

Please note it was agreed at the Council Meeting held on Monday 5 September 2016 to agree the Council Minutes of 1 August 2016 as an accurate record, subject to the below amendments:-

C/157/2016 – Minutes of Council Meeting held on 1 August 2016 – C/152/2016 – Sealing Document – minute amended to read: 2. Priority Agreement and Financial Contribution with Newry Olympic Hockey Club.

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 1 August 2016 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor G Fitzpatrick

In attendance: **(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor N Bailie
Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor P Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Ennis	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McAteer	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor P Ó'Grínbín
Councillor B O'Múiri	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor JJ Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr E Curtis, Director of Strategic Planning and Performance
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/142/2016

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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Apologies were received from Councillors W Clarke, Devlin, Doran and Ruane.

- The Chairperson offered the Council's condolences to the family of Mr Terry Fitzsimons who tragically died in a shooting accident recently at Lough Money.
- The Chairperson congratulated Councillor Devlin and her husband Sean on the birth of their baby boy, Tom Michael.
- The Chairperson offered the Council's congratulations to Carl Frampton and his team on his recent success. She stated that Carl would be a frequent visitor to Newry and sent congratulations to Barry and Shane McGuigan.
- The Chairperson welcomed the renewal of the Green Flag award to Slieve Gullion.
- The Chairperson advised a group of Scouting Ireland Venture Scouts from all over Ireland had recently visited the District, walking 100km to finish off at Ballyhornan Scout Centre. A number of the Scouts visited homes within the District and it was great for the young people to leave with a positive experience of the people of the District.
- The Chairperson congratulated Cathal Fegan and the School of Tai Kwan Do who recently took part in the World Championships in Brighton and won 9 Gold, 13 Silver and 18 Bronze medals.
- The Chairperson stated the Skiffie World Championships were held recently in Strangford Lough with international competitors from all over the world. She congratulated Dundrum who were the overall winners and advised an occasion would be held with the relevant Councillors being contacted.
- Councillor Reilly commended the Chairperson on the excellent job she had done on a very busy day on Saturday.

C/143/2016

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/144/2016

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2016

Read:

Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 4 July 2016 (copy circulated)

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C/135/2016 – Minutes of RTS Committee – 22 June 2016 – RTS/105/2016 – Issues Raised by Councillor Casey

Councillor Casey asked when he would be receiving an update on the above issues.

Mr O'Rourke advised he would provide updates to the Councillor within the next day.

C/133/2016 – Minutes of SPR Committee – 16 June 2016 – SPR/146/2016 – Update on Decade of Centenaries

Councillor Hyland asked whether an update could be provided on the setting up of the Cross Party Working Group.

The Chief Executive advised an item has been placed on the next Party Representatives Forum meeting for Parties to supply names for the Cross Party Working Group.

C/133/2016 – Minutes of SPR Committee – 16 June 2016 – SPR/144/2016 – Irish Language Audit Report

Councillor Enright advised he felt that a section regarding Council's relationships with other partners such as Tourism NI and the St Patrick Centre, and that a meeting was to take place with the Irish Language section, in order to create an addendum to the report.

The Chief Executive advised the Audit was complete and agreed by Council and that Councillor Enright would have an opportunity to raise these issues as part of the Irish Language Strategy discussions.

C/139/2016 – Conference on Housing in Northern Ireland

Councillor Casey asked whether the issue of meetings being classed as conferences had been rectified.

Mrs Carville advised that the Finance Department had reviewed the headings and will ensure going forward that conferences and meetings are not grouped together.

AGREED:

The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 June 2016 was agreed.

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COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/145/2016

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2016

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

C/133/2016 – Minutes of SPR Committee – 16 June 2016 – SPR/144/2016 – Irish Language Audit Report

Councillor Enright advised the minute states that the policy does not include specific reference to the funding for the Irish language and the audit did not pick up on the issue of Council's relationships with bodies such as Tourism NI and the St Patrick Centre, as mentioned above. He stated the Auditor had agreed that the Audit could not be concluded without referencing those significant points above.

The Chief Executive advised the report was agreed and the issues would be picked up as the strategy was developed.

Councillor Hyland stated an addendum had been proposed by Councillor Enright and he would like to see evidence of this being added onto the Audit Report.

The Chief Executive stated there had been no recommendation or seconder to the addendum and the Audit Report was to gather information, take this on board and for this to become part of the strategy. He advised the cross-party working group would be able to take the information included in the Audit Report as well as any other information, such as that proposed by Councillor Enright.

C/127/2016 – Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

Councillor Ó'Múiri asked whether any movement on the re-erecting of signage across the District which had been vandalised was forthcoming.

Mr O'Rourke advised 10 signs had been damaged and removed and are currently in storage. He stated that the PSNI have provided crime numbers and may wish to see the damaged signed.

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Mr O'Rourke stated a plan is required on how to move forward on the issue in order that the signs are not damaged as soon as they are re-erected.

Councillor Reilly stated the Council was becoming more obsessed with the Irish Language and stated when the issues were originally discussed, the signage was to be erected on a trial basis in Irish however a more common sense approach was now required and the signage should be erected in English only to help build community relations. He stated the signs are terrible looking and should be redesigned to look more welcoming to everyone.

Councillor Reilly also stated that young people within the Kilkeel area are reporting to him that the Council are going to try to ban bonfires.

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

C/145/2016 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 JUNE 2016

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 June 2016 (copy circulated)

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

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/146/2016 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 JULY 2016

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 4 July 2016 (copy circulated)

AC/52/2016 – Commencement Times – Audit Committee Meetings

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Councillor Hearty expressed concern that holding the Audit Committee Meeting on the same day as Council did not leave enough time for Parties to discuss items upcoming on the Council agenda and proposed that the Audit Committee commencement times revert to that which was already agreed for 2016/17.

Councillor Casey seconded this proposal.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hearty, seconded by Councillor Casey that the Audit Committee commencement times revert to those which had already been agreed for period 2016/17.

AC/57/2016 – Review of Whistleblowing Policy

Councillor D McAteer questioned what was meant by ‘no adjustments were required to the policy’.

Mrs Carville advised concerns had been raised at the previous Audit Committee Meeting that the Whistleblowing Policy did not relate to Members, only employees and had asked that this be investigated.

Mrs Carville stated the policy had been reviewed and due to the Public Interest Disclosure Order only being for the protection of employees, not extending to Elected Members, no changes were required to the policy.

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

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONSULTATION

C/147/2016 **DRAFT CONSULTATION – NORTHERN IRELAND HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY STRATEGY 2016/17**

Read: Correspondence received from Department of Justice regarding draft consultation on Northern Ireland Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Strategy 2016/17 (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor D McAteer that the matter be referred to Parties for comment.

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C/148/2016 **LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RE REINSTATEMENT OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND CORONARY CARE SERVICES AT DOWNE HOSPITAL**

Read: Letter dated 20 July 2016 from Minister of Health regarding reinstatement of Emergency Department and Coronary Care Services at Downe Hospital (copy circulated)

Councillor Enright welcomed the correspondence received from the Minister and it was positive that the Trust have recognised the medical need within the District however Council need to maintain pressure on the Trust.

Councillor Walker proposed that a cross-party delegation demand a meeting with the Minister on the Downe Hospital site to ensure the rural community was not being discriminated against.

This was seconded by Councillor Sharvin who advised talking face-to-face with the Minister was a much better way of communicating than sending a letter.

Councillor Bailie proposed an amendment to the proposal asking that the Minister be invited to meet on the same day as the Down Community Health Committee and invite this group into the Cross-Party Meeting of the Council.

The amendment was accepted by Councillors Walker and Sharvin.

Councillor D McAteer asked that the invitation be extended to Daisy Hill Hospital also.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Sharvin that the Minister for Health be invited to attend a Cross-Party Delegation meeting, to include Down Community Health Committee at the Downe Hospital site.**

C/149/2016 **DRAFT LEGISLATION TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT ON NI WATER TO INSTALL WATER METERS AT ALL NEW DOMESTIC CONNECTIONS**

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NOTED: The Draft Legislation to remove the requirement on NI Water to install water meters at all new domestic connections was noted.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

C/150/2016 POLICY FORUM FOR NORTHERN IRELAND KEYNOTE SEMINAR – ENERGY IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Read: Correspondence received from Policy Forum for Northern Ireland regarding Conference on Energy in Northern Ireland (Copy circulated).

NOTED: It was agreed not to make any appointments to the above conference.

C/151/2016 NORTHERN IRELAND ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

Read: Correspondence received from AgendaNI regarding Northern Ireland Economic Conference (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews that Councillors Curran and Murnin attend the Northern Ireland Economic Conference.

SEALING DOCUMENTS

C/152/2016 SEALING DOCUMENTS

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

1. Licence Agreement - 16 The Square, Rostrevor - Rostrevor Men's Shed
2. Priority Agreement with Newry Olympic Hockey Club
3. Transfer Document re Disposal of Land at 29 Belfast Road, Saintfield - Legacy Down District Council agreed to dispose in November 2014.

NOTICES OF MOTION

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C/153/2016

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR P BROWN

“This Council is opposed to the discriminatory Breed Specific Legislation (BSL) and the obligation it places upon Council to cruelly end the life of dogs based on their breeding alone. It calls upon DAERA Minister, Michelle McIlveen, to repeal that legislation and replace it with legislation holding owners responsible for the actions of their animals.”

The Chief Executive advised the above motion should be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee and that all Members would be invited to the Committee for that item.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Hyland to refer the motion to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting.

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

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive