

## **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 August 2018 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor M Murnin

**In attendance:**

**(Councillors)**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor P Byrne	Councillor M Carr
Councillor C Casey	Councillor G Craig
Councillor D Curran	Councillor L Devlin
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor R Howell	Councillor D Hyland
Councillor L Kimmins	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor K Loughran	Councillor J Macauley
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor O McMahon
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor B Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor JJ Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker	

**(Officials)**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services  
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Ms M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr R Moore, Acting Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

**C/126/2018**

### **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Bailie, Clarke and Harte.

The Chairperson advised that Jean Dickinson who worked in Building Estates was retiring on Friday and asked that Council's thanks and appreciation be forwarded to her for her help and assistance over the years. He stated a bun worry was being held on Friday morning at 10.30am in the breakout area.

The Chairperson congratulated Shauna O'Callaghan from Crossmaglen on winning her 7<sup>th</sup> Irish boxing title.

The Chairperson congratulated Julie Shaw from Saintfield who was involved in the over-50s

Ireland Hockey Team who recently won a gold medal at the EXIN Masters World Cup. He also congratulated Roisin Murphy from Silverbridge who was the physiotherapist for the Ireland Ladies Hockey Team who recently played in the World Cup Final.

The Chairperson congratulated Ballynahinch Olympic on winning the inaugural Be Active Cup.

The Chairperson stated it had been a busy month with the festivals getting underway, starting with the Skiffies at Strangford Lough and the Footsteps in the Forest in Slieve Gullion. He stated unfortunately the GI Jive Festival succumbed to the bad weather but the Soma Festival and Ulster Fleadh in Castlewellaan were very well supported.

Councillor Sharvin asked that condolences be sent to Harold McKee and his family on the recent passing of his son Thomas.

Councillor Tinnelly asked that Council acknowledge and recognise the achievements of Catherine McGrath from Rostrevor who had recently launched her debut album in HMV in Belfast and whom people in the industry were expecting to become a worldwide superstar. The Chairperson advised he was holding a civic reception later in the year for a group called "The Four of Us" on their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and it would be an opportunity to recognise Catherine at that reception also.

#### **C/127/2018            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **C/128/2018            ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2018**

Read:                    Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 July 2018 (copy circulated).

**AGREED:            The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 July 2018 was agreed.**

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

#### **C/129/2018            MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 JULY 2018**

Read:                    Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 July 2018 (copy circulated).

Councillor Byrne asked that the information on tourism events funding be circulated to Members prior to the next ERT Committee Meeting.

Mr Hannaway advised this would be actioned, as requested.

**AGREED:** The Minutes of the Council meeting held on 2 July 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.

**C/130/2018** **MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 26 JUNE 2018**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 26 June 2018 (copy circulated).

**AGREED:** The Minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 26 June 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Craig.

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/131/2018** **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2018**

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2018 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2018 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

Councillor Sharvin left the meeting at this stage – 6.20pm

**CORRESPONDENCE AND CONFERENCES**

**C/132/2018** **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES REGARDING BENEFIT SANCTIONS**

Read: Correspondence dated 3 July 2018 from Department for Communities stating that the Department's benefit decision making activities take place within a carefully monitored and controlled statutory framework to ensure that fair, lawful, accurate and consistent decisions were made. They advised that any new policy approach, including the allocation of additional resources, would be a matter for incoming Ministers. (copy circulated).

**NOTED:** The correspondence received regarding Benefit Sanctions was noted.

**C/133/2018**                    **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM LUSITANIA MUSEUM TO DEDICATION CEREMONY TO UNVEIL THE LUSITANIA DAVIT**

Read:                            Correspondence dated 6 July 2018 from Mr C Hayes, Lusitania Museum inviting the Chief Executive, Councillors Murnin as current Chairperson and Mulgrew as previous Chairperson and the Mournes Councillors, to a dedication ceremony to unveil the Lusitania Davit on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2018 at 6pm in Kinsale, Co Cork (copy circulated)

**AGREED:**                    **The correspondence received regarding invitation to dedication ceremony to unveil Lusitania Davit was noted and it was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hyland, seconded by Councillor Burgess that the invitation be accepted. Any Member invited who wished to attend to advise Democratic Services as soon as possible.**

**C/134/2018**                    **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DERRY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: PIPS MOTION**

Read:                            Correspondence dated 11 July 2018 from Derry & Strabane District Council, asking for support from Council for the joint Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association campaign highlighting the deep concern about the impact of the current definition of terminal illness used for eligibility for benefits including Personal Independence Payments (PIP) in Northern Ireland. (copy circulated).

**AGREED:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Walker, to support the joint Marie Curie and Motor Neurone Disease Association campaign.**

**C/135/2018**                    **CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FROM DERRY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: MEDICAL CANNABIS**

Read:                            Correspondence dated 11 July 2018 from Derry & Strabane District Council, asking for support from Council for their campaign to urge the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on the use of Medical Cannabis, when assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient by their GP, and also urging the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same. (copy circulated).

**AGREED:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to support the campaign to urge the Home Office to withdraw its prohibition on the use of Medical Cannabis, when assessed as beneficial to the wellbeing of a recipient by their GP, and also urging the Northern Ireland Department of Health to explore licensing options of the same.**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/136/2018**                    **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLORS  
SAVAGE AND STOKES – CONDITION OF CLANRYE RIVER,  
NEWRY**

The following Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor Stokes:

**"That this Council assembles a task force to include all relevant bodies to improve the condition of the Clanrye River in Newry City and that this task force explore all options in the short and long term including the provision of a weir. In the short term Council will work with all agencies to coordinate an immediate clean-up of the River."**

The motion was seconded by Councillor Savage and referred, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 to the next meeting of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee.

**Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this stage – 6.24pm**

**C/137/2018**                    **NOTICE OF MOTION RECEIVED FROM COUNCILLOR  
MCMURRAY**

The following Motion was proposed by Councillor McMurray:

**"That this Council will write to both the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Irish Air Corps, to thank them in recognition for the efforts they have put into containing the forest fires that have affected our district. Further to this, a summary report will be presented which details Newry, Mourne and Down Council's planned response to Forest Fire incidents".**

In proposing the motion, Councillor McMurray said he had witnessed, first hand, the response to the forest fires in the district and wished to publicly acknowledge those who had responded – NI Fire and Rescue Service, the Irish Air Corps, Mourne Heritage Trust and other unseen helpers. He said without their help and prompt response, Tollymore Forest could have been lost. He stated he felt it was imperative that the Council have a clear policy as to how it responded to such incidents as forest fires, with social media being used to advise public that fire hazards were in place. He said that inter-agency conversations should be held in terms of how to respond to such incidents in the future.

Councillor Hanna seconded the motion stating the amount of working hours put in by fire personnel was phenomenal and the community rose to support these fire personnel in their work.

Members spoke unanimously in support of the motion praising the work of the Fire Service, Irish Air Corps and Mourne Heritage Trust as well as thanking the local businesses and communities for supporting the Fire Service in their role.

The Chairperson advised he had met with the Air Corps and Fire Service with regard to the fires in the Mournes and Slieve Gullion and recognised the huge amount of personnel

involved in both incidents. He explained it would not be possible to host a reception due to the large numbers of people involved and the wide geographical area from which they had come, however he would meet some fire cadets in Newry later in the year.

**AGREED:**            **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McMurray, seconded by Councillor Hanna that the Council write to both the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and the Irish Air Corps, to thank them in recognition for the efforts they have put into containing the forest fires that affected our district. Further to this, a summary report will be presented which details Newry, Mourne and Down Council's planned response to Forest Fire incidents. It was also agreed that a letter of thanks be sent to Mourne Heritage Trust.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.36pm

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**