

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 May 2017 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor G Fitzpatrick

In attendance: (Councillors)

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor S Burns
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor H Harvey
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor K Loughran
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor P O’Gribin	Councillor B O’Múiri
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor W Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
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 M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

C/69/2017

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Larkin and Sharvin.

The Chairperson expressed her condolences to the family of Mrs Heather Kelly, a member of staff employed in Greenbank who had

passed away recently. She proposed that Council hold a minute's silence in memory of Mrs Kelly.

The Meeting then stopped for a minute's silence – 6.07pm

The Chairperson passed her condolences to the family of Dan Rooney, former US ambassador to Ireland who had passed away recently. She extended condolences to his friends at Southern Regional College with whom he had strong links.

The Chairperson extended her condolences to the families of Mr Conor Morgan from Kilcoo who tragically died in an accident in Scotland and Mr Conall O'Hare from Castlewellan who died as a result of a traffic accident.

The Chairperson expressed her condolences to Councillor Enright and his family on the sad passing of his mother.

The Chairperson stated she had attended the International Shooting Competition Awards Ceremony at the weekend with over 125 people from France, Italy, England and Germany attending the event.

The Chairperson congratulated Laura Graham, lifeguard with the Council, who was the winner of the Belfast Marathon in a time of 2 hours and 31 minutes.

C/70/2017

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Murnin declared an interest in item 24 – Notice of Motion received from Councillor Devlin as he was a publican.

Councillor Casey declared an interest in item 11 – Correspondence received from NI Housing Council as he was a member of the Housing Council.

C/71/2017

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 2017

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 April 2017(copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised there had been two additional letters received which related to items on the action sheet and these had been added to the agenda and circulated to Members.

AGREED: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 April 2017 was agreed.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/72/2017 **MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 2017**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 April 2017 (copy circulated)

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

C/73/2017 **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2017**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 March 2017 (copy circulated)

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

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/74/2017 **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 APRIL 2017**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 April 2017 (copy circulated).

ERT/066/2017 – Newry, Mourne & Down Statistical Research

Councillor Craig queried whether the research was time bound and when Council would be likely to receive the results of the research.

Mrs Ward advised the research was to look at the impact of Brexit and how to promote the local economy and a report would be brought back to a future Committee Meeting.

COUNCILLOR BURGESS LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE – 6.13PM

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

C/75/2017

**MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 APRIL 2017**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 April 2017 (copy circulated).

SPR/82/2017 – Management Accounts

Councillor Enright advised it had been agreed that each set of management accounts should contain a variance report which highlighted any major variances.

Mrs Carville advised this did occur currently and would continue, with departmental variances being brought forward within the Directors' reports.

SPR/84/2017 – Greenway Phase 1 Project – Newry to Weir on Middlebank

Councillor Hyland asked how much of an overspend was required to finish the project and how long the project would take to be completed.

Mrs Carville advised there had been minor overspends on phase 1 of the project and Council was now in the procurement process for phase 2. She stated until the process was completed, she would not be able to say for certain how long the scheme would take. She advised she would provide Councillor Hyland with an update as soon as possible.

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

COUNCILLOR O'GRIBIN ENTERED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE – 6.15PM

C/76/2017

**ADDENDUM TO BOOK OF CONDOLENCE POLICY (AS
CONSIDERED AT PARTY REPS MEETING 25/04/17)**

Read: Report from Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager dated 25 April 2017 regarding Policy on arrangements for Books of Condolence – SPR Minute reference: SPR/77/2017 (copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised there had been discussion regarding the locations for the Books of Condolence and officers had been tasked with considering additional locations across the District. He stated the report recommended that Council approve the locations as set out below to cover each DEA within the District:

Crotlieve – Warrenpoint Town Hall

Downpatrick – Council Headquarters and Down Arts Centre

Newry – Council Headquarters and Newry Town Hall

Rowallane – Ballynahinch Market House

Slieve Croob – Castlewellan Community Centre

Slieve Gullion – Crossmaglen Community Centre

The Mournes – Newcastle Centre

Councillor Ruane proposed to accept the recommendation, this was seconded by Councillor Clarke.

Councillor Hanna proposed that Kilkeel Leisure Centre should be added to the list due to the geographical spread of The Mourne DEA and its distance from Newcastle. This was seconded by Councillor Quinn.

The amendment, as proposed by Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Quinn, to the recommendation was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	17
AGAINST:	17
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The Chairperson then used her casting vote to vote FOR the amendment, which was CARRIED and became the substantive motion and was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	17
AGAINST:	18
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The motion was LOST.

ACTION: The Chief Executive advised the report on Books of Condolence would now be referred back to the SP&R Committee for further discussion.

C/77/2017 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MARCH 2017**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 March 2017 (copy circulated)

AHC/63/2017 – Expression of Interest regards Leasing Council Land

Councillor Casey asked whether the expression of interest had closed or if it was still available for people to apply.

Mr Lipsett advised the expression of interest remained open throughout the year and depending on the land, there were different departments responsible. He suggested Councillor Casey contact Conor Haughey, Head of Outdoor Leisure in the first instance to discuss the matter with him.

AHC/57/2017 – Community Trails SLA with Outdoor Recreation NI

Councillor Byrne queried whether the Director had received the clarification on budget for the Community Trails.

Mr Lipsett advised he had not had a chance to speak with the other Director involved however he intended to bring a report back to the next AHC Committee Meeting.

Councillor Murnin asked whether there was an update on the trails that had been missed in the Slieve Croob area and would consultation begin to look at these trails.

Mr Lipsett advised the trails in the Slieve Croob area would be included within the next round of consultations and consultation would take place within the DEAs and through the DEA Forum.

AHC/66/2017 – Affordable Warmth Scheme Update

Councillor Andrews asked whether any further correspondence had been received in relation to the Affordable Warmth Scheme.

Mr Lipsett advised there had been no further correspondence, however, he believed due to there currently being no Executive and the budgetary situation at present, the current position would be unlikely to change.

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

C/78/2017 MINUTES OF REGULATORY & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 MARCH 2017

Read: Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 22 March 2017 (copy circulated)

RTS/46/2017 – Action Sheet of RTS Meeting held on Wednesday 22 March 2017 – RTS/35/2017 – Interruptions in bin service collections

Councillor Casey asked for an update on the issue with the bulky lift backlog stating that if delays were to continue, people should be given their money back.

Mr O'Rourke advised he believed the issues had been resolved, however he would respond to Councillor Casey following further investigation.

RTS/48/2017 – Planning Committee Performance Indicators

Councillor D McAteer welcomed the reduced processing times however expressed his concern at the delays in issuing applications. He asked if officers could look at staffing levels.

Mr O'Rourke advised additional staff had been employed to deal with the backlog as well as the staff on the local development plan for a period the previous year. He advised there was currently a recruitment process for 2 staff which should assist to bring the staff complement on development control up to its full level. He also advised 2 additional staff had been recruited within enforcement to deal with the backlog.

Councillors Casey and Clarke highlighted their concerns regarding agents/applicants speaking with members of the Planning Committee during comfort breaks and asked

that officers investigate some method of ensuring separate areas were in place for Members during these breaks.

AGREED: It was agreed that an area be zoned for Members of the Planning Committee to have tea/coffee and that all Members of the Planning Committee be reminded they should not be having conversations during comfort breaks with applicants, agents or architects.

RTS/51/2017 – Report re: Maintenance and Upkeep of Magheradroll Parish Graveyard, Crabtree Road, Ballynahinch

Councillor Murnin asked whether the graveyard could be maintained by Council.

Mr O'Rourke stated it had been highlighted recently that Council were undertaking £90,000 worth of work on lands that was not in their ownership and this graveyard would fall into that category.

Councillor Murnin asked the officer to investigate whether the work could be maintained and at what cost.

AGREED: It was agreed that a report be brought back to the next RTS Meeting outlining the cost of maintaining the Magheradroll Parish Graveyard.

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

REPORTS FROM OFFICERS

C/79/2017 ORGANISATION OF RALLY TO SUPPORT THE DELIVERY OF A&E SERVICES AT DAISY HILL

Read: Report from Chief Executive dated 2 May 2017 regarding Organisation of Rally to Support the Delivery of Accident & Emergency Services at Daisy Hill Hospital (copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised that due to the recent announcement by the Southern Trust regarding senior staff shortages at Daisy Hill A&E, the public had been raising concerns and it was recommended that Council agree to organise a public rally to enable members of the public to voice their support for Daisy Hill and that the Party Representatives Forum oversee the organisation of the rally.

The Chief Executive stated Officers had been investigating possible sites for the rally and had identified Albert Basin at 11am on 13th May 2017 as the best place and time.

Councillor Ruane provided an update to the meeting that had been released by the Southern Health Trust, giving details of a change to the previous arrangements on the proposed closure.

Councillor Walker proposed the officer's recommendations in relation to the Rally. This was seconded by Councillor Ruane.

Councillor Enright asked that the previous minutes regarding Health Committees being designated as task and finish groups be revisited.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ruane to accept the officer's recommendation to organise a public rally for 11am on Saturday 13th May 2017 in Albert Basin, Newry and that the Party Representatives Forum oversee the organisation of the rally.

COUNCILLORS KIMMINS AND Ó MUIRÍ LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE – 6.56PM

CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES

COUNCILLOR CASEY PREVIOUSLY DECLARED AN INTEREST IN THE NEXT ITEM

C/80/2017 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM HOUSING COUNCIL**

Read: Correspondence dated 11 April 2017, received from Housing Council regarding Housing Council Member attendance (copy circulated).

NOTED: The correspondence received from Housing Council was noted.

C/81/2017 **MNA NA hEIREANN 2017 – CELEBRATING WOMEN IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Read: Invitation to Conference on Friday 19th-Saturday 20th May 2017 Mna na hEireann 2017 – A Conference on the Theme of Women in Modern Ireland (copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed that any Member who was interested to contact Democratic Services as soon as possible.

COUNCILOR O'GRIBIN LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE – 7.11PM

C/82/2017 **BATTLE OF MESSINES CENTENARY PILGRIMAGE – SOMME ASSOCIATION**

Read: Invitation to Battle of Messines Centenary Pilgrimage 6th-9th June 2017 from Somme Association (copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Councillors Burgess and Craig attend the Somme Association Pilgrimage.

C/83/2017 **INVITATION RECEIVED FROM IRISH DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE TO COMMEMORATION MARKING CENTENARY OF THE BATTLE OF MESSINES RIDGE, 7TH JUNE 2017**

Read: Invitation to Commemoration Marking Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge on 7th June 2017 from Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed that those appointed to the Somme Association pilgrimage, Councillors Burgess and Craig attend the Commemoration Marking Centenary of the Battle of Messines Ridge on 7th June 2017.

C/84/2017 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY AND HSC CHIEF EXECUTIVE REGARDING ORKAMBI**

Read: Correspondence dated 3 April 2017 from Permanent Secretary and HSC Chief Executive regarding Orkambi drug (copy circulated).

NOTED: The correspondence was noted.

C/85/2017 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM NIO REGARDING TONY TAYLOR**

Read: Correspondence dated 6 April 2017 from Mr K Hopkins MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State For N Ireland, regarding Tony Taylor (copy circulated).

Councillor Casey proposed that the Council should send a letter back to Mr Hopkins stating it was unhappy with the content of the response received with regard to Tony Taylor. This was seconded by Councillor Hyland.

Members discussed the issue at length with Councillors Walker, Hanna, Brown and Taylor stating the matter was an issue for the courts and not for the Council.

The proposal was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 18
AGAINST: 9
ABSTENTIONS: 4

The proposal was CARRIED.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Hyland to send a letter to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State For N Ireland, stating Council was unhappy with the content of the response received.

C/86/2017 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE REGARDING MOTION ON CHURCHES, CHURCH HALLS AND PLACE OF WORSHIP BEING EXEMPT FROM PLANNING FEES**

Read: Correspondence dated 28th April 2017, from Department for Infrastructure regarding motion on Churches, Church Halls and Places of Worship being exempt from planning fees (copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed that further clarification be sought regarding the work of the Strategic Planning Group on this issue.

C/87/2017 **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM SOUTHERN HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE TRUST REGARDING POTENTIAL CLOSURE OF EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AT DAISY HILL HOSPITAL**

Read: Correspondence dated 20 April 2017, from Southern Health & Social Care Trust regarding potential closure of emergency department at Daisy Hill Hospital (copy circulated).

NOTED: The correspondence was noted.

CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

C/88/2017 **NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE-CONSULTATION ON DRAFT NIFRS SECURITY POLICY**

Read: Consultation document received from NIFRS (copy circulated).

NOTED: The consultation document was noted.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/89/2017

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR ENRIGHT

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

"This Council recognises the importance of the work of 'Mayors for Peace' which through close cooperation among member municipalities/cities strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contribute to the realisation of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protecting the environment, and solving the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family. Further, this Council wishes to join Mayors for Peace to contribute to this global effort to achieve a lasting peace and to deal with the issues that we face on both a global and local level with regards poverty, starvation, supporting human rights and protecting our environment."

In proposing the motion, Councillor Enright said the motion had arisen from a nuclear meeting held in Newry, after which all Parties had been in agreement to bring forward the motion to Council.

Councillor Trainor seconded the motion, saying international relations across the world were very uncertain and any positive move towards the decommissioning of nuclear weapons had to be welcomed.

Councillor Hanna expressed concerns, saying if nuclear weapons were abolished, it could leave the country defenceless, and he could not support the motion.

Councillor Taylor concurred with Councillor Hanna's comments, saying due to the threats in the western world, this would not be realistic.

Councillor Carr, Brown and Clarke spoke in support of the motion.

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

FOR:	27
AGAINST:	6
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The motion was CARRIED.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Trainor, that Council recognises the importance of the work of 'Mayors for Peace' which through close cooperation among member

municipalities/cities strives to raise international public awareness regarding the need to abolish nuclear weapons and contribute to the realisation of genuine and lasting world peace by working to eliminate starvation and poverty, assist refugees fleeing local conflict, support human rights, protecting the environment, and solving the other problems that threaten peaceful coexistence within the human family. Further, this Council wishes to join Mayors for Peace to contribute to this global effort to achieve a lasting peace and to deal with the issues that we face on both a global and local level with regards poverty, starvation, supporting human rights and protecting our environment.

C/90/2017

NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR TRAINOR

In accordance with Standing Order 19.2 – Alteration of motion, the meeting’s consent to the following altered Notice of Motion from Councillor Trainor was signified and came forward for consideration:

“That this Council recognises the continuous threats to Health Service provision in Newry, Mourne and Down district and in wishing to address these issues will establish a Health Committee inviting the Health Trusts to Council to discuss health related issues. This Council will also involve local health campaigners to explore health provision issues and concerns”.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Trainor stated that the health services for the people of east and south Down were being stripped away with ever growing threats to the District’s accessibility to health provision.

Councillor Trainor referred to the recent threats to Daisy Hill’s A&E service and the reduced A&E service at the Downe Hospital, saying the people of Lecale and south east Down had to travel to the Royal or the Ulster hospitals, which could involve a long journey due to lack of ambulance cover in the area and was dangerous due to the poor roads infrastructure. He stated that the reason for the reductions and cuts in services were not patient or financial based, but down to the failure of the Health Trusts in recruiting key staff Province wide. He said to strip away a lifeline to the people of the area, where due to an ageing population, poor infrastructure and a number of sports clubs, residents required high quality health care, was immoral. He said that given the fact that there were hundreds of people at the recent meeting in the Canal Court, Newry and thousands of people on the streets of Downpatrick and Newry at different rallies, it was clear that people wanted Council to fight to keep the services and by setting up a Health Committee this would ensure a mechanism was in place whereby Council could hold the Trusts to account.

Councillor D McAteer seconded the motion, saying a Health Committee would bring accountability closer to the people of this area.

Councillor Walker, on behalf of the DUP commended Councillor Trainor on the motion, asking Councillors to ensure they attend the Health Committee meetings.

Councillors Hyland, Brown and Mulgrew spoke with unanimous support of the motion, saying it was of vital importance that the Committee was well attended and the Trust could be held to account.

In response to Councillor Enright and Councillor Brown's queries, Councillor Trainor confirmed he was seeking a Health Committee that would not be a Task & Finish Committee, but that it would be a proactive Committee with dedicated staff and funding to address the issues.

Councillor Trainor, in summing up, said he was pleased with his response from his Council colleagues, on what was a non-political, cross-community campaign.

The Chairperson put the motion to a vote, results of which were unanimously in favour of the motion, which was CARRIED.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor D McAteer, that this Council recognises the continuous threats to Health Service provision in Newry, Mourne and Down district and in wishing to address these issues will establish a Health Committee inviting the Health Trusts to Council and discuss health related issues. This Council will also involve local health campaigners to explore health provision issues and concerns".

C/91/2017 **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR BROWN:**

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

'That this Council recognises the positive impact local farmer and artisan markets can have on the local economy, particularly our tourism, small business and agri-food sectors. It also notes the success of the Newry night market and similar farmers markets in Comber. Council will consult with local food providers and prepare a business case on the viability of a monthly market in the traditional market town of Downpatrick'

Councillor Brown, in proposing the motion, said how inspired he had been by the abundance of local produce in the area, recently demonstrated at the launch of Council's Tourism Strategy, where several local producers had been invited to bring examples of their produce. He said that the range and quality of agri-foods in the District should be further promoted by Council as the demand was there, clearly shown by the success of the Newry Twilight Market and St. George's Market in Belfast. He said it was time Downpatrick had a similar farmers market selling fresh produce once a month on a Friday or Saturday evening in the Millennium square,

which would be boost the night time economy and be beneficial to the regeneration of Downpatrick as a whole.

Councillor Enright seconded the motion, saying Millennium square would be an excellent location for the market.

The Chairperson said under Standing Orders 16.1.6, the motion would be referred to the Economic, Regeneration and Tourism Committee for consideration and report.

AGREED: It was agreed to refer the above Notice of Motion to the ERT Committee for consideration and report.

C/92/2017 NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREWS:

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

"That Newry, Mourne & Down District Council notes the recent establishment of the Smart Pass Equality Campaign and endorses its call for the full fare concessionary travel pass to be issued to all people who are unable to drive for medical reasons."

In proposing the motion, Councillor Andrews said that the Smart Pass Equality Campaign (SPEC) had been launched in November 2016, and its aim was to extend a full fare to all people who could not drive for medical reasons. He stated that this provision already existed in the Republic of Ireland, Scotland, Wales and some of England and he hoped all Councils would support and endorse the campaign which was about equality and inclusion.

Councillor Curran seconded the motion.

Councillors Macauley and Walker spoke in favour of the motion, Councillor Walker saying this was a pertinent motion as the District was a rural area, some residents travelling to the Ulster or Lagan Valley Hospitals had to take 2 or 3 buses and a through fare would be worthwhile.

Councillor Burns proposed an amendment to the motion that the Council write to the Finance Minister asking that money be made available to the new Transport Minister.

Councillor Andrews accepted the amendment and thanked Members for their support for the motion.

The Chairperson put the motion, with the amendment to a vote, the results of which were unanimous.

The motion, with the amendment, was CARRIED.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran that Newry, Mourne & Down District Council notes the recent establishment of the Smart Pass Equality Campaign, endorses its call for the full fare concessionary travel pass to be issued to all people who are unable to drive for medical reasons and writes to the Finance Minister asking that money be made available to the new Transport Minister for this initiative.

COUNCILLORS ENRIGHT, HYLAND AND TINNELLY LEFT THE MEETING DURING THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS – 7.45PM

COUNCILLOR BURNS LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE – 7.50PM

C/93/2017 **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR DEVLIN:**

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

"That this Council calls on the Department for Communities to overhaul current liquor licensing legislation. We need to modernise these laws so our hospitality sector can survive and thrive, and in turn boost our local tourism industry."

In proposing the motion, Councillor Devlin stated that the laws around liquor licencing in Northern Ireland were antiquated and needed to be modernised, particularly around Easter time when the sale of alcohol in pubs, restaurants and hotels was restricted to midnight on the Thursday and Saturday before Easter, from 5pm to 11pm on Good Friday and from 12:30pm to 10:00pm on Easter Sunday, although there were no restrictions on the sale of alcohol from supermarkets.

Councillor Devlin stated that whilst she realised alcohol was a controlled substance and needed to be regulated, the laws needed to be reviewed. She said there had been a mandate to amend the legislation which was making progress at the Assembly, but now this was on hold. She went on to say that the hospitality industry in Northern Ireland sustained 60,000 jobs, 45,000 of which were in food and drink and tourism was the District's biggest economic driver, with outstanding restaurants and pubs but the old fashioned licensing laws were not helping the visitor experience and the hospitality industry was being stymied by the current legislation.

Councillor Stokes seconded the motion, saying the District wanted to be a premier tourist destination and the laws were created in an era when things were very different, but now needed to be modernised.

Councillors Macauley, Clarke, Brown and Walker spoke in support of the motion, with Councillor Clarke referring to the high quality restaurants in the District which were being detrimentally impacted upon, especially around Easter time, and also

visitors were going elsewhere, to Europe, which was having a major consequence on the District.

Councillor Craig said whilst he recognised the relaxation of liquor laws may boost the hospitality sector, this could be at a significant cost. He said the role of the regulators was to mitigate the risk associated with alcohol consumption and the health of individuals and said that he would not be supporting the motion until more research had been undertaken around the link between increased availability of alcohol and the increase in affects it could have.

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

FOR:	24
AGAINST:	3
ABSTENTIONS:	0

The Motion was declared **CARRIED**.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Devlin, seconded by Councillor Stokes, that this Council calls on the Department for Communities to overhaul current liquor licensing legislation. We need to modernise these laws so our hospitality sector can survive and thrive, and in turn boost our local tourism industry."

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.04pm

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive