

# NORTHERN IRELAND BRIDGE UNION

## COUNCIL

A summary of business discussed at two Emergency meetings held on August 7<sup>th</sup> and September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014.

### **August 7<sup>th</sup>** (Jordanstown)

Present: John Bergin, Michael McFaul, Greer Mackenzie, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ciara Burns, Eric McNicholl, Anne Hassan, Norma Irwin, Colin Jeffries, Pat Johnston, John Murchan, Ian Lindsay.

Apologies: Robin Burns, Ian Hamilton.

The meeting was called to address concerns expressed by a number of Council members surrounding a meeting held between the Chairman, Hon. Secretary and a member of the Union who had been the subject of a complaint emanating from the 2104 Camrose NPC report.

A full and frank exchange of views took place during which a majority of those present expressed concern that Council had not been informed in advance that such a meeting was taking place. Some felt that to hold the meeting at the member's home was disrespectful to the NPC.

Members asked that copies of all correspondence between the Secretary and the member concerned be circulated.

The Chairman and Secretary strongly defended their actions.

It was agreed that a small sub-group consisting of John Bergin, Anne Fitzpatrick and Greer Mackenzie would draft a letter to the member, for Council approval at the next meeting.

### **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** (Belfast)

Present: John Bergin, Michael McFaul, Greer Mackenzie, Anne Fitzpatrick, Ciara Burns, Eric McNicholl, Anne Hassan

Apologies: Robin Burns, Norma Irwin, Colin Jeffries, Pat Johnston, John Murchan, Ian Hamilton, Ian Lindsay

The meeting was called to conclude business relating to the Camrose NPC report. Prior to that members agreed a new Code of Conduct drawn up by the Laws & Ethics Committee. Two minor amendments were agreed. Council thanked the Law & Ethics Committee for an excellent Code of Conduct. MMcF agreed to thank Shelagh McCaughan who was largely responsible for the document and post to the website.

CB expressed concern that so many members continued to be absent from meetings despite the exhortation to attend that was issued in the time of her Chairmanship.

CB left the meeting having declared an interest in the main item of business.

Members expressed concern that the Laws & Ethics Committee had not felt it appropriate to instigate action following referral of the Camrose NPC report. It was hoped that a revised Disciplinary Procedure would be presented to Council in the near future and that it would provide a sound basis for dealing with similar cases in future.

A lengthy discussion took place with all agreeing that the matter must be brought to a close.

The context of the NPC report and the member's response to it were considered in detail. It was agreed that it would not be appropriate to invoke disciplinary action on this occasion.

The text of a letter to the member was discussed and eventually agreement on its content was reached.

It was stressed that this item of correspondence would, in Council's view, bring this matter to a close.

Michael McFaul

Hon. Secretary