

THE ANNUAL MEETING MONDAY 3 JUNE 2024

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MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, ON
MONDAY 3 JUNE 2024 AT 7.00PM

- In the Chair** : Councillor Callaghan, Outgoing Mayor (Items 1 – 5.1)
Councillor Ciarán McQuillan, The Mayor (Items 5.2– 9)
- Present** : Alderman Boyle, Callan, Coyle, Fielding, Hunter,
Knight-McQuillan, McAuley, S McKillop, Scott, Stewart
- Councillors C Archibald, N Archibald, Bateson,
Callaghan Chivers, Holmes, Huggins, Kane, Kyle, Mairs,
Jonathan Mc Auley, McCully, McGurk, MA McKillop,
McMullan, McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Stirling, Storey,
Wallace, Watson, Watton, Wilson, Wisener
- Officers Present** : D Jackson, Chief Executive
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer
S Gamble, PR Manager
- J Winfield, ICT Manager
C Thompson, ICT Officer
- In Attendance** : Press 4no. (R)
Public 2no.

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 Councillors Kennedy, McGlinchey and Schenning.

2. OUTGOING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Callaghan addressed Council:

“Where did that year go?

It has without doubt been a privilege to represent this Borough as your Mayor. I would once again like to thank the members of my council group for giving me the opportunity to perform this role. I would like to thank Ivor Wallace for the advice he gave me when I took up the post.

On the night I was installed as mayor, I said I would represent all the constituents of the borough, I think I have done my best to fulfil that pledge. The mayor can only attend the events put before them; I can say that from day one I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey. On my first day I had the pleasure of meeting a group of ladies in wheelchairs who were part of the causeway giant's wheelchair basketball team, these people were inspirational, and friendships formed with members of the group will last well into the future.

I would like to thank the members in the chamber for the support they have given me, the atmosphere in the chambers has changed from the last term and I have enjoyed the more relaxed way the business has been conducted, I believe we have achieved quite a bit since the start of the term. It has been a pleasure to chair the meetings of the council this term.

The role has given me an opportunity to meet people I wouldn't normally have encountered. I would pay tribute to all those people who volunteer in the community in various roles. Some of the groups who work hard to help people with mental health and wellbeing groups like the Samaritans, ashes to gold, move more, age concern. These volunteers are at the heart of every community. There are many other groups I have had the privilege to meet whose volunteers work selflessly for others.

There have been many highlights on this journey, hosting the Duke of Edinburgh in Garvagh, being the representative of the council who delivered the freedom of the Borough on the NHS, and being a signatory on the growth deal. The trip to London with the Environmental Services team to celebrate winning Britain in Bloom and the achievement of the Bio-diversity team, and the success of the Ulster in bloom awards for Coleraine and Ballymoney.

Just a few weeks ago, the deputy mayor and I featured on an episode of escape to the country, which highlighted what this borough has to offer in an amazing way.

Following the fantastic success of this year's NW200, which was one of the best in recent memory, Council's events season is now in full swing. I have very much enjoyed being involved in the wide variety of events over the past year, including all the Christmas events, Halloween fireworks displays, the Auld Lammas Fair, Heart of The Glens and the Salmon and Whiskey festival in Bushmills.

It has been a pleasure to host the various civic receptions for the people who deserve to be recognised in their respective fields. Getting to meet so many people and shine a spotlight on their hard work, dedication and achievements is one of the many privileges afforded by the office of mayor.

The one disappointment for me, as a Royalist was the cancellation of the planned visit of King Charles and The Queen to Limavady in March. The visit was cancelled due to His Majesty's health issues, I am glad that he has resumed his duties and I hope he continues to make a speedy and full recovery. Not too many mayors get the chance to host the king in their hometown.

I said at the start of my term I would support the local food and drink producers in the borough, another highlight was getting the Giant Taste Causeway Food event into RVACC in March, this was a fantastic showcase of the best the borough has to offer by local producers. I have regularly visited the local markets and highlighted and promoted them whenever I can. The Salmon and whiskey festival in Bushmills was another great showcase for our local producers.

I set out from day one to show the working of the council in the best light possible, from the start I arranged that myself and my deputy would share the workload together. We sort of broke the mould by having the two chains on display at all the major festivals and occasions wherever it was appropriate.

I cannot thank Margaret-Anne enough for the support she has given me over the year, we have created a lot of memories during our partnership. The feedback I have been getting from public sources and members of the council staff is that this approach has worked. I believe we both worked hard to promote the whole borough in a positive light.

I am grateful for the friendship we have formed and really appreciated her taking over the diary when I took ill in March. It has been a pleasure to have worked with you, I would like to especially thank you for your help and support with fundraising for RNLI during the year.

I chose the RNLI as my charity for the year and I have been overwhelmed by the support and help both myself and the Deputy Mayor have received with our fundraising events for RNLI.

The final sum raised was just over £12k. Our events have ranged from sponsored walks to concerts and coffee mornings and on each occasion, we have been greatly humbled by both how much we raised and how many people supported us.

I would like to thank to the RNLI local team and everyone who has helped raise funds for Mayor's charity the RNLI, whether by helping to arrange the event or by donating food for the coffee mornings, it has all been very much appreciated.

I would have to thank many others who have supported me on this journey, firstly the events teams who have supported me in the big events, and their support in getting the 200 years thanksgiving service in Portrush for RNLI up and running.

I would like to thank The Council's CEO Mr David Jackson for the support he has given me during my term as mayor, our weekly meetings have proven invaluable, his advice and guidance have kept me grounded and greatly assisted me with chairing the meetings. The heads of departments and council officers who have advised me, including Richard Baker who has now moved on. I learned a lot from being a member of the selection panel for the new head of L & D and I wish Pat best wishes in her post and I believe she was the best candidate for the job.

Stephen Gamble and Leeanne Irwin deserve massive credit for the PR work they have done for me during my term. I would pay particular credit to Leeanne, who has battled with serious illness but still gives a dedicated service to the council's PR machine. I continue to pray that she makes a full and speedy recovery and returns to coming into the office soon.

I admire the press coverage that they have put out into the press and social media, and the assistance they have given me with speeches for the many events I have covered, considering the resources other councils have, they have done a remarkable job.

What can I say about Kevin and Stephen from McAuley multimedia, the photos from the events have been outstanding, they have captured the borough in fantastic fashion. I can honestly say we have had a blast over the past year, and I would thank them for all the publicity they have given us and the council across the globe.

Thanks must go to the reception staff in Cloonavin for their assistance in helping me setting up and serving guests refreshments at receptions.

I can honestly say that I could not have carried out the role of mayor without the support of the staff in the civic support office, Eithne Doherty and Sinead Duggan, Eithne's years of service supporting the mayors role is second to none and is a great asset for the council team, they have arranged my diary, provided speeches and kept me right.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience, I have so many memories and made new friendships and contacts which I hope to continue,

Last but not least, I have to thank my wife Ruth for her support and patience during this journey.

I wish the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor all the best for their term and hope they enjoy the role as much as I have”.

3. OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR’S ADDRESS

Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor MA McKillop addressed Council,

“It’s hard to believe that we are here one year later, and I am handing over the role of Deputy Mayor.

It has been an honour to serve the Borough as Deputy Mayor and I have loved every minute of it.

I’d like to take this opportunity to reflect on a few of my firsts, which seems so long ago.

My first few weeks started at a running pace which set the tone for the full year.

It was a privilege to get to wear the Moyle chain which was always a talking point when you turn up as Deputy Mayor with a Chairman chain.

My first event was in the wonderful Owenbeg for the official launch of the Derry Fleadh. It was a fantastic event bringing GAA and music together, there was amazing talent on display.

a book launch by the talented Gerard Robinson in Limavady which was a lovely occasion and immediately put me at ease in the role.

I thoroughly enjoyed very much being part of all the major events alongside the Mayor.

If I was to pick some of my highlights throughout the year it would include:

- The opening of Armoy play park which was part of the small settlement restore and reactivate grant programme with kids from both schools.*
- The official opening of Dungiven Bowling club on a very wet and windy day.*
- Representing council and Moyle Twinning at Ballinsloe Horse Fair and I thank Alderman Hunter for attending alongside me.*
- It was a privilege to be asked by the mayor to come on stage to present my own club Ruairi Ogs at the sports awards which was a really special night.*

• I also attended Tom Mc Laughlin's book launch about his journey to setting up Redbay boats, and of course Tom is from Cushendall, so for me it was lovely to sail on his boat to Rathlin with the Mayor and Deputy Minister Emma Little-Pengelly.

Later in the year I attended the launch of the new passenger ferry service between Ballycastle, Islay and Campbelltown.

This will open up the wider Glens of Antrim, Rathlin and Causeway Coast to important tourism connections, encouraging more visitors from Scotland to Northern Ireland.

• I attended Red sails festival for the first time this year, but I've also enjoyed many years of the heart of the glens festival, the Lammis Fair and the Salmon and Whiskey Festival and I just this weekend attended the newly rebranded Rathlin Sound Festival.

• I was also lucky enough to be at the GAA world games, Ballymoney Fair, Derry Fleadh and the NW200

There have been too many events this year to mention all of them, but please be assured that I enjoyed meeting every person, community group and business in my role as Deputy Mayor and it has shown me what a wonderful place we live in with hard working and welcoming people living here.

I enjoyed meeting people from across the borough at community events and the talent in our area is second to none.

We have fantastic local organisations including the Women's Institute, disability groups, multi-cultural groups, schools and sporting clubs, to name but a few.

Thank you to all the volunteers and community groups within our Borough your work doesn't go unnoticed and is very much appreciated by all of us.

It was lovely today, as my last event as Deputy Mayor to join Councillor Callaghan on this, the 40th year of volunteer week to hear from the volunteers about the work they do, in the lovely setting of Cushendun.

Thank you to the Mayor for choosing a charity so close to my own heart as Mayor's charity – the RNLI.

As a family we will never forget what the RNLI has done for us.

I feel very proud of the amount we have raised I would like to thank Conor McAfee and Shauna McKernan from Redbay for all their help over the last year.

Thanks to the Mayor for giving me the honour to be at his side on so many occasions and allowing me to assist him in a wide and varied role.

We set out to work together and be as inclusive as possible and have made our year about real power-sharing and shown that it can work.

I have to give real credit to Steven for his ability to show true leadership for the Borough.

He led from the top and the feedback we have both received has proved to us we got it right.

I have found Steven a joy to work with and he will be a hard act to follow.

Thanks to Ethnie for her guidance and knowledge and can I praise the other staff across the council throughout my term in office.

Many thanks to each and every one of you.

Thanks to my family for their support on many occasions which was much appreciated.

And last but not least can I thank my party for putting me forward and giving me this opportunity.

I also wish the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor a successful year ahead”.

Alderman Fielding addressed Council,

“It’s hard to believe that we are now approaching a decade of Mayors on this council.

This will be my final time to call you Mr Mayor. After one year as a Councillor, Steven, it appeared a seamless transition for you taking on the mantle of Mayor and from what I observed you were a busy and a very good Mayor.

You certainly dedicated your year of office to the job - representing and getting yourself about across the length and breadth of the entire community in this Borough. To use a Northern Ireland expression, You were always well turned out and presented yourself well.

Special mention must also be made to the effort you put in on raising £12,000 for your chosen charity RNLI in its significant 200th anniversary year. I saw for myself that effort having attended some of your charity events. As we have heard tonight it was a charity close to the Deputy Mayor's heart also.

You couldn't have done the role of Mayor without the support of your wife Ruth and family and perhaps now a well-earned break and more time for the things you missed in the last year.

To the outgoing Deputy Mayor Councillor Margaret Anne McKillop well done for the support you have shown to the outgoing Mayor and to the many events you attended”.

Finally, I extend best wishes to the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor”.

Councillor Wilson addressed Council,

“Thank you Mayor and Deputy Mayor, I'll echo the comments that have gone before and I'm sure there will be more praise to come. Like my colleagues have said, like you have said, where has the last year gone, it goes by in the blink of an eye. This year has been different, I have been in post for ten years and I have absolutely no hesitation in saying you Mr Mayor, and the Deputy Mayor have set the bar the highest I have ever seen it set. To be the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for this Borough, for any Borough, it is an ambassadorial role which should transcend party politics and our party wranglings, any politics, religion or any sort of or bias. I know that on paper that is what we should do, but sometimes that is not possible, unless there are trailblazers, pioneers, people who are brave enough to do so. From the very offset Mayor yourself, and Margaret Anne metaphorically went hand in hand together, to make sure this was a year where this Borough was represented wholly and together showing compassion, showing a commitment to promoting the role and promoting this Borough and setting aside what has gone before. That was noted by the citizens of this Borough and it's what is needed in Northern Ireland for people to be brave enough to set political differences aside and do the best for the people, rather than what's best for themselves or their party.

I had the pleasure of bumping into you both, because if I ever saw Margaret Anne, I saw you Steven, and vice versa. I had the pleasure of meeting both of you at numerous events and various charity organisations, event organisers and members of the public, when they were speaking to me, knowing what my role is, would always say feedback they have noticed a difference this year, they have noticed a real quality has come into the ambassadorial role of Mayor and Deputy Mayor and that was noted. You have been a credit to absolutely all of us, a credit to the Borough and I hope

this is a beginning, not to be disparaging on any Mayor or Deputy Mayor that has went before, but you have pushed the bar higher.

On behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party we would like to thank you both for outstanding year, a year where we were not looking a numbers not quantity, it was quality, day after day, after week, I thank you for that. You are a credit. We also want to wish the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor best wishes for the year”.

Councillor Peacock addressed Council

“On behalf of the Sinn Féin group I would like to thank you for your dedication in the past year. You have been a personable and commendable advocate for our entire area and represented us as a fair, inclusive and diligent First Citizen. Thanks also to Margaret Anne who has carried out the role of Deputy Mayor with fervour and dedication. I wish both well for your future as you leave this role and look forward to continue working with you both as we move forward. Our sincere thanks for everything you have done over the past year and best wishes to the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor also.

Councillor Kane addressed Council:

“Thank you Mayor, on behalf of the Alliance Party Group I would like to echo the comments that have already been made in praising you and thanking you for your year of service, I think it is fair to say you have worn the Mayoral chain with distinction and we are very grateful for the ambassadorial role that you have set out throughout this last year. I also want to pay tribute to, and thank the Deputy Mayor for all of her work and dedication over the year, particularly in support of you and the Charity that you selected at the beginning of the year. The two of you have made a great double act and there was a real sense of partnership within the Mayor’s Office and that is something people very much noticed right across our Borough.

I would strongly encourage the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor to continue that spirit across this Chamber. I wish the Mayor and Deputy Mayor every success”.

Councillor Kyle addressed Council:

“I would like to make a few remarks on behalf of the TUV in Causeway Coast and Glens. Firstly, I would like to take the opportunity to thank you for your effort you have shown across our Borough during your Term of Office. I know firsthand you attended many events, of all sizes, including many in my own District of Causeway and I have to say that the small events are

more important to the people of our Borough than seeing the Office you held represented at the big events.

On a personal note, I would like to thank you for your kindness and friendship When Jonathan and I entered this Chamber a year ago, to a large extent we did not know what we would find, including how we would be treated by other Parties, but from yourself, Jonathan and I were always made welcome and greeted with a friendly smile. And I honestly feel you put more effort into bonding with us than any of the other 37 Councillors. I enjoyed our many conversations when we met out and about and on Council nights and I always found you have the upmost respect for all the Elected Representatives in our Chamber and indeed I feel you chaired our meetings with complete integrity.

I wish you all the best for the next three years in the slightly quieter role as a Councillor for Limavady and I hope you have a better health than you had towards the end of your Term of your Office. I hope you get a chance to spend more time with your wife, Ruth who I had the pleasure of meeting at the North West, than you have in the last year.

To Margaret Anne, our Deputy Mayor, I also thank you for your input, I always found you very approachable as a new Councillor in this Chamber. I thank you for your help, honesty and kindness. It was great to see how well you and The Mayor worked together. At most events this year, it was pleasing to see how involved you both were and it showed great teamwork on behalf of the Council. I would also like to wish you all the best for the remainder of your Term as a Councillor representing The Glens”.

Alderman Coyle addressed Council;

“Yourself and the Deputy Mayor certainly had a busy year there is no doubt about it. On behalf of the SDLP I would like to thank you both for the work you have carried out over the last twelve months. It has been an unusual relationship, in not only did you share your duties out, but you both appeared at many of the functions together and that has gone noticed quite well within the Borough, in our community. You both met many people in the Borough and beyond. You both led by example on how we can get on and work together with each other, without compromising our values, our identities, our backgrounds. Thank you both for your year and perhaps you will be able to take things a little easier, but not all that easier, you are both still Councillors.

You have left such a good impression when you have finished both your Terms of Office and I wish you both a good retirement from your Office of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. I wish the Incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor the very best and I hope they have as good a year as you have had in the last twelve months”.

Councillor Chivers addressed Council:

“As a fellow Limavady Councillor I want to congratulate you on a very successful year as Mayor. You are a credit to Limavady, I met you a couple of times at events you were brilliant and everybody was very proud of you. I wish you well over the next year, you deserve a break, you were a great team, congratulations to the Deputy Mayor you were brilliant together. Good luck on your well-deserved rest, thank you”.

Alderman Boyle addressed Council:

“Thank you, Mayor, could I echo what other people have said, to note your friendliness, and accessibility in all the events I met you and other people that were with me noticed that also. You were also quick witted, when I gave you some feedback once that you were fond of wearing special jumpers on special occasions and when I gave you feedback I thought The Mayor’s Chain was lost a little bit on your highly ornate Christmas Jumper you said to me, this was at an event on Rathlin, I see you are wearing a hat that resembles a tea cosy, which it did a bit. So for your humour and friendliness thank you”.

Councillor Watton addressed Council;

“Mr Mayor for the last time, you came in at a time, lets be blunt, the Chamber, in the last Term, was poisonous, it was a bad atmosphere and I always enjoyed coming in here, it got to the stage where I didn’t enjoy it at all and, I wasn’t on my own, believe you me. So, it was good to get you and Margaret Anne on tow the way you conducted yourselves and what you did over the year. The £12,000 for RNLi was absolutely outstanding. You were a Mayor for everyone, as was Margaret Anne. I think you will be a hard act to follow.

I wish the best to the new Mayor and Deputy Mayor and the only thing I have to say is that after a very long year Margaret Anne promised she would get me a ticket for a Liverpool match but she never came through, but we will not hold that against her, after her year of dedication. I wish you all the best, you will not be retiring the two of you, I wish you all the best in the future and thank you very much”.

Alderman Callan addressed Council;

“Thank you, Mr Mayor, as your colleague in Limavady, I want to add my comments and echo what has already been said tonight, you richly deserve all the comments made tonight about your Mayorship. Over the last year you have shone through and have led this Chamber in a very positive manner and a good tone setter for the rest of this term. As has already

been highlighted we had a difficult Term last year and I think it has been a remarkable change in the Chamber.

I would also like to congratulate you on your efforts that you have done for your Charity. I had the pleasure of supporting you in your efforts including lugging bacon and sausages from the butchers down to your breakfast morning in Christ Church. It was well attended, and I know you had great support from the community in your efforts and I would like to wish you all the best in the remainder for your Term.

To your Deputy, who ably supported you throughout the last year, it has been a great starter for our Term and I wish the new Mayor and incoming Deputy Mayor all the best in their Term as well”.

The Mayor thanked Elected Members for their moving and touching tributes.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

5. POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY YEAR 2

5.1 Nomination of Mayor 2024 – 2025 / Incoming Mayor’s Address

The Chief Executive stated well done on a fantastic year to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

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

Councillor Peacock nominated Councillor Ciarán McQuillan, who was declared Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2024/2025.

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

5.2 Nomination of Deputy Mayor 2024 – 2025 / Incoming Deputy Mayor’s Address

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

Alderman Fielding nominated Councillor Tanya Stirling, who was declared Deputy Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the year 2024/2025.

5.3 Nominations to remaining Positions of Responsibility Year 2 2024 – 2025

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 Amy Mairs	Alliance
Vice Chair, Environmental Services	Councillor Jonathan McAuley	TUV
Chair, Leisure and Development	Councillor Kathleen McGurk	SF
Vice Chair, Leisure and Development	Councillor Richard Holmes	UUP
Chair, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Alderman Michelle Knight-McQuillan	DUP
Vice Chair, Corporate Policy and Resources Committee	Councillor Peter McCully	Alliance
Chair, Planning Committee	Alderman Sandra Hunter	UU
Vice Chair, Planning Committee	Councillor Russell Watton	PUP
Chair, Audit Committee	Councillor Brenda Chivers	SF
Vice Chair, Audit Committee	Councillor Jonathan McAuley	TUV
Chair, Finance Committee	Councillor Dawn Huggins	DUP
Vice Chair, Finance Committee	Councillor John Wisener	UUP
Partnership Panel	Councillor Leanne Peacock continues a 4-year Term	
NI Housing Council	Councillor Sean McGlinchey continues a 4-year term	
Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association / Veterans' Champion	Councillor Philip Anderson	

The Chief Executive clarified the next Partnership Panel Meeting had been postponed due to the Election.

6. INCOMING MAYOR'S ADDRESS

Mayor, Councillor McQuillan addressed Council:

"I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the outgoing Mayor, Steven Callaghan, and the Deputy Mayor, Margaret Ann McKillop, for their outstanding contributions over the past year.

Their dedication and high-quality representation have set a commendable standard that will indeed be challenging to uphold.

It is a great privilege to assume the role of Mayor of this Council, and I extend my heartfelt thanks to my party for this opportunity.

I also wish to extend my congratulations to Councillor Sterling on her appointment as Deputy Mayor. I eagerly anticipate collaborating with her over the next twelve months.

Last year, people in Ballymoney and other districts across the borough voted for change.

Today, I am proud to stand before you as a representative of that change.

I am honoured to be the first nationalist Mayor from North Antrim.

And as the youngest Mayor in the history of this Council, I will amplify the voices and aspirations of our youth. It is my goal not only to highlight their talents and ambitions but also to address the challenges they face.

Last November, we took a significant step by bringing forward a motion to tackle mental health issues through leisure activities. As Mayor, I am committed to promoting and addressing the mental health challenges throughout our council area.

I fully acknowledge the responsibilities that come with being the Council's first citizen, and I embrace this challenge with enthusiasm.

I want to exemplify the ongoing change across our island, from Crookhaven in Cork to Rathlin Island here in the North and my aim is to engage, visit, highlight, and represent all within Causeway Coast and Glens.

And I give you all my commitment that I will use this office to the very best of my ability to deliver for all.

I will continue to reach out the hand of friendship.

I will be a Mayor for All.

And I will continue to do everything in my power to attract jobs, investments and opportunities to this district.

This is an incredible place.

It is full of incredible people.

And I know we can build an incredible future.

I am eager to participate in these events and many more that will showcase our food, culture, geography, talents, and achievements throughout my tenure as Mayor.

As the Mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Council, it is my privilege, along with the rest of you and our officer team, to represent this area and all it has to offer.

Together, we will strive to make this year remarkable and to deliver a brighter future for all our communities”.

8. INCOMING DEPUTY MAYOR’S ADDRESS

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Stirling addressed Council,

“Thank you to my party for the vote of confidence that has allowed this honour to be bestowed upon me to represent Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.

I thank you Colleagues for your unrelenting guidance and counsel during my short political career.

I wish the outgoing Mayor Councillor Steven Callaghan and Margaret Anne McKillop well and I thank them for their work throughout the past year.

Thank you to my family and friends for their unrivalled support and patience and I will return all the phone calls and attend a family event at some point soon.

I relish the challenge of the year ahead, representing our diverse borough.

I believe we live in the best borough in Northern Ireland and as elected custodian of the borough I want to ensure that we create growth and sustainability for all in the Causeway Coast and Glens. I am so proud to be from this place we all call home.

The Mayor and I may come from different political backgrounds but regardless of that, on my part, I will work tirelessly to represent all.

Serving people in this Borough in any Role is a privilege and honour and I will represent All within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough to the best of my ability.

I look forward to working with each of you during the coming year”.

10. COMMITTEE ALLOCATIONS - APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES

Circulated for information.

The Chief Executive stated Nominating Officers could make any committee changes before the next Committees form for the year.

11. APPOINTMENTS

11.1 Appointments to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland

Report, previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to invite Council to nominate two Councillors to be put forward to apply for an Appointment to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland.

Correspondence has been received from Gavin Irwin, DfI Public Appointments Unit, Department for Infrastructure, dated 16 May 2024 (attached Appendix A) requesting that Council submit two Councillor nominees to be considered by the Infrastructure Minister for appointment to the Drainage Council.

Further detail was provided within the report.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council nominate two Councillors to apply to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland from the following under-represented groups women; younger people; people with disabilities; and people from ethnic minority backgrounds.

RESOLVED – that Party Leads submit nominations to apply to the Drainage Council for Northern Ireland and a report will be brought back to Corporate Policy and Resources Committee with the nominations, for ratifying or if oversubscribed, to draw straws for the names to go forward.

11.2 Correspondence – Cease of Appointment to NI Strategic Migration Partnership

Report previously circulated, presented as read by The Chief Executive.

Northern Ireland Local Government Association (L O’Kane, NILGA, correspondence dated 7 May 2024

Following a request for information by the Review of the Roles and Responsibilities of Councillors in Northern Ireland on how often Council’s External Appointments meet, Council Officers were provided with an update in relation to its nomination to the NI Strategic Migration Partnership.

NILGA has confirmed it no longer has a contract with the Home Office to run the NI Strategic Migration Partnership, NILGA has advised that all of this work is being carried out by The Executive Office.

The External Appointments Schedule has been updated with the removal of this nomination and the relevant Party Lead and their nominee will be advised following this meeting.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the removal of NI Strategic Migration Partnership from Council’s External Appointments Schedule.

RESOLVED - Council NOTED the report.

11.3 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 7.45pm.

Chair