

## NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 September 2015 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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In the Chair                      Councillor N Bailie

**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 W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor S Doran	Councillor S Ennis
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor K McAteer
Councillor H McKee	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor P Ó'Gribín
Councillor B Ó'Muirí	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
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  
Mr J McBride, Change Manager  
Ms V Keegan, Marketing Manager  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**C/92/2015**

**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Hyland, Kimmins and McGrath.

The Chairperson advised Members of her recent successful visit to the Milwaukee Irish Fest and that there were opportunities for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to have a presence at future events. She explained how appreciative and hospitable the organisers of the event were and said she had been received exceptionally well. She paid tribute to the organising committee for their hospitality and asked that Council send a thank you letter to the committee. The Chairperson paid tribute to and congratulated Dr Tim Campbell from the St. Patrick's Centre, who was attending on behalf of the Friends of St. Patrick. She said he had done a fantastic job promoting the District and the story of St. Patrick to that part of America. She paid tribute also to the Council officers and staff involved, and to the Milwaukee Hurling Club who had been very hospitable and she asked that a letter of thanks be sent to them.

**AGREED:                    It was agreed to send a letter of thanks to the organisers of the Milwaukee Irish Fest and to the Milwaukee Hurling Club for their hospitality during the Chairperson's recent visit.**

The Chairperson referred to the on-going refugee crisis. She advised Members that Councillors W Clarke and Brown wished to bring forward an emergency Notice of Motion and in order to do this, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders, for which a qualified majority vote was required (80% of Members present and voting).

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	38
<b>AGAINST:</b>	0
<b>ABSENTIONS:</b>	0

**The motion was CARRIED (Copy results attached)**

**AGREED:                    It was unanimously agreed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the emergency Notice of Motion received from Councillors W Clarke and Brown for that item only.**

The Chairperson advised the Notice of Motion would be taken later on in the meeting. She commended Council staff and Councillor Andrews for working with her to organise drop off centres over the past few days. She paid tribute to the volunteers who had given up their time to provide emergency aid.

The Chairperson extended condolences to the family of Danica Nugent, who had been killed in a car accident in South Armagh on Sunday. She said her thoughts and prayers were with the family and requested a letter of condolence be sent.

**AGREED:** It was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to the family of Danica Nugent who had been killed in a car accident in South Armagh.

Councillors Donnelly, D McAteer and Hearty asked to be associated with the Chairperson's remarks on the recent death of Danica Nugent.

Councillor Sharvin referred to the local golfer, Cormac Sharvin, who was playing in the Walker Cup. He requested Council recognise this sporting achievement.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Bailie, that Cormac Sharvin's golfing success be recognised by Council.

**C/93/2015**                    **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest

**C/94/2015**                    **ACTION SHEET FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:** Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 August 2015 (Copy circulated)

**AGREED:** The Action Sheet was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor P Clarke.

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/95/2015**                    **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:** Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 August 2015 (Copy circulated).

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

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

**C/96/2015**                    **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:** Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 August 2015 with Transport NI (Copy circulated).

Councillor Burgess on a point of accuracy, advised he had been in attendance at this meeting, although his name was not recorded.

**AGREED:**            **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record subject to Councillor Burgess' name being added to the list of attendees.**

**The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Donnelly.**

Councillor D McAteer referred to the funding that had been lost for the Southern Relief Road and proposed that Council officials meet with the EU Commission to explore other sources of funding. This was seconded by Councillor Stokes.

**AGREED:**            **On the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed that Council officials meet with the EU Commission to explore alternative sources of funding for the Southern Relief Road.**

## **COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

### **C/97/2015            MINUTES FROM ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:**                Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 August 2015 (Copy circulated).

#### **ERT/64/2015: Presentation – Tourism Northern Ireland**

Councillor Reilly suggested the presentation from Tourism Northern Ireland should have followed the same format as the TransportNI presentation and should have been heard at a Special Council Meeting.

#### **ERT/72/2015: Events Budget**

Councillor Mulgrew stated the Committee had been provided with a breakdown of the events budget which was overspent at £26,000. She stated she felt it was unfair to select one event to receive an additional £5,000 and requested that the proposers withdraw their proposal.

Following lengthy discussion, during which Members asked for contributions to festivals for Crossmaglen, Warrenpoint and Downpatrick and to a boxing event in Newry, Councillor Hearty proposed that Council adopt the minutes with the exception of the recommendation contained within Minute ref: ERT/72/2015 relating to

increasing the allocation for Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Fair from £10,000 to £15,000. This was seconded by Councillor Mulgrew.

The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote (copy attached), the results of which were as follows:

**FOR: 16**  
**AGAINST: 20**  
**ABSTENTIONS: 2**

**THE PROPOSAL WAS DEFEATED.**

The Chief Executive agreed to meet with Councillor Casey to discuss the boxing event in Newry.

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

**The Chief Executive to meet with Councillor Casey to discuss boxing event in Newry.**

**C/98/2015**

**MINUTES FROM STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:** Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2015 (Copy circulated).

**SPR/110/2015: Voluntary Severance Scheme**

The Chief Executive requested that the above minutes be withdrawn as he would be reporting further to Council on the matter at a later date.

**SPR/125/2015: APSE Awards and Seminar – Free Delegate Place**

The Chief Executive advised the delegate place had not be used as it had been too late to book the conference within the timeline for Council approval.

**SPR/106/2015: Progress Report on Down Leisure Centre**

Councillor Curran asked what the envisaged increase in the cost of materials for the Centre was likely to be.

Mr Curtis advised the scheme would go to ITT (Invitation to Tender stage) on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and there are envisaged to be increased costs, and officers were investigating ways of reducing the cost of the scheme with a report to be brought to the next Committee meeting.

## **SPR/122/2015: Sister City Summit April 2016**

Councillor Carr proposed Council appoint a delegation to accompany a local group who were going to Southern Pines. This was seconded by Councillor D McAteer.

Mr Curtis advised a delegation of 4 Councillors and officials, one of whom would be Chairperson of the Council, were invited to attend. However, this would need to be done as a matter of urgency.

Following discussion it was agreed that the Chairperson of Council, 2 Councillors and an officer would attend. Members queried the cost and Mr Curtis advised £4,500 had been set aside, in the current rates estimates which would cover the cost of those attending.

Councillor Burns suggested speaking with Mr John McGrillen, CEO Tourism Northern Ireland to investigate the potential for the development of golf tourism between Southern Pines and Royal County Down in Newcastle.

**Agreed:**                    **The Minutes were adopted and agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor O’Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanna, subject to the extraction of minute ref, SPR/110/2015.**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Carr, seconded by Councillor D McAteer to send a delegation of the Chairperson, 2 Councillors and an officer to Southern Pines.**

**It was also agreed that Mr McGrillen, CEO Tourism Northern Ireland be approached about the potential for development of golf tourism between Southern Pines and Royal County Down, Newcastle.**

**C/99/2015**

### **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:**                    Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2015 (Copy circulated).

On a point of accuracy, Councillor Burns advised during the discussion at Committee, he had referred to a Fina sized pool, not an Olympic sized pool.

## **AHC/41/2015 - Presentation By Swimming Teachers Association**

Councillor Enright said whilst private groups could not book the Downpatrick pool for the year ahead, Council had already published its programme of lessons. He said there were separate issues with the Newry pool. He said

the minutes were accurate but that Council was breaking with the other Councils covering Down and Armagh by proceeding with a private organisation run by private operators who were making money through the Swim Teachers Association (STA). He suggested Council should receive a presentation from Swim Ireland and a decision then be taken on whether to proceed with the STA or Swim Ireland.

In response to comments from Councillor Reilly, the Director of Active and Healthy Communities, Mr Lipsett, said he had sent an email to all Members earlier in the day in response to issues raised by Save Our Swim Schools. He advised that an excerpt had been taken from the HSE document and a link to the full document provided in the Officers' Report to Committee. He said that the document had not been altered in any way.

Mr Lipsett said that during the presentation to Committee, Mr Timms (STA) had set out how the STA programme differed from Swim Ireland's programme. He said from level 5 upwards, the programme focused on coaching. Up to level 5, focused on making children safe in the water.

**AHC/43/2015 - Use of Leisure Centres Outside of Council Hours**  
**AHC/44/2015 – Update on Swim Programmes and Pool Timetables**

Mr Lipsett advised that one of the members of STA had made a presentation at AHC Committee. This had set out exactly what the programme was about and how it differed from the Swim Ireland programme. He confirmed from level 5 upwards addressed the coaching of children and below that level focused on making children safe in the water.

In response to Members questions, Mr Lipsett advised:

- The Newry and Kilkeel pools would be available for bookings by groups on some days after 6pm. Downpatrick would be available on different days as it was limited to half hour slots after 6pm.
- Usage charts for each pool had been emailed to Members. The white areas were areas available for bookings when anyone could book, including private clubs and private individuals.
- There were complaints from the public regarding lack of recreational swimming.
- There were a number of timeslots available in the 3 pools which could be booked by anyone who could provide a different course than those provided by Council.
- The proposal at Committee was also to increase the opening hours of the Newry pool on Saturday and Sunday evenings.
- The Newry pool would be available for lessons on a number of evenings during the week, but not at weekends.
- There had been issues with lifeguard cover for the flume area in the Newry Centre which was being addressed.
- The white areas were available for anyone to make a booking. Once the programme had been agreed by Council, the normal booking process would proceed.

- The proposed programme as agreed at the Committee was that Saturday and Sunday would allow for public swimming and classes would take place during the week.
- Staff rotated around the 3 pools to a limited degree, but the proposal was that this would increase as part of the STA programme we are training lifeguards further.
- The pool programme agreed by Committee could not be implemented until the decision had been ratified by Council. Once the 5 day call-in period had expired, then officers could implement the programme.
- There was massive pressure on a Saturday and Sunday to increase opening hours for public swimming.
- If Council ratified the decision to increase opening hours on a Saturday and Sunday, a further report would be brought back to AHC Committee stating how officers would implement this.
- The slots available in the Newry pool were Monday from 5-7.30pm, all day on a Friday, smaller slots on a Tuesday afternoon from 5pm and a slot on Wednesday at 5pm.
- It was also agreed to allow hire of the pool outside of normal opening hours by any group that wanted to hire it so long as they covered the full cost of the pool and associated staff costs.

Councillor Tinnelly said the Newry pool chart showed it was closed from 5.15pm onwards on a Saturday and Sunday. He queried when the new opening times would come into effect and asked what the new opening times at weekends would be.

Mr Lipsett referred to minute AHC/44/2015 and read out:

“In reply to a query from Councillor Fitzpatrick, Mr Gordon explained that following a recent meeting whereby it was noted that Officers would look at available times/spaces to cater for the demand in swim lessons, that the proposal was to offer swimming on a Saturday and on a Sunday evening as there were no other available time slots during opening times without further impacting public pool space provision”.

Mr Lipsett said the proposed programme agreed at the Committee was for increased public swimming on Saturday and Sunday to allow more classes during the week.

Councillor Enright said that Mr Timms (STA) had referred to a difference between the STA and Swim Ireland programmes that did not exist. It was inaccurate to say that Swim Ireland was for elite athletes; it was for the youngest child to an Olympic athlete. He proposed that Swim Ireland be invited to make a presentation to Council similar to the one made by the STA.

**AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor K McAteer, that Swim Ireland be invited to make a presentation to Council.**

In response to comments from Councillor Carr regarding the last 2 paragraphs, Mr Lipsett referred to AHC/44/2015 and read out from the minutes:



“In reply to a query from Councillor Fitzpatrick, Mr Gordon explained that following a recent meeting whereby it was noted that Officers would look at available times/spaces to cater for the demand in swim lessons, that the proposal was to offer swimming on a Saturday and on a Sunday evening as there were no other available time slots during opening times without further impacting public pool space provision”.

Mr Lipsett said that if the minute was adopted, a report would be brought back to Committee specifically around Saturday and Sunday evenings use for the areas highlighted in grey on the chart and if Members agreed to this, opening hours would be extended to allow everyone access to the pool.

Mr Lipsett advised that the white areas on the charts at the Committee meeting had shown when the pool was available to hire. He said that due to the pressure from all of the groups, it was necessary to look at increasing the opening times of the pools at weekends. He said this was not budgeted for and would need to be looked at. He added that it would be important to ensure that the costs associated with the increased opening times would be covered.

The Chief Executive, Mr Hannaway drew to Members’ attention the agreement to change the time of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee from 3pm and 6pm, to 6pm every month. He advised the exception to this would be the December meeting which would be at 3pm, with Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee following at 6pm.

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

**The Minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor W Clarke.**

**C/100/2015                   REPORT FROM PUBLIC MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2015 RE: SLIEVE ROE HOUSE**

**Read:**                   Report on Public Meeting and recommendations on next steps in respect of Slieve Roe House, and draft response to SHSCT Consultation Document (copy circulated)

Councillor Reilly praised Council officers for their diligent work in setting up and assisting with the public meeting and proposed that the recommendations from the public meeting be approved:

1. Invite the Chairperson, Chief Executive and Director of Older Person’s Services, Southern Health and Social Care Trust to Kilkeel to be presented with the Council/Community response to the consultation
2. A Steering Group consisting of Mourne Area Councillors and interested local individuals be set up to develop a campaign for the retention of Slieve Roe.

This proposal was seconded by Councillor Hanna.

The Chief Executive said the Chief Executive or Chair of the Trust had advised that she was not available to attend for presentation of the response, before the consultation date completes. However the Director of Older Person's Services would deputise in her absence.

**Agreed:**                    **The report and recommendations were agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

**C/101/2015**                    **MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:**                         Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2015 (copy circulated)

**RTS/70/2015: Bus Shelters**

Councillor Casey asked whether Council had worked with Translink to replace the bus shelters on the Camlough Road, Newry with a newer style. He also asked for an update on an access issue from a car park to St Mary's Cemetery, Newry.

Councillor Walker asked for an update on the possibility of a bus shelter being sited at Frederick Street in Killyleagh.

Councillor Donnelly enquired about progress on her request for a bus shelter at Dorsey.

**RTS/63/2015: Report re: Dechomet Graveyard, Ballyward, Capital Scheme for Pathway Access**

Councillor Craig asked if funding was not forthcoming, do Council have a statutory requirement to provide disabled access at the site.

The Chief Executive advised he did not have the answers to the queries above and agreed to instruct officers to respond to the above queries following the meeting.

Mr O'Rourke advised disabled access would be required at Dechomet Graveyard, regardless if funding was forthcoming or not.

**Agreed:**                    **The minutes were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

**The Chief Executive to instruct officers to respond to the queries regarding bus shelters and graveyards following the meeting.**

**The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor McKee.**

## **CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES**

**C/102/2015**      **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM POST OFFICE RE:  
DRUMINTEE POST OFFICE – PROPOSED MOVE TO NEW  
PREMISES AND BRANCH MODERNISATION**

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

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

**C/103/2015**      **DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS & LEISURE RE:  
CONFERENCE – SHAPING PLACE – CHANGING LIVES –  
THURSDAY 22 OCTOBER 2015 – NEWTOWNABBEY (M/53)**

**Read:**                      Correspondence received regarding conference Shaping Place, Changing Lives to be held on Thursday 22 October 2015 in Newtownabbey (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Craig that Councillor Murnin attend the conference, as well as Councillors previously appointed.**

**C/104/2015**      **CIPFA NI ANNUAL CONFERENCE – 8-9 OCTOBER 2015 –  
HILTON HOTEL, TEMPLEPATRICK (M/53)**

**Read:**                      Correspondence received from CIPFA re: Annual Conference to be held on 8-9 October 2015 in the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick. Cost = £316 (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:**                    **The correspondence was noted.**

**C/105/2015**      **CORRESPONDENCE FROM TRANSPORTNI RE: PARKING  
ISSUES – DRUMALANE ROAD, NEWRY**

**Read:**                      Correspondence received from TransportNI re: Parking Issues at Drumanlane Road, Newry (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor D McAteer to write to TransportNI to ask for a timeline on when they propose to carry out these works and what type of restriction would be put in place.**

## **REPORTS FROM OFFICERS**

### **C/106/2015      REPORT ON PROPOSED ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADDITIONAL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

**Read:** Report from Mrs E McParland dated 28 August 2015 regarding proposed arrangements for additional Council Meetings. (Copy circulated).

The Chief Executive presented the report and recommended that an additional Council Meeting be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month to facilitate presentations by Statutory and other external agencies/bodies as well as those from Council officers.

Mr Hannaway stated the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and ABO Wind have been invited to attend the September meeting to make presentations to Council.

The Chief Executive advised that the Party Representatives Forum would consider and give clearance on the scheduling of presentations – generally no more than two presentations per meeting. He further advised that presentations would be the only item on the agenda for these additional meetings and presentations would still be made at Committee Meetings when they involve matters for consideration of Members of that Committee. He clarified that if there were not presentations for a particular month, the Meeting would not be held. Additionally no meeting would take place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday in December.

**Noted:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Hearty to accept the officer's recommendations.**

### **C/107/2015      CONSIDER INVITATION FROM DERRY CITY AND STRABANE COUNCIL TO PARTICIPATE IN JOINT COUNCIL DELEGATION TO LOBBY AGAINST REDUCTION IN RATE SUPPORT GRANT**

The Chief Executive advised an invitation had been extended by Derry City and Strabane Council to participate in a delegation to lobby against the reduction in the rate support grant. He suggested a delegation of 3 representatives on a cross-party basis could make up the delegation and he, or his nominee would attend also .

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Quinn to send a delegation to lobby against the reduction in the rate support grant.**

**SDLP nominated Councillor Curran to attend as part of the delegation.**

**DUP/UUP nominated Councillor Craig to attend as part of the delegation.**

**Sinn Fein to advise officers of nomination as soon as possible.**

## **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

**C/108/2015**

### **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

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

1. Valley Rangers GFC - Contribution Agreement
2. Culloville Development Association - Contribution Agreement
3. Lease of Portacabins at Shandon Park with Damolly FC
4. Licence Agreement for Hire of Council Facility - "this item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information), and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business."
5. Elected Member Application Form for Accredited Training Programmes - "this item is deemed to be restricted by virtue of paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information relating to any individual"
6. Deed of Covenant and Charge x 3 - Meelmore Lodge, Newcastle File Ref L/P/12
7. Licence for sealing - DARD and Council - Licence to Undertake Removal of Vegetation Works in Tollymore Forest Park.

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/109/2015**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION – MILK AND DAIRY COMMODITIES**

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

**“That this Council calls on the UK Government to implement meaningful intervention buying for milk and dairy commodities and develops an emergency support package to facilitate the survival of all sectors of the Agricultural industry during this period of extreme uncertainty and adverse market conditions.”**

In proposing the motion, Councillor Reilly stated that dairy farmers were in a very difficult position due to the surplus of milk across the EU and that Council should ask the UK Government to implement intervention buying for milk and dairy supplies.

Councillor Hanna seconded the motion stating farmers were under severe pressure and drastic action needed to be taken by the EU. He advised there has been a huge increase in suicide and mental health issues of farmers and something needs to be done.

Members discussed the issue at length voicing their support and expanding the scope and re-wording the motion to state:

"That this Council calls on the UK Government and EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, to lobby for meaningful intervention buying for milk and dairy commodities and to develop an emergency support package to facilitate the survival of all sectors of the Agricultural industry during this period of extreme uncertainty and adverse market conditions, and calls for greater transparency in terms of percentage of profit sharing across the supply in the food chain. It also calls on the DARD Minister to confirm basic farm payments are made early to ensure cash flow for farmers."

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanna to write to the UK Government and EU Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, to lobby for meaningful intervention buying for milk and dairy commodities and to develop an emergency support package to facilitate the survival of all sectors of the Agricultural industry, and calls for greater transparency in terms of percentage of profit sharing across the supply in the food chain.**

**It was also agreed to write to the DARD Minister asking to confirm basic farm payments are made early to ensure cash flow for farmers.**

**C/110/2015**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PROVISION OF AIR AMBULANCE FACILITY TO COVER NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

**"That this Council supports the introduction of an air ambulance facility to cover Northern Ireland."**

Councillor Hanna proposed the motion stating the finance to fund the provision of an air ambulance could come from the public purse and charitable donations. He requested that the Chief Executive write to the Health Minister expressing Council's support for the creation of an air ambulance for Northern Ireland.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Reilly stated Scotland has four air ambulances and the one based in Glasgow could potentially be used in Northern Ireland. He stated if Council could show that spending money is to the greater community's benefit, Council could pledge £50,000 to help in the provision of an air ambulance.

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

- Due to the poor roads infrastructure and congestion, an air ambulance would save lives especially for those people living in very rural areas.
- Any air ambulance provision in Northern Ireland would need to co-ordinate with the Dublin Air Ambulance.
- In the words of Dr John Hinds, an air ambulance was a necessity not a luxury, Council should respond appropriately to the public consultation.
- A child who had fallen from her bike in Castlewellan Forest Park would have died without the utilisation of the PSNI helicopter and this should be enough to highlight the need for an air ambulance within Northern Ireland.
- The provision of an air ambulance would be a fitting tribute to Dr John Hinds, who was a past pupil of St Patrick's Grammar School in Downpatrick.

**Agreed: It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Reilly that Council write to the Health Minister expressing Council's support for the creation of an air ambulance for Northern Ireland.**

Agreed by Council, by qualified majority vote, to suspend Standing Orders at this point in the meeting 9.45pm, to allow for the tabling of the following Motion.

**C/111/2015                      EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION – REFUGEE CRISIS IN SYRIA**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the names of Councillors W Clarke and Brown:

**“This Council abhors the terrible humanitarian and refugee crisis and the dreadful deaths resulting from the crisis unfolding across Europe. This Council wishes to discuss how we and the citizens of Newry, Mourne and Down might respond to this crisis and offer practical assistance to families fleeing the conflicts in Syria, Libya, Iraq and Kurdistan.”**

Councillor W Clarke thanked the Chairperson for allowing the emergency notice of motion.

In proposing the motion, he advised there were thousands of refugees dying and displaced from Syria, with thousands waiting in Calais and the iconic photograph of the young boy who had died on the beach has urged the public to call for action. He advised this was a generic motion to which amendments could be made and he called on Council officials to draw up proposals on how Council can work with partners to provide support for refugees and to organise a workshop to deal with the issue. He called for a letter to be sent to NILGA and the Northern Ireland Assembly

and for Council staff to complete preparatory planning for the possible arrival of refugees to the District.

Councillor Brown formally seconded the motion, adding the following to its content, with the agreement of the proposer, Councillor W Clarke:

**“This Council recognises the severity of the current refugee crisis; the legitimate right of the persecuted to sanctuary under international law; and understands the moral obligation to help placed on those nations able to do so. This motion calls upon the UK government to show leadership and devote resources to help those in need, and pledges that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will offer sanctuary to at least 100 refugees, or the number allocated by the British government, and that the appropriate lines of communication shall be opened by the Council to enable this”.**

Members discussed the issue at length and the following actions were agreed in relation to the motion:

- A working group should be set up to investigate ways to deal with the crisis.
- Letters should be sent to other Councils and NILGA to follow Newry, Mourne and Down Council’s lead on the matter.
- Events that have been organised throughout the District to raise awareness and fundraising should be advertised on the Council’s social media platforms.
- A letter should be sent to the Ministry of Defence asking for the usage of Ballykinlar camp for the refugees.
- The overall process be carefully managed to ensure the most needy and genuine were assisted.
- In the letter to the UK Government they should be asked to reflect on the proportion of money spent arming people in countries such as Syria and Libya.
- A letter to OFMDFM to convene a taskforce outside the Executive involving local Councils, NIHE, Health Trusts, Voluntary and Charity Organisations and Faith Groups to facilitate a rapid response for the region.

**Agreed:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor W Clarke, seconded by Councillor Brown, that the Council recognise the severity of the current refugee crisis; the legitimate right of the persecuted to sanctuary under international law; and understands the moral obligation to help placed on those nations able to do so. The Council therefore calls upon the UK government to show leadership and devote resources to help those in need, and pledges that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will offer sanctuary to at least 100 refugees, or the number allocated by the British government, and that the appropriate lines of communication shall be opened by the Council to enable this”.**



**Agreed:**

**It was agreed unanimously that the following actions be implemented in order to progress the content of the Motion:**

- **A working group be set up to investigate ways to deal with the crisis.**
- **Letters be sent to other Councils and NILGA to follow Newry, Mourne and Down Council's lead on the matter.**
- **Events that have been organised throughout the District to raise awareness and fundraising be advertised on the Council's social media platforms.**
- **A letter be sent to the Ministry of Defence asking for the use of Ballykinlar camp for the refugees.**
- **A letter be sent to the UK Government on this issue, the content of which should ask for reflection by them on the proportion of money spent arming people in countries such as Syria and Libya.**
- **A letter be sent to OFMDFM asking them to convene a taskforce outside the Executive involving local Councils, NIHE, Health Trusts, Voluntary and Charity organisations and Faith groups to facilitate a rapid response for the region.**

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.30pm**

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 07-09-2015 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Item 19 – Notice of Motion received from Councillors W Clarke and Brown

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	X			
N Bailie	X			
P Brown	X			
R Burgess	X			
S Burns	X			
M Carr	X			
C Casey	X			
P Clarke	X			
W Clarke	X			
G Craig	X			
D Curran	X			
L Devlin	X			
G Donnelly	X			
S Doran	X			
S Ennis	X			
C Enright	X			
G Fitzpatrick	X			
G Hanna	X			
V Harte	X			
H Harvey	X			
T Hearty	X			
D Hyland				X
L Kimmins				X
M Larkin	X			
K Loughran	X			
D McAteer	X			
K McAteer	X			
C McGrath				X
H McKee	X			
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin	X			
P Ó Gribín	X			
B Ó Muirí	X			
B Quinn	X			
H Reilly	X			
M Ruane	X			
G Sharvin	X			
G Stokes	X			
D Taylor	X			
JJ Tinnelly	X			
B Walker	X			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>3</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

DATE: 07-09-2015 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Councillor Hearty proposed that Council adopt the minutes with the exception of the recommendation contained within Minute ref: ERT/72/2015 relating to increasing the allocation for Ballynahinch Harvest and Country Living Fair from £10,000 to £15,000. This was seconded by Councillor Mulgrew.

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews		X		
N Bailie	X			
P Brown		X		
R Burgess		X		
S Burns	X			
M Carr	X			
C Casey	X			
P Clarke			X	
W Clarke	X			
G Craig		X		
D Curran		X		
L Devlin		X		
G Donnelly		X		
S Doran	X			
S Ennis	X			
C Enright	X			
G Fitzpatrick		X		
G Hanna		X		
V Harte	X			
H Harvey		X		
T Hearty	X			
D Hyland				X
L Kimmins				X
M Larkin	X			
K Loughran		X		
D McAteer		X		
K McAteer		X		
C McGrath				X
H McKee		X		
R Mulgrew	X			
M Murnin		X		
P Ó Gribín	X			
B Ó Muirí	X			
B Quinn		X		
H Reilly		X		
M Ruane	X			
G Sharvin			X	
G Stokes		X		
D Taylor		X		
JJ Tinnelly	X			
B Walker		X		
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>