

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

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**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 March 2022 at 6.00pm via Hybrid  
in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor C Mason (Chamber)

**In attendance in Chamber:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor D Curran	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Savage	

**In attendance via Teams:**

Councillor P Brown	Councillor R Burgess
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor H Gallagher	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor K Owen
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Ruane
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	

**Officials in attendance  
in Chamber:**

Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive  
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration &  
Tourism  
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in Attendance  
Via Teams:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities  
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director Tourism, Culture and  
Events  
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

**C/044/2022**

**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Devlin and Howell and Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive.

The Chairperson began with a moment of reflection for the people of Ukraine.

The Chairperson stated the brutal actions of Russia had been condemned right across the political spectrum and that Council sent their solidarity to the people of Ukraine. She mentioned in particular a friend, colleague and past Councillor, Oksana McMahon and other members of the chamber who had friends, family or colleagues who were experiencing hurt at the hands of Russia.

Whilst these horrific events unfold there was a clear act of solidarity emerging, with appeals and collections taking place all over the north and over the weekend Newry, Mourne and Down District Council held its own collection. As Chairperson she was blown away by the kindness and generosity of the people of the District and gave a special thanks to Justyna McCabe for co-ordinating the collections.

The Chairperson commented that the next day would see the celebration of International Women's Day, a day where we stop to celebrate women, embrace women and acknowledge the hardships that still existed as women, but mostly applauding just how far we had come. Members were informed the theme for this year was #BreakTheBias, creating a world free from stereotype and discrimination and moving to one which promoted diversity, inclusivity and celebrated difference.

The Chairperson thanked all those who attended the very successful event that took place on 4 March 2022 including all the men who attended. She commented that the biggest learning coming out of the event on Friday was the need to be having these conversations today, tomorrow and every day, not waiting for one day each year.

The Chairperson wished all women in the chamber and Council a happy International Women's Day and quoted the following: "Feminism isn't about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength."

Councillor Savage paid tribute to the late Sean McEvoy, saying Sean had been a councillor in the legacy Newry and Mourne Council and had sadly passed away this week after a long illness. He said he had been a great councillor and was very highly regarded and he conveyed his condolences to his family.

#### **C/045/2022                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

#### **C/046/2022                    ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read:                            Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 (copy circulated).

Mrs D Carville, Deputy Chief Executive advised an amendment was required to the Council Action Sheet and Minutes from the meeting held on 7 February 2022, as there had been an error on the figures reported.

The rate increase of 1.95% should read that this means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.

Mrs Carville informed Members item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion: Ports had been subject to call in and referred to legal Council and would be reported back to Council once it had been ruled upon.

**Agreed:** The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Hanlon subject to the following amendment:

Item C/020/2022: To set a District Rate for the year 2022/23 to read that the rate increase of 1.95% means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.

The action sheet was also approved with the exception of item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion: Ports due to call in and referral to legal counsel.

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

#### **C/047/2022                    MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess subject to the following amendment:

Item C/020/2022: To set a District Rate for the year 2022/23 to read that the rate increase of 1.95% means a non-domestic rate of 24.4633 pence and a domestic rate of 0.4146 pence.

The Minutes were also adopted with the exception of item C/043/2022 Emergency Notice of Motion – Ports due to call in and referral to legal counsel.

#### **C/048/2022                    MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 31 JANUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 31 January 2022 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 31 January 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran.

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

#### **C/049/2022                    MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2022 (copy circulated).

Councillor Savage advised he had declared an interest in items ERT/029/2022 Tourism NI Co operative Partnership Marketing Fund and ERT/034/2022 Make it Local Engagement Campaign.

*ERT/025/2022: Downpatrick Town Centre*

In response for an update from Councillor Curran, Mr Mallon confirmed that once the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism minutes were ratified a date for a workshop and list of attendees would be issued.

*ERT/037/2022: Tourism Events Programme 2022-23*

Councillor Hanna commented it was disappointing the Festival of Flight was not going ahead in 2022 and that information was in the media about proposed events to use the money from the event.

Councillor Hanna proposed that before any decisions or events were decided upon that the Mournes DEA Councillors be consulted. Councillor McEvoy seconded the proposal.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

*ERT/036/2022: Service Level Agreements 2022-23*

Councillor Enright referred to Service Level Agreements within the minute and wished to express concerns relating to the Tourism Centre in Downpatrick.

Mr Mallon clarified the Service Level Agreements 2022-23 had been presented to Committee with the recommendation to approve them.

*ERT/037/2022: Tourism Events Programme 2022-23*

Councillor Owen proposed that the Festival of Flight be put into the calendar for next year and earmarked as much as possible. Councillor Taylor seconded the proposal.

Mrs D Carville advised that determining an events programme for the 2023-24 year ahead of costing would be premature and suggested officers take the comments on board and put it back to the team for consideration.

Councillor Owen enquired if there was no way a firm commitment could be given to the public that the Festival of Flight would go ahead next year to which Mrs Carville reaffirmed it would be premature to do so as all events had to be taken in the round and presented to Committee for full consideration and approval.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters**

which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Lewis, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Council work towards putting the Festival of Flight into the events programme for next year 2023-2024, subject to Committee approval.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor McEvoy that before any decisions or events were decided upon the Mournes DEA Councillors be consulted.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hanna subject to amendment that Councillor Savage declared an interest in item ERT/029/2022 Tourism NI Co-operative Partnership Marketing Fund and ERT/034/2022 Make it Local Engagement Campaign.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 February 2022 were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

**C/050/2022**

**MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2022**

**Read:** Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2022 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Hanlon .

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the next matters which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

*SPR/031/2022: Strategic Finance Working Group Action Sheet – 18 January 2022 & 3 February 2022*

Councillor McAteer wished to speak about the action sheet of 3 February 2022.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne.

**C/051/2022**                    **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2022 (copy circulated).

*AHC/030/2022: Action Sheet from Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 24 January 2022*

In response to a query from Councillor Lewis regarding the reopening of the hot tub within the Vitality Suite in Downpatrick Leisure Centre, Mr Lipsett advised that whilst all facilities were now open there were a number that would take slightly longer to open up due to repair work being carried out and difficulties in getting various cleaning products for some facilities. He assured Members that officers were doing all they could to reopen all facilities as quickly as they could.

Mr Lipsett advised he would report back directly to Councillor Lewis with a confirmed date for the reopening of the hot tub.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor O’Hare.

**C/052/2022**                    **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2022 (copy circulated).

*NS/013/2022: Neighbourhood Services Working Group Meeting 3 February 2022*

In response for an update from Councillor Hanlon on the consultation for the Public Toilet Strategy, Mr McBride advised a paper had been presented to Committee, the detail of which he would provide directly.

Councillor Hanlon advised she had put in a request for the provision of portaloos at Kilclief beach which was extremely busy and asked that it be expediated as residents were concerned. Mr McBride advised he would report back to Councillor Hanlon directly.

Councillor Enright added that Kilclief beach was an internationally recognised bathing beach and there was a need for toilet provision.

Mr McBride also agreed to speak with Councillor McMurray regarding the provision on portalooos in Dundrum.

*NS/017/2022: Fleet Replacement Plan Update*

Councillor McAteer spoke of issues arising from bins not being lifted due to vehicle tonnage limits and asked that as a matter of urgency smaller vehicles be placed first on the procurement list.

Mr McBride confirmed Mac Pac type vehicles were included within the tender issued to replace part of the fleet. He also confirmed the tender valuations had been completed for 5 out of 6 lots and that it was hoped orders would be placed by the end of March 2022.

In response to concerns about the timeframe referred to by Councillor McAteer, Mr McBride advised it was an industry wide issue with supply chain difficulties outside of officer's control and that the focus was on getting orders placed and then put pressure on suppliers to reduce delivery times.

Councillor O'Hare and Taylor highlighted concerns in relation to opening of recycling centres in Hilltown and Newtownhamilton. Mr McBride explained that unfortunately there was workforce deficit in household recycling centres due to Covid and other sickness issues and that a service continuity plan was in place and that some centres were having to close to prevent detrimental impact on other services such as cleansing.

Councillors Taylor and Ó Muirí asked that street cleansing in Newtownhamilton also be examined and Mr McBride confirmed he would do so.

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 23 February 2022 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran.**

**C/053/2022** **PLANNING MINUTES**

**Read:** Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 9 February 2022 (copy circulated)

**Noted:** **The extract from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 9 February 2022 was noted on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/054/2022** **NOTICE OF MOTION – OPPOSED TO PLANNED CHANGES TO RED DIESEL**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor McEvoy:

**“NMD Council oppose the planned changes to Red Diesel usage being brought in by HMRC in April.**

**The proposed changes to red diesel usage in any vehicle other than what are described as vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only. This Council notes with concern that these changes will have severe implications for many sectors of our economy locally throughout our district and not solely within agriculture.**

**Sinn Féin propose that Newry Mourne and Down Council writes to the British Treasury opposing the planned changes and seeking to immediately pause these damaging proposals and to look at new ways as to how government can practically support businesses take the necessary actions to move away from fossil fuels and to put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions as these proposals will only serve to increasing input costs without themselves reducing emission.**

**We will also write to all Councils in the North asking them to write to the British Treasury asking them to raise concerns that this will have a detrimental economic impact across all Council Areas”.**

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Murphy.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor McEvoy said change to the entitlement to use red diesel would not reduce emissions in itself but would however increase revenues for the British Treasury.

Councillor McEvoy said the latest plan from the British Chancellor would see the removal of the lower duty rate from red diesel with a sudden increase in price of around 50 pence per litre, which would have damaging effects on all sectors who currently availed of red diesel. She stated the proposed changes would have a detrimental effect on businesses, in particular the agriculture, construction, quarrying and manufacturing sectors that were already struggling with increased costs of materials and soaring energy prices and she said jobs could be put at risk.

Councillor McEvoy said the British Chancellor should pause this move and instead look at how to practically support businesses take the necessary action to move away from fossil fuels and put in place measures and policies that would have a meaningful impact in reducing emissions.

Councillor Murphy seconded the Motion saying the timing was most unfortunate given the recent fuel price hike and farmers were already under pressure with the reduction and in some cases withdrawal of EU funding. He stated charities would also lose out as fundraising tractor runs would not be feasible because the tractors would have to be drained, tanks washed out and replaced with white diesel and he said this simply would not happen.

Councillor Murphy said the proposed changes were an attack on the rural communities and rural economy and the decision makers had not taken into the account the very serious impact it would have.

Councillor Hanna expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the DUP and said the Ukraine crisis, the increases in fuel and National Insurance Contributions were extremely concerning and Chancellor of the Exchequer needed to put a pause on this for at least a few years.

Councillor Lewis expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the UUP and said the Air Ambulance Service which provided a vital service to rural communities would be affected as it benefitted from annual family friendly tractor runs. Additionally, Councillor Lewis raised concerns about the potential damage that could be done to vehicles as a result of having to drain the fuel.

Councillor McKeivitt expressed support for the Motion on behalf of the SDLP saying the construction industry would be hit particularly hard and said it would result in cross border construction workers having to empty their machines at the border which was not feasible.

Councillor McKee said it would be impossible to police and charity tractor runs should be excluded from having to use white diesel.

Councillor McMurray said he had concerns over the wording of the Motion, and he would not be supporting it.



Councillor Reilly said he supported the Motion in principle and asked if it could be amended to include 'The N. Ireland Assembly examines all avenues of being able to subsidise industry in N. Ireland that is affected by the loss of rebated diesel'

Councillor McEvoy said she would not accept the amendment as she understood it was going to the Exchequer.

Councillor McAteer expressed support for the Motion saying the proposed changes would cause a practical and administrative nightmare for the small farmer.

The Chairperson asked for a vote for support for the Motion the results of which are as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>0</b>

Support for Motion was carried.

In summing up, Councillor McEvoy said it was paramount as a Council that representations be made to the British Treasury to highlight the serious concerns the proposed changes would have. She said with Brexit already having a detrimental impact on local communities, the increased cost of living, raw materials and increased fuel prices farming and rural businesses did not need this additional pressure and said these damaging proposals must be paused with immediate effect.

Councillor Reilly strongly voiced his opposition to the mention of Brexit having a detrimental effect and asked that his vote be withdrawn.

**AGREED:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy seconded by Councillor Murphy that Newry Mourne and Down District Council oppose the planned changes to Red Diesel usage being brought in by HMRC in April.**  
**The proposed changes to red diesel usage in any vehicle other than what are described as vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only.**  
**Council notes with concern that these changes will have severe implications for many sectors of our economy locally throughout our district and not solely within agriculture.**  
**Council writes to the British Treasury opposing the planned changes and seeking to immediately pause these damaging proposals and to look at new ways as to how government can practically support businesses take the necessary actions to move away from fossil fuels and to put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions as these proposals will only serve to increasing input costs without themselves reducing emission.**  
**Council writes to all Councils in the North asking them to write to the British Treasury asking them to raise concerns that this will have a detrimental economic impact across all Council Areas.**

Councillors Tinnelly and Enright left the meeting – 7.42pm and 7.43pm respectively.

**C/055/2022**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – CHARLOTTE'S LAW**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Lewis:

**“Following proper scrutiny, due process and appropriate Assembly consideration, this council supports the implementation of Charlotte’s Law. In principle we support the proposed mechanisms of; recategorizing all ‘no body’ murders from the ‘normal’ murder category into the very serious murder category meaning a higher starting point in sentencing. Furthermore, we support offering a specified time post-sentencing where significant disclosure can be made by the perpetrator and if it results in the victim’s body being recovered then a review of tariff will be offered, and the non-disclosure is no longer a relevant factor. We call for the next Justice Minister to bring these proposals forward without delay during the next mandate”.**

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Lewis paid tribute to the Murray and Dorrian Families and thanked Joanne Dorrian for coming to the meeting, logging in to witness this historic vote. He commended the two families for their work, outreach and campaigning, although suffering themselves they had supported other families not just in Northern Ireland but across the world and thanked them for articulating the benefits of this suggested legislation.

Councillor Lewis stated the Ulster Unionist Party believed action must be taken to both recognise the seriousness of this offence and satisfy the requirements of retribution and deterrence. He added concealment of a body compounded the anguish caused to the family of the victim and was not merely an ‘aggravating factor’ but was an offence worthy of being placed in the ‘very serious murder’ category. He pointed out this would be progressive legislation, a world first. Realistically, to encourage disclosure for the benefit of the family, we support offering a specified time post-sentencing where significant disclosure can be made by the perpetrator and if it results in the victim’s body being recovered then a review of tariff will be offered, and the non-disclosure is no longer a relevant factor.

In the absence of a functioning Executive Councillor Lewis said he believe every Council in Northern Ireland should use the mechanisms open to them to put on record their support for this change to the law. He hoped each party would take the opportunity to publicly, in principle support the steps that needed to be taken to resolve the heinous act of body concealment, providing families with a pathway to closure. He stated the Murray and Dorrian families had waited long enough to see substantive moves toward justice. The support of this motion along with the consultation provided the next Minister of Justice a clear mandate to move this law on their first day in office.

In seconding the Motion, Councillor Taylor said the introduction of Charlotte’s Law was an important factor in ensuring proper sentencing was imposed in taking into account the seriousness of the offence.

Councillor Hanlon welcomed Joanne Dorrian to the meeting, acknowledging it was very difficult for her to listen to the discussions on the Motion and she offered her condolences to her on the tragic loss of her sister Lisa. She asked that it be put on record Sinn Féin’s thanks to both the Dorrian and Murray families who had campaigned so relentlessly for the introduction of Charlotte’s Law.

Councillor Hanlon said the Justice Minister had proposed to introduce a form of Charlotte’s Law which would place a statutory duty on the Parole Commissioners to take into account the non-disclosure of a victim’s remains where a person’s killer was applying for parole. and said with regard to the wording of the Motion, in relation to *recategorizing all ‘no body’ murders* and *post sentencing reviews*, the Minister had not proposed these but had sought views on these options in a consultation, Councillor Hanlon said she understood the Minister herself did not support these changes and she said Sinn Féin was opposed to these two options.

Councillor Hanlon said she did not believe a compelling case had been made for these changes to be implemented and given the legal complexities involved, much more work would need to be carried out by the Department before it could conclude such proposals would be appropriate or effective.

Councillor Hanlon proposed an amendment to the Motion to add the following after the words 'Charlotte's Law' in the first sentence of the Motion. 'alongside the package of practical and administrative recommendations from the Department's Review of the law regarding the low on the disclosure of victims remains. This Council calls for incoming Justice Minister to introduce Charlotte's Law in the next mandate' Councillor Ó Muirí seconded the proposal.

Councillor Lewis said although he took on board, Councillor Hanlon's comments, he could not accept the amendment as he considered it would not give the necessary weight the law would need and following the consultation, it should hopefully include the recategorization and tariff review and he said to not include these in the Motion at this time would be letting down the two families who had rigorously campaigned for it.

Councillor Hanlon asked it be put on record that Sinn Féin agreed with the principle of the Motion, just not the drafting of it and that it had supported the Assembly Motion regarding Charlotte's Law.

Councillor Lewis reiterated he could not accept the amendment proposed by Councillor Hanlon saying a strong legislative stance was needed to ensure that when the consultation process was completed, the two most important factors, the recategorization and the tariff review would be enshrined in legislation.

Councillor Byrne expressed full support for the Motion but said he had some concern with regard to the technicality of the wording of the Motion. He acknowledged the tireless campaigning carried out by the two families and said everything should be done to ensure all mechanisms were put in place to encourage people to be forthcoming regarding the whereabouts of victims' remains.

Councillors McMurray, Owen and McKee all expressed full support for the Motion.

Councillor Hanlon read out her amended Motion:

**“Following proper scrutiny, due process and appropriate Assembly consideration, this council supports the implementation of Charlotte's Law alongside a package of practical and administrative recommendations from the Departments review of the law regarding the non-disclosure of victims remains. This Council calls for the incoming Justice Minister to introduce Charlotte's Law in the next mandate’.**

The proposed amendment was put to a vote, the result of which were as follows:

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>ABSTENTIONS:</b>	<b>1</b>

The proposal was lost.

In summing up, Councillor Lewis commended the Dorrian and Murray families for all the campaigning they had done and for the support they had offered to other families who had found themselves in the same situation.

**AGREED:**                    **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Taylor that following proper scrutiny, due process and appropriate Assembly consideration, this Council supports the implementation of Charlotte's Law. In principle we support the proposed mechanisms of; recategorizing all 'no body' murders from the 'normal' murder category into the very serious murder category meaning a higher starting point in sentencing. Furthermore, we support offering a specified time post-sentencing where significant disclosure can be made by the**

perpetrator and if it results in the victim's body being recovered then a review of tariff will be offered, and the non-disclosure is no longer a relevant factor. We call for the next Justice Minister to bring these proposals forward without delay during the next mandate.

Councillor Ruane left the meeting – 8.07pm.

**C/056/2022**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PAT JENNINGS STATUE**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Savage:

**“Council acknowledges the outstanding contribution son of Newry, and former Northern Ireland International, Tottenham Hotspur, Arsenal, Watford and Newry Town goalkeeper Pat Jennings has made to sport, charity, reconciliation and the promotion of his home city and district.**

**The Friends of Big Pat Group has been established to honour Pat Jennings through the commissioning of a statue to be located in his native Newry in honour of his achievements on and off the pitch and in recognition of the high esteem in which he is held in his home city and district and across the world.**

**Council acknowledges Pat Jennings’ global recognition as an outstanding international and English club goalkeeper, his time as a young GAA player with Newry Shamrocks, his work with numerous charities over many years, his involvement in reconciliation work including his 35 years with Co-operation Ireland and his role as an Ambassador for Newry’s City Status Bid in 2002.**

**Council agrees to engage (without prejudice) with the Friends of Big Pat Group as per the Council’s agreed procedure and policy relating to the erection of artworks and statues if an application is made by the Friends of Big Pat Group relating to the erection of artwork/statue honouring Pat Jennings’ in the city”.**

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

**Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Equality and Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

The Chairperson advised Members that Councillor Stokes and Councillor Andrews wished to bring forward an Emergency Notice of Motion, and in order to do so, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders, for which a qualified majority vote was required (80% of Members present and voting).

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

<b>FOR:</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>AGAINST:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>ABSENCES:</b>	<b>0</b>

It was unanimously agreed to suspend Standing Orders 16.1. (copy attached, appendix 1)

**AGREED: It was unanimously agreed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the emergency Notice of Motion received from Councillor Mulgrew.**

**C/057/2022**

**EMERGENCY NOTICE OF MOTION – UKRAINE**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Stokes and Councillor Andrews:

**‘Newry, Mourne and Down District Council condemns in the strongest possible terms the invasion of the sovereign independent nation of Ukraine and expresses its solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Also, in light of the massive hikes of prices in relation to energy related costs such as oil, gas, electricity and fuel in recent days and times all of which will have a major detrimental impact on all our residents in our district and beyond. Newry Mourne and Down District Council call upon and demand that the Chancellor of the Exchequer release the much necessary funding and support to enable that all households who have been affected by these massive price increases receive much needed support and help where it is needed most especially in the times that we are now in and beyond. If this motion is adopted, we encourage the other ten councils to do the same for their residents.’**

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.

As there were two different aspects to the Motion, Councillor Stokes spoke on the first part of the Motion relating to the invasion of Ukraine and Councillor Andrews spoke on the second part in relation to the massive increases in energy related costs.

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Stokes thanked the Chair for her comments in her opening remarks regarding the invasion of Ukraine. He stated he was personally affected by the invasion as his wife was Ukrainian and many of their friends still lived in Kyiv. He said the lives of Ukrainians had been turned upside down with many now forced to live in basements and subway stations for safety.

Councillor Stokes thanked the Members for their support and said the generosity of local people was greatly appreciated and said it was appropriate that Sinn Féin seconded the Motion, given that former Council Vice Chair Oksana McMahan was a native of Ukraine. He said the situation was impossible to imagine and especially difficult for those with young children.

There was widespread condemnation among Members of the appalling brutality that had been inflicted upon the Ukrainian people with some Members saying the Ukrainian element of the Motion was of such magnitude it could have been a Motion on its own. Members expressed their utmost support for the people of Ukraine and said the world needed to stand up to President Putin. Members said the conflict had shown both the worst and best of humanity. Councillor Savage said the Irish Government had taken a much more humanitarian approach than the UK in waiving visas and said in view of the offers of accommodation from people in the District, Council could open a register of interest and people could register if they were in a position to offer accommodation to Ukrainian refugees. Members spoke of the harrowing images on TV of children being lifted and put on to trains and families being separated.

The Chairperson said she was happy to meet with Councillor Stokes to explore ways in which the Council could offer assistance.

In proposing the second part of the Motion, Councillor Andrews said in recent months before the invasion of Ukraine there had been a huge hike in fuel costs and since the invasion, prices had sky rocketed and were not showing any signs of slowing down.

Councillor Andrews said the timing could not have been worse as following the pandemic, the economy had been struggling with many businesses facing an uphill battle to survive and the stark choice for many was heat or eat.

Councillor Andrews said the increased prices and increase in VAT only increased intake into the Treasury. He said massive profits were being made by the major companies at the expense of the consumer and he called on the Chancellor of the Exchequer to divert these taxation increases and to levy taxes on major companies these taxes could then be given back to all those severely impacted by rising prices. He said on a local basis the

extra monies should be diverted to the Department for Communities with each household receiving financial support.

There was unanimous support for both aspects of the Motion and Councillor Stokes in summing up, thanked the Members for their unanimous support.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.50pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 April 2022.

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**