

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/AGM/

Minutes of Annual Meeting of Council held on Monday 20th May 2019 at 6pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor M Murnin 6.00pm-6.20pm
Councillor C Casey 6.20pm – 6.46pm

In attendance: (Councillors)

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|------------------------|------------------------|
| Councillor T Andrews | Councillor G Bain |
| Councillor P Brown | Councillor R Burgess |
| Councillor P Byrne | Councillor C Casey |
| Councillor W Clarke | Councillor D Curran |
| Councillor L Devlin | Councillor S Doran |
| Councillor C Enright | Councillor H Gallagher |
| Councillor M Gibbons | Councillor O Hanlon |
| Councillor G Hanna | Councillor V Harte |
| Councillor H Harvey | Councillor T Hearty |
| Councillor R Howell | Councillor L Kimmins |
| Councillor M Larkin | Councillor A Lewis |
| Councillor O Magennis | Councillor G Malone |
| Councillor C Mason | Councillor D McAteer |
| Councillor L McEvoy | Councillor H McKee |
| Councillor K McKeivitt | Councillor G O'Hare |
| Councillor B Ó Muirí | Councillor H Reilly |
| Councillor M Ruane | Councillor M Savage |
| Councillor G Sharvin | Councillor G Stokes |
| Councillor D Taylor | Councillor J Tinnelly |
| Councillor J Trainor | Councillor B Walker |

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Mrs M Ward, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs C Miskelly, Assistant Director of Corporate Services (HR and Safeguarding)
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer
Miss R Webb, Democratic Services Student

AGM/1/2019**APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Mulgrew.

The Chairperson, Councillor Murnin welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular the newly appointed Councillors.

The Chairperson thanked his colleagues and officers for all the support he had received during his year as Chair particularly the Democratic Services team, Sheila Kieran, Rebecca Webb and also Bria Cunningham who had been working with him at the start of his tenure.

The Chairperson said there had been over 600 events held throughout the year, the highlights of which included spending time with the special Olympians; the evening to celebrate Councillor Dermot Curran's 40 years service in local government; leading the St Patrick's Day parade in his own home area; Innovation Nation event; and the fund raising efforts on behalf of Ellen and Alfie both of whom he wished well in their future medical treatments.

The Chairperson encouraged all parties to work together in making the District the number one tourism destination and place to live. He continued, saying that climate risk and alternative energy were issues that needed serious consideration by our Council.

The Chairperson said he had enjoyed his 4 years as a Councillor and, in particular his last year as Chair of Council.

Councillors Enright, Stokes, Walker, Taylor, Brown, Ruane and Tinnelly paid tribute to the work undertaken by Councillors Murnin and McMahon during their tenure as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson.

Mr Hannaway, on behalf of all staff thanked Councillor Murnin for all the work he had undertaken during his year as Chair of Council and stated that Councillor Murnin and Councillor McMahon had worked well together as Chair and Deputy Chair.

AGM/2/2019**DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

AGM/3/2019**AGREE APPOINTMENT TO PCSP COMMITTEE**

Read: Policing and Community Safety Partnership Appointments at Annual Meeting (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the number of Members appointed to the PCSP Committee at the Annual Meeting be 10.**

AGM/4/2019 **TO AGREE THE METHOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY RESPONSIBILITY USING D'HONDT BY QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTE**

Read: Order of Pick by d'Hondt (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to approve the method for the appointment of statutory responsibility using d'Hondt by qualified majority vote (copy of recorded vote sheet appended to these minutes).**

AGM/5/2019 **TO AGREE THE METHOD FOR THE APPOINTMENT TO STATUTORY COMMITTEES for 2019/20 USING QUOTA OF GREATEST REMAINDER BY QUALIFIED MAJORITY VOTE**

Read: Appointment of Councillors to Committees – Quota Greatest Remainder (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Walker, to note the contents of the report and consider and agree to:**

- **The recommendation that Quota Greatest Return be applied at the first stage to allocate the minimum number of positions per Committee for each of the recognised Parties and Independent Councillors.**
- **The recommendation that D'Hondt is applied at the second stage for determining the allocation of the remaining twelve (12) positions to the agreed Committee structure. Only after the minimum number of positions to be allocated per Committee, for each of the recognised Parties and Independent Councillors, have been determined at the first stage using Quota Greatest Remainder (QGR); and**
- **The point in the order of selection that D'Hondt should apply to determine the allocation of the remaining twelve (12) positions. (Copy of recorded vote sheet appended to these minutes)**

AGM/6/2019 **APPOINTMENT OF STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY**

The Chief Executive called upon Councillor Ruane as nominating officer for Sinn Féin to nominate a Councillor for the position of Chairperson of Council for 2019/20.

Councillor Ruane nominated Councillor Charlie Casey who subsequently accepted the post.

The Chief Executive called upon Councillor Byrne as nominating officer for SDLP to nominate a Councillor for the position of Deputy-Chairperson of Council for 2019/20.

Councillor Byrne nominated Councillor Terry Andrews who subsequently accepted the post.

The Chairperson stated that Councillor Casey and Councillor Andrews had been duly nominated as Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson respectively of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for the year 2019/20.

The Chairperson called upon the nominating officers of each of the parties to nominate to the following statutory positions of responsibility and the following nominations were made by the respective nominating officers and formally accepted by the nominees:

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Chair of AHC | Councillor Kimmins |
| Deputy Chair of AHC | Councillor Gibbons |
| Chair of ERT | Councillor Mulgrew |
| Deputy Chair of ERT | Councillor Curran |
| Chair of NS | Councillor Harvey |
| Deputy Chair of NS | Councillor Stokes |
| Chair of SPR | Councillor Savage |
| Deputy Chair of SPR | Councillor Brown |
| Chair of Planning | Councillor Larkin |
| Deputy Chair of Planning | Councillor Reilly |

Councillor Murnin vacated the Chair at this point in the meeting.

Councillors Casey and Andrews assumed the Chairperson and Deputy-Chairperson roles at this point.

AGM/7/2019 NEWLY APPOINTED CHAIR AND DEPUTY CHAIR ASSUME ROLES

Councillor Casey, in his acceptance speech as the newly appointed Chairperson of Council for the 2019/20 term, urged for Council unity in protecting the services under threat particularly those pertaining to the health and welfare for all and especially the most vulnerable.

Councillor Casey pledged that in his role of Chairperson he would fight for life saving and life changing services, champion the cause of equality and take forward the Council commitment of putting communities at the heart of everything it does. Councillor Casey urged all political representatives to continue to unite in the campaign to save the Stroke Services and Breast Cancer Services that were under threat, and he said he believed working together with all stakeholders, would make this achievable.

Councillor Casey continued saying that Newry Mourne and Down Council mission was to lead and serve a District that was prosperous and healthy as well as sustainable from an economic, environmental and social perspective. Councillor Casey said Brexit was a threat to the Council area and he committed to working hard with local and European representatives to ensure the will of the people was respected and the 'backstop' as the least worst option was maintained.

Councillor Casey said he would support local voluntary groups, charities agencies and individuals in whatever practical way he could.

In conclusion, Councillor Casey thanked the outgoing Chairperson Councillor Murnin and Deputy Chairperson Councillor McMahon for their hard work throughout the year and he paid tribute to those outgoing Councillors for their contributions.

Councillor Andrews, in his acceptance speech, thanked his SDLP colleagues for nominating him to his newly appointed position of Deputy Chairperson of Council. He paid tribute to Councillor Murnin and Deputy Chairperson Councillor McMahon for the hard work and dedication they showed in carrying out their duties during the 2018/19 term and he wished them well for the future.

Councillor Andrews said he was proud to represent the Rowallane DEA and he was humbled and honoured to have been nominated to fulfil the role of Deputy Chairperson. Councillor Andrews continued, saying he would do his best for everyone in the District but he would particularly champion people with disabilities and mental health issues.

Councillor Andrews congratulated Councillor Casey on his appointment as Chairperson and said he looked forward to working alongside him together with all the Members and Officers' in the coming year.

AGM/8/2019 APPOINTMENTS TO STATUTORY COMMITTEES 2019/20

Read: List of Committee picks 2019-20 (copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne to approve the appointments to Committees using Quota of Greatest Remainder. (copy of Committee List 2019/20 appended to these minutes)

AGM/9/2019 TO AGREE THE METHOD AND TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVES TO EXTERNAL BODIES AND ORGANISATIONS (EXCLUDING STATUTORY POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY)

Read: List of External Bodies and Organisations 2019/20 (copy circulated)

Councillor Brown said he disagreed with the decision taken at the Party Representatives' Forum held on 14 May 2019 regarding representation on the Board for East Border Region and he said he believed it should include representatives from the smaller parties namely Alliance and Independent Councillors.

Mr Hannaway replied that Councillor Brown would have to propose an amendment to PR/55/2019 from Party Reps Forum held on 14 May 2019.

Councillor Brown proposed that the smaller parties maintain their position on the Board of East Border Region as in the previous term 2015 – 2019. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

The Chairman put the proposal to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:
(result of vote appended to these minutes)

FOR: 4
AGAINST: 34
ABSTENTIONS: 1

The proposal was lost.

Councillor Ruane proposed and Councillor Byrne seconded to uphold the decision that had been taken at the Party Representatives' Forum on 14 May 2019 – PR/55/2019 regarding East Border Region membership.

The proposal was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR: 34
AGAINST: 3
ABSTENTIONS: 1

The proposal was carried.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne to approve the decision taken at the Party Group Leaders Meeting held on 14 May 2019 - PR/55/2019, regarding membership on the East Border Region Board. All other appointments to External Boards and Bodies were agreed and list of appointments appended to these minutes.

AGM/10/2019 TO APPOINT MEMBERS TO COUNCIL BOARDS AND FORA

Read: List of Council Forums/Working Groups/Project Boards/Thematic Groups (copy circulated)

Councillor Brown said he disagreed with the decision taken at the Party Representatives' Forum held on 14 May 2019, regarding representation on the Strategic Projects Working Group and he said he believed it should include representatives from the smaller parties namely Alliance and Independent Councillors.

Mr Hannaway replied that Councillor Brown would have to propose an amendment to PR/56/2019 from Party Reps Mins from 14 May 2019.

Councillor Brown proposed that the smaller parties maintain their position on the Strategic Projects Working Group as in the previous term 2015 – 2019. This was seconded by Councillor Enright.

The Chairman put the proposal to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:
(result of vote appended to these minutes)

FOR: 4
AGAINST: 32

ABSTENTIONS: 3

Councillor Ruane proposed and Councillor Byrne seconded to uphold the decision that had been taken at the Party Representatives' Forum on 14 May 2019 – PR/56/2019, regarding the Strategic Projects Working Group.

The proposal was put to a vote by way of a show of hands and voting was as follows:

FOR: 32
AGAINST: 4
ABSTENTIONS: 3

The proposal was carried.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne to approve the decision taken at the Party Group Leaders Meeting held on 14 May 2019 regarding membership on the Board of the Strategic Projects Working Group. All other appointments to Council Boards and Fora were agreed and list of appointments appended to these minutes.

AGM/11/2019 TO NOTE THE REPORT OF MOCK ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 16th MAY 2019 AND REPORT OF 20 MAY 2019 FOLLOWING ADJOURNMENT ON 16 MAY 2019

Read: Report of the Mock Annual Meeting held on Thursday 16th May 2019 and Report of 20 May 2019 following Adjournment on 16 May 2019 (copy circulated)

Agreed: The reports were agreed as an accurate record, on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

AGM/12/2019 AGREE SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR INCOMING YEAR

Read: Schedule of Meetings for the year 2019/20 (copy circulated)

It was agreed the start times for the Schedule of Meetings for the year June 2019 -May 2020 be agreed at the first Meeting of each Committee.

Agreed: It was agreed to approve the Timetable of Meetings for the year 2019/20.

AGM/13/2019 AGREE SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES

Read: Scheme of Allowances payable to Councillors (copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Scheme of Allowances payable to Councillors as presented was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne.**

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne, 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 a particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.**

AGM/14/2019 APPOINTMENT OF PANEL FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ruane the Committee come out of closed session.**

Ms Taggart advised that while the Committee was in closed session the following was agreed:

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne, to appoint the Chair of Council, plus another 2 Members to the Shortlisting Panel taking account of gender and cross-community considerations and to appoint 3 substitute Councillors. It was also agreed that the Interview Panel would comprise of 5 and not more than 7 Councillors and this would include the Chair of Council and the panel would take account of gender and cross-community considerations with substitutes as previously agreed. It was further agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Byrne, and following a vote, the results of which were FOR - 34; AGAINST – 3;**

**ABSTENTIONS – 3; to retain the number of Councillors
on the Interview Panel at 5.**

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.46pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Signed: _____
Chief Executive