

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 December 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor C Mason (Chamber)

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Casey
Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor V Harte
Councillor R Howell	Councillor O Magennis
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor W Walker	

In attendance via Teams:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor G Malone	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor K Owen	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor

Officials in attendance in Chamber: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)

Officials in Attendance Via Teams: Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/225/2021 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, Enright, Gallagher and Stokes.

C/226/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

Due to the recent sad passing of Councillor Sean Doran the Chairperson proposed that, following tributes by Members, the Council Meeting be adjourned as a mark of respect and reconvened on Wednesday 8 December 2021. Councillor Ruane seconded the proposal.

The Chairperson also offered her condolences to Sinead Ennis on the recent sad passing of her mother Jacqueline Morgan.

The Chairperson led the tributes to the late Councillor Doran acknowledging that many Councillors had known Sean a lot longer than she had. She said Sean had worked with Councillors Ruane and Casey in the legacy Newry and Mourne Council and had been a fellow Mournes Councillor with Councillor Clarke for over a decade. The Chairperson acknowledged the great working relationship Sean had had with Councillor Hanna and how they had worked very well together for the good of the Mournes area and she said Sean's family had taken great strength from that relationship.

The Chairperson said in the short time she had known Sean, it was obvious how much his family meant to him and she extended her condolences to his sons Ruairi and Neill, mother Teresa and sister Mary.

The Chairperson said Sean had been a rebel, a fighter for freedom and a champion for the underdog. Sean understood the need for reconciliation and how important it was to build new and lasting friendships with his unionist neighbours throughout the Mournes and it was clear he built positive and productive relationships with his unionist colleagues and the wider unionist community in the Mournes. Sean took great pride in delivering for the people of the Mournes irrespective of background or political persuasion. She said Sean had left behind a powerful and enduring legacy.

The Chairperson thanked Members for attending the meeting tonight and said the high attendance was testament to the esteem in which Sean was held.

The Chairperson thanked those Councillors who had called to Sean during his illness and said this had meant a great deal to both him and his family.

The Chairperson thanked the medical staff in Daisy Hill Hospital and Southern Area Hospice and the carers who had visited him in Kilkeel. She said Sean had praised the care he had received, and it meant a great deal to his family and friends.

The Chairperson then invited Members to offer their tributes, firstly to his party colleagues in Sinn Féin.

Councillor Ó'Muirí paid tribute on behalf of the Sinn Féin party and thanked the other party leaders and council management for the many words of sympathy and support over what had been a very difficult time. He said Sean had been a hard-working dedicated Sinn Féin activist who was proud to be a Councillor for the people in the Kilkeel area and his efforts to build community spirit were greatly appreciated by the people in Kilkeel. Sean had a great sense of humour and his loss was a huge blow to his family, friends and the Sinn Féin party.

Councillor Hanlon said the Sinn Féin party were heartbroken to lose Sean. She said Sean had been a tireless worker and an inspiration to all who knew him. Councillor Hanlon said Sean had been a fantastic mentor to her as a new Councillor, offering her guidance, support and advice. He had a ferocious work ethic and always put the interests of the people of his beloved Mournes first. She said she was privileged to have had Sean as a friend and mentor and he would be

greatly missed.

Councillor Ruane said he had the honour of reading out what would have been Sean's last words at the end of his funeral mass. He said it had been very difficult to do and the content was both humorous and heart breaking. Councillor Ruane extended his deepest condolences to Sean's two sons Ruairi and Neill, his mother Teresa and his sister Mary. He said Sean was a true friend and he would be greatly missed.

Councillor Clarke said Sean was a loyal, confidential person who set a high benchmark for all Councillors. He said his passing would be a huge loss for the Mourne, his party colleagues, Newry Mourne and Down District Council and not least his two sons Ruairi and Neil, his mother Teresa and his sister Mary.

Councillor McEvoy said she echoed the sentiments of her Sinn Féin Colleagues and that whilst Sean was a man of few words, he had a great wit and a ready smile. She said he had been her mentor when she first became a Councillor and he was always more than ready to offer guidance to her when she needed it.

Councillor Mulgrew, speaking on behalf of Councillors Casey and Harte acknowledged the past few weeks had been extremely difficult and the news of Sean's death had been a devastating blow. Councillor Mulgrew said Sean had dealt with his illness with great courage and humour and she expressed her enormous gratitude that Sean had never been alone during his illness and this, she said was due to how much he meant to all his colleagues. She said Sean was an amazing man who had been held in great esteem. She extended her deep condolences to his family and said she was honoured to have known him and she would miss him greatly.

Councillor Byrne offered his deep condolences on behalf of the SDLP party to Sean's family and colleagues and in particular to his Sinn Féin colleagues who he acknowledged were deeply saddened by his passing. He said Sean was a decent lovely man and it was quite a fitting tribute to him that council business had been adjourned this evening.

Councillor Brown said he agreed with the sentiments of his colleagues. He said Sean had had a strong commitment to politics and especially to the Mourne. Councillor Brown passed his condolences on to Sean's party colleagues, family and friends.

Councillor McKeivitt, speaking on behalf of Councillor Devlin and her colleagues said she agreed with all the sentiments voiced and said it was a very sad and difficult time. She said Sean had been a real family man, who had a great sense of humour and she agreed it was appropriate that council business be suspended this evening. Councillor McKeivitt also offered condolences to Sinead Ennis on the sad passing of her mother.

Councillor Andrews said he had been very saddened to hear of Sean's passing. He said he was a quiet, unassuming gentleman and a dedicated Councillor who would be greatly missed by all. Councillor Andrews then read a poem called 'Afterglow' as a tribute to Sean.

Councillor Curran said Sean had been a gentleman and a great listener and his deepest sympathies went to Sean's family, friends and colleagues.

Councillor Savage echoed the sentiments of all the previous Members and said Sean was an excellent Councillor who had a superb work ethic and a deep love for the people of the Mourne. He said Sean was a decent man with a deep sense of social justice and a desire to look after the vulnerable and people in need in the community. Councillor Savage acknowledged the deep sense of loss felt by Sean's Sinn Féin colleagues and said Sean would be greatly missed by his family and the people of the Mourne.

Councillor McAteer conveyed his sympathy to Sean's Sinn Féin colleagues who he said were

clearly very saddened by Sean's passing. He said Sean was an impartial Councillor who worked tirelessly for his area and who was held in the highest esteem by all in the District and he said Sean fully deserved tonight's reflections.

Councillor Malone offered his condolences to Sean's Sinn Féin colleagues and family, saying he was a lovely man, hugely popular and would be greatly missed.

Councillor Walker on behalf of the DUP grouping expressed his sincere sympathies to Sean's family and Sinn Féin colleagues. He said Sean was a hard-working Councillor and his passing would be a huge loss to all who knew him. Councillor Walker said although he and Sean had very different political beliefs, he said Sean was decent, mild mannered man who never spoke ill of anyone. He acknowledged Sean worked closely with Councillor Hanna for the good of the Mourne and said he would be sorely missed.

Councillor Taylor offered his condolences on behalf of the UUP grouping to Sean's Sinn Féin colleagues saying they had lost a trusted colleague and friend. He said Sean had fought his illness bravely and said his thoughts and prayers were with Sean's family at this very sad time. Councillor Taylor said Sean was a well-respected colleague and a true gentleman. He said it was a fitting tribute to him that the meeting be adjourned this evening as a mark of respect.

Councillor Tinnelly offered his sincere condolences to Sean's Sinn Féin colleagues. He said he had known Sean a long time and always found him to be a humble and decent person. He said Sean had a great sense of humour and always had a kind word for all. Councillor Tinnelly said in spite of Sean and Councillor Hanna's political differences they worked really well together in doing what they could to improve the Mourne area.

Councillor Gibbons said he had known Sean well for a long time and he always had a very strong work ethic. He said Sean loved the Mourne and he was a man of honesty and integrity. Councillor Gibbons expressed his deepest sympathy to Sean's family and Sinn Féin colleagues.

Councillor Hanna paid tribute to Sean, saying they had worked well together and that Sean was a hard worker who worked for all the people in the Mourne area. He said Sean had a big heart and would be greatly missed.

Councillor McMurray said he was saddened to hear of Sean's passing. He said Sean always demonstrated a calm demeanour and was very succinct in the Council chamber. Councillor McMurray paid tribute to Sean's family and his Sinn Féin colleagues and said all 41 Councillors were united in sadness this evening. Councillor McMurray also offered condolences on the passing of Sinead Ennis's mother Jacqueline Morgan.

The Chairperson thanked the Members for their tributes and then invited Ms Ward to add her sentiments and those of the senior management team.

In paying tribute to Councillor Doran, Ms Ward said Councillor Doran had lived out the principles of good conduct in public office, working in the interests of the community with great integrity, respect, openness and honesty. Councillor Doran also conducted business with all council employees in a respectful, courteous manner and it had been a pleasure to have worked with him.

Ms Ward said during Sean's time in Council he worked tirelessly on many campaigns and projects and he had held positions on the Mourne Heritage Trust, Warrenpoint Harbour Authority, and Newry Mourne and Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership along with many other Council Working Groups, all to deliver for the people of Newry Mourne and Down.

Ms Ward said on behalf of the Senior Management Team and all Council employees, she wished to pass on deepest condolences to Sean's family, his sons Ruairi and Neill, his mother Teresa

and his sister Mary and wider family circle, his Sinn Féin colleagues and his colleagues across the entire Newry Mourne and Down District Council. She said Councillor Doran would be missed in the Council chamber, the Mournes and the wider District.

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their kind words of sympathy and said on behalf of the entire Sinn Féin team, the sentiments expressed were very much appreciated.

The Chairperson said it was only fitting to conclude the meeting with one minute of silent reflection in memory of the late Councillor Sean Doran.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 18:52.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive