

## **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 August 2015 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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In the Chair                      Councillor G Fitzpatrick

**In attendance:**

**(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor M Carr	Councillor C Casey
Councillor P Clarke	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor G Donnelly	Councillor S Ennis
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor K McAteer
Councillor C McGrath	Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor P Ó'Gribín	Councillor B Ó'Muirí
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor B Walker	

**(Officials)**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance  
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities  
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Recreation and Technical Services  
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism  
Ms C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
Mr P Green, Legal Advisor  
Mrs C McKenna,  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**C/77/2015**

### **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, W Clarke, Craig, Curran, Doran, Harvey and Ruane.

## **Playpark in Crossgar**

The Chairperson condemned the recent vandalism of the playground at Crossgar and stated she hoped the Council would be in a position to restore this as soon as possible.

Members discussed the issue at length and asked when the playpark would be in operation again.

Mr O'Rourke advised that officers were working very diligently on the matter in an attempt to get the playpark operational as quickly as possible and Councillors would be kept updated on repair and insurance matters.

Councillor Reilly expressed his disappointment at the lack of commitment shown towards Annalong Harbour. He asked that his comments be recorded.

## **DRP Charity Golf Day**

The Chairperson advised a charity golf day was being held on Friday 7 August 2015 for Down Residential Project and all Councillors were invited to play.

**C/78/2015**

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of Interest were registered as follows:

Councillor Hanna expressed an interest in item 12 as he was a member of the Board of Directors of Mourne Stimulus.

**C/79/2015**

### **ACTION SHEET FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2015**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2015  
(Copy circulated)

**Noted:** The Action Sheet was noted.

## **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/79/2015**

### **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2015**

**Read:** Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 June 2015  
(Copy circulated).

**AGREED:** The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor P Clarke.

**C/80/2015** **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2015**

**Read:** Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 6 July 2015 (Copy circulated).

**AGREED:** The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

**CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES**

**C/81/2015** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM POST OFFICE RE: BESSBROOK POST OFFICE – DECISION TO MOVE TO NEW PREMISES AND BRANCH MODERNISATION**

**Read:** Correspondence received from Post Office re: Bessbrook Post Office – decision to move to New Premises and Branch Modernisation (Copy circulated)

**Noted:** The correspondence received from the Post Office re: Bessbrook Post Office was noted.

**C/82/2015** **LA TOUCHE LEGACY – 2<sup>ND</sup> FESTIVAL OF HISTORY: 'REFLECTIONS ON GREAT WAR & EASTER RISING 1916'**

**Read:** Correspondence received regarding La Touche Legacy weekend being held on 25<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> September 2015 (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** It was agreed that any Member who wished to attend should contact the Democratic Services Department.

**C/83/2015** **APSE SEMINAR & AWARDS – FREE DELEGATE PLACE**

**Read:** Correspondence received from APSE re: free delegate place for Seminar & Awards (Copy circulated)

The Chief Executive outlined the costs involved in sending delegates to the APSE Seminar and Awards. Following discussion it was agreed the matter be referred to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting for consideration.

Councillor Walker proposed that Councillor Andrews should attend as he had taken the time to attend the seminar hosted by APSE recently. There was no seconder for the proposal.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that the matter be forwarded to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting for consideration.

### **CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**C/84/2015**                    **CONSULTATION ON SPECIAL ADVISERS BILL FROM JIM ALLISTER MLA**

**Read:** Consultation received on Special Advisers Bill from Jim Allister, MLA (Copy circulated).

**Noted:** The consultation was noted.

**C/85/2015**                    **CONSULTATION RECEIVED FROM HOUSING EXECUTIVE RE DRAFT CORPORATE AND BUSINESS PLANS**

**Read:** Consultation from Housing Executive regarding Draft Corporate and Business Plans (Copy circulated).

**Noted:** The consultation was noted.

### **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

**C/86/2015**                    **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Hanna:

1. Amended Deed – Land at Newry Market, Newry
2. Gran Fondo Sponsorship Agreement
3. Conveyance of Land for DRAP Funded Playground, Dundrum. File ref: L/P/31
4. Conveyance x 3 – Transfer of St Dymphna's Cemetery, Downpatrick. File ref: L/P/4
5. Lands at Ballinran, Kilkeel – 3G Pitch Project

**C/87/2015**

**LAND AT MANSE PARK, MANSE ROAD, KILKEEL –  
APPLICATION TO THE LANDS TRIBUNAL**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any individual.

Having previously declared an interest in the following item, Councillor Hanna left the chamber at this stage – 6.20pm

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson reported it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hearty to accept the recommendations as set out in the report dated 27 July 2015 from Mrs C McKenna re: Council Land at Manse Park, Kilkeel.

**C/88/2015**

**JENNING'S PARK ISSUE**

**Agreed:** It was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any individual. The public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Agreed:** When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairperson reported it had been agreed that McShane & Co Solicitors, acting for the Council, would provide a written reply to all elected members regarding the issue of the Community Care Treatment Centre, at Jennings's Park, Newry.

It was also agreed that Councillors who had specific issues on this matter could forward their queries to Council officials who would ensure they were answered in the Solicitor's reply.

Councillor Hanna returned to the chamber at this stage of proceedings – 6.30pm

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/89/2015**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION – SLIEVE ROE RESIDENTIAL/ NURSING HOME**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillors Hanna and Quinn:

**"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council support the retention of services in Slieve Roe residential/nursing home in Kilkeel, and the threat of closure by the Southern Health Trust should be removed immediately. Also the policy of not taking new residents should stop immediately. Also a letter should be sent from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Chief Executive to express the Council's view to Southern Health Trust and the Health Minister."**

In proposing his motion, Councillor Hanna stated Slieve Roe Home had been a part of the Mourne Community for 40 years and he would welcome the support of the Council for the retention of this facility for the users of the future. He advised most of the staff were recruited locally which created employment in the area, and said the Mourne area was in danger of being stripped of vital services.

Councillor Quinn seconded the motion stating the Mourne area was a rural, isolated area which was poorly served by roads and services. He urged that Members support the motion as if the facility closes people would have to be rehoused outside of the area which would place huge strain on those residents currently residing there.

Members discussed the issue at length voicing their support for the motion and praising the excellent facility that exists at Slieve Roe in Kilkeel.

Councillor Reilly requested that a public meeting, serviced by a Council Officer, take place regarding Slieve Roe and the out-of-hours facility.

The Chief Executive advised this could be granted and said an Officer would attend to record the salient points from the meeting.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Quinn to write to the Health Minister and Southern Health Trust calling on them to remove the threat of closure to Slieve Roe in Kilkeel and stop the policy of not taking new residents immediately.**

**It was further agreed that a public meeting, serviced by a Council Officer, take place regarding Slieve Roe and the out-of-hours facility.**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PROVISION OF DEFIBRILLATORS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS**

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

**"That this Council notes that over 1400 people suffered an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in 2014: further notes that the current survival rate for out-of-hospital cardiac arrest in Northern Ireland less than 10% and call upon Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to increase the provision of defibrillators in public buildings and on Council owned grounds; and further calls on the Council to ensure that all defibrillators are registered with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and any database that may be established in the future by the Northern Ireland Assembly."**

Councillor Andrews proposed his motion stating the early use of CPR and defibrillators could increase survival rates substantially. He stated non-domestic properties must have fire extinguishers in place therefore he could see no reason why they could not also have defibrillators. He urged all Members to support the motion.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Carr stated Council should be aiming to have defibrillators installed in every public building with an interactive map based register of where these were located.

Members spoke in support of the motion and highlighted the following issues:

- An audit should be undertaken on the number of defibrillators in the District and the amount of qualified users, first aiders, first responders and the accessibility of the defibrillators. This could be undertaken using the datahub.
- There was a need to ensure training was carried out and kept up to date for those places that currently had defibrillators.
- Was there an existing policy on defibrillators?
- Who was responsible for paying for training on the usage of the defibrillators?

In response, the Chief Executive advised defibrillators were in place within some Council buildings and officers had been trained in their use. He said all of this information could be collated as part of an audit into the existence of defibrillators across the District. This could then be reported back to the Council.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Carr that Council investigate the increase of defibrillators in public buildings and on Council owned grounds and ensure that all defibrillators were registered with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service and any database that may be established in the future by the Northern Ireland Assembly.**

C/91/2015

**NOTICE OF MOTION – MAINTENANCE: DEPARTMENT OF  
REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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

**"That this Council writes to the Minister for Regional Development regarding the lack of grass verge maintenance, gully cleaning, road marking, weed spraying and street light repairs, together with road and footway patching winter service, grass cutting and the maintenance of traffic signals and also expresses Council's grave concern about the impact of this is having across Newry Mourne and Down District region and also highlights to the Minister regarding road safety related maintenance being also affected and urges the Minister to work expeditiously to seek funding from the Northern Ireland Executive to enable TransportNI and external contractors to carry out essential maintenance related activities."**

In presenting the motion, Councillor P Clarke paid tribute to the Down Section Office staff for their help and assistance at all times. He stated that due to budgetary constraints there would only be 1 annual cut of grass verges and he was receiving complaints daily about the lack of verge and grass cutting and the removal of weeds. He stated rural roads were not being maintained which could lead to accidents.

Councillor Hyland seconded the motion.

Members spoke in support of the motion stating they had received numerous complaints about the lack of verge/grass cutting. This was leading to people taking chances on the roads to improve their site lines and may ultimately lead to accidents.

Councillor Taylor proposed that the motion be amended to read" "That this Council writes to the Minister for Regional Development regarding the lack of grass verge maintenance, gully cleaning, road marking, weed spraying and street light repairs, together with road and footway patching winter service, grass cutting and the maintenance of traffic signals and also expresses Council's grave concern about the impact of this is having across Newry Mourne and Down District **region and offers support to the Minister in his bid for additional funding.**"

He stated the u-turn by some Parties with regard to Welfare Reform had left the Minister in this position with budget cuts. He advised the country was losing £2m per week with the Finance Minister also unable to release the traditional June funding.

The amendment was seconded by Councillor McKee.



Following further discussion the amendment was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

**FOR: 12**  
**AGAINST: 18**  
**ABSTENTIONS: 0**

**THE AMENDMENT WAS LOST**

The original motion was put to a vote, the results of which are as follows:

**FOR: 27**  
**AGAINST: 0**  
**ABSTENTIONS: 3**

**THE PROPOSAL WAS CARRIED.**

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor P Clarke, seconded by Councillor Hyland that Council write to the Minister for Regional Development regarding the lack of maintenance and also expresses Council's grave concern about the impact this is having across the District.

It was also agreed that Council highlight to the Minister road safety related maintenance being affected and urge the Minister to work expeditiously to seek funding from the Northern Ireland Executive to enable TransportNI and external contractors to carry out essential maintenance related activities.

**Councillor Sharvin left the meeting during the above discussions – 7.20pm**

**Councillors Enright, Reilly and Stokes left the meeting during the above discussions – 7.30pm**

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.45pm**

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**