

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN

Minutes of Final Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Monday 30 March 2015 at 7.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

In the Chair Councillor D Hughes

In Attendance Councillor W Burns
Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey
Councillor S Doran
Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor S Ennis
Councillor J Feehan
Councillor F Feely
Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor A Flynn
Councillor V Harte
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland
Councillor D Hughes
Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor J McArdle
Councillor D McAteer
Councillor C McGreevy
Councillor H McKee
Councillor A Moffett
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murphy
Councillor B O'Muiri
Councillor J Patterson
Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor D Taylor

Officials in Attendance Mr E Curtis, Clerk & Chief Executive
Mr J Farrell, Director of Environment, Health & Building Services
Ms B Phillips, Acting Joint Director of Finance
Mr E McManus, Deputy Director of Technical/Leisure Services
Ms C McKenna, Assistant Director of Administration (General Services)
Ms R Mackin, Assistant Director of Administration (Equality)

Ms C Sweeney, Assistant Director of Administration
(HR)
Ms L Dillon, Committee Administrator

Apologies None

The Mayor of Council welcomed everyone to the last meeting of Newry & Mourne District Council.

M/75/2015: - MINUTES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Monday 2 March 2015 be adopted as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.

**M/76/2015: MINUTES
- DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
- MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feely, seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed the Minutes of the District Development Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 March 2015 be adopted as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.

FINANCE SECTION

**M/77/2015: TREASURER'S ADVICE SHEET
(REF: F/1)**

Read: Treasurer's Advice Sheet in respect of payments for the month of February 2015 (B Run) in the sum of £1,320,114.34. ***(Copy circulated)***

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above payments.

Read: Treasurer's Advice Sheet in respect of payments for the month of March 2015 (A Run) in the sum of £237,218.39. ***(Copy circulated)***

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above payments.

**M/78/2015: EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS
- MANUAL PAYMENTS
(REF: F/1)**

Read: Examination of Accounts in respect of manual payments for the month of February 2015 (B Run) in the sum of £187,496.12. ***(Copy circulated)***

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above payments.

Read: Examination of Accounts in respect of manual payments for the month of March 2015 (A Run) in the sum of £19,357.87. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above payments.

M/79/2015: IMPREST ACCOUNT

Read: Analysis of revenue payments made through the Imprest account for the month of March 2015 in the sum of £9,428.88. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above payments.

**M/80/2015: NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE
(REF: F/1)**

Read: Report on Net Revenue Expenditure year to date as at 31 January 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to mark the above report 'noted'.

**M/81/2015: REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE
-MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015
(REF: G/6/1/A)**

Read: Report of Audit Committee Meeting held on Monday 16 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed to approve report and recommendations contained therein.

**M/82/2015: UPDATE
-RE IN YEAR FORECAST
(REF: F/1)**

Ms B Phillips, Joint Acting Director of Finance gave a verbal update on the In Year Forecast on Rates income for year ending 31 March 2015. An email was received from the Department of Finance & Personnel dated 11 March 2015 confirming that having completed the February calculation, the forecast outturn for Newry & Mourne District Council was a figure of £459,000.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed that details of the In Year Forecast on Rates income for year ending 31 March 2015 in respect of Newry and Mourne District Council be circulated to Members for information.

**M/83/2015: H M REVENUE & CUSTOMS
RE: TRADE WASTE CLAIM**

Read: Correspondence dated 15 August 2014 from HM Revenue & Customs offering a sum of £32,735.40 in full settlement in respect of a VAT claim for trade waste services relating to the period 1 July 2007 to 31 March 2011.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to accept payment from HM Revenue & Customs in the sum of £32,735.40 in full settlement of a VAT claim for trade waste services up to 31 March 2011.

ENVIRONMENT HEALTH & BUILDING SERVICES

**M/84/2015: NIEA PARTNERSHIP PROJECT – FLY TIPPING
(REF: SC/1/2)**

Mr J Farrell Director of Environment Health & Building Services referred to correspondence dated 5 December 2014 from NIEA advising that funding towards the Partnership project to address fly tipping was estimated to end by the end of December 2014 when the budget would be exhausted and the Council would be formally notified by email when the project would be suspended. Since the issue of this email NIEA have identified additional monies and have indicated this will allow them to continue with the service of collecting waste diesel sludge.

Noted: It was noted that following confirmation from NIEA to the Director of Environmental, Health & Building Services that monies had been identified, this will enable the continuation of the NIEA Partnership Project to address fly tipping.

A report will be given to the new Council at a later stage regarding the introduction of a new diesel marker.

**M/85/2015: REPORT OF PUBLIC MEETING
RE STROKE UNIT AT DAISY HILL HOSPITAL
- THURSDAY 26 FEBRUARY 2015
(REF: G/13/19)**

Read: Report of Public Meeting held on Thursday 26 February 2015 regarding the Stroke Unit at Daisy Hill Hospital Newry. ***(Copy circulated)***

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor Feely it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feely seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed a letter be sent to the Minister for Health & Social Services & Public Safety requesting that he outline how he plans to address the package for homecare for stroke patients and what plan will be put in place to improve rural transport schemes should the proposal to downgrade the Stroke Unit at Daisy Hill Hospital go ahead.

Agreed: A letter be sent to the Southern Health & Social Care Trust requesting they rescind the decision to move the Stroke service from Daisy Hill Hospital to Craigavon Area Hospital in light of the fact that this decision was based on only 13% of the Newry & Mourne population participation in the consultation.

Agreed: Mr E Curtis Clerk & Chief Executive to follow up a previous decision taken at the District Development Committee Meeting on 16 March 2015 to seek legal advices regarding the closure of the Stroke Unit at Daisy Hill Hospital with particular reference to lack of consultation.

Several Councillors spoke of the success of the rally which was well attended by so many people.

**M/86/2015: REPORT OF SPECIAL HEALTH SERVICE WORKING GROUP MEETING
-MONDAY 9 MARCH 2015
(REF: G/13/19)**

Read: Report of Special Health Service Working Group Meeting held on Monday 9 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor Feely it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

TECHNICAL/LEISURE SERVICES

**M/87/2015: REPORT OF SINGLE LEISURE COMMITTEE MEETING
-THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2015
(REF: R/S 310)**

Read: Report of Single Leisure Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**M/88/2015: REPORT OF TECHNICAL/LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
- WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2015
(REF: MT/2/5)**

Read: Report of Technical/Leisure Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

On the proposal of Councillor McArdle seconded by Councillor Flynn it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

The following issues were referred to the Technical/Leisure Department:-

1. White lines at playing pitch at St Colman's Sports Facility

Agreed: Mr E Curtis Clerk & Chief Executive to follow up with St Colman's College the provision of white lines and signage for soccer and rugby at the St Colman's sports facility and provide an update to Councillor Burns in due course.

2. Provision of defibrillator - Cargineagh Road Playing Fields

Agreed: A defibrillator to be provided at Cargineagh Road Playing Fields Kilkeel.

ROADS/WATER/NIE SECTION

**M/89/2015: REPORT OF FEWS/NEWRY TOWN/SLIEVE GULLION SITE MEETING
RE: LANDS AT ALTNAVEIGH NEWRY
-MONDAY 16 MARCH 2015
(REF: R/S 275)**

Read: Report of Fews/Newry Town/Slieve Gullion Site Meeting plus anyone interested Councillor held on Monday 16 March 2015 regarding land at Altnaveigh Newry (Thomas Davis GFC). **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feely seconded by Councillor Kimmins it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**M/90/2015: FUNDING – RING OF GULLION AONB OFFICE
(REF: G/4/40/1)**

Concern was expressed regarding the withdrawal of funding for the Ring of Gullion AONB office which would have a very negative impact on the area in terms of programmed events, the promotion of tourism and environmental education.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed the Council write to Mr Mark Durkin Minister for the Environment requesting a meeting to discuss the proposed cuts in government funding for environmental heritage, conservation and tourism groups which include the Ring of Gullion AONB group.

It was also agreed to request the Chief Executive of the new Newry Mourne & Down District Council to contact Mark Durkin Minister for the Environment requesting a meeting with the new Council to discuss the proposed cuts in funding which will affect the Ring of Gullion area of outstanding natural beauty.

Noted: Mr E Curtis Clerk & Chief Executive confirmed Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive of Newry Mourne & Down District Council had already written to Mr M Durkan Minister for the Environment seeking a meeting regarding the proposed cuts in government funding which will affect the Ring of Gullion AONB.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed the Minister for the Department for the Environment also be requested to review the decision to implement cuts in government funding which will affect the Mourne Heritage Trust.

Noted: Mr Curtis explained that the Chief Executive of the Ring of Gullion has requested a coming together of the relevant groups to discuss a strategy following the announcement of government cuts to environmental heritage conservation and tourism groups in advance of a meeting with the Minister.

**M/91/2015: REPORT OF NEWRY TOWN MEETING – 26 JANUARY 2015
RE: FAMINE COMMEMORATION/ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN MITCHEL'S BIRTH
(REF: R/S 175/5 VB/25)**

Read: Report of Newry Town Meeting held on 26 January 2015 regarding the 2015 Famine Commemoration and the 200th Anniversary of John Mitchel's birth. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McArdle seconded by Councillor McAteer it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**M/92/2015: REPORT OF NEWRY TOWN MEETING – WEDNESDAY
18 MARCH 2015
RE FAMINE COMMEMORATION/ANNIVERSARY OF JOHN
MITCHEL’S BIRTH
(REF: R/S 175/5 VB/25)**

Read: Report of Newry Town Councillors Meeting held on Wednesday 18 March 2015 regarding the 2015 Famine Commemoration and the 200th Anniversary of John Mitchel’s Birth. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McArdle seconded by Councillor Flynn it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.**

**M/93/2015: REPORT OF NEWRY TOWN COUNCILLORS MEETING
RE: CONSULTATION – NEWRY TREATMENT AND CARE CENTRE
- TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015
- (REF: G/13/19A)**

Read: Report of Newry Town Councillors Meeting held on Tuesday 24 March 2015 regarding consultation on Newry Treatment & Care Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.**

Noted: Mr Curtis said he had met with the developer regarding the use of pitches at Jennings Park. The developer acknowledged the community did not wish for these pitches to be used for development and has supported the retention of the pitches in this area.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed that Jennings Park will not be sold.**

**M/94/2015: REPORT OF MOURNES COUNCILLORS MEETING
-RE ANNALONG GATE – MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015
(REF: H/5)**

Read: Report of Mourne Councillors Meeting held on Monday 23 March 2015 regarding Annalong gate. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor McKee it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.**

**M/95/2015: ANTI SOCIAL INCIDENT
-ANNALONG CARAVAN SITE
(REF: H/5)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McKee seconded by Councillor Burns it was agreed a meeting be held with PSNI and relevant Council officials regarding an anti social incident which occurred at the Caravan Site in Annalong in which two motor homes were damaged.

CORPORATE/DEMOCRATIC/ADMINISTRATION SECTION

**M/96/2015: REPORT OF STAFF & POLICY/EQUALITY COMMITTEE MEETING
-TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015
(REF: M/4/3)**

Read: Report of Staff & Policy/Equality Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 24 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

Agreed: Ms C Sweeney HR arrange to provide Councillor McGreevy with numbers of posts which have had a pay increase following Local Government restructuring.

**M/97/2015: HR REPORT
(REF: M/51)**

Read: HR Report from Ms C Sweeney Assistant Director of Administration *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feely seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**M/98/2015: REPORT OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
-THURSDAY 5 MARCH 2015
(REF: SB/13)**

Read: Report of Planning Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feely seconded by Councillor Reilly it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein subject to amending comments by Councillor Feely on page 3, Minute No. P/23/2015, to read:-
“Councillor Feely expressed thanks to the former representatives of the Planning Service for attending the Planning Development Committee Meetings of Newry & Mourne District Council.

It was also agreed to record apologies from Councillor McAteer.

M/99/2015: SEALING OF DOCUMENTS
(REF: M/65)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed the Mayor and the Clerk & Chief Executive of Council sign and seal the following documents on behalf of the Council:-

1. **Appointment Agreement – NI Local Government Officers’ Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC); Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; Down District Council; Newry and Mourne District Council – Transfer of Pensions.**
2. **Assignment – VAT Claims and Landfill Tax Claims.**
3. **Lease – Slieve Gullion Courtyard – lease of Unit 1 from Clanyre Group.**
4. **Lease – PSNI and NMDC re: accommodation at McGrath House Newry – Drop in Shop.**
5. **Deed of Grant of Easement – NMDC and Cove Developments Limited re: Lay and maintain a pipeline – Glassdrumman Road Annalong.**
6. **Novation Agreement – NMDC / NMDDC / INI re: Letters of Offer for LED Programmes:**
 - **Energy Connections**
 - **Social Enterprise Newry & Mourne**
7. **Contributions Agreement - St Patrick’s GAC Dromintee £92,000.**
8. **Agreement of funding - Mourne Home 2 Hospital Transport Scheme 2015/2016 – NMDC/SPACE/Newry & Mourne Community Transport.**
9. **Legal Agreement – Newry Hockey Club.**

MISCELLANEOUS

**M/100/2015: REPORT OF ALBERT BASIN SUB COMMITTEE MEETING PLUS INTERESTED COUNCILLORS
TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2015
(REF: R/S 89/2/14/A)**

Read: Report of Albert Basin Sub Committee Meeting plus all interested Councillors held on Tuesday 24 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Flynn seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to approve the above report with the exception of recommendation numbers 2 and 3.

Recommendation Nos 2 and 3 as follows, to be referred to the new Newry Mourne & Down District Council for consideration:

- (2) That the outstanding recommendation in regard to a meeting with Stakeholders Council Officers, Planner and Roads Service to be held on site, be actioned (this meeting to include Senior Officers and CEO)
- (3) That the new Council continues with the Albert Basin Sub Committee or a similar vehicle and that the direction of travel in regard to the development of this site continues in relation to the existing notice of motion.

**M/101/2015: LAND AT MANSE ROAD KILKEEL
(REF: TC/3)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McKee seconded by Councillor Burns it was agreed that issues regarding land at Manse Road Kilkeel and Mourne Stimulus be referred to the new Newry Mourne & Down District Council for consideration.

**M/102/2015: LEASE OF PORTACABIN SITES
- NORMAN BROWN PARK DAMOLLY
(REF: R/S 107)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor seconded by Councillor Feely it was agreed to approve the lease of portacabin sites at Norman Brown Park Damolly Newry to Damolly FC, subject to all matters being in order.

**M/103/2015: REQUEST FOR ERECTION OF COMMERCIAL SIGNAGE
- MILLTOWN PLAYING FIELDS
(REF: SC/1/4)**

Record: Councillor McGreevy declared an interest in the item to discuss a request from Warrenpoint Town FC to erect commercial signage on the boundary fence at Milltown Playing Fields as he was a member of Warrenpoint Town FC and had submitted the written request to the Council regarding this matter.

Read: Email dated 12 March 2015 from C McGreevy Warrenpoint Town FC requesting if the Club can erect commercial signage on the boundary fence between Milltown Tennis Courts and Milltown Playing Fields.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed senior Council Officials meet with representatives from Warrenpoint Town FC to agree the Clubs require meets in terms of erecting commercial signage at Milltown Playing Fields.**

**M/104/2015: LEGAL AGREEMENT
- MOURNE HOME 2 HOSPITAL TRANSPORT SCHEME 2015/2016
(REF: G/13/19)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee seconded by Councillor Burns it was agreed to approve the Legal Agreement between the Council, SPACE and Newry & Mourne Community Transport for the delivery of Mourne Home 2 Hospital Transport Scheme 2015/2016, in the sum of £10,000. Finance to be provided from Southern Health & Social Services grant.**

Record: Councillor Quinn declared an interest in this item.

**M/105/2015: MAJOR CAPITAL SCHEMES
(REF: F/1)**

Mr E Curtis Clerk & Chief Executive gave a verbal progress report on the following major capital schemes:-

- (i) Valley Rangers FC Ballinran Kilkeel (£200,000)
- (ii) Ballyveagh Rangers FC – Carginagh Road Kilkeel (£13,000 – £15,000)
- (iii) Cloughervan MUGA Bessbrook (£100,000)
- (iv) Dromintee GFC Capital Project (£92,000)
- (v) Newry Hockey Club Renovation Project (£20,000)
- (vi) Newry Food Bank Project (£5,000)

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the updates given in respect of major capital schemes.**

**M/106/2015: REQUEST FROM QUAYS SHOPPING CENTRE
USE OF ST CHRISTOPHER'S PARK
CAR PARKING PURPOSES
(REF: PH/13/2)**

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed Mr L Hannaway Chief Executive Newry Mourne & Down District Council, Mr E Curtis Chief Executive Newry & Mourne District Council meet with representatives from the Quays Shopping Centre Newry to discuss the request to use St Christopher's Park for parking and report back with recommendations to the new Newry Mourne & Down District Council in due course.

**M/107/2015: REPORT OF FEWS COUNCILLORS MEETING
RE: BUSINESS CASE CAMLOUGH COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
- FRIDAY 20 MARCH 2015
(REF: CC/7)**

Read: Report of Fews Councillors Meeting held on Friday 20 March 2015 regarding business case for Camlough Community Association. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed to note the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**M/108/2015: REPORT OF CROTLIEVE COUNCILLORS MEETING
RE WARRENPOINT BOWLING CLUB
MONDAY 9 MARCH 2015
(REF: BG/8)**

Read: Report of Crotlieve Councillors Meeting held on Monday 9 March 2015 regarding Warrenpoint Bowling Club. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations contained therein.

**M/109/2015: REPORT OF NEWRY TOWN COUNCILLORS MEETING
RE SOUTH DOWN COMMUNITY RESCUE ASSOCIATION
MONDAY 23 MARCH 2015
(REF: VB/1)**

Read: Report of Newry Town Councillors Meeting plus all interested Councillors and South Down Rescue Association held on Monday 23 March 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Harte it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations contained therein subject to recording apologies for Councillor Carr.

**M/110/2015: REPORT OF NEWRY & MOURNE POLICING COMMITTEE MEETING
-9 MARCH 2015
(REF: SB/16/8/A)**

Read: Report of Newry & Mourne Policing Committee Meeting held on 9 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor Burns it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations contained therein.

**M/111/2015: REPORT OF NEWRY & MOURNE POLICING & COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING
-9 MARCH 2015
(REF: SB/16/8/A)**

Read: Report of Newry & Mourne Policing & Community Partnership Committee Meeting held on 9 March 2015. *(Copy circulated)*

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**M/112/2015: ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWRY
-RE REQUEST TO WAIVE HIRE FEES – NEWRY TOWN HALL
(REF: CP/4)**

Read: Correspondence dated 9 March 2015 from St Joseph's Convent Primary School Newry request the Council waive hire fees for Newry Town Hall in the sum of £415 for a school fundraising event to be held on 29/30 May 2015.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feely seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed the Council make a financial contribution in the sum of £250 to St Joseph's Convent Primary School Newry towards costs incurred by the school for the hire of Newry Town Hall for a school fundraising event on the 29/30 May 2015, subject to usual terms and conditions in respect of granting such financial contributions.

**M/113/2015: REPORT OF CROTLIEVE COUNCILLORS MEETING
RE WARRENPOINT PARK
19 MARCH 2015
(REF: R/S 37)**

Read: Report of Crotlieve Councillors Meeting held on 19 March 2015 regarding Warrenpoint Park. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.**

**M/114/2015: REPORT OF FEWS COUNCILLORS MEETING
-DERRYMORE ESTATE PARTNERSHIP
-13 MARCH 2015
(REF: R/S 169)**

Read: Report of Fews Councillors Meeting held on 13 March 2015 regarding Derrymore Estate Partnership. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations contained therein.**

**M/115/2015: REPORT OF INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
MEETING
-26 MARCH 2015
(REF: M/4/1)**

Read: Report of Integrated Rural Development Committee Meeting held on 26 March 2015. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Burns seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations contained therein.**

**M/116/2015: USE OF WARRENPOINT SQUARE
-BELLS AMUSEMENTS
(REF: R/S 79/1)**

Noted: Bells Amusements have an agreement in place with the Council for the use of Warrenpoint Square Car Park for a total of 5 weeks, ie, St Patrick's week, Easter week and 3 weeks in August at a rental of £1,000 per week.

Bells Amusements have requested they be permitted to stay an extra week in March 2015 and take 2 weeks only in August 2015 rather than 3 weeks.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed relevant Council officials urgently meet with Bells Amusements to negotiate an arrangement in respect of their use of Warrenpoint Square Car Park and their request to remain on site for an extra week in March and take 2 weeks in August as opposed to 3 weeks.

**M/117/2015: NEWRY EI SCHEME
-OUTSTANDING MONIES DUE – PAINTINGS
(REF: G/4/27/6)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed the Council pay an outstanding amount due to Cunningham Contracts Ltd in the sum of £2,627.27 plus VAT regarding paintings which were used for the Newry EI Scheme - Monaghan Street/Hill Street. It was acknowledged this is a cost to NMDC as grant aid deadline has expired.

**M/118/2015: ST JOHN'S AMBULANCE
-PARKING SPACE
(REF: G/13/3)**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor Hyland it was agreed relevant Council officials work with St John's Ambulance to identify a suitable parking location for ambulance vehicles.

**M/119/2015: PROVISION OF LARGE MARKETING SCREEN
- HILL STREET NEWRY
(REF: M/81/15)**

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed the Council approve the provision of the following to facilitate the installation of the large tv/marketing electronic screen at event space on Hill Street Newry:

- To appoint Structural Engineer.
- To procure Piling Consultant to include installation.
- To appoint contractor to install large screen.
- Installation of Internet and electricity connections.

**M/120/2015: PLAY PARK/GREEN AREA – HILLSIDE DRIVE KILKEEL
(REF: R/S 77/63)**

Read: Email dated 27 March 2015 from Newry Street Unite Community Group requesting the Council continue to be responsible for and maintain the play park and green area at Hillside Drive Kilkeel after the area has underwent an upgrading scheme by the Newry Street Unite Community Group.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Quinn seconded by Councillor Burns it was agreed to approve a request from Newry Street Unite Community Group for the Council to continue to be responsible for and maintain the play park and green area at Hillside Drive Kilkeel following upgrading works to be carried out by the Community Group subject to meeting on site with Council officials and local Councillors to ensure all matters are in order.

M/121/2015:- CLOSING REMARKS FOR NMDC
REF: (M/42)

The Mayor of Council, Councillor Hughes said it had been an honour and privilege to represent the Council as its first citizen. He wished everyone well who would be continuing into the new Council and extended best wishes to those who would be retiring. He said it had been very enjoyable working with everyone.

Councillor Ruane on behalf of the Sinn Fein grouping on the Council, commended the Mayor on his year in office and for representing the District so well. He wished him well in his new post in Brussels. He also extended best wishes to the Councillors who would be leaving.

Councillor Moffett extended congratulations to the Mayor for his year in office. He extended thanks to Council Directors and their staff for all the help over the years. He thanked his fellow Fews Councillors David Taylor and John Feehan with whom he worked closely and he extended all Councillors best wishes for the future.

Councillor Burns thanked all the Council staff in particular Thomas McCall whom he said remained very faithful to Newry & Mourne District Council. He thanked Council Officers and staff and said he enjoyed his time with Newry and Mourne. He thanked all the Councillors and hoped people coming into the new Council would work hard for the District. He said we were living in better times now and it was his hope that people could continue to live and work together and bring up their families and he wished everyone all the best.

Councillor Casey said as the new Council would soon take over power it was important to acknowledge the contribution of outgoing Councillors and he paid special tribute to Councillor Patterson and Councillor Feely. He said he was confident the new Councillors would do an excellent job.

Councillor Carr on behalf of the SDLP party grouping on the Council, extended best wishes to the outgoing Councillors, in particular his party colleagues. He extended his appreciation to Council officers and their staff and to former Council officers. He paid tribute to Councillor Michael Cole who died during service. He thanked the outgoing Mayor who had worked so hard and said that both he and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Quinn, made a good team.

Councillor McGreevy congratulated the Mayor on his year in office and wished him well in the future. He extended thanks and praise to everyone on the Council. He said the role of Councillor was difficult but enjoyable and he had enjoyed working with members and extended best wishes to all those who would be leaving the Council. He wished

those going forward into the new Council all the best and hoped they would work together to deliver more prosperity for the Newry Mourne and Down District.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Feely seconded by Councillor Hughes it was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the organisers of the Newry Drama Festival.

Councillor Feely expressed thanks to the voters who voted him over the years. He referred to the granting of City Status for Newry and to the Good Friday Agreement which was one of the most historical moments in the long history of Northern Ireland which instituted power sharing on a strong basis. He said he enjoyed his year as Mayor of Council and referred to the many friends he made over the years including his best friend Councillor Patterson, and personal friends Councillor Moffett and Councillor Murphy. He thanked Councillor Casey for the kind remarks and recognised the work which was done though some very difficult years and that the people who were injured and killed should be remembered. He welcomed the fact the Council had received several awards for Community Relations and this still remains very much part of the Councils role today. He said he hoped the new Council would continue the good work done by Newry & Mourne District Council. He thanked the Mayor for an excellent year in office and he thanked the press for carrying on the campaign to save Daisy Hill Hospital. He thanked his party colleagues, former Clerks and Chief Executives, Directors and staff. He said those who were retiring would do so knowing they made a difference and he wished everyone well for the future.

Councillor Feehan congratulated the Mayor and Deputy Mayor on their year in office and extended good luck to Councillor Hughes on his new role in Brussels. He thanked officers and Directors for their help over the last 16 years and paid tribute to the excellent staff. He said he had been co-opted onto Council in 1999 and he thanked everyone who had voted for him in the past three Elections. He thanked former Fews Councillors, Jimmy McCreesh, Danny Kennedy, Councillor Moffett and Councillor Taylor whom he worked well with over the years. He also expressed thanks to former Councillor Pat Toner who was a great help to him when he first joined the Council. He wished those going forward with the new Council good luck and extended best wishes to those retiring.

Councillor McArdle thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for their year in office. He said he had been on the Council for 14 years and it had been a privilege to help and serve the people of the area. He referred to the help he received from Council Directors and all the staff who he said were excellent. He said he travelled to Russia and the USA during his time with the Council and he had met a lot of people and made many friends and no enemies. He thanked the press and his voters and he looked forward to the forthcoming Election campaign.

Councillor Reilly congratulated the Mayor on his year in office. He said he had mixed memories of the Council Chamber and described politics like learning a trade. He said he was grateful for the people who voted for him. He referred to the difficult years on the streets and said we owed the people who maintained democracy a great sense of gratitude. He said he had some great experiences in the Chamber and referred to the close friendship he had with Councillor Micky Cole who did great work for the benefit of

the community but who sadly passed away. He also acknowledged the work of Councillor John Fee who passed away. He thanked all the Council staff and acknowledged the outstanding role they played over the years in achieving many things. He said it was difficult to accept that there would never be a unionist Mayor of Council. He wished Councillor Hughes good luck in his new role in Brussels.

Councillor Patterson congratulated Councillor Hughes on his role as Mayor. He thanked Councillor Casey for his kind remarks. He said it had been an experience to have been both a Council Officer and a then later a Councillor. He thanked the voters who selected him and said it was a privilege to have been Chairman of the Council. He referred to the many good things that had happened in the Council in particular the opening of the new Swimming Pool and the Public Realm Scheme. He said he had great memories of the Council and had made great friends. He thanked Council staff whose doors were always open. He paid tribute to the McParland brothers for investing in and opening one of the best hotels in Ireland, the Canal Court Hotel and he commended the directors of the hugely successful First Derivatives. He also thanked the press. He said he felt ratepayers would pay a heavy price for reorganisation. He thanked his colleagues on the Council for whom he said he had the highest respect and he wished everyone the very best.

Councillor Murphy said the Mayor of Council did a great job during his term in office and added that he would also do a good job in his new post in Brussels and he wished him all the best. He said he had good and bad memories of his term as Councillor with Newry and Mourne District Council. He recalled advice given to him by a former Councillor, James McCreesh, who advised him to stick by his principles but not to insult people by doing so. He extended best wishes for the future to his party colleagues and to everyone.

Councillor Hyland congratulated the Mayor on an excellent years work. He said he had enjoyed the vast majority of the time he spent working on the Council and recognised all the Councillors had represented their communities to the best of their ability. He paid special tribute to Councillor McArdle and his work in advancing the cause for Daisy Hill Hospital and to Councillor Patterson whom he said was a consummate politician. He wished all Councillors well who had made a valuable contribution to this area.

Councillor Flynn thanked the Mayor on a perfect year in office. He thanked the Council staff who were always helpful and wished everyone the best.

Councillor Taylor extended best wishes to the Mayor in his new role in Brussels and he wished the Councillors well who would be leaving. He said being a Councillor was not an easy job but they did it with a passion to do their best to deliver. He paid particular tribute to Councillor Andy Moffett whom he described as a stalwart of unionism who served the people of his area through difficult times, and with aplomb and graciousness. He wished everyone well as they moved forward with endeavour to deliver.

Councillor Quinn wished the Mayor all the best in Brussels and thanked him for working with him over the past year. He wished all the Councillors who were retiring all the best.

Mr Farrell said he was stepping down as Director of Environment, Health & Building Services and he wanted to place on record his sincere thanks to Eddy, Jim, Gerard, Robert and to the Members for the privilege of working on Newry and Mourne District Council and for the loyalty they all had shown to him and his Department and he considered them all friends.

Mr Curtis said he joined the Council in 1984. He extended thanks to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor who did a fantastic job. He asked that people remember those who are no longer here. He said the Council should be proud at the standard that has been set and for providing jobs for over 550 people. He said the Council had carried out many schemes which it should be proud of. He extended thanks to the retiring Councillors and best wishes to those moving on to the new Council. Finally he extended thanks to the Management Team and staff.

The Mayor of Council thanked everyone for their comments and wished everyone well.

The meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

Signed: _____
Mayor of Council

Signed: _____
Clerk and Chief Executive