

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 November 2018 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Murnin

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor R Howell	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor O McMahon
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor J Rice	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	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 M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/170/2018

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Harte, Hearty and Quinn.

- The Chairman passed his condolences to Councillor Hearty and his family on the loss of his mother and advised of the funeral arrangements.
- Councillor Savage also asked that condolences be expressed to former Newry Councillor Sean Gallogly who had recently passed away.
- The Chairman congratulated Newry Rainbow Project who successfully bid to host UK and Ireland Pride 2019.

- The Chairman advised October had again been a busy month with the following events and visits taking place:
 - Red Bull Fox Hunt in Rostrevor; trip to China with Chief Executive, Chamber of Commerce and SRC representatives; successful City Deal announcement which would bring great benefits to the District; City of Merchants Festival with thanks to First Derivatives; WW1 Roll of Honour Event; successful Hallowtides in Newcastle with over 20k in attendance; successes at NILGA Awards with Newry Leisure Centre winning best building and Sean McKeivitt being nominated in employee of the year category.

C/171/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chief Executive declared an interest in agenda item 7 – Minutes of SPR Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2018.

C/172/2018 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2018

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 1 October 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 1 October 2018 was agreed.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/173/2018 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 OCTOBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 October 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 1 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

C/174/2018 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 September 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 24 September 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Clarke.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/175/2018

MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 OCTOBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 October 2018 (copy circulated).

ERT/160/2018 – Community Led Festivals

Councillor Curran asked when the workshop to discuss Community Led Festivals would take place.

Mrs Ward advised the workshop would take place on 6th December 2018.

Councillor Enright advised he had not been allowed to have his motion on this matter seconded at the ERT Committee meeting and the matter needed to be discussed.

Councillor Ruane stated he had chaired the ERT Committee meeting and the motion had been discussed in detail and a decision was made, therefore it was false to say the motion had not been heard or dealt with.

Members discussed the issue at length with congratulations being extended to Newry Rainbow Community on their successful bid for Pride 2019 and Councillor Kimmins asked whether there had been any discussions as yet as to how the Council would assist with the Pride festival and subsequent convention.

Mrs Ward advised that officers would be meeting with the Rainbow Community to explore how to support the event and a report would be brought to the December or January ERT Committee Meeting.

Councillor Hanna asked that information on the differences between community-led and tourism festivals be circulated to Members for their information before the workshop.

Mrs Ward advised she would undertake to circulate the information to all Members.

Agreed: It was agreed that information regarding the differences between community-led and tourism festivals be circulated to Members.

City Deal

Councillor Savage paid tribute to the delegation which travelled to Westminster and congratulated Council on securing money from the Treasury. He stated there was some confusion as to the preferred site for the new civic centre in Newry and asked for clarity on which the preferred site was, and when the decision for that had been reached.

The Chief Executive advised the decision in terms of the need for a civic centre for Newry was identified in the Council's Corporate Plan published in March 2015. The

Corporate Plan detailed the major strategic projects Council wished to bring forward during the 2015-2019 term of Council. Council then appointed Deloitte to investigate available and suitable sites for a civic centre and adjacent conference facilities. Sites within Council ownership and other sites were both identified and reviewed. He clarified that some Council owned sites, such as lands at Albert Basin, had been excluded and the Abbey Way lands were the Council owned site that remained a possibility to cater for the size and city centre location. However a definite site had not yet been finalised and this project was one that might be delivered as a joint venture as different private sector options were still being explored.

Mrs Ward advised the preferred site for the theatre and conference facilities was the Ross Thompson site with the procurement process for integrated design teams for both projects having begun. She advised two separate teams would be put in place for the theatre and conference centre and the civic centre.

Councillor Savage asked if Southern Regional College came back to Council stating they were not interested in the former sports centre site at Patrick Street, could that site then be considered. Mrs Ward agreed to advise why this site was not considered suitable.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 September 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

C/176/2018 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 OCTOBER 2018**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2018 (copy circulated).

SPR/130/2018 – Report on Irish Language Financial Assistance Scheme 2019/2020 and Irish Language Bursary Scheme 2019/2020

Councillor Walker said he was outraged at the increase in budget for the Irish Language Bursary Scheme by £10k stating that once again, Unionists in the District were being discriminated against, while additional monies were being given to the nationalist community. These sentiments were echoed by Councillors Craig, Taylor and Reilly.

Councillor Ó Muiri stated if other languages were to be considered, Councillors should set up a working group similar to the Irish Language Working Group. He stated there had been no request for funding from the Irish Language Working Group within the first two years its establishment as a strategy was being developed during that time. However, the uptake for the bursary scheme was oversubscribed and the proposal from the working group was to increase the bursary by £10k.

Mrs Carville advised the full amount of £50k through the financial assistance scheme had not been expended. However, as discussed at the SPR Committee, this was

similar to the first year in other financial assistance schemes as perhaps the scheme was not promoted as widely as it could have been. The money allocated was out of the overall financial assistance scheme, and not additional monies. She stated as part of the Corporate Services business plan, an objective existed to look at a minority and other languages strategy for Council, with a paper going to the next Equality and Good Relations Forum.

Members discussed the issue at length with Members putting points both for and against the recommendation of the SPR Committee and outlining in detail their individual views on the initiative, following which the Chairman put the matter to a recorded vote (copy appended to these minutes), the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 27
AGAINST: 7
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The minutes were AGREED.

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Savage.

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Clarke.

C/177/2018 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES MEETING HELD ON 15 OCTOBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

C/178/2018 MINUTES OF REGULATORY & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 OCTOBER 2018

Read: Minutes of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2018 (copy circulated).

RTS/151/2018 – Bus Shelter at Cloughreagh Park, Bessbrook

Councillor Mulgrew stated she had been asked by the community in Cloughreagh Park to ensure a bus shelter was put in place. She said this was essential for the people living there, many of who were elderly.

Councillor Stokes said he would question the version of events surrounding the issue of a bus shelter for Coughreagh being put forward by Councillor Mulgrew.

Members discussed the issue at length and Councillor Mulgrew asked that the recommendation be amended to provide for the erection of a bus shelter at Cloughreagh Park.

The Chairman put the recommendation of the RTS Committee meeting on this matter to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 15
AGAINST: 11
ABSTENTIONS: 3

The recommendation was AGREED as detailed in the Committee minutes.

RTS/140/2018 – Car Park Review Update

Councillor Trainor queried why there were no public consultation events taking place on the car park review, particularly in the Downpatrick area where the issue was so relevant.

Mrs Ward advised public engagement in the process was by way of online user survey and there were also printed versions in all Council premises. She stated the intention was to allow the process to conclude and public events could be arranged as necessary following this.

RTS/156/2018 – DFI re: Weed-Spraying in the Newry, Mourne and Down Area

Councillor McAteer proposed that Council write to the Permanent Secretary asking that schedules for the next year's weed-spraying be provided to Council in advance. This was seconded by Councillor Ruane.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Ruane to write to the Permanent Secretary asking that Council be furnished with schedules for weed-spraying next year.

Agreed: The Minutes of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 17 October 2018 were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McMahan.

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting during the above discussions – 7.40pm

C/179/2018

**MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20
SEPTEMBER 2018**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2018 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 20 September 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew.**

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES

C/180/2018

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT FOR
EXITING THE EUROPEAN UNION (DExEU) REGARDING
COUNCIL'S CONCERNS RELATING TO THE FINAL DEAL OF
OUR EXIT FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Read: Correspondence dated 25 October 2018 received from DExEU Correspondence Team regarding Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's concerns relating to the final deal of the exit from the European Union (copy circulated).

Noted: **The correspondence received was noted.**

Councillors Craig, Clarke, Hyland and Walker left the meeting at this stage – 7.45pm

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/181/2018

**NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS Ó
MUÍRI AND HEARTY**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Ó Muíri:

“This Council recognises the high levels of people living with autism, learning difficulties and communication barriers in the district and commends those groups who work to support them: proposes that the Council sets an example of having staff and facilities become JAM Card friendly and encourage local businesses and towns/villages to do the same”

In proposing the motion, Councillor Ó Muíri provided background to the JAM Card saying it was an initiative undertaken by the NOW social enterprise group, the aim of which was to increase independence for people with learning difficulties and autism. JAM – short for 'Just a Minute' was a simple card that had 'Just a Minute' printed on one side and 'Please be patient I have a learning difficulty' on the other side that could be discreetly handed to shop assistants to advise them that the person may need a

little extra time with their transactions. Councillor Ó Muíri said there were more than 12,000 people using the JAM card and it was being supported by eight of the eleven Councils in N. Ireland along with other businesses including Translink, SSE Arena, Consumer Council and NIE Networks. He said the card was also available to download as an app.

Councillor Larkin seconded the motion.

It was unanimously agreed to approve the motion.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muíri seconded by Councillor Larkin that Council sets an example of having staff and facilities become JAM Card friendly and encourages local business and towns / villages to do the same.

C/182/2018

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREWS

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Andrews:

“That Newry, Mourne and Down District Council acknowledges the joint Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association campaign highlighting deep concern about the impact of the current definition of terminal illness used for the eligibility for benefits including PERSONAL INDEPENDENCE PAYMENTS [PIPS] in Northern Ireland. Council notes that PIP has special rules for applicants with terminal illnesses, which allows people to access payments quicker and without face to face assessments. However this avenue is only open to those who have been given a prognosis of six months or less. This restriction is unfair excluding many people with terminal illnesses, including those with Motor Neurone Disease, chronic heart failure and COPD as they fail to access PIP under the special rules, meaning they have to wait much longer for their payments and undergo face to face assessments. This Council affirms that this is unfair and denies people the best quality of life during the time they have left and calls on the Secretary of State Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP to follow the lead of the Scottish Government and implement the call from Marie Curie and the MND Association for a fairer definition of terminal illness that is based on clinical judgement and patient need, not a time restricted estimation of life expectancy”.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Andrews said that both Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Associations were looking at reforming the special rules that were currently in place whereby access to PIPS payments were quicker and did not require face to face assessments for those people who had a prognosis of six months or less. Councillor Andrews said this was a very unfair process and the main thrust of reform was to make a case for a more compassionate system to be put in place. He continued, saying that many people with MND died within one year of diagnosis and all people who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness should be afforded dignity and should not have to wait for payments or be subjected to face to face assessments.

Councillor Devlin seconded the motion saying the six month rule was very harsh and it was disgraceful that people with terminal illnesses should be treated in this way. She continued, saying people in the final months or years of their life should be nurtured and treated with dignity and respect.

Councillor Hanna said DUP was happy to support the motion and commended Councillor Andrews for taking it forward.

Councillor Taylor said UUP would support the motion and he thanked Councillor Andrews for taking it forward, saying a fairer and more compassionate system was needed.

Councillor Kimmins said SF would support the motion and she said it was a humiliating process for affected families to have to go through.

Councillor McMurray expressed support for the motion saying it was further evidence of hostile environment that has been created by government.

In summing up, Councillor Andrews thanked the Councillors for their support saying it was the most vulnerable who were being targeted by the current definition of terminal illness used for the eligibility for benefits. He said it was unfair, discriminatory and degrading for all those affected by terminal illness.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews and seconded by Councillor Devlin that this Council calls on the Secretary of State Rt Hon Karen Bradley MP to follow the lead of the Scottish Government and implement the call from Marie Curie and the MND Association for a fairer definition of terminal illness that is based on clinical judgement and patient need, not a time restricted estimation of life expectancy”.**

C/183/2018 **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR LOUGHRAN**

“That this Council acknowledge and applaud the contribution that the “Curriculum Sports Programme” have made to the emotional health and physical wellbeing of our primary school children since it was introduced in 2007 and request that this Council write to the Department of Education expressing our concerns and disappointment that funding is no longer available, and calling for the reinstatement of funding for this essential programme of which 3,600 pupils from 400 primary schools have benefitted on an annual basis”.

In proposing the motion Councillor Loughran said over the past decade thousands of children across Northern Ireland had benefited from this award winning programme that had been delivered by Ulster GAA and the IFA and it contributed not only to the children’s physical wellbeing but also their emotional health. She continued, saying

the axing of funding would result in a devastating blow to school children and those whose jobs are at risk.

Councillor Trainor seconded the motion saying that sports played an important part in young people's lives in terms of team work and personal development and commended the coaches for doing such a good job. He continued, saying that encouraging an active healthy lifestyle in children would have long term benefits from a medical aspect.

Councillor Harvey expressed support for the motion saying the removal of this funding would have the detrimental effect on the health of children.

Councillor McMurray said he would be happy to support the motion saying that children were not getting enough physical activity daily. He said Northern Ireland had the highest obesity rates in 14 year olds which inevitably would have long term effects and that research demonstrated the positive effects that physical activity had in terms of academic improvements, mental health and physical wellbeing.

Councillor Taylor thanked Councillor Loughran for bringing the motion and expressed his disappointment in the withdrawal of much needed funding. He said there was a certain irony in the decision to withdraw this funding by the Department of Education as the day following the withdrawal of funds, the Department issued a statement highlighting the benefits of outdoor play. He said that sports were very important for young children and the Education Authority should be challenged to reverse their decision.

Councillor Devlin expressed support for the motion saying that obesity was a real challenge that had resulted in deaths. She said that as we were living in a digital age every effort should be made to encourage sports activity among young people. Councillor Devlin asked that it be noted that if the Assembly was operating in Stormont this issue would be dealt with directly by a locally elected Minister and, by not having the Assembly, this resulted in youth of the area being disadvantaged.

Councillor Mulgrew said whilst she agreed generally with the motion she proposed it be amended to include the following additional wording:

“That this Council recognises that these cuts are as a direct result of Tory austerity and that as a Council we reaffirm our objection to these cuts that are little more than an attack on the most vulnerable of our society”

Councillor Mulgrew said that since the announcement had been made regarding the cuts to the funding, Sinn Fein had been very proactive in an effort to reach a resolution and had met with the Head of the Civil Service, David Stirling and made a formal request that interim funding be found until long term funding could be secured. She said that SF had also met with the Ulster Council and had requested a meeting with the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Education.

Councillor Kimmins seconded Councillor Mulgrew's amendment.

Councillor Carr welcomed the comments made and said the cuts had a direct effect on young people.

The Chairman asked Councillor Loughran if she accepted the proposed amendment to the motion.

Councillor Loughran confirmed she did not and the amendment was therefore put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 10
AGAINST: 15

The amendment was declared LOST.

The motion, as proposed by Councillor Loughran, seconded by Councillor Trainor was then put to a vote and passed unanimously.

Agreed: **It was agreed that Council write to the Department of Education expressing our concerns and disappointment that funding is no longer available, and calling for the reinstatement of funding for this essential programme of which 3,600 pupils from 400 primary schools have benefitted on an annual basis". It was further agreed to forward the Motion to all Councils seeking their support.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.30pm

Signed:

Chairman

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 5th November 2018 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: C/176/2018 – SPR Committee Minutes held on 11 October 2018 –
SPR/130/2018 – Report on Irish Language Financial Assistance Scheme 2019/2020 and Irish
Language Bursary Scheme 2019/2020

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
N Baillie				X
P Brown				X
R Burgess				X
P Byrne	X			
M Carr	X			
C Casey	X			
W Clarke	X			
G Craig		X		
D Curran	X			
L Devlin	X			
S Doran	X			
C Enright	X			
G Fitzpatrick	X			
G Hanna		X		
V Harte				X
H Harvey		X		
T Hearty				X
R Howell	X			
D Hyland	X			
L Kimmins	X			
M Larkin	X			
K Loughran	X			
J Macauley		X		
D McAteer	X			
O McMahan	X			
A McMurray	X			
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin	X			
B Ó Muiri	X			
B Quinn				X
H Reilly		X		
J Rice	X			
M Ruane	X			
M Savage	X			
G Sharvin				X
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor		X		
JJ Tinnelly	X			
J Trainor	X			
B Walker		X		
TOTALS	27	7	0	7