



June 3rd, 2016

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Council meeting to be held on **Monday, 6th June 2016 at 6:00 pm** in **Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick.**

Agenda

1 **Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks**

2 **Declarations of Interest**

3 **Action Sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 May 2016**

[Council-03052016.pdf](#)

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Council Minutes For Adoption and Signing

4 **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 May 2016**

[Council Minutes 03-05-2016.pdf](#)

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5 **Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23 May 2016**

[Amendments to Special Council Meeting Minutes of 23 May 2016.pdf](#)

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[Special Council Meeting Minutes 23-05-2016.pdf](#)

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Committee Minutes for Consideration and Adoption

6 **Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 May 2016**

[ERT Minutes 9 May 2016.pdf](#)

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7 **Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 May 2016**

[Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting 12-05-2016.pdf](#)

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8 **Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2016**

9 Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 18 May 2016

RTS Minutes - 18 May 2016.pdf

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10 Minutes of Special Audit Committee Meeting held on 19 April 2016

DRAFT Special Audit Meeting 19 April 2016.pdf

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11 Minutes of Audit Committee held on 28 April 2016

Audit Mins 28 April 2016.pdf

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Correspondence and Consultation

12 Correspondence received from Parliamentary Under Secretary of State re: Electoral Office Reforms

Formatted letter to stakeholders - Electoral Reform NI (2).pdf

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13 Correspondence received from WW1 Centenary Northern Ireland

Invitation for Service to Commemorate the Centenary of the Battle of the Somme at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast on 3rd July 2016 from 3.30pm-5.00pm.

Somme Centenary Commemorative Service Letter.pdf

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Somme Centenary Commemoration Service Invitation.pdf

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14 Consultation received from Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

A Consultation and Equality Impact Assessment on the Development of Ophthalmic Clinical Centres in Norther, Southern and Sout Eastern Local Commissioning Group/Trust Areas

CE LDConsultation Covering Letter2 4.pdf

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Improving Ophthalmology OP Services_Consultation Document and Equality Impact Assessment_May 2016.pdf

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15 Correspondence received from Department for Communities

Welfare Reform: Independent Advice Funding

[brian doherty letter.pdf](#)

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16 Correspondence received from Libraries NI

Consultation about Reduction in Opening Hours in Newry City Library

[libraries27052016.pdf](#)

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Conferences/Events

17 NILGA Conference

[SERVER03 1ST FLR PRINTROOM iRADVC5035i 3928 001.pdf](#)

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Sealing Documents

18 Sealing Documents

1. Land of the Rear of Shimna Park, Newcastle - Contract for Sale and Lease Agreement - on 30 January 2012, legacy Down District Council agreed to dispose of land at Island Park, Newcastle.
 2. Rural Development Programme - Mourne, Gullion and Lecale - Service Level Agreement between DAERA and Council and Contract between Council and LAG Board - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has been awarded the contract by DAERA (formerly DARD) to deliver the Rural Development Programme 2014/20 across the Council area.
 3. AD/LEG/171 - Artist's Contract Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Francis Morgan - To design, produce, deliver to site, erect, make safe, manipulate, remove from site and deliver to a storage facility a giant puppet for a production on Sunday 21st August 2016.
 4. Contract - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Corran Kennels for Kennelling Facilities.
-

Warrenpoint Road, Newry

"That this Council notes with concern the growing number of road accidents on the Old Warrenpoint Road, Newry and urges DRD Roads Service to take immediate and effective measures to ensure the safety of local residents and children."

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Notice of Motion received from Councillor P Clarke - Mental Health & Mental Well-being

“That this Council writes to the offices of the First and Deputy First Minister calling on the Northern Ireland Executive to now urgently prioritise and address mental health and mental well-being as one of the most important health issues currently affecting people of all ages in Northern Ireland and also urges the Northern Ireland Executive to dedicate more resources and funding in conjunction with developing a mental health and mental wellbeing strategy plan with all major stake-holders including the community, voluntary, and private sector and Ministerial Government departments which can help address and tackle those affected with mental health problems across Northern Ireland.”

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Notice of Motion received from Councillor Reilly - A2 Road from Newcastle

That this council requests that the DRD allocates "trunk road" designation for the main A2 road from Newcastle at the Castlewellan, Dundrum Road Roundabout to the Fire station at Warrenpoint. That the Mourne DEA is aggregated in administrative terms for roads maintenance and improvements and the entire DEA and becomes the responsibility of the Transport NI Eastern Division. That in the event of this notice of motion passing through Council that a urgent meeting is requested with the DRD Minister to discuss the implementation of said motion.

ACTION SHEET- COUNCIL MEETING – TUESDAY 3 MAY 2016

1

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
C/93/2016	Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 April 2016	Minutes - Agreed.	Agreed.
C/94/2016	Minutes of ERT Meeting held on 11 April 2016	Minutes – Agreed.	Agreed.
C/95/2016	Minutes of SPR Meeting held on 14 April 2016	<p><u>SPR/84/2016 – Presentation – Proposals for Appointment of Members to the Community Planning Partnership Board and the Thematic Delivery Groups</u> It was agreed that the last 3 places would be allocated to Councillors P Clarke, K McAteer and H Reilly based on their respective voting strengths at Stage 1 of the Local Government Election.</p> <p><u>SPR/99/2016 – Request to purchase 0.24 acres of land to the rear of Shandon Park, Newry</u> It was agreed that the issue of purchasing 0.24 acres of land to the rear of Shandon Park, Newry be deferred to a future Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to allow for further consideration.</p> <p>Minutes – Agreed subject to the above amendments.</p>	Actioned
C/97/2016	Minutes of AHC Meeting held on 18 April 2016	Minutes – Agreed.	Agreed
C/98/2016	Sports Facility Strategy	It was agreed that Members with any issues regarding the Sports Facility Strategy should raise these with the Director at their earliest convenience.	Ongoing

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
C/99/2016	Minutes of RTS Meeting held on 20 April 2016	<u>RTS/59/2016 – Update of Installation of Bus Shelters</u> It was agreed that the minute be amended to reflect the provision of side panels at the bus shelter in Crossgar also. Minutes – Agreed.	Actioned
C/100/2016	Minutes of Elected Member Development Working Group Meeting held on 14 April 2016	Minutes – Agreed.	Agreed
C/101/2016	Standing Order	It was agreed to amend the Council's Standing Orders, with a draft being presented to the Party Representatives Forum on 23 May 2016. The amended Standing Orders would then be presented to a subsequent meeting of Council for consideration.	On agenda – PRF 23/05/16
C/102/2016	Correspondence received from DoE re: Implementing a Fresh Start – Clause 65, Engagement and Consultation	It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Department of Environment stating Council's dissatisfaction at the reduction in the consultation period which was considered to be too short to facilitate consideration and reply.	Letter sent
C/103/2016	Correspondence received from DoE – Call for Evidence	It was agreed that a response to Department of Environment would be formulated by the Area Planning Manager and any Member wishing to input to the Call for Evidence could submit their views to Mr McKay as soon as possible.	Ongoing
C/104/2016	Sealing Documents	It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents: 1. Licence Agreement Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Tidal View Rod and Gun Club - 5 year licence from 1 July 2015	Signed and sealed

AGENDA ITEM	SUBJECT	DECISION	FOR COMPLETION BY DIRECTOR – including actions taken/date completed or progress to date if not yet completed
		<p>(issued under Scheme of Delegation.)</p> <p>2. Licence Agreement - Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Order of Malta - Licence Agreement with the Order of Malta from 1 November 2015 until 31 August 2017 in respect of two Car Parking Spaces at Newry Sports Centre.</p> <p>3. Licence Agreement - Newry Agricultural Show - Lands at Derryleckagh – permission for Newry Agricultural Show to use lands at Derryleckagh for their annual show.</p> <p>4. Licence Agreement - Fiddlers Green Festival - Use of 16 The Square, Rostrevor - Friday 22 July 2016 until close of Festival on Sunday 31 July 2016.</p> <p>5. Conveyance of Lands adjacent to 45 St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick – duplicate conveyance.</p> <p>6. Licence Agreement - Warrenpoint GAA Club - Storage Container at Milltown Playing Fields, Warrenpoint – for sports equipment</p>	
C/105/2016	Correspondence received from Northern Ireland Office re: Reform of Electoral Office for Northern Ireland	The correspondence was noted.	Noted.

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Tuesday 3 May 2016 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Ruane

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	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 S Doran
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor P O’Gribin
Councillor B O’Múiri	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
 Mr C O’Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
 Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
 Mr A McKay, Area Planning Manager
 Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Corporate Services
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/90/2016

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Byrne, Devlin, Ennis, McGrath, McKee, Quinn and Tinnelly.

- The Chairperson expressed his condolences to the family of William Stockdale, who had recently tragically died at his home in Newcastle.

C/91/2016 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/92/2016 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2016

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 April 2016 (copy circulated)

C/74/2016 - Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 February 2016

Mrs McParland advised TransportNI will be in attendance at the May Special Council Meeting. She stated a data capture sheet would be circulated to all Members for questions to be submitted prior to their attendance at the meeting.

C/75/2016 – ERT/37/2016 – Appointment of Members to Newry, Mourne and Down Economic Forum

Mrs McParland advised SDLP nominations for the above forum were Councillor Curran and Murnin.

C/76/2016 – SPR/59/2016 – Report on Presentations to Council and Committee Meetings

Mrs McParland stated the Public Protection Agency NI (PPANI) were unable to attend the April meeting and would attend the Special Council Meeting in June 2016.

AGREED: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 April 2016 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/93/2016 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2016

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 4 April 2016 (copy circulated)

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/94/2016 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 APRIL 2016

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2016 (copy circulated)

ERT/59/2016 – Mooring Facilities - Albert Basin Quayside

Councillor Murnin stated if the power points at the moorings were overloaded they trip the electricity, therefore there should be more than one power point put in place.

Mrs Ward advised people were constantly overloading the power points therefore officers surveyed the boat owners and it was agreed that one electrical power point would be provided and would be paid for separately upon request on a daily basis.

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Hanna.

C/95/2016 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2016

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2016 (Copy circulated).

SPR/84/2016 – Presentation – Proposals for Appointment of Members to the Community Planning Partnership Board and the Thematic Delivery Groups

Mr Hannaway advised that the order of picks under d'Hondt needed to be reworked in accordance with the SPR Committee's request that the last 3 places would be allocated to Councillors P Clarke, K McAteer and H Reilly based on their respective voting strengths at Stage 1 of the Local Government Election.

Mr Hannaway stated that, based on the above strengths, pick 38 would be allocated to Councillor H Reilly, pick 39 to Councillor P Clarke and pick 40 to Councillor K McAteer.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Burns that the above amendment be approved.

SPR/99/2016 – Request to purchase 0.24 acres of land to the rear of Shandon Park, Newry

Mr Hannaway requested that this issue be deferred to a future Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to allow for further consideration.

AGREED: It was agreed that the issue of purchasing 0.24 acres of land to the rear of Shandon Park, Newry be deferred to a future Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting to allow for further consideration.

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the above amendments and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Craig.

C/96/2016 **REPORT RELATING TO SPR/84/2016 – NOMINATIONS TO COMMUNITY PLANNING PARTNERSHIP THEMATIC WORKING GROUPS**

Read: Report from Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager, dated 20 April 2016 regarding Nominations to Newry, Mourne and Down Community Planning Partnership Board and Thematic Working Groups – SPR Minute Ref: SPR/84/2016 (Copy circulated).

NOTED: The report was noted as the matter had been discussed under item C/95/2016.

C/97/2016 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 APRIL 2016**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 18 April 2016 (Copy circulated).

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Loughran.

C/98/2016 **SPORTS FACILITY STRATEGY**

Read: Report from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities dated 29 April 2016 regarding Sports Facilities Strategy (Copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised there would be a workshop for Members to discuss the new Sports Facility Strategy.

Councillor Burns stated there were some key issues not listed within the circulated document and asked whether Members would have an opportunity to raise these issues before the workshop would take place.

Mr Hannaway advised the details of the strategy had not yet been sent out and a detailed evidence paper would be presented at the workshop. He stated if Members had any issues to raise, they should contact Mr Lipsett in order that these could be investigated.

AGREED: It was agreed that Members with any issues regarding the Sports Facility Strategy should raise these with the Director at their earliest convenience.

C/99/2016 **MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 APRIL 2016**

Read: Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 20 April 2016 (Copy circulated).

RTS/55/2016 – Dust/Residue nuisance at Carnbane Industrial Estate and surrounding residential areas

Councillor Casey stated cars had been destroyed due to the residue and asked whether Council could intervene in any way.

Mr O'Rourke advised he had written to the NIEA and had contacted the Council's Environmental Health department to investigate the issue and would bring back any information to a future Committee Meeting.

RTS/59/2016 – Update of Installation of Bus Shelters

Councillor Andrews asked that the agreed action be amended to reflect the provision of side panels at the bus shelter in Crossgar also.

AGREED: It was agreed that the minute be amended to reflect the provision of side panels at the bus shelter in Crossgar.

AGREED: The minutes were agreed as an accurate record, subject to the above amendment, and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.

C/100/2016 **MINUTES OF ELECTED MEMBER DEVELOPMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON 14 APRIL 2016**

Read: **Minutes of Elected Member Development Working Group Meeting held on 14 April 2016 (copy circulated)**

AGREED: **The minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Mulgrew.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

C/101/2016 STANDING ORDERS

Read: Report from Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager regarding review of Council's Standing Orders (Copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised a draft revised copy of Standing Orders, with all changes tracked for ease of reference, would be presented to the Party Representatives Meeting on 23 May 2016, with amended Standing Orders then being presented to a subsequent meeting of Council for consideration.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews to amend the Council's Standing Orders, with a draft being presented to the Party Representatives Forum on 23 May 2016. The amended Standing Orders would then be presented to a subsequent meeting of Council for consideration.**

C/102/2016 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT REGARDING IMPLEMENTING A FRESH START – CLAUSE 65, ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

Read: Correspondence received from Department of Environment regarding Implementing A Fresh Start-Clause 65, Engagement and Consultation (Copy circulated).

Mr Hannaway advised that Clause 65 of "A Fresh Start" contained an agreement to reduce policy consultations from 12 weeks to a maximum of 8 weeks, and that this change would take effect immediately following the Assembly election.

Mr Hannaway stated this reduction may impact upon response times for Council to respond to important consultations.

Members discussed the issue and it was agreed that officers would write to the Department stating Council's dissatisfaction at the reduction in the consultation period.

AGREED: It was agreed that a letter be sent to the Department of Environment stating Council's dissatisfaction at the reduction in the consultation period which was considered to be too short to facilitate consideration and reply.

COUNCILLOR O'GRIBIN ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE – 6.20PM

C/103/2016 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DOE – CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Read: Report from Mr A McKay, Area Planning Manager, dated 3 May 2016 regarding correspondence received from Department of Environment regarding Call for Evidence for Strategic Planning Policy and Permitted Development Rights for Mineral Exploration. (Copy circulated).

Mr McKay stated the DoE had published the Strategic Planning Policy Statement – Planning for Sustainable Development in September 2015 and a range of subject policies were covered within this document. He advised the DoE had now committed to review the area of regional policy and the call for evidence was the first step in the review.

Mr McKay stated any comments from Members would form the basis of the Council's submission to the DoE and would inform the scope of future review to be undertaken by DoE. He advised the review would be subject to a full public consultation and would come to Council in due course.

Members discussed the issue with the following comments being made:

- Clustering with farm buildings needed to be investigated, farmyards are very dangerous places therefore families should be allowed to move a few fields away in order to have a better quality of life.
- Still serious issues within Planning Department.
- Where had this document been, the closing date for consultation being 6 May 2016 which did not give Members sufficient time for discussion?
- Where did these consultations fit into the Council's own planning policies?
- Would Council be bound by these regional policies?
- An additional point to make would be how suitable design was to the area where buildings were to be located.
- Would the strategic overview encompass planning for rural dwellings for those people who were not farmers?

Mr McKay responded to some of the comments as follows:

- Issues such as farm safety, clustering etc were matters for local policy. Council would be producing its own development plan and detailed policies would deal with development in the countryside. The policies being dealt with in the correspondence were at regional level, strategic guidance regarding the nature of development in the countryside, how much would be appropriate etc.
- Planning has been with Council for just over a year and the issues and problems were well documented. The process would not be closed if a submission was not made by 6 May 2016. The exercise was to gather evidence and get comments from Members to facilitate a response.
- The policy for development in the countryside did not specifically target non-farm rural dwellers, however there was no shortage of categories within development that could be availed of.

AGREED: It was agreed that a response to Department of Environment would be formulated by the Area Planning Manager and any Member wishing to input to the Call for Evidence could submit their views to Mr McKay as soon as possible.

SEALING DOCUMENTS

C/104/2016

SEALING DOCUMENTS

AGREED: It was agreed to sign and seal the following documents on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Hanna:

1. Licence Agreement Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Tidal View Rod and Gun Club - 5 year licence from 1 July 2015 (issued under Scheme of Delegation.)
2. Licence Agreement - Newry Mourne and Down District Council and Order of Malta - Licence Agreement with the Order of Malta from 1 November 2015 until 31 August 2017 in respect of two Car Parking Spaces at Newry Sports Centre.
3. Licence Agreement - Newry Agricultural Show - Lands at Derryleckagh – permission for Newry Agricultural Show to use lands at Derryleckagh for their annual show.
4. Licence Agreement - Fiddlers Green Festival - Use of 16 The Square, Rostrevor - Friday 22 July 2016 until close of Festival on Sunday 31 July 2016.
5. Conveyance of Lands adjacent to 45 St Patrick's Avenue, Downpatrick – duplicate conveyance.

6. Licence Agreement - Warrenpoint GAA Club - Storage Container at Milltown Playing Fields, Warrenpoint – for sports equipment

FOR NOTING

C/105/2016

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REGARDING REFORM OF ELECTORAL OFFICE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Read:

Correspondence received from Northern Ireland Office regarding Reform of Electoral Office for Northern Ireland (Copy circulated)

Mr Hannaway advised the correspondence contained proposals for future elections with the main proposal being that Council take the lead on all elections, including the introduction of on-line registration.

Members welcomed the reform of the Electoral Office stating it would make it easier for constituents if registration was undertaken by Councils.

NOTED:

The correspondence received from Northern Ireland Office regarding Reform of Electoral Office for Northern Ireland was noted.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.50pm

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

Amendments to Special Council Meeting Minutes of 23 May 2016.

Councillor D McAteer:-

“Councillor D McAteer praised Transport NI on their recently completed scheme on Milltown Street, Burren and requested resources from their Capital Budget to be assigned immediately to Phase 2 of footpath on Milltown Street as it had previously been agreed that this was a priority scheme within Crotlieve DEA”.

Councillor P Clarke:-

“Councillor P Clarke proposed that due to Newry Mourne and Down District Council being the 3rd largest Council in Northern Ireland , and due to the large backlog of maintenance and repairs, Council write to the incoming DRD Roads Minister requesting additional funds so that Transport NI can be given the appropriate funding to carry out the backlog and repairs. This was seconded by Councillor W Clarke.

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/SC/

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 23 May 2016 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor G Fitzpatrick

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
Councillor P Clarke	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor C Enright
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor P Ó'Gribín
Councillor B Ó'Muirí	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J J Tinnelly
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
 Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
 Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer
 Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr J Kelly, Network Development Manager, Transport NI
 Ms C Noble, Section Engineer, Transport NI
 Mr S Duffy, Section Engineer, Transport NI

SC/29/2016

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Burns, Carr, Curran, Devlin, Hanna, Harte, Loughran, Ruane and Sharvin.

SC/30/2015

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/31/2015

PRESENTATION BY TRANSPORT NI

The Chairperson welcomed Mr J Kelly, Ms C Noble and Mr S Duffy from Transport NI and invited them to present their Annual Report 2016/2017.

Mr Kelly thanked the Chairperson for the opportunity to present the Annual Report to Council. He apologised on behalf of the Divisional Manager, Simon Richardson, who had been present earlier to answer Members questions, but could not attend the meeting. Mr Kelly advised Members of the significant work that had been completed across the road network during the last year, which he said was one of the most difficult years in recent history from a funding and service delivery point of view. He explained the difference between the capital budget and the resource budget, saying the capital budget was spent on maintenance of the existing road network, new infrastructure and growth and investment, and the resource budget was spent on routine maintenance of the roads network eg. grass cutting, weed spraying and gully emptying. In the past year, the resource budget had been limited, resulting in the level of service being curtailed, and this would continue to be the case in the short term.

Mr Kelly informed Members that grass cutting had been reduced from 5 cuts in urban areas to 2 cuts in rural areas, to 1 cut in both areas, although sight lines were cut when necessary. Gully emptying took place once a year and weed spraying was undertaken on invasive species only. He advised there was money in the resource budget for weed control to be undertaken by external contractors this year and only the bigger pot holes on the higher trafficked roads would be fixed.

Mr Kelly said the Divisional Manager, Mr Richardson had instructed the section engineers to direct capital resurfacing funding to complete the areas of the rural roads which were in very bad condition. He also advised that funding had been secured for external contractors to provide maintenance work on street lighting.

Mr Kelly referred to the Civil Service voluntary exit scheme, saying staff numbers had been reduced by 15% in the Southern division due to the scheme, meaning work had to be undertaken with less staff and the capacity was no longer available for reactive assessments for network development schemes and these would now be considered 2-3 times per year, with a focus on the schemes which were best value for money.

Mr Kelly finished by informing Members that Transport NI had completed a significant amount of work despite reduced budgets and in the years ahead would continue to place emphasis on the existing roads network. He provided an update on the Ballynahinch bypass, saying the enquiry was now complete, the inspectors report was being considered, the outcome of which meant that Transport NI could make a direction order and then vest the land required subject to finances. He also updated Members on the Newry southern relief road, the A7 Rowallane to Doran's Rock road and the Kilmore Bridge replacement scheme.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation and invited questions from the Members.

Members asked the following questions:

- What were the crime figures since street lighting had been taken away from the back entries?
- There were issues with the Transport NI generic telephone number – it took too long to be answered and too much information was required to report a fault.
- Why were small schemes to enhance traffic movement around Newry not addressed?
- Why was the paintwork on zebra crossings not replaced?
- When would works for the Ballynahinch bypass begin?
- Would there be a slow/passing lane included in the road from Rowallane to Doran's Rock?
- Why was the Ballygowan Road in such a bad state until the Ards & North Down boundary was reached?
- Would grass cutting at site lines and along roads become a priority due to the number of accidents last year?
- Would gully emptying become a priority due to the amount of flooding in areas last year?
- Could the zebra crossing in Killyleagh be reviewed and upgraded ?
- Would the Safer Routes to Schools Scheme be starting again soon ?
- Could the Ballymoyer Road to Newtownhamilton be gritted near the St. Malachy's Primary School during bad weather?
- Why were the faults reported in February relating to 30 lights out between Newcastle harbour and Ballymartin, still not fixed?
- Could Transport NI secure funding for the traffic calming scheme on the Ballylough Road in Annsborough as a child had been injured on this road.
- How many vehicles constituted a lightly trafficked rural road?
- Why had the dedicated Councillors emergency helpline been abandoned?
- What was the budget resource and capital this year and how did it compare to last year?
- How much money was saved due to infrequent gritting due to the mild winter and was the money ploughed back into the resource budget?
- Why had the A2 to Newry not been resurfaced as the surface was dangerous and surface water was lying?
- Could the new puffin crossing at Dock Street, Warrenpoint be looked at regarding traffic build up?
- Was there any progress on the community self-help initiative?
- Was there any provision made for Councillors to report a group of light faults once as opposed to filling in details repeatedly for each and every light?
- Was there a contingency budget in case of a bad winter?
- The diversion on the Rath/Moygannon Road was unacceptable. Why was the diversion so long on a road that took over 10,000 vehicles per day?
- Could Transport NI undertake a similar scheme to the Welfare to Work Scheme in southern Ireland?

- Could the large pothole on the Clontifleece Road, Burren, be fixed?
- Could Transport NI attend some of the DEA meetings where roads issues were to be discussed and also at the Thematic Working Groups – in particular, the Environmental group?
- There was an on-going speeding issue at St Malachy's Primary School, Camlough – could ramps be looked at as a traffic calming measure?
- Could a meeting be set up regarding road safety initiatives on the Tullyah Road, Whitecross?
- Why was the dirt from the gully emptying left on the side of the road as it was washed back into the gully by the rain?
- The lights at Creggan were out.
- Could the 30mph signs be moved out to incorporate the estates in Crossmaglen?
- The bridge on the Larkins Road, Creamery Road junction was a priority for Slieve Gullion Councillors, but had been taken off the report.
- Could the junction of the Loughross Road onto the Castleblaney Road, Crossmaglen be looked at as it was a blind junction?
- Could the 20mph sign be re-instated during the hours children were going to and from school?
- Could an update be given regarding the signage on the Derryleckagh Road.
- Number 20 on the Ballyholland onto the Derryleckagh Road – could it be looked at as the trees needed cutting back and a boulder removing.
- Could the flooding be investigated on the Clontifleece Road, Burren?
- Could Bull's Hill be closed off to residents only as there were many safety issues on that road?
- Could a response be provided on the speed limit request at Cloughogue Primary School, Newry.
- Could the lights be fixed in Rathgullion and from Barcroft Park to Dominic Street, Newry?
- Were overgrown trees and bushes covering street lights the responsibility of Transport NI?
- Could the gully at the top of Windmill Street, Ballynahinch, be emptied?
- Flooding and gullies in Church Road – could they be looked at.
- Could the footpath at Currys Corner/Rices be looked at?
- The speed of traffic on the Moneyslane Road, Ballyward at Turley's was concerning – could it be looked at?
- Could the weeds growing around the housing estates be addressed?
- How much disruption would Phoenix Natural Gas be causing, as they had stated they would only be digging up roads that were used for local access only.
- What had happened to the Mountain Bridge Road as it was put on the programme for 2016/17 and now was not mentioned in the report?
- The Manse Road was difficult to get through.
- The Mill Road required attention.
- Could a light be placed on the corner of alleyways to reassure communities and elderly people?

- The rural roads should be looked at as people who live in rural areas pay road taxes and there are no capital projects in those areas.
- The B1 from Downpatrick to Ardglass was in a very poor and dangerous state.
- Would traffic calming measures be addressed in Ballyaltin?
- The developer led Eastern distributor road was very important for devolved jobs in the area, could Transport NI tie in with the Planners on this?
- Market Street, Downpatrick was congested especially near Asda. Was there an update on the proposal to use the waste ground around Dunleath Park to attach the Ballydugan Road to the Downshire site?
- Had the survey been completed in order to start the ring road?
- Was there any progress on the 1 way system in John Street and Edward Street, Downpatrick?

Representatives from Transport NI responded to Members queries as follows:

- To report a street lighting fault or a pot hole, this could be done through the NI Direct website and also on the Mapme system.
- When a street lighting fault was reported, it generates activity to fix the fault.
- Anyone could report a street lighting fault or a pot hole on the Report a Fault Website. If the matter was not dealt with in a reasonable amount of time, please contact Transport NI.
- The issue of enhancing traffic movement around Newry would be investigated and discussed with Councillors.
- The Ballynahinch bypass was progressing to a stage of formal approval, whereby if money was available, it would compete with other schemes for delivery.
- The plans for the Rowallane Road to Doran's Rock road were now agreed.
- The Ballygowan Road was part of a resurfacing prioritisation process and would not be resurfaced this year or next.
- Comments about the zebra crossing in Killyleagh had been taken on board.
- The Safe Route to Schools Scheme was financed through the LTSM budget, which was for minor works schemes.
- The reference numbers of the lights out from Newcastle Harbour to Ballymartin had been noted and would be chased up.
- Within the next 2 weeks, the electricians would be back to working 5 days a week within the District.
- The worst pot holes were fixed first. 1500 vehicles per day was a lower trafficked road.
- As engineers, it was their job to do as much as they could with what budget they had, but they would welcome more money.
- Additional staff had been recruited and all calls were directed through one number and filtered to an emergency response person, so that it was possible to talk to someone 24/7 about roads issues.

- There was no allocation of budgets as yet.
- It was possible that marking was being done in yellow but that the funding was not there to complete the works.
- Dock Street puffin crossing in Warrenpoint – this would be investigated.
- Transport NI officials would find out about Community Self Help.
- Street lighting reporting – faults could be reported as a group
- Winter maintenance was done through the resource budget and there was no contingency budget.
- When a diversion was put in place, traffic could not be diverted onto a lower grade of road.
- Mr Hannaway and the Divisional Roads Manager, Mr Richardson were meeting to discuss attendance at DEA meetings and other future initiatives.
- Mr Kelly would discuss the issue at St. Malachy's Primary School with Ms Noble.
- The dirt was left at the side of the gully's to drain, but should be gathered up and taken away.
- Crossmaglen and Creggan street lighting would be fixed now resources were back to full strength and the Glassdrumman new estate would be investigated regarding street lighting.
- The bridge on the Larkins Road/Creamery Road junction did not achieve the funding as it fell down the list of priorities.
- Staff would look at issue at the junction of the Loughross Road onto the Castleblaney Road to see if something else could be done – it was not off the radar.
- The 20mph initiatives could be considered.
- Now that resources were getting back to full strength, the issue at Derryleckagh would be looked at.
- The issues at Bull's Hill would be picked up on.
- The street lighting issues in Rathgullion and from Barcroft Park to Dominic Street would be investigated.
- Transport NI's position on responsibility on overgrown vegetation in the vicinity of street lights would be clarified.
- Transport NI would revert on the Community Self Help initiative.
- Phoenix Natural Gas had a statutory right to dig up the road – further information would be sought by Transport NI.
- Schemes were prioritised on a merit and value for public money basis.
- Transport NI made a note of the DEA/Thematic Group attendance.
- Some old lights were not replaced as part of the street lighting replacement scheme.
- On page 38 of the report, short, medium and long term schemes were identified regarding the traffic study in Downpatrick.
- The one way traffic system in Downpatrick was being considered through extensive consultation as there had been a significant number of objections.
- A topographical survey of the psni station had been undertaken on 16 April 2016.

