

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

---

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 4 July 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 P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor C Casey
Councillor P Clarke	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor V Harte
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Hyland	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor K Loughran
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 M Ruane	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	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 M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism  
Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director, Corporate Planning and Policy  
Mrs H McKee, Assistant Director, Community Planning  
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources  
Mr C Moffett, Equality Officer  
Mrs V Keegan, Marketing Manager  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Ennis, Hanna, Macauley and Taylor

- The Chairperson congratulated Councillor Taylor on his recent marriage.
- The Chairperson expressed her condolences to the family of Ciaran Fitzpatrick, originally from Dundrum, who died recently in the Dominican Republic.
- The Chairperson stated the result of the EU referendum had raised concerns among many businesses and individuals in the District. She stated that due to the uncertainty of when Article 50 would be triggered and the results of any negotiations, Council would ensure that the interests of the residents of the Council were provided to Members of the Assembly and Executive who, it was anticipated, would be part of any UK negotiating team.

Councillor Reilly stated there were a number of people who were delighted with the result of Brexit and a committee should be set up within Council to investigate the benefits and opportunities that would now exist.

- The Chairperson condemned the racist comments and hate crimes that have been taking place across England and hoped that this type of behaviour did not come to the District.
- The Chairperson stated the visit by Professor Peter Balazs, North Sea Mediterranean Corridor Co-ordinator within the European Commission which was to be held on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2016 had now been cancelled, due to the outcome of the EU Referendum.
- The Chairperson stated a meeting had been held with MPs and MLAs to discuss Community Planning within the District and it had been agreed that twice yearly meetings be held with MPs, and quarterly meetings held with MLAs going forward.
- The Chairperson stated it was deplorable that vandals had defaced new Council signs and this was senseless anti-social behaviour which should be condemned.

Members condemned the attacks on Council property stating that ratepayers would be losing out as they would need to pay for them to be replaced.

Councillors Patrick Clarke and Willie Clarke stated that Councillors need to be wary of their language within and outside the Chamber, as statements made had rippling effects out into the communities.

Mr Hannaway said Councillors must always take cognisance of the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Councillor Reilly stated he condemned any attack on Council property however these hate crimes had been created by the erection of signage by Council within areas where they were unwanted.

Councillors Andrews and Walker stated these types of issues should be raised at the Equality and Diversity Working Group.

- The Chairperson stated it was a disgrace that anyone would intentionally sabotage the mountain bike trails in Rostrevor, by placing potentially lethal obstacles on the trails.

**C/128/2016**

**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C/129/2016**

**ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2016**

Read:

Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 June 2016 (copy circulated)

Councillor Mulgrew advised she was still waiting for information from Roads Service and asked that a further reminder letter be sent.

**AGREED:**

**It was agreed that a letter be sent to Roads Service asking for an update on Councillor Mulgrew's issues at Camlough and Whitecross.**

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

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

### **C/130/2016            MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JUNE 2016**

Read:                    Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 June 2016 (copy circulated)

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

### **C/131/2016            MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2016**

Read:                    Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2016 (copy circulated)

Councillor Reilly stated the Committee places that he was not allocated during the Annual Meeting, should have been given to DUP/UUP Members in order to keep a balance within the Council Committees. He asked to have a copy of the legal advice obtained by Council at the time of the Annual Meeting.

The Chief Executive advised he would only be able to arrange for Councillor Reilly to have sight of the legal advice pertaining to his own specific issue, as he was not in a position to provide a copy of the entire advices which contained advice relating to other Councils.

**AGREED:            It was agreed that the Chief Executive would arrange for Councillor Reilly to have sight of the legal advice pertaining to the issue of the seats, previously allocated to him.**

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

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

### **C/132/2016            MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 JUNE 2016**

Read:                    Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 June 2016 (copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised there was an amendment to the minutes, as Councillor P Clarke was not a member of the Committee, as listed in the minutes.

**ERT/105/2016 – Beaches – Newcastle and Warrenpoint**

Councillor Craig asked whether an action point should have been recorded against this minute as a closed-off area for children and families would be a welcome addition at the two beaches.

Mrs Ward advised she would be discussing this with the relevant Director and would bring the issue back to Committee.

**ERT/101/2016 – Heritage Lottery Fund**

Councillor D McAteer stated those schemes at an advanced stage should not be prioritised and he proposed that Warrenpoint Baths be prioritised as a Heritage Lottery Funded project. This was seconded by Councillor Carr and agreed.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor D McAteer, seconded by Councillor Carr, that Warrenpoint Baths be prioritised as a Heritage Lottery Funded project.

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

**C/133/2016**

**MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 JUNE 2016**

**Read:** Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 June 2016 (Copy circulated).

**SPR/144/2016 – Irish Language Audit Report**

Councillor Enright said two issues had arisen from the Irish Language Audit Report item: the policy not including specific reference to the funding for the Irish language and the audit itself did not pick up on the issue of Council's relationships with bodies like Tourism NI and the St. Patrick's Centre and there would be another meeting to create an addendum to that report over the summer.

Councillor Enright also said there was an issue which was a divergence between the documents on the Organisational Design (Sustainability) item. He said what had been presented and discussed at the Party Representatives Meeting, and what was subsequently presented to Committee contained changes within the report.

**COUNCILLOR BROWN JOINED THE MEETING AT THIS STAGE – 6.29PM**

**SPR/146/2016 – Update on Decade of Centenaries 2016  
Civic Initiatives**

In response to Councillor Hyland's query, Mr Moffett provided an update, saying the first stage of the assessment process had been completed and 5 shortlisted artists appointed. Correspondence would be sent to those selected this week requesting them to come in and make a presentation, which would hopefully be in August. He added one person on the assessment panel would be a Councillor.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor O'Muire, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, that a cross party working group be set up regarding the implementation of the Irish Language Strategy.

**SPR/135/2016 – Agree Committee Start Times for the  
Incoming Year**

**NOTED:** Councillor O'Muire raised concerns over the start time of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee, which had been agreed at 3pm and 5pm on a rotational basis and requested the matter be discussed again at Committee.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed that the start times of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee would be discussed again at the August SPR Committee meeting.

**SPR/146/2016 – Update on Decade of Centenaries 2016  
Civic Initiatives**

**NOTED:** In response to Councillor Reilly's concerns regarding the spend for the Patrick Rankin artwork, Mr Moffett acknowledged that whilst the spend had not been budgeted for, agreement had been given for an overall budget of up to £40,000 at the June 2016 Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee.

**SPR/150/2016 – Peace IV**

In response to funding concerns from Councillor D McAteer regarding the decision to leave the EU, Mr Curtis said he had spoken to SEUPB and they had advised that the application process should continue until Council heard otherwise.

**SPR/144/2016 – Irish Language Audit Report**

Councillor Hyland said the Council had adopted its bilingual policy in a democratic way and had signs in both Gaelic and English, and if Councillor Reilly wanted to change this he could bring a motion forward. He said Councillor Reilly was aware of

the amounts of money concerned with the Patrick Rankin artwork as he had been present at relevant meetings, and he had recently returned from the Somme which had been funded by Council.

In response, Councillor Reilly said the Somme trip involved all 11 Councils in Northern Ireland and he said subsistence levels for the trip were not as high as the other Councils in Northern Ireland. He said the issue regarding the Patrick Rankin artwork was that it had been stated there would be £40,000 of funding overall for the Decade of Centenaries, which included a Somme Commemoration in September, and he asked if this would receive funding.

After a heated debate, during which Councillor Reilly stated that Protestants were being denied ordinary services in the area, Councillor W Clarke, said inflammatory language was being used which could lead to sectarian hatred, which may have consequences in the community and increase the likelihood of attacks.

Councillor W Clarke referred to the Rural Development Programme, saying money had been allocated to the Northern Ireland Executive and therefore there was no danger of this funding being lost due to Brexit. He advised this message should be communicated to residents.

Councillor Reilly expressed annoyance and concern at the comments of Councillor Ó'Gríbin and sought that he withdrew these comments.

Councillor Reilly requested the most recent figures on religious persuasion of employees in Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

**AGREED:** The Chief Executive agreed he would provide Councillor Reilly with the most recent monitoring figures for employees as submitted to the Equality Commission.

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

**C/134/2016** **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 JUNE 2016**

**Read:** Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 June 2016 (Copy circulated).

**AHC/92/2016 – Report on Affordable Warmth Scheme 2017**

Councillor D McAteer expressed his concern at the reduction in budget for Affordable Warmth measures across Northern Ireland and asked if there was any method the Council could employ to ensure the scheme continued at its previous level.

Mr Lipsett advised the scheme was 100% funded in terms of officer time and the completion of surveys. Therefore there would be no budget set aside by Council to ensure the scheme would be able to continue at the levels currently seen.

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

**C/135/2016                   **MINUTES OF REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 JUNE 2016****

**Read:**                       Minutes of Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on 22 June 2016 (Copy circulated).

**RTS/101/2016 – Report on Bus Shelter Requests**

Councillor Casey asked for an update on the Drummond Road Bus Shelter as the minute stated the matter was noted.

Mr O'Rourke advised he would contact the Councillor on this matter as he did not have the information at the meeting.

Councillor D McAteer asked whether it would be possible to exceed the eight bus shelters locations as outlined within the document, given that there was £30,000 set aside for these shelters.

Mr O'Rourke advised those highlighted in the report were proceeding and a report would be brought to the next Committee meeting regarding the possibility of other shelters being erected.

**RTS/105/2016 – Issues raised by Councillor Casey**

Councillor Casey asked for an update on the lifting of bins on Cabra Road, Hilltown and whether an investigation had been restarted about the damage to a property at 10 Hollywood Gardens, Rathfriland Road, Newry.

Mr O'Rourke stated he would follow up on these issues and respond to the Councillor in due course.



**AGREED:** It was agreed that the Director of Regulatory & Technical Services would respond to Councillor Casey on the issues of Drummond Road Bus Shelter, lifting of bins on Cabra Road, Hilltown and investigation into damage at 10 Holywood Gardens, Rathfriland Road, Newry.

**RTS/95/2016 – Report re: Dilapidated/Dangerous Structures and Neglected Sites Legislation**

Councillor McAteer asked whether the legislation would allow Councils to take action if buildings were falling down, such as certain buildings in Warrenpoint.

Mr O'Rourke advised this was a consultation document and he would furnish Members with the response submitted on behalf of the Council.

COUNCILLOR P CLARKE LEFT THE MEETING AT THIS POINT – 6.53PM

**AGREED:** It was agreed that the Director of Regulatory & Technical Services would circulate the consultation response on Dilapidated/Dangerous Structures and Neglected Sites Legislation to all Members.

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

It was agreed to take items 10 and 10b together at this stage.

**CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

**C/136/2016      CONSULTATION ON DRAFT PROGRAMME FOR GOVERNMENT 2016-2021**

**Read:** Correspondence received from Northern Ireland Executive regarding consultation on Draft Programme for Government 2016-2021 (Copy circulated).

**C/137/2016      REPORT FROM WORKSHOP HELD ON 28 JUNE 2016**

**Read:** Report dated 4 July 2016 regarding response to the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-21 prepared by Heather McKee, Assistant Director, Community Planning (copy circulated)

The Chief Executive advised there had been a tight timescale to respond to the consultation on Draft Programme for Government and therefore a workshop had been arranged. He said the Assistant

Director, Community Planning had been working with officers across the Council in terms of the Programme.

Mrs McKee presented slides on the draft Programme for Government and recommended that successful delivery of the outcomes in the Programme for Government would require investment in the following key projects at Council level:

- Wellbeing/Economic – Connectivity and Infrastructure Initiatives
- Education – Skills and Employability Initiative
- Health – Coordinated Care Services
- Environment
- Employment
- Economic

Members discussed the draft Programme for Government presentation stating the work undertaken by the Assistant Director was excellent and that community planning was a new and exciting way of working.

Councillor Craig proposed to accept the report as Council's response to the Draft Programme for Government and asked that a press release be prepared on the issue to inform the public of the workings of Community Planning. This was seconded by Councillor Curran.

Councillor Enright stated the Eastern Distributor Road in Downpatrick should feature and some emphasis should be placed upon a transition to a non-carbon economy.

Councillor Carr congratulated Councillors Burns, W Clarke and Fitzpatrick on graduating with a Diploma in Community Planning and Civic Leadership, stating that perhaps all Councillors may need to complete this course. Councillor Carr also expressed concern at the number of consultation events in relation to the Programme for Government and Community Planning.

**AGREED:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Curran to accept the report as Council's response to the Draft Programme for Government Framework 2016-2021.

**C/138/2016** **CONSULTATION ON DRAFT GAS (DESIGNATION OF PIPELINES) ORDER (NI) 2016**

**NOTED:** The Consultation on Draft Gas (Designation of Pipelines) Order (NI) 2016 was noted.

### **CONFERENCES/EVENTS**

**C/139/2016** **CONFERENCE ON HOUSING IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

Councillors asked that officers investigate the budget headings used for costs relating to meetings/conferences etc.

**AGREED:** **It was agreed that officers investigate the budget headings used for costs relating to attendance at meetings and conferences.**

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

**C/140/2016**                    **APSE ANNUAL SEMINAR 2016**

**Read:** Correspondence received from APSE Annual Seminar 2016 (Copy circulated).

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

**SEALING DOCUMENTS**

**C/141/2016**                    **SEALING DOCUMENTS**

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

1. Licence for use of Camlough Lake
2. Licence Agreement - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Mohan Funfairs - Use of Overflow Car Park, Killeel Leisure Centre
3. Licence Agreement - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council with Johnston Construction Ltd
4. Assisted Car Purchase - staff member
5. Assisted Car Purchase - staff member
6. Licence Agreement - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Neill Cole - Agricultural Lands at Delamont Country Park
7. Lease Agreement - Northern Ireland Water Limited and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Lease of Land at Spelga, Co Down
8. Retrospective Approval - Lease Agreement - Southern Group Enterprises Limited and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council - Land at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry

9. Councillors Accredited Training Application

**There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.15pm**

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Executive**