

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

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**Minutes of Annual Meeting held on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2016 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor M Ruane 6.00pm-6.15pm  
Councillor G Fitzpatrick 6.15pm-6.30pm

**In attendance: (Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor N Bailie
Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor S Burns	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor C Casey
Councillor P Clarke	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Doran	Councillor S Ennis
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor K McAteer
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor P O’Gribín
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	Councillor B Walker

**(Officials)**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance  
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities  
Mr C O’Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services  
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism  
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Services  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs A Murray, PA to Chief Executive  
Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs S Kieran, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**C/1/2016**      **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin and O'Muirí.

The Chairperson welcomed Jill Macauley and John Trainor to Council and wished them every success in their future career as Councillors.

The Chairperson expressed his condolences to the family of Daryll Shaw who died tragically in a road accident recently. He also expressed his condolences to Pamela Arthurs, Chief Executive of East Border Region whose father had passed away recently.

The Chairperson thanked Democratic Services, the Chief Executive and Directors, as well as the tourism and events staff, for their help and assistance throughout his time as Chairperson. He thanked his party and expressed his thanks to Naomi Bailie.

Councillor Bailie expressed her appreciation to all staff and Councillors, in particular Sheila Kieran, Democratic Services Officer. She thanked Councillor Ruane for taking over the Chair and doing such a tremendous job.

Councillors Enright, Harvey, Hearty, Stokes and Taylor paid tribute to the work undertaken by Councillors Bailie and Ruane during their term as Chairperson.

**C/2/2016**      **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C/3/2016**      **TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Chairperson called upon Councillor Stokes as nominating officer for SDLP to nominate a Councillor into the position of Chairperson for 2016/17.

Councillor Stokes nominated Councillor Gillian Fitzpatrick who subsequently confirmed her acceptance of the post.

The Chairperson called upon Councillor Walker, who was substitute nominating officer for DUP, to nominate a Councillor into the position of Deputy-Chairperson for 2016/17.

Councillor Walker nominated Councillor Garth Craig who, as official nominating officer for DUP confirmed the nomination and subsequently accepted the post .

The Chairperson stated that Councillor Fitzpatrick and Councillor Craig had been duly nominated as Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the year 2016/17.

Councillor Fitzpatrick stated it was a great privilege and honour to be appointed as Chair of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. She advised her priority for the year ahead was to promote the District as the best place to invest, work and live in and said she would seek to develop the District's prosperity by developing its economy.

Councillor Fitzpatrick congratulated Councillor Bailie for her service as Chair of Council and Councillor Ruane who fulfilled the role after Councillor Bailie. She congratulated Councillor Craig on his appointment as Deputy-Chairperson.

Councillor Fitzpatrick went on to thank the SDLP, Sean and Josephine O'Hare who were her predecessors on Council, the officers and staff of the Council especially the Democratic Services Team, especially Sheila Kieran, her parents, brothers and sisters and her husband and children.

Councillor Craig congratulated Councillor Fitzpatrick on becoming the District's 1<sup>st</sup> Citizen and stated he would do all he could to support her, as her Deputy-Chair. He stated the Council had an ambitious and exciting Corporate Plan and he looked forward to working with officers and Councillors to achieve as much as possible in the incoming year.

Party leaders took this opportunity to wish the new Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson best wishes in their incoming year.

The Chairperson called upon the nominating officers of each of the parties to nominate to the following statutory positions of responsibility and the following nominations were made by the respective nominating officers and formally accepted by the nominees:

Chair AHC	Councillor Carr
Deputy-Chair AHC	Councillor Kimmins
Chair ERT	Councillor Burgess
Deputy-Chair ERT	Councillor Curran
Chair RTS	Councillor Mulgrew
Deputy-Chair RTS	Councillor Andrews
Chair SPR	Councillor Brown
Deputy-Chair SPR	Councillor Enright
Chair Planning	Councillor W Clarke
Deputy-Chair Planning	Councillor Macauley

**Read: Report of the Mock Annual Meeting held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 (copy circulated)**

**Agreed: The report was agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

**The Chief Executive stated items 6, 7, 8 and 9 on the agenda would be taken together at this stage.**

**Agreed: The recommendations arising out of the report were unanimously agreed and Members were appointed to Committees; External Bodies and Organisations (excluding statutory positions of responsibility); Council Project Boards/Working Groups and Community Planning Thematic Partnerships as detailed in appendices 1-4 attached.**

**C/5/2016 APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR OF PCSP**

The Chairperson called upon Councillor Stokes as nominating officer of SDLP to nominate a Chairperson for the PCSP.

Councillor Stokes nominated Councillor Quinn as Chairperson of the PCSP, who formally accepted the post.

**Agreed: It was agreed that Councillor Quinn would become Chairperson for the PCSP for term commencing 25 June 2016.**

**Councillor Ruane vacated the Chair at this point in the meeting.**

**Councillors Fitzpatrick and Craig assumed the Chair and Deputy-Chair roles at this point.**

**C/6/2016 TO AGREE SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES PAYABLE TO COUNCILLORS FROM JUNE 2016**

**Read: Report on Scheme of Allowances payable to Councillors from June 2016 (copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright raised an issue regarding Carer's Allowance being payable to family members.

The Chairperson advised the Chief Executive has written to the Minister on this issue following a previous request from Councillor Enright.

Councillor Hyland questioned the issue of Members not being able to claim for attending Community Association meetings.

The Chief Executive advised the guidance on the scheme of allowances had been set out by the Department and had been agreed by Council.

**Agreed:**        **The report on Scheme of Allowances payable to Councillors from June 2016 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Ruane.**

**C/7/2016        TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS**

**Read:**        **Timetable of Meetings for the year 2016/17 (copy circulated)**

**Agreed:**        **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Hanna to accept the Timetable of Meetings for the year 2016/17.**

Councillor Burgess said he wished to highlight that Newry, Mourne and Down's Events and Tourism team were recognised at the recent Northern Ireland Tourist Board Awards.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at **6.30pm.**

**Signed:**        \_\_\_\_\_  
                 **Chairperson**

**Signed:**        \_\_\_\_\_  
                 **Chief Executive**