

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Council Meeting Tuesday 22nd September 2015

Key Decisions

No	Item	Decision
3.	Presentation 3.1 NI Water 3.2 HSENI – Think about Health and Safety	<i>Noted</i> <i>Noted</i>
4.	Minutes of Council Meeting held 25 th August 2015	<i>Confirmed</i>
5.	Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held 26 th August 2015	<i>Confirmed</i>
6.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee held 1 st September 2015	<i>Adopted</i>
7.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee held 14 th September 2015	<i>Adopted</i>
8.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held 15 th September 2015 8.1 Branding 8.2 Adoption of Minutes	<i>Branding Concept A approved</i> <i>Adopted including amendment</i>
9.	Legal Opinion Call In Flag Flying	<i>Await further Legal Advice</i>
10.	Revised Schedules of Meetings	<i>Approved</i>
11.	Draft Consultation Response Making Choices: Proposed Changes In The Provision Of Statutory Residential Care In The Northern Health And Social Care Trust	<i>Response endorsed</i>
12.	Correspondence 12.1 Proposed Changes to Speed Limit on B16, Bellaghy Road, Dunloy 12.2 Rathlin – Councillors Meeting 12.3 Limavady Rotary Club – Christmas Tree 12.4 Transport NI – New Email Address	<i>Noted</i> <i>Members nominated</i> <i>Permission granted</i> <i>Noted 12.4 to 12.12</i>

	<p>12.5 Ballykelly Post Office, 57 Main Street, Ballykelly, Limavady</p> <p>12.6 NILGA Conference – “The New General Power of Competence”</p> <p>12.7 NILGA EER Awards Event</p> <p>12.8 NILGA Conference – Excellence in Local Government</p> <p>12.9 Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Lay-by, Portstewart Road, Coleraine</p> <p>12.10 Public Appointment Vacancies – Appointment of 9 Non-Executive Members to the Board of Belfast Harbour Commissioners</p> <p>12.11 Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Appointment of 5 new board members to the board of the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland</p> <p>12.12 NILGA/Social Security Agency</p> <p>12.13 Ballinasloe October Fair 3rd -11th October 2015 – Annual Reception</p>	
13.	<p>Seal Documents</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant of Right of Burial Deeds Register No 4277 – 4285 (Coleraine 2; Ballywillan 4; Portstewart 1; Agherton 1; Kilrea 1) • Environmental Improvement Works at Portstewart Promenade 	<i>Seal Affixed</i>
14.	<p>Consultations</p> <p>14.1 Policy Proposals for a Land Acquisition and Compensation (Amendment B), submission by 4pm on 16th October, 2015.</p> <p>14.2 Public Consultation on the Accessible Transport Strategy 2025, submission by 5pm on 20th November, 2015.</p> <p>14.3 Proposal for Secondary Legislation under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice for Support Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 and Modern Slavery Act 2015, submissions by 22nd October, 2015.</p> <p>14.4 Lifeline Public Consultation on the future of the Lifeline Crisis Intervention Service, submission by 1pm on 19th November, 2015.</p> <p>14.5 DRAFT – Independent Review of Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) by 6th November, 2015.</p>	<i>Noted</i>

	14.6 Development a Programme for Local Government 2016-2020, submissions by 31 st December, 2015.	
15.	Matters for Reporting to Partnership Panel	<i>Agreed</i>
16.	Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Finlay	<i>Deferred to October CP&R Committee</i>
17.	Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Quigley	<i>Amended Motion carried</i>
19.	Notice of Notion submitted by Alderman Hickey	<i>Motion carried</i>
20.	Date of next Meeting	Tuesday 27 th October 2015 at 7pm

Council Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council held in the Council Chamber, on Tuesday 22nd September 2015 at 7.00pm

In the Chair: The Mayor, Councillor Knight-McQuillan

Present: Aldermen Campbell, Cole, Hickey, Hillis, McKeown, Mullan, Robinson;
Councillors Beattie, Blair, Callan, Chivers, Clarke, Douglas, Fielding, Finlay, Fitzpatrick, Holmes, Hunter, King, Loftus, McCandless, McCaul, McCorkell, McGlinchey, McGuigan, McKillop MA, McLean, McShane P, Mulholland, Nicholl, Quigley, Stevenson, Watton, Wilson

In attendance: Mr D Jackson, Clerk and Chief Executive
Mrs M Quinn, Director of Performance
Mr A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services
Mr R Baker, Director of Leisure and Development
Mrs E Johnson, Head of Democratic and Customer Services
Mr D Wright, Chief Finance Officer
Mr D Hunter, Council Solicitor
Mrs C Toner, Democratic Services
Mrs S Duggan, Committee and Member Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr S McAleese, P Davidson, G McCready, NI Water (Item 3)
Mr J King, HSENI – Think about Health & Safety (Item 3)
Mr P Kerr, Health and Safety Officer
Mr J Gray, Strategic Advisor
Ms W McCullough, Head of Leisure, Well-being and Sport

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded from Alderman S McKillop and Councillors Baird, Duddy and C McShane.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were recorded.

Alderman Finlay welcomed Alderman Campbell to the meeting, following the sad passing of his wife, Mrs Jean Campbell. Alderman Campbell thanked Members for their support.

3. PRESENTATIONS

3.1 NI Water

The Chair welcomed Mr S McAleese, Mr P Davidson and Mr G McCready to the meeting. Matters addressed included:

- Regulatory Structure
- Price Control
- Priorities
- Top Investments
- Capital Investments
- Current Public Initiatives
- Dirty Dozen Campaign/ Winter Campaign

Following the presentation, Members put questions to the panel.

Praise was extended for works carried out at Ballintoy and it was advised that the spray issue would be addressed. It was advised that inclusion of Harbour Road, Ballintoy in the Business Plan would be investigated. Water quality was tested regularly and met the standards set out by the Drinking Water Inspectorate.

In response to a Members' question regarding a Treatment Plant at Ballycastle, it was advised that it was included in the Business Plan and it was hoped to commence works in March 2016.

An issue raised regarding Coleraine Harbour would also be followed up.

* *Presenters (Mr S McAleese, P Davidson, G McCready) left the meeting.*

3.2 HSENI – Think about Health and Safety

The Chair welcomed Mr. King to the meeting, who highlighted the importance of Health and Safety in the work place and more specifically, the role of Elected Members magnifying the importance of Health and Safety in the workplace by demonstrating commitment to standards. He further advised Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council ranked high out of the 11 new Councils in Northern Ireland, in terms of Health and Safety measures and this was down to hard work and commitment from Health and Safety Officers and the Chief Executive.

The Mayor thanked Mr. King for his informative and comprehensive presentation and stated that her recent visit to carry out duties at Coleraine Depot had highlighted the many measures being adhered to in respect of Health and Safety.

* *Presenter (Mr J King) left the meeting at 7.50pm.*

4. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD 25th AUGUST 2015

It was AGREED: **that the minutes of the Council Meeting held 25th August 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.**

Ruling on a Point of Order in relation to comments raised by Councillor P McShane regarding points he had made at the Council Meeting on 25th August in relation to Flags, the Mayor ruled the comments did not relate to the accuracy of the Minutes.

5. MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 26th AUGUST 2015

It was **AGREED: that the minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26th August 2015 be confirmed as a correct record.**

6. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE HELD ON 1ST SEPTEMBER 2015

Councillor Fielding presented the Minutes and proposed their adoption.

Matters Arising

6.1 Complaints re Street Trader at Auld Lammas Fair, Ballycastle (ES150901.15.2)

Councillor Mullholland stated the use of the word Republican "Paraphernalia", was not illegal and therefore Councillor Duddy's remarks had no standing in Council and further suggested that any issues regarding illegal street traders should be raised through the PSNI.

6.2 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Fielding, seconded by Alderman Finlay and **AGREED: that the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held 1st September 2015 be adopted and the recommendations contained therein approved.**

Councillor McGlinchey raised an issue with the Director of Environmental Services in connection with funding towards a Dungiven Clean Up, as he felt he had been given no help nor assistance from Council Officials.

In response to the remarks made by Councillor McGlinchey, it was proposed by Alderman Cole, seconded by Alderman Finlay and **AGREED: that Councillor McGlinchey's remarks be investigated as a breach of the Councillor's Code of Conduct.**

7. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON 14th SEPTEMBER 2015

Councillor M A McKillop presented the minutes and proposed their adoption.

Matters Arising

7.1 Generalist Voluntary Advice Services (LD150914.8)

Following a Members' question, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that the tenure of the Tender agreement was 6 months following which and dependent on DSD funding, the tender would be reissued again from 1st April 2016.

In response to a Members' question regarding concerns in respect of the tender award of Generalist Voluntary Advice Services, and the effect this could have on Glenshane House, Dungiven, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that the tender process was one that reflected the legacy Council's procedures and further advised that their concern would be noted.

7.2 Carrick Dhu Infrastructure Works (LD150914.13)

In response to a Member's question regarding access to the site during infrastructure works, the Director of Leisure and Development advised that negotiations were currently underway with the contractor.

The Director of Leisure and Development also advised that appointments to the Carrick Dhu Infrastructure Works Project Board was a decision made by Members of the Leisure and Development Committee and further advised that appointment to any other board or group was a decision for Elected Members.

7.3 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor M A McKillop, seconded by Councillor McCorkell and **AGREED: that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee held 14th September 2015 be adopted and the recommendations contained therein approved.**

8. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD 15th SEPTEMBER 2015

Alderman Hillis presented the minutes and proposed their adoption.

Matters Arising

It was proposed by Councillor Hunter, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and **AGREED that the item be considered in-committee.**

* *Press left the meeting at 8.15pm.*

8.1 Branding

Following a decision of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee it was agreed to bring a full report and presentation to Council for consideration by all Elected Members. The Head of Democratic and Customer Services presented the report previously circulated. Members were presented with two options.

A discussion ensued on the subject. Members voiced their opinions on the options presented. Concerns were raised in relation to the simplicity of the design and felt it could be more unique and dynamic. The Chief Executive clarified that Officers were asked, through Council agreement, to come forward with ideas. He further advised

that the process had been scrutinised by industry professionals and their opinion had been taken on board.

In response to a Member's question in relation to Branding being available in other languages, the Chief Executive advised a Bilingual Policy would be brought to Committee at a later date.

It was proposed by Alderman Hillis and seconded by Councillor Wilson: to approve Concept A.

Councillor Harding proposed Concept A but the initial design concept only, with the colours outlined as presented, to represent Council Sub Brands.

Following discussion, Alderman Hillis agreed to amend his proposal to include Councillor Harding's proposal, this was agreed by the seconder, Councillor Wilson.

Alderman Finlay requested that The Question Now Be Put.

On being put to the vote the Mayor declared the proposal carried with 30 Members voting for, 4 Members voting against and 1 Member abstaining.

It was **AGREED: that Council approve Branding Concept A, the initial design concept with the colours outlined as presented, to represent Council Sub Brands.**

* *Councillor Hunter left the Meeting at 9pm.*

It was proposed by Councillor Fitzpatrick and seconded by Alderman Hickey, that Council resolve out of committee.

8.2 Adoption of Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman Hillis, seconded by Councillor Callan and **AGREED: that the minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Meeting held 15th September 2015 be adopted and the recommendations contained therein approved, including 8.1 above.**

9. LEGAL OPINION CALL IN FLAG FLYING

It was proposed by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor McCorkell and **AGREED: to consider the item 'In-Committee'.**

The Chief Executive presented the legal opinion to Members and explained that he had sought further detail from the QC on the required next steps, specifically the requirement and the timing of any qualified majority vote and the interdependency of the decision with any associated equality impact assessment.

Councillor McGuigan suggested the Section 41b test had been met, and that qualified majority voting would be required. He added that he would be content to wait for the further guidance requested.

Alderman Hillis queried what legal costs to date. The Chief Executive agreed to obtain this information.

Councillor Clarke raised a point of clarity regarding receipt of the call-in notification received from the Sinn Féin party represented in Council and the email received from Councillor McGuigan. The Chief Executive advised that he did not have the details to hand and would come back to the Member. Councillor Clarke raised serious doubts about the validity of the call in and highlighted examples of errors in the legal opinion furnished. Councillor Clarke stated he had asked for precision/clarity and had not received it. The unapproved Draft Regulations, he stated, were not finalised by the Northern Ireland Assembly nor adopted by Council, therefore he deemed the Call In void.

It was proposed by Councillor Clarke: that Council note the opinion and the inaccuracies, irrelevancies, omissions and contradictions contained therein and carry on with the process agreed by Shadow Council at the beginning of the year with a view to enacting the Flag Policy agreed by Council on 28th July 2015.

Alderman Hickey welcomed the Legal Opinion, stating it was as expected.

Councillor McGuigan proposed an amendment: that if Councillor Clarke's proposal is agreed Council resolve out of committee and that there is a recorded vote at every stage, seconded by Councillor P McShane.

The Chief Executive advised that all comments relating to the matter would be taken on board and brought to the QC. The Chief Executive advised that it may be prudent to await further advice from the QC.

Alderman Hickey proposed a further amendment: to accept the Chief Executive's advice and to have a recorded vote.

Mr P Kingston, one of Council's solicitors, quoted from Section 41 of the Local Government Act 2014, 41 (ii), clarifying that a process had been put into motion, an opinion had been received, which in his view, at the present time, was not complete and until such time as he has received that, the matter could not come before the Council for re-consideration.

During questioning by Members Mr Kingston further clarified the reconsideration of the matter was the conclusion of the call in process, with the Council looking at the matter again and making a further decision by way of a vote whether by qualified majority vote or otherwise depending on the circumstances

Councillor Clarke repeated his proposal but conceded to withdraw his proposal on the basis that the Chief Executive needed time to come back to Council to answer questions regarding the process and timing, following receipt of further legal opinion.

The Chief Executive advised that he would furnish the legal opinion to Members before the next Council Meeting.

* *Councillor Stevenson joined the meeting at 9.10pm during discussion of this item.*

It was proposed by Councillor M A McKillop and seconded by Alderman King **that Council resolve itself out of committee.**

* *Press rejoined the meeting at 9.25pm.*

10. REVISED SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

A revised Schedule of Meetings from September 2015 to May 2016, previously circulated was presented for approval.

Council **AGREED the revised Schedule of Meetings, circulated.**

11. DRAFT CONSULTATION RESPONSE – MAKING CHOICES: PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE PROVISION OF STATUTORY RESIDENTIAL CARE IN THE NORTHERN HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

A Draft Response had been prepared and previously circulated, reflecting the views agreed by Council and further comments were invited for inclusion in the response.

It was **AGREED: to endorse the Draft Response, circulated and forward to the Northern Health and Social Care Trust.**

12. CORRESPONDENCE

12.1 Proposed Changes to Speed Limit on B16, Bellaghy Road, Dunloy

Noted.

12.2 Rathlin – Councillors' Meeting

Rathlin Development and Community Association sought nominations and a date for a visit to Rathlin Island to discuss issues, support and development opportunities.

Alderman Hillis nominated Councillor Baird. Councillor McGuigan nominated Councillor Mulholland and Councillor C Mc Shane. Councillor Beattie nominated Councillor MA McKillop, Alderman Finlay nominated himself and Councillor P McShane.

12.3 Limavady Rotary Club – Christmas Tree

It was proposed by Alderman Robinson, seconded by Councillor Beattie and **AGREED: to grant permission to Limavady Rotary Club, to man the town Christmas tree to help raise money for the Salvation Army and St Vincent de Paul.**

12.4 Transport NI – New Email Address

The Department of Regional Development had advised of new email contacts for the local maintenance office.

12.5 Ballykelly Post Office, 57 Main Street, Ballykelly, Limavady

Members noted the Post Office would move to new premises at Morans Supervalu, 68 Main Street, Ballykelly.

12.6 NILGA Conference – “The New General Power of Competence”

The above conference would take place on Wednesday 28th October 2015 at the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown and Thursday 29th October 2015 at Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon. Members advised to book places by contacting Democratic Services.

12.7 NILGA EER Awards Event

The event would be held on Tuesday 13th October and Members wishing to attend were to contact Democratic Services.

12.8 NILGA Conference – Excellence in Local Government

This event would take place on 20th and 21st October at the Roe Park Resort, Limavady and members wishing to attend were to contact Democratic Services.

12.9 Proposed Waiting Restrictions – Lay-by, Portstewart Road, Coleraine

Written comment are welcomed on the above proposal by 9th October 2015.

12.10 Public Appointment Vacancies – Appointment of 9 Non-Executive Members to the Board of Belfast Harbour Commissioners

DRD were advertising an open competition to recruit 9 Members to the board and application packs could be obtained from;

DRD, Public Appointments Unit, Room 5-12, Clarence Court, 10 – 18 Adelaide Street Belfast, BT2 8GB or call 028 9054 1002.

12.11 Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment – Appointment of 5 new board members to the board of the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland

Application packs would be available by emailing pubappts@detini.gov.uk and the closing date was noon on 2nd October 2015.

12.12 NILGA/Social Security Agency

Members noted the above correspondence relating to cases where local Councillors were making a claim or where currently receiving a social security benefit.

12.13 Ballinasloe October Fair 3rd -11th October 2015 – Annual Reception

Galway County Council had extended an invitation to Elected Members to attend the above event. Councillor P McShane suggested the Mayor attend, the Mayor stated she would look into it.

13. SEAL DOCUMENTS

It was proposed by Alderman Hickey, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick and AGREED: **that the Seal of the Council be affixed to;**

- Grant of Right of Burial Deeds Register No 4277 – 4285 (Coleraine 2; Ballywillan 4; Portstewart 1; Agherton 1; Kilrea 1)
- Environmental Improvement Works at Portstewart Promenade

14. CONSULTATIONS

The Deputy Chief Executive invited comments on the following Consultations to be sent to her before the closing date as outlined in the consultation schedule and as undernoted;

- 14.1** Policy Proposals for a Land Acquisition and Compensation (Amendment B), submission by 4pm on 16th October, 2015.
- 14.2** Public Consultation on the Accessible Transport Strategy 2025, submission by 5pm on 20th November, 2015.
- 14.3** Proposal for Secondary Legislation under the Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice for Support Victims) Act (Northern Ireland) 2015 and Modern Slavery Act 2015, submissions by 22nd October, 2015.
- 14.4** Lifeline Public Consultation on the future of the Lifeline Crisis Intervention Service, submission by 1pm on 19th November, 2015.
- 14.5** DRAFT – Independent Review of Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) by 6th November, 2015.

14.6 Development a Programme for Local Government 2016-2020, submissions by 31st December, 2015.

15. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO PARTNERSHIP PANEL

In response to a Members' question regarding the outcome of a query which was to be raised through the Partnership Panel, the Chief Executive advised that the Panel had not met since beginning of the summer and the next Meeting would be in October.

IT WAS AGREED to adopt the Partnership Panel report, circulated.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN FINLAY

The following Notice of Motion was received from Alderman Finlay, of which due notice was given:

"That this Council notes that on 21st April 2016 Her Majesty The Queen will celebrate her ninetieth birthday, making her the United Kingdom's longest-lived monarch.

In recognition of the powerful and positive contribution that Her Majesty has made through her very long years of public service, and the singular nature of this momentous occasion, Council agrees to mark her ninetieth birthday in a fitting way."

It was proposed by Alderman Finlay, seconded by Councillor Wilson and **AGREED: that the Notice of Motion would be referred to the next Corporate Policy and Resources Committee.**

17. REFUGEE CRISIS

NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR QUIGLEY

It was **AGREED: to consider the Notice of Motion to address the Refugee Crisis and the item on the agenda for the Special Council Meeting that was to take place immediately after the Council meeting: *"With regard to the current refugee crisis that is taking place at this time in Europe, we want to look at any avenues as to which the Council can help in this awful situation which is currently taking place."*** (Dermot Nicholl, Sean McGlinchey, Cara McShane, Tony McCaul, Brenda Chivers, Philip McGuigan, Kieran Mulholland and Paudie McShane).

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Quigley, of which due notice was given.

"We propose that this Council urgently responds to the current humanitarian crisis in the Middle East by taking up the challenge set by Citizens UK and the UNHRC in facilitating and supporting the resettlement of refugee families within our own community.

We further propose council lobby (sic) the Executive to convene an urgent meeting in these exceptional circumstances in order to form a collective response to the current refugee crisis.”

Councillor Quigley read her Motion and spoke to it stating:

“The current refugee crisis has appalled each of us and left us heartbroken. I believe our community has an opportunity to do all they can to help these desperate and displaced families find a place of safety and welcome for as long as they may need it.

As such, I propose that our community the Causeway Coast and Glens takes up the challenge set by Citizens UK and the UNHRC in welcoming refugee families. Over the last few weeks I have been in discussion with church leaders, business people, those in education and Health Service backgrounds and we as a community of people believe that as we pledge our individual and combined skills, resources and support we can provide the necessary housing, financial support, healthcare and personal assistance that they so desperately need at this time of crisis. Only last week we hosted a representative from the Refugee Support Network based in London who gave us a comprehensive overview on what is involved in this process.

We as a people are famed for our hospitality and welcome right across the world. Our country is one with a proud legacy of providing sanctuary for those in need. In fact Coleraine Borough of Sanctuary was formed several years ago. A concept that seeks to serve and help the disenfranchised. The outpouring of generosity that the people of the Causeway Coast and Glens area have displayed reflects the strength of the public feeling about this crisis ... I am humbled and yet overwhelmed.

We are, in this time, in the face of the biggest movement of people since the Second World War with new images of these desperate people risking their lives to flee persecution every day.

Let us as a council stand with and encourage the people of the Causeway Coast and Glens who are moved with compassion and willing to join together to set up a sustainable framework to help address this urgent humanitarian crisis,”

Following her statement Councillor Quigley: **proposed the adoption of her Motion**, seconded by Councillor McGlinchey.

A discussion ensued on the subject and several Members expressed sympathy and shock at the plight of the refugees and voiced their opinions in support of the Motion or in support of Council adopting a different approach to the refugee crisis by supporting the work of international relief agencies and charities.

(During the course of the debate Councillor McGlinchey referred to his earlier remarks, during the adoption of the Environmental Services Committee minutes, stating that the remarks had not been against the Officer personally.)

Councillor Finlay read a statement as follows:

“The humanitarian crisis which continues to develop across Europe is one of the most heartbreaking, challenging and alarming scenarios in recent years – indeed, perhaps, since the Second World War. Our hearts go out to those who are fleeing from the conflict in Syria and other warzones across the world – they are fleeing persecution and are frantically seeking safety for themselves and their families. No-one can blame them for that. But the scale of the whole thing is mind-boggling and it seems that the Governments of Europe are unable to devise a strategy to deal with what is happening. And it is appalling that neighbouring 'oil states' have accepted no refugees when those nations are better placed to do so than others might be.

We in this Council want to do what we can to help, but we also need a strategy that's based on reality. There are many things we would like to do, but the best way to provide help and assistance to refugees is through the established charities. They have the expertise and the resources to put in place and deliver a plan – so we must liaise with them and encourage them in whatever way we can. I therefore support the amendment. We should provide help for refugees, not for economic migrants.

But I have to say something about the Sinn Fein motion. Whenever I hear Sinn Fein trying to take the high morale ground on this or any other matter, it makes my stomach turn. Sinn Fein have the knack of taking hypocrisy to new heights.

I recently heard Mary McAleese say that she had literally been a refugee when she was forced to flee over the border in the early days of the Troubles. But let's not forget that - for decades - the Provisional IRA created victims and refugees on a scale that stands out on its own. People were forced out of their homes in what can only be described as a sustained campaign of ethnic cleansing. 15,000 Protestants were forced from the cityside of Londonderry under the Provo policy of pursuing political and territorial gains through terrorism. Across Northern Ireland, people were taken from their homes and murdered and then secretly buried. Hundreds of people have been exiled from this island by republican terrorists. Many continue to live abroad, under threat of execution by terrorists should they return to this place. Countless numbers of people still carry the scars of terrorism. So, I must say I find it galling to listen to the moralizing of Sinn Fein on this current crisis.”

A Point of Order was raised in relation to the content of Alderman Finlay's statement following which, on the proposal of Alderman Hickey, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick it was AGREED: **to adjourn the Meeting for a ten minute recess at 10.20pm.**

* *The meeting reconvened at 10.30pm.*

When the meeting reconvened Councillor Quigley appealed to Council to vote in favour of her Motion.

Councillor McCandless proposed an amendment to the Motion, seconded by Alderman Finlay: **that this Council responds to the Humanitarian crisis in the Middle East by**

asking the public to donate to International Aid Agencies and Local Charities involved in providing relief for refugee crisis.

The Mayor put the proposal to the vote, 19 Members voted for, 13 Members voted against and 1 Member abstained. The Mayor declared the amended Motion carried.

* *Alderman Campbell left the meeting.*

* *Alderman King left the meeting.*

19. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY ALDERMAN HICKEY

The following Notice of Motion was received from Alderman Hickey, of which due notice was given.

“This Council expresses grave concern about the £8.6m reduction in the budget of the Ulster University which has resulted in the withdrawal of several courses, the closure of the Modern Languages Department and compulsory redundancies of several staff. This Council calls for an immediate meeting with the Minister for Employment and Learning to seek the restoration of the budget.”

Alderman Hickey read out her motion following which:

It was proposed by Alderman Hickey, seconded by Councillor Mulholland and AGREED: **that this Council expresses grave concern about the £8.6m reduction in the budget of the Ulster University which has resulted in the withdrawal of several courses, the closure of the Modern Languages Department and compulsory redundancies of several staff. This Council calls for an immediate meeting with the Minister for Employment and Learning to seek the restoration of the budget.**

20. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 27th October 2015, 7.00pm, Council Chamber, Civic Headquarters, Coleraine.

This being all the business the meeting closed at 10.50pm.