

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 June 2017 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor R Mulgrew

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
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 (Human Resources)
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/94/2017

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Curran, Fitzpatrick, Loughran, O'Múiri and Sharvin.

The Chairperson advised she would be sending a letter of condolence to the Mayor of London to express sympathies over the terror attack at the weekend.

The Chairperson extended her thanks to Marie Ward and the staff of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism department for the fantastic tourism event at Slieve Gullion over the weekend. She said over 9,000 visitors had attended from all over Europe and Ireland.

C/95/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/96/2017 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 MAY 2017

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 May 2017(copy circulated)

AGREED: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 May 2017 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/97/2017 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 MAY 2017

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 May 2017 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Doran.

C/98/2017 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 APRIL 2017

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 April 2017 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/99/2017 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 MAY 2017

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 May 2017 (copy circulated).

On a point of accuracy, Mrs Ward advised ERT/98/2017 – Royal International Air Tattoo – had been proposed by Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor D McAteer, and asked that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the correction of minute reference ERT/98/2017 and adopted on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hearty.**

C/100/2017 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 MAY 2017**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 May 2017 (copy circulated).

In response to a query from Councillor Casey, Mrs Carville advised that the IT issues that had been recently experienced, were due to IT being in a transformational stage. Work was on-going to move to a new platform and in doing so, more problems had been uncovered.

SPR/94/2017 – Book of Condolence Policy

Councillor Hanna said it was unfair that the people of Mourne, in particular the people living on the southern side of the Mournes, would have to travel to Newcastle to sign a Book of Condolence, especially as there had been many tragedies in the Kilkeel area.

Councillor Hanna proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Reilly, that the Book of Condolence Policy would include Kilkeel as a location.

Mr Hannaway advised that if there was an incident, like rescue helicopter 116, which affected a particular community, a book of condolence would be opened in that area.

The amendment, as proposed by Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Reilly, was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 11
AGAINST: 8

The amendment was LOST.

SPR/87/2017 – Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Councillor Reilly referred to his Notice of Motion, which had been withdrawn and questioned if it would have been worth him attending the meeting, as he did not have automatic speaking rights and would not be entitled to travel allowance.

In response, Mr Hannaway advised Councillor Reilly that as he had raised the motion, he would be entitled to mileage and to speak at the committee.

SPR/91/2017 – Communications/Marketing Assignment

In response to Councillor Reilly's query, Mrs Carville said that the Federation of Small Businesses published an annual report and last year had commented on prompt payment statistics and had written to the Chair of Council asking if they could talk to Council about prompt payments. Following this, Mrs Carville had organised a meeting. The Federation of Small Businesses had then brought back recommendations to the small business community to help Council to work well with small businesses.

In response to Councillor Murnin's suggestion, Mrs Carville advised Council had to comply with procurement legislation and regulations and that this included open competition.

In response to Councillor Reilly's question, Mrs Carville said there was an annual report to Audit Committee regarding prompt payments. The target set by Central Government was to achieve 90% in 30 days. Last quarter, Council achieved 88% and the quarter prior to that, Council achieved 90%, which was an improvement on the same quarters last year. She advised the 10 day target required further work and the Audit Committee was being kept advised of this target on a regular basis.

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Ruane.**

C/101/2017 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 MAY 2017

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 May 2017 (copy circulated)

AHC/72/2017 – Community Support Loans

Councillor Burns said at the AHC meeting held on 15 May 2017, a number of changes that Members wished to see in the future had been highlighted and he would like these reflected in the minutes.

AHC/74/2017 – Financial Assistance

In response to a query from Councillor Devlin, Democratic Services undertook to see if it was possible to append the committee reports to the committee minutes on the Council agenda.

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Kimmins.**

C/102/2017 MINUTES OF REGULATORY & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 MAY 2017

Read: Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 17 May 2017 (copy circulated)

RTS/65/2017 – Request for Additional Temporary Refuse Staff

In response to concerns from Councillor D McAteer regarding bins not being lifted, the Chairperson advised that she, and the Chair of RTS Committee, would be holding an emergency meeting that week with Mr O'Rourke to discuss the issues.

Mr O'Rourke acknowledged that there had been difficulties since the implementation of the brown bin scheme.

In response to suggestions from Councillor D McAteer, the Chairperson advised communication regarding bins that had not been lifted could be discussed at the emergency meeting.

Councillor Hyland concurred with Councillor D McAteer's comments, saying bins in Newry were not being lifted on a regular basis.

Councillor Andrews placed on record his appreciation to the refuse staff.

The Chairperson said this was Mr O'Rourke's last Council meeting before his retirement and on behalf of all Councillors, she wished him well and a long and happy retirement.

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Craig.**

C/103/2017 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE HELD ON 27 APRIL 2017

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee held on 27 April 2017 (copy circulated)

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Brown.**

CORRESPONDENCE

C/104/2017 INVITATION TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE SEANAD SPECIAL SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE UK'S WITHDRAWAL FROM THE EU

Read: Correspondence from Houses of the Oireachtas, dated 11 May 2017, regarding Invitation to attend a meeting of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the UK's withdrawal from the European Union.

Mr Hannaway said this meeting followed on from the recent seminar held in Lough Erne regarding the EU, where a representative from the Department for the Taoiseach requested a discussion on issues, in particular Brexit and the impact on the 10 councils along the border area. Mr Hannaway suggested the Chair of Council and the Chair of ERT Committee would attend along with himself.

Councillor Hanna said this was just a talking shop and not worth attending.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that the invitation to attend a meeting of the Seanad Special Select Committee on the UK's Withdrawal from the EU be accepted, and that the Chairperson, Chair of ERT Committee and Chief Executive attend.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/105/2017 NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR STOKES

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Stokes:

“Newry Mourne and Down Council note with deep concern the 2.5% cut, equivalent to a reduction of £50m, in the Education Budget announced by the Secretary of State in April 17. This is in light of the announcement made by the previous Minister of Education to the Education Committee where he stated that schools required an additional £80m per year just to stay at 2016/17 spending. This effective cut of £130m would seriously impact on schools and to the educational provision of the children in Newry Mourne and Down.

Newry Mourne and Down notes the unprecedented move by many primary principals, who have expressed their dismay at this reduction in schools budgets especially given the reductions they have had to suffer over the last few years. Many schools now find that they would have to reduce staff in order to stay within proposed spending limits and this would lead to increased pupil numbers in classes and seriously compromise children's education. As a council we are also gravely concerned that our schools will not know their budget until at least September due to the current political impasse, a situation which is unprecedented and some considerable months into the new financial year.

Newry Mourne and Down Council supports the honourable stand by these principals especially our local principals, against this proposed cut in educational funding as it will seriously undermine the educational opportunities and achievements of the children in the communities we represent.

Newry Mourne and Down Council agrees to extend an invite to and meet principals from the area and write to and seek meetings with the Education Authority, CCMS and the Secretary of State to highlight our concerns about reductions in our schools budgets and the impact this would have to the local economy and the children in Newry Mourne and

Down and demand increased funding to our schools in line with that proposed by the previous Minister of Education."

In proposing the motion, Councillor Stokes said it was the right of all the children in the District to receive a proper and decent education to the highest of standards.

Councillor D McAteer seconded the motion and said that it was the weakest in society that would suffer most from the cuts.

COUNCILLOR LARKIN JOINED THE MEETING AT 6:40PM.

Councillor Craig, on behalf of the DUP provided support to the motion, saying children's education was a priority but that the situation would become worse if funds were not forthcoming. He said he was disappointed that Sinn Fein failed to produce a budget before bringing down the Assembly.

The Chairperson asked Councillor Craig to speak to the subject of the motion, and she said what happened in the Assembly was not up for debate.

Councillor Taylor, on behalf of the UUP offered support to the motion, saying young people's prospects were being jeopardised because of these cuts. He said it was due to the fall of the Assembly that these cuts were forthcoming and appealed to all Parties to work together to find a solution as schools needed certainty going forward.

Councillor Andrews provided his support to the motion, suggesting seeking a meeting with the Education Authority, Secretary of State and Local Minister when the Assembly was back in session.

Councillor McMurray, on behalf of the Alliance Party, offered his support to the motion, saying questions needed to be asked of the Education Authority and he appealed to the parties' representatives at the Education Authority Committee to raise the issues.

Councillor Hyland also spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Burns, on behalf of Sinn Fein, congratulated Councillor Stokes on bringing the motion to Council, saying it was a subject affecting everyone. He said the Conservative Party was to blame for these cuts and Sinn Fein would support any attempt on austerity and Tory cuts.

Councillor Stokes, in summing up, thanked Council for the cross party support on this very important issue.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor D McAteer that Newry Mourne and Down Council note with deep concern the 2.5% cut, equivalent to a

reduction of £50m, in the Education Budget announced by the Secretary of State in April 17. This is in light of the announcement made by the previous Minister of Education to the Education Committee where he stated that schools required an additional £80m per year just to stay at 2016/17 spending. This effective cut of £130m would seriously impact on schools and to the educational provision of the children in Newry Mourne and Down.

Newry Mourne and Down notes the unprecedented move by many primary principals, who have expressed their dismay at this reduction in schools budgets especially given the reductions they have had to suffer over the last few years. Many schools now find that they would have to reduce staff in order to stay within proposed spending limits and this would lead to increased pupil numbers in classes and seriously compromise children's education. As a council we are also gravely concerned that our schools will not know their budget until at least September due to the current political impasse, a situation which is unprecedented and some considerable months into the new financial year.

Newry Mourne and Down Council supports the honourable stand by these principals especially our local principals, against this proposed cut in educational funding as it will seriously undermine the educational opportunities and achievements of the children in the communities we represent.

Newry Mourne and Down Council agrees to extend an invite to and meet principals from the area and write to and seek meetings with the Education Authority, CCMS and the Secretary of State to highlight our concerns about reductions in our schools budgets and the impact this would have to the local economy and the children in Newry Mourne and Down and demand increased funding to our schools in line with that proposed by the previous Minister of Education."

C/106/2017

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillors Enright, Trainor, Curran and Sharvin:

"Council directs management to resume the Downpatrick Masterplan Implementation Group as an interagency working group led by Downpatrick DEA Councillors, but open to any other Councillor whose area is likely to be impacted by the Masterplan. The Masterplan Implementation Working Group is essential for the development and progression of five work streams containing all the major projects envisaged in the Downpatrick area. It is also the Downpatrick DEA's

draft submission to the Area Plan. The resumption of this Masterplan Implementation Working Group can act as a model for other areas across the Council."

The Chairperson said under Standing Orders 16.1.6, the motion would be referred to the Economic, Regeneration and Tourism Committee for consideration and report.

AGREED: Councillor Hearty proposed, seconded by Councillor Doran, that the Motion be referred to the ERT committee for consideration and report.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.53pm

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive