to get round everywhere. You seem to have met everybody in the Borough. Every time I looked at Facebook, I saw pictures of you meeting school children, community groups, or VIPs. Congratulations for the year that you had and thank you from the SDLP."

*** Alderman Callan joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.12pm.**

Councillor Kane addressed Council:

"Thank you for your year as Mayor. As people have said, although there have been disagreements over the last year, there have been very few arguments in this Chamber. Thank you for Chairing our meetings since you were named as Mayor. A lot of people asked me what sort of a Mayor I thought you would be, as people tend to, and I said that, having known Oliver for a few years, he'll probably do it his own way and he'll be his own type of Mayor. When I said that, I didn't expect that by the end of it, you'd be throwing yourself out of an airplane to raise money for charity. Huge congratulations on doing that - I certainly wouldn't be doing it. Can I once again apologise on behalf of Thea the Alpaca, who got a little bit spitty on the day when we were doing the photo call - if you need dry cleaning, let me know. Thank you for your service and your commitment to this office; it has been a pleasure working with you. On behalf of the Alliance Party Group, we wish you well for whatever comes next."

Councillor MA McKillop addressed Council:

"Mayor, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to you and to the Deputy Mayor for your dedicated service to our Borough over the last year. Your tireless commitment and efforts have made a difference within our Borough. On a personal note, I would like, on behalf of my family, to thank you for the letter that you sent us last month. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor all the best in office."

Councillor Watton addressed Council:

"I would like to reiterate everyone else's comments. It was a very successful year. You're a better man than me because you jumped out of that plane. I wish you the best in your retirement from the job of Mayor."

The Mayor thanked everybody for their kind words and thanked the Deputy Mayor, Alderman Brown Stewart, for always being there to help out. He noted that Council has raised over £4,000 for the Children's Hospice, and thanked Members for all their kind contributions.

3. OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Alderman Brown Stewart, addressed Council: *"As my year serving as Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council comes to an end, I wanted to take a few moments to reflect on what has been a truly memorable and humbling experience. It has been the privilege of my life to represent this Borough, to meet so many incredible people, and to witness firsthand the strength of community spirit that exists right across the Causeway Coast and Glens.*

First and foremost, I want to pay tribute to the Mayor, Councillor Oliver McMullan. It has been a pleasure to serve alongside Oliver throughout this year, and I want to thank him for his friendship, kindness, and support during our term of office together. I wish the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor every success for the year ahead.

One of the standout highlights for me was having the honour of serving as chieftain for the hugely successful Pipe Band Championships in Portrush. It was very special to see thousands of people descend upon the town celebrating culture, music, and tradition. The atmosphere, the pride, and the sense of occasion showcased our area at its very best. Having 47 pipe bands playing the same tune, walking towards me, and then leading the parade along the West Bay Promenade, turning the corner to see crowds as far as I could see, was an absolutely incredible sight that I will never forget. It was also a privilege to lead the parade down Main Street at the Ballymoney Spring Fair, which was another fantastic event, highlighting the vibrancy and community spirit of the time.

Other memorable occasions include welcoming the new High Sheriffs for County Antrim and County Londonderry, recognising the important civic role that they play across our counties and communities. I was also delighted to attend and support events such as the Bushmills Salmon and Whiskey Festival, celebrating the heritage, hospitality, and unique character of our area. Throughout the year I had the pleasure of launching many art exhibitions at Flowerfield and Roe Valley Arts Centre, showcasing incredible creativity and talent.

Sport has also played a major part of the year. It was a great privilege to present trophies at the North West 200, including to our very own Michael Dunlop. I was delighted to attend a number of matches during the week of the SuperCup NI. I also had the honour of welcoming the world through events surrounding the Open Championship, shining an international spotlight on our spectacular coastline and hospitality sector.

During the year, I attended countless choir performances, concerts, and conferences, each one demonstrating the incredible talent, dedication, and community spirit that exists right across our Borough. I also had the opportunity to participate in ministerial visits, helping showcase both the opportunities and challenges facing our area. Another pleasure of the role was opening new hotels and supporting local businesses, recognising sports teams and their successes throughout the year. I had the opportunity to visit and engage with countless community groups, charities, schools, and volunteers. Time and time again, I was inspired by the dedication of the people who quietly work every day to make life better. They are the backbone of our community, and they deserve enormous credit.

A very important part of this role has been attending services of remembrance and laying wreaths across the Borough and beyond, whether in Coleraine, Ballycastle, Ballymoney, Rathlin Island, Knockagh Monument, and Ballymena. These occasions were deeply moving. I also have the true honour of representing our Council internationally by laying wreaths at the Ulster Tower and at Guillemont Memorial in France. Standing on those historic battlefields, remembering the sacrifice by so many young men and women from across Ulster and beyond, was an experience that will stay with me for the rest of my life. These moments remind us all of the sacrifices made by previous generations, the importance of remembrance, and our duty to ensure that those who served and those who were lost are never forgotten. This role has given me the opportunity to meet people from every background and every walk of life, and it has reinforced my belief that, despite our differences, there is far more that unites us than divides us.

I want to thank the Council Officers for their professionalism and support throughout my year, my fellow Councillors for the courtesy shown to me during my term, and most importantly, the people of this Borough for the kindness and warmth that they have shown me wherever I have travelled. Serving as Deputy Mayor has been an honour that I will cherish, and I am proud to have represented the people of Causeway Coast and Glens to the best of my ability.”

Councillor Kane addressed Council:

“Thank you to Richard for carrying out the role of Deputy Mayor over the past year with such enthusiasm, energy, and commitment. Looking at the sheer number of events he has attended, community groups he supported

and achievements he has celebrated, it has been quite dizzying just watching him from the sidelines. I know that Richard, as he has said tonight, was deeply humbled and moved by many of the experiences that he had over the course of the year, not least those that involved remembrance, as that is very important to him.

It has been a remarkable year for Richard personally, not just in his civic role. On the very day that he became Deputy Mayor last year, his family welcomed its newest member. So, alongside his civic engagements, he was balancing sleepless nights, nappy changes, school runs, and family life, while also continuing his studies, achieving a diploma in childcare and development last Christmas. None of that would have been possible without the support of those around him. I would like to acknowledge and send my thanks to Richard's husband, Niall, his parents, and his sister for the support that they have given him to carry out this role.

Richard, thank you for your service and thank you for representing this Borough with such warmth, dedication, and pride. I hope you can now take some well-earned rest over the summer, relax, and recharge before what I suspect will be another busy year ahead. On behalf of your party colleagues, thank you for the time, effort, and personal sacrifice that you've given over the past year, and I wish you the best for whatever comes next.”

Councillor Peacock addressed Council:

“Thank you, Deputy Mayor. On behalf of the Sinn Féin team, we extend our deepest thanks to you for all your hard work over the past 12 months. Your partnership with the Mayor has been instrumental to the term’s success. Thank you for your steadfast support, your diligence in representing the office, and the quiet but vital work that both yourself and Oliver did together in the background to ensure that everything ran smoothly. Well done for a great year, and I hope you enjoyed every minute of it. We look forward to continuing to work with you over the year and years ahead.”

Councillor Wilson addressed Council:

“The Deputy Mayor, like the Mayor, covered a lot of ground this year, and should be commended for that. I'm not sure if the Deputy Mayor had an opportunity to chair the full Council meeting, but that was because we had such a young fit Mayor in place who was here consistently. Richard, you should be congratulated for a very busy year.”

Alderman Coyle addressed Council:

“Thank you very much, Richard, for your work throughout the year. It's very important that when the Borough is represented that it's a team effort. I know from past experience that there are times when the Mayor can't get round every event and meet everybody, and it's important that there's somebody to represent both the Council as a corporate body and the

people in the Borough of Causeway. Thank you very much for all your hard work; we wish you every success.”

Councillor Holmes addressed Council:

“Congratulations to Richard on his year as Deputy Mayor. He has been kept busy throughout it, and I'm sure he's enjoyed it immensely. It is good to see the Mayor and Deputy Mayor working together in such a partnership in recent years; hopefully it continues long into the future.”

Councillor Watton addressed Council:

“I would like to echo Members' comments and thank Richard, particularly for his attendance at a lot of the remembrance ceremonies, which was very welcome.”

The Mayor thanked the Chief Executive and all his staff for their help, particularly Eithne for all her work.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY YEAR 4

5.1 Nomination of Mayor 2026 – 2027

The Chief Executive invited the Party lead of the DUP to nominate the Mayor.

Councillor Wilson nominated Councillor Huggins, who was declared Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2026/2027.

*** Outgoing Mayor, Councillor McMullan, vacated the Chair at this point in the meeting and The Mayor, Councillor Huggins, assumed the position of Chair for the remainder of the meeting.**

5.2 Nomination of Deputy Mayor 2025 – 2026

The Chief Executive invited the Party lead of the UUP to nominate the Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Holmes nominated Alderman Hunter, who was declared Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2025/2026.

5.3 Nominations to remaining Positions of Responsibility Year 4 2026 – 2027

The Chief Executive invited Party Leads to nominate the Positions of Responsibility. These were in accordance with d'Hondt picks made at the Annual Meeting in 2023.

The nominations were confirmed by Nominating Officers as follows:-

Appointment/Committee	Elected Member	Party
Chair, Environmental Services	Councillor Richard Holmes	UUP
Vice Chair, Environmental Services	Councillor Brenda Chivers	SF
Chair, Leisure and Development	Councillor Peter McCully	Alliance
Vice Chair, Leisure and Development	Councillor Ashleen Schenning	SDLP
Chair, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Alderman Mark Fielding	DUP
Vice Chair, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Councillor Leanne Peacock	SF
Chair, Planning Committee	Alderman Sharon McKillop	DUP
Vice Chair, Planning Committee	Alderman Richard Brown Stewart	ALLIANCE
Chair, Audit Committee	Councillor Mervyn Storey	DUP
Vice Chair, Audit Committee	Councillor Kathleen McGurk	SF
Chair, Finance Committee	Councillor John Wisener	UUP
Vice Chair, Finance Committee	Councillor Amy Mairs	ALLIANCE
Partnership Panel	Councillor Leanne Peacock	SF
NI Housing Council	Councillor Sean McGlinchey	SF
Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association / Veterans' Champion	Councillor Philip Anderson	DUP
Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association / Deputy Veterans' Champion	Councillor John Wisener	DUP

5.4 VETERAN'S CHAMPION AND DEPUTY VETERAN'S CHAMPION

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Executive.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to agree the appointment term for the positions of Veterans' Champion and Deputy Veterans' Champion.

Further information was provided in the report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council agree that the Veterans' Champion and Deputy Veterans' Champion are henceforth appointed for the full term of the mandate.

Councillor Wilson stated that, for continuity in the role and to allow relationships to be built, this role should be appointed for the full 4-year term.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

RESOLVED – That the Veterans' Champion and Deputy Veterans' Champion are henceforth appointed for the full term of the mandate.

6. INCOMING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor, Councillor Huggins addressed Council:

"I am deeply honoured and sincerely grateful to have been nominated as Mayor of this Council for 2026/2027, and I appreciate the dedication that it requires.

To be entrusted with this role by my colleagues in this Chamber is both a privilege and a responsibility that I accept with humility and determination. I am proud of our Borough — from our towns and villages to our rural heartlands — and of the people who make it such a strong, resilient and forward-looking place to live and work.

As we look ahead to the incoming year, I believe there is real opportunity across the borough to strengthen our local economy and deliver meaningful progress for our communities.

We represent an area rich in heritage, natural beauty and community spirit. From the shores of Castlerock and Portrush, to the Glens of Antrim, from Ballymoney and Coleraine to Limavady and Ballycastle, we are united not only by geography but by shared pride and shared purpose and I believe this incoming year can be one of ambition, delivery and positive economic growth for the people of Causeway Coast and Glens.

The recent signing of the Growth Deal marks a significant step forward for our Borough and presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to invest in our future. Through this deal, alongside the continued work with the Local Enterprise Partnership, we have the ability to support skills development, encourage innovation, attract investment and create opportunities for people right across our council area.

From tourism and hospitality to small businesses, agriculture, manufacturing and our town centres, every sector has a role to play in building a stronger local economy. By working in partnership with businesses, educators, community organisations and government departments, we can help create jobs, increase visitor numbers, support entrepreneurship and give young people confidence that they can build their future here at home.

This Council Chamber represents diverse views, traditions and political perspectives. While we will not always agree, we are all here for the same

reason — to serve the people who elected us and to work for the betterment of this Borough.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Oliver for his hard work, commitment and service in the role of Mayor over this past year. There is a saying that behind every man there is a great woman; in my case, behind this woman there is a very strong, supportive husband, I am very blessed to have his unwavering support and patience. Alongside my dad and my brothers, their encouragement keeps me and will keep me going to do my very best.

Having lost, like numerous others, a loved one to a severe stroke and having a precious grandson who has Cerebral Palsy, the charities I have chosen to support this year are Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke and The Buddy Bear Trust.

As I take up this office, I do so with pride in our past, confidence in our present, and ambition for our future. I look forward to working constructively to deliver for the people of Causeway Coast and Glens.

Let us move forward with respect, with purpose, and with a shared commitment to serving our Borough to the very best of our ability.”

7. INCOMING DEPUTY MAYOR’S ADDRESS

Deputy Mayor, Alderman Hunter addressed Council:

“Madam Mayor, fellow Councillors, I am truly honoured to stand before you as the incoming Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. I sincerely thank my party colleagues for placing their trust in me. It is a privilege to take on this role and I do so with humility and a strong commitment to serve all within our Borough.

I would like to acknowledge the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their dedication and stewardship. Your work has provided a strong foundation for us to build upon.

I wish our new Mayor every success in her role. I am delighted to be working with you alongside you, Dawn, as Deputy Mayor, and I look forward to supporting you and your vision as we serve our Borough together.

Causeway Coast and Glens is a place I am incredibly proud to represent - from our coastal towns to our rural hinterlands to the stunning natural beauty and agriculture that not only defines and shapes our landscape, but our economy, our heritage, and our way of life. Beyond that, it is the people of this Borough who make it special. They are resilient, hard working, and deeply rooted in their community.

This Chamber is the heart of our local democracy, and every decision we make has a real impact on people's lives. As Deputy Mayor, I look forward to representing the Borough, supporting local businesses, sustaining rural communities, celebrating the achievements of our community groups, and recognising the valuable contributions of local organisations and volunteers who contribute so much to Causeway Coast and Glens.

I look forward to working closely with you, Madam Mayor, and all the Councillors in the year ahead. Together, let us serve this Borough with pride, optimism, and a shared sense of purpose.”

Councillor Wilson addressed Council:

“Mayor, on behalf of the entire group, I would like to wish you every success for the coming year. We are all incredibly proud of you, and we have placed our trust in you, knowing that you will do an exceptional job in the year ahead. Everything you do, you do it with gusto, with vigour, and you put 110% into it. We are very proud of you. Best wishes to Alderman Hunter for the coming year; I know you'll make a formidable partnership.”

Councillor Peacock addressed Council:

“On behalf of the Sinn Féin team, I want to extend our heartfelt congratulations to both Dawn and Sandra on taking up the role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. We wish you a very successful and enjoyable year and look forward to working with you over it. It is nice to see two women in post. Congratulations, and the best of luck.”

Councillor Kane addressed Council:

“Madam Mayor, we'd like to congratulate you and the Deputy Mayor on your appointment. I have known both of you for a couple of years now, and Dawn and Sandra have probably worked more closely with you over the course of that time, and I'm sure you will bring all of that enthusiasm and expertise to the role. I wish you both well in your year ahead.”

Alderman Coyle addressed Council:

“Congratulations to the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor on their appointments to these very important roles, especially in the last year of this mandate. I hope that you will have a successful year and will certainly have the support of the SDLP. We wish you a very successful year ahead.”

Councillor Holmes addressed Council:

“Congratulations to you both; we wish you a very successful year ahead. It is always a very exciting year, but it will be particularly exciting with the elections ahead.”

Councillor Watton congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their appointment and wished them well for the year ahead.

8. COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS - APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Circulated for information.

The Chief Executive advised that this was shared for information and provided an opportunity for nominating officer to reappoint to Committees as required.

9. APPOINTMENTS TO PARTNERSHIPS, EXTERNAL BODIES

Report, previously circulated for information.

There being no further business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.43pm.

Chair