

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 March 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 M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor R Mulgrew	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor B O'Múiri	Councillor O'Gribin
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor G Stokes
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 C Miskelly, Assistant Director, Human Resources
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

C/35/2017

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Quinn, Reilly, Sharvin and Taylor.

The Chairperson extended condolences on behalf of Council to the family of PJ Bradley, the former Councillor and Chair

of Newry & Mourne District Council, and said a letter of condolence would be sent to the family.

C/36/2017 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/37/2017 ENVIRONMENTAL YOUTH SPEAK WINNERS

The Chairperson congratulated the District's senior and junior winners of Environmental Youth Speak: Matthew Magee from St Malachy's Primary School, Camlough and Mia Comer from Sacred Heart Grammar School, Newry, and welcomed them to the meeting.

The Chairperson invited the winners to each make a 5 minute presentation to Council.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/38/2017 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 February 2017 (copy circulated)

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

C/39/2017 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 FEBRUARY 2017

Read: Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 February 2017(copy circulated)

AGREED: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 February 2017 was agreed.

C/40/2017 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 JANUARY 2017

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 30 January 2017 (copy circulated).

SC/3/2017 Presentation on NI Human Rights Commission

Councillor Byrne advised there was a correction to the minutes – his question regarding the Annual Statement was directed at civil marriage, not civil partnership.

AGREED: The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor D McAteer, subject to the correction from Councillor Byrne.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/41/2017 **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2017**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2017 (copy circulated).

ERT/28/2017 Horse Riding – Castlewellan Forest Park

In response to a query from Councillor Devlin, Mrs Ward undertook to provide a map to Members of the horse riding trails in Castlewellan Forest Park.

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

C/42/2017 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 FEBRUARY 2017**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2017 (copy circulated).

SPR/52/2017 – RPA Severance

Mr Hannaway advised that this item would be taken in closed session towards the end of the meeting as Council would be asked to consider an amendment to the recommendation contained within the Minutes.

SPR/30/2017 – Chairperson’s Remarks – Additional Item – Saintfield Community Centre

In response to a query from Councillor Burgess regarding the options paper for Saintfield Community Centre, Councillor Brown undertook to send Councillor Burgess a copy of the email which had been sent prior to the Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee held on 16 February 2017.

In response to a query from Councillor Walker, Mr Hannaway advised he had written to Saintfield Development Association in acknowledgement of their letter and informing them a meeting would be organised once the Strategy, Policy & Resources Minutes had been ratified and subject to the call-in period.

SPR/48/2017 – Additional Costs to Newry Leisure Centre

In response to a query from Councillor Craig, Mr Hannaway advised questions regarding the additional costs to Newry Leisure Centre would be taken in closed session towards the end of the meeting.

AGREED: **The Minutes were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor O'Múiri, seconded by Councillor Ruane.**

C/43/2017 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2017

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

AHC/34/2017 Notice of Motion – Item Referred by Council

Councillor Enright said he had not been aware that the above Notice of Motion had been referred to the Active & Healthy Communities Committee in February.

Mr Hannaway advised that the Director of Active & Healthy Communities, Mr Lipsett, was bringing a report to a future AHC Committee meeting to deal with the issues raised in the motion and Councillor Enright would be invited to the meeting.

AHC/20/2017 Proposed Licence Agreement between the Down Community and NM&DDC for use of Meeting Room in Dan Rice Hall

In response to a query from Councillor Murnin, Mr Lipsett confirmed that all user groups of the Dan Rice Hall would be consulted as a matter of course and that the group putting forward the proposal had been invited to the next Slieve Croob DEA Fora meeting to discuss proposals in detail.

AHC/21/2017 Financial Assistance Call 1 (2017-2018)

Councillor Walker commended the council officers who had set up the workshops, noting that the Ballynahinch workshop had been attended by over 130 people.

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

C/44/2017 MINUTES OF REGULATORY & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 FEBRUARY 2017

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

RTS/25/2017 Bus Shelter Requests

Councillor Byrne referred to the bus shelter at Roxborough Road, Dorsey, saying the structure had no perspex back, did not provide adequate shelter for the children waiting for the school bus, and was not fit for purpose.

Mr O'Rourke undertook to ascertain whether or not the bus shelter had been completed, but advised that in some cases, Transport NI did not provide sides to the bus shelters due to access being required to the pavement.

Councillor D McAteer said the bus shelter at Ballyholland Road, Ballyholland, also did not have sides and Mr O'Rourke undertook to seek further information on this shelter.

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

CORRESPONDENCE

C/46/2017 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL

Read: Correspondence dated 24 February 2017, received from Derry City & Strabane District Council re regarding the drug Orkambi, which could be used for the treatment of cystic fibrosis (copy circulated).

Agreed : **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Andrews, that Council write to the Minister of Health and the Minister of Finance seeking their support for the campaign to have the orkambi drug for cystic fibrosis sufferers funded in Northern Ireland.**

C/47/2017 CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM THE NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE REGARDING THE INCARCERATION OF TONY TAYLOR

Read: Correspondence dated 7 February 2017 received from the Northern Ireland Office regarding the incarceration of Tony Taylor (copy circulated).

Councillor Hyland requested Council write back to Mr Hopkins MP requesting details of the open reasons why Tony Taylor's licence was revoked.

Councillor Ruane seconded Councillor Hyland's proposal.

Councillor Hanna said that as Council had no influence on the incarceration of Tony Taylor, to write back to Mr Hopkins MP was a waste of time.

Councillor Hyland's motion was put to a vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR: 22
AGAINST: 7
ABSTENTIONS: 2

The motion was CARRIED.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Ruane, that correspondence be sent to Mr Hopkins MP, requesting details of the open reasons why Tony Taylor's licence was revoked.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/48/2017 NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR REILLY

The following Notice of Motion, having been included on the agenda in the name of Councillor Reilly who was not present at the meeting, was proposed by Councillor Burns and seconded by Councillor Clarke and referred, without discussion, to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee for consideration and report.

“That this Council investigates the possibility of entering into contract hire agreements for the supply of refuse collection vehicles.

That this Council gives serious consideration to the operational benefits of contract hire for refuse collection vehicles and presents a cost benefit analysis to Council and invites contract hire suppliers to address council on how the scheme works”.

C/49/2017 NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR BURNS

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

“This Council notes with disappointment the planned closure of two First Trust Bank branches in our district. We ask First Trust to reverse this decision on the basis that it discriminates against rural communities and to give a guarantee that, at the very minimum, it will retain the ATM's at the locations concerned. We further ask for a Meeting with representatives from the First Trust to discuss the proposed closures in detail and, in particular, the impact on our rural communities”.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Burns highlighted the following points:

- The First Trust Bank had planned closures of the Downpatrick and Warrenpoint branches, which would have a negative impact on the District's rural community.
- The job losses would have a knock on effect on the rural economy.
- Face to face facilities were relied on by users, especially the elderly.
- Broadband infrastructure in the District was poor and online banking would not be an alternative option for many citizens.

- The Post Office could not provide the same range of facilities that the banks could.
- It was vital that the First Trust ATM was retained in both towns.

Councillor Ruane seconded the motion, saying this would be the second bank closure in Warrenpoint and it was vital that the ATM's were retained as Warrenpoint in particular had a large visitor footfall.

Councillor Carr spoke in support of the motion and proposed an amendment to request a meeting with the head of the First Trust Bank, Mr Des Moore. Councillor Carr also said shortly after announcing the closures, the First Trust announced a pre-tax profit of 54m, which was not good for their loyal customers. He concurred with the previous speakers regarding the need to retain an ATM in the towns and said it would be a drastic option for the bank to pull out of Warrenpoint and take away the ATM also, and queried whether the bank had considered downsizing.

Councillor Hanna on behalf of the DUP spoke in support of the motion, saying the bank's relationship with its customers was vital and Post Office staff would not have the financial expertise of banking staff.

Councillor Murnin suggested exploring how Danske Bank operated in Downpatrick with their smaller premises and more automated service, to see if this could be an option for the First Trust.

Councillor Hyland on behalf of the Independents and Alliance members spoke in support of the motion, saying the impact on the towns could not be underestimated as the banks were meeting places and morale would be weakened. He queried how much consultation had gone into the proposed closures, how many staff had been informed and what reasons had been given, saying there would be a massive impact on the staff and their families.

Councillor McMurray said internet banking was no substitute for high street banking and it had been proven that once banks left the high streets, less money was spent in towns.

Councillor D McAteer advised that a high number of the population of Warrenpoint were retired people and not necessarily internet friendly, but suggested the option of providing a similar service to the AIB whereby the lobby of the bank stayed open until 10pm in order that cash could be deposited in a safe environment.

Councillors Andrews, Macauley, Tinnelly and Trainor also spoke in support of the motion, Councillor Trainor highlighting accessibility issues, as not all of the bank users would be IT literate and referred to the excellent service provided by Danske Bank, which the First Trust should consider.

Councillor Burns accepted Councillor Carr's amendment to request a meeting with Mr Des Moore.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Ruane this Council notes with

disappointment the planned closure of two First Trust Bank branches in our district and ask First Trust to reverse this decision on the basis that it discriminates against rural communities and to give a guarantee that, at the very minimum, it will retain the ATM's at the locations concerned. We further ask for a Meeting with Mr Des Moore from the First Trust to discuss the proposed closures in detail and, in particular, the impact on our rural communities.

EXEMPT ITEMS

C/50/2017

RENEWAL OF COUNCIL MS LICENCES

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Hyland, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to any individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Read: Report by Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services, dated 6 March 2017, regarding the renewal of Council MS Licences (copy circulated)

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Council come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Council came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that in relation to the renewal of Council MS Licences, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Clarke to procure a Microsoft Licencing Solutions Partner (LPS) and to purchase Microsoft end user licences through the resulting Enterprise Agreement at the cost outlined in the Officer's Report for 3 years and funded from the Revenue Budget.

SPR/48/2017 – Additional Costs to Newry Leisure Centre

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Hyland, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to any individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2017 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Council come out of closed session.

Mrs Carville provided clarification in relation to the additional works to the entrance to the new Newry Leisure Centre and this information was noted.

SPR/51/2017 MINUTES OF THE STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING – 15 FEBRUARY 2017: MINUTE SPR52/2017

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Trainor, seconded by Councillor Hyland, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - Information in relation to any individual and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

All staff, with the exception of the Chief Executive, Director of Corporate Services and Assistant Director, Human Resources, left the meeting for discussion on this matter.

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2017 (copy circulated).

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Trainor, it was agreed the Council come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Council came out of closed session, the Chairperson advised that in relation to Minute SPR/52/2017, it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Clarke, to note the contents of the Officer's Report and approve the recommendations at Paragraph 3.1 and 3.2. Regarding the application of the RPA Severance Scheme.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.40pm

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive