

Minutes were approved at the Council Meeting held on 1 June 2015 subject to Councillor Reilly advising he had raised the issue of Annalong Harbour Gate being given the same degree of urgency as the Victoria Lock and this had not been recorded in the Minutes.

NEWRY MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 May 2015 at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

Vice Chairperson: Councillor S Ennis

In Attendance:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor S Doran
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor H McKee
Councillor P O’Gribin	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor

Non Committee Members

Councillor B Walker

Officials in Attendance:

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr C O’Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr A McKay, Head of Planning
Mr E McManus
Mr C Jackson
Mr K Scullion
Mr P Brannigan
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/16/2015:- APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON’S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor G Sharvin; Councillor G Fitzpatrick and Mr R Moore.

The Chairman expressed the Council’s sympathies to Mr Michael Lipsett and his family on the death of his father.

RTS/17/2015:- DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were received.

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RTS/18/2015: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – 22 APRIL 2015

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 April 2015. (Copy circulated).

NOTED: **The Action Sheet was noted.**

Mr O'Rourke gave an update on the following issues:-

Costs of the provision of a Council pest control service

- Environmental Health were seeking to confirm potential costs and would report back to Committee on this matter.

Costs of maintaining Council owned cemeteries

- Officers were still working on the final details of these costings but initial figures show an approximate annual cost of £200,000.

Provision of a Crematorium in the Newry, Mourne and Down Area

- Mr O'Rourke had carried out some high level initial research – 3 other Councils had recently built a crematorium i.e. Wolverhampton at a cost of £3.5 m; Cromer at a cost of £3m and Aylesbury at a cost of £4m. These crematoriums had an average of 1000 cremations per year, with running costs of £120,000 and an average income of £500,000 per year.

AGREED: **It was agreed Mr O'Rourke obtain the details of the running costs and income for the crematorium in Belfast and report back to the Committee.**

Monkshill Cemetery

- Mr O'Rourke confirmed the water pipe had been laid and the tap would shortly be installed. New bins would also be put in place.

Presentation from Rivers Agency

- Mr O'Rourke confirmed Rivers Agency would give a presentation on flood maps of Northern Ireland at the June RTS Meeting and that all Councillors would be invited to attend for this particular item.

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WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/19/2015: CAPITAL WORKS AT VICTORIA LOCK, NEWRY

Read: Progress report from Mr E McManus dated 8 May 2015 on capital works at Victoria Lock – dredging of lock chamber and refurbishment of sea gates. (Copy circulated). The report sought agreement for the following:-

- Close Victoria Lock and the Amenity Area for a period of 4 No. months approximately from around mid-June 2015 to mid-October 2015 in order to carry out essential works to the Lock Chamber and Sea Gates.
- Officials to be granted authority to write immediately to boat owners who currently have boats berthed in the Albert Basin to inform them of the planned closure of Victoria Lock in order that they may be able to make suitable arrangements for their boats during the closure period. Other canal interest groups and boat owners who have recently left the Albert Basin to also be informed of the proposed temporary closure of Victoria Lock.
- Officials to have authority to refund any remaining berthing fees or issue Credit Notes to departing boat owners if required.

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the above report and recommendations.**

NOTED: In response to queries from Members, Mr McManus confirmed that a PR exercise would be carried out to ensure the public and boat owners were aware of the need to carry out these essential works and the subsequent closure of the Albert Basin and Victoria Amenity area; works would not affect the water levels of Newry Canal and planned events such as fishing competitions etc. would go ahead and also that dredged materials from the Canal would be disposed of by the Contractor in either Aughnagun Landfill site, or another registered landfill site of the Contractor's choice.

PLANNING

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RTS/20/2015: DELIVERY OF SUPPORT FOR COUNCIL PLANNING FUNCTIONS BY THE SHARED ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Read: Report seeking approval for the Shared Environmental Service proposal to support the Planning Department in meeting the Council's environmental responsibilities in connection with their role as the planning authority. The support would be delivered via a Service Level Agreement between Newry, Mourne and Down Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Murnin, to approve and adopt the proposal as circulated.**

NOTED: In response to concerns expressed by Councillor McKee in relation to compliance with legislation for European sites in carrying out their development management functions, Mr Hannaway explained that this service level agreement was not about designation but was about providing a service for the 11 Councils, as a result of an agreement reached with the transfer of planning functions.

RTS/21/2015: PLANNING RESOURCES AND PROCESSING PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Read: Report advising the Committee on a number of issues relating to the Council's planning function and specifically the processing of planning applications. The report sought approval to increase the staffing levels within the planning function, with a detailed resourcing and performance management report being brought back to the RTS Committee. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Stokes, to approve the above report and recommendations.**

NOTED: It was noted that Members present expressed their strong view that the Council's planning function needed to be fully resourced to allow planning applications to be progressed, including those that would bring economic benefit to the area.

Mr McKay said the planning service had undergone major change but he was confident that the 1200 live applications would quickly be reduced once procedures began to "bed in". He also confirmed

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that any office meetings which had been requested in the legacy Councils would take place at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor Murnin left the meeting at this point - 6.25 pm.

BUILDING CONTROL

RTS/22/2015: DANGEROUS BUILDING POLICY

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Dangerous Buildings Policy (dated 11 May 2015). (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Stokes, to approve the above Policy.**

NOTED: In response to queries from Members, Mr Jackson advised that this Policy did not cover disused quarries which fell under Environmental Health legislation and that under the Dangerous Structures legislation the Council's only remit was to protect the public and secure the pavements around dangerous buildings – Council had no responsibility in terms of trespass or the appearance of the buildings.

RTS/23/2015: CONSOLIDATION OF DEVELOPMENT NAMING, POSTAL NUMBERING AND ERECTION OF NAMEPLATES POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Development Naming, Postal Numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy and Procedures, including new development names; new name for existing road (lanes/etc) and dual language nameplates. (Copy circulated).

Councillor Casey proposed and Councillor Doran seconded that the Development Naming, Postal Numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy and Procedures as circulated, be adopted.

As an amendment Councillor Reilly proposed and Councillor McKee seconded that the above Policy and Procedures be amended to include a clause that there must be a response rate of at least 50% from addresses surveyed before any action was taken to change the name of a street, road or lane.

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The amendment was put to a recorded vote and voting was as follows: (Recorded Vote attached).

FOR: 4
AGAINST: 7
ABSTENTIONS: Nil
ABSENT: 4

The amendment was declared lost.

The proposal to adopt the Development, Naming and Postal Numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy and Procedures, as circulated at the Meeting, was put to a vote by a show of hands and voting was as follows:-

FOR: 7
AGAINST: 4
ABSTENTIONS: Nil
ABSENT: 4

AGREED: The proposal was declared carried and it was accordingly agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Doran to adopt the Development, Naming and Postal Numbering and Erection of Nameplates Policy and Procedures, as circulated at the Meeting.

AGREED: It was also agreed that as the Council wished to promote the use of Townland names on all new Road Nameplates, that dual language townland names be provided on all new dual language nameplates, and single language townland names be provided on new single language nameplates without the need to consult with local Councillors.

NOTED: In response to queries from Members, Mr Jackson and Mr O'Rourke advised that:-

- a) The requirement for 50% of those who replied to the survey to be in favour of a name change had been the criteria used by the legacy Newry and Mourne Council as indicating support for a name change.
- b) A number of changes in relation to unnamed roads were carried out by Newry and Mourne District Council last year. Residents were made aware that their addresses would be changed which meant that new house numbers had to be allocated from the start of a road to its finish. Every effort was made to ensure

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existing house numbers did not change but it was physically impossible to avoid changes for all residents.

- c) If a survey letter was sent to an address at which there was no residence then no response would be received.
- d) It could take approximately 6 months between a request being made to replace a sign and its subsequent erection on site.
- e) It was difficult to say how long it would be before "Welcome to the District" Boundary signs were erected as there were issues such as the wording and type of signs to be agreed – the Policy which had just been agreed by the Committee dealt solely with road nameplates and not boundary signs.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this point - 6.50 pm.

RTS/24/2015: SPEAKING RIGHTS OF NON COMMITTEE MEMBERS

NOTED: In response to a query about the speaking rights of non-Committee Members at Committee Meetings the Chairman advised that under Standing Order 19.20 "where a member attends a meeting of a Council Committee of which they are not a member, that member shall not have any right to speak at the meeting unless so permitted by the Chairperson". Councillor Andrews said he was happy to allow non-Committee Members to speak and take part in the debate, as all officers who could answer queries were present at the meeting.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

RTS/25/2015: REQUEST TO PLACE A BLUE CIRCLE PLAQUE

Read: Report from Mr Tom Daly (May 2015) advising that Newry Maritime Association were requesting permission from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to site a Blue Circle Plaque which had been awarded to Captain Harry Hollywood, MBE, at Victoria Locks, at no cost to the Council. Permission was also sought that the current arrangements regarding existing memorials be extended to cover this memorial also. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Harte, to grant approval to the siting of this plaque at Victoria Locks and also that the existing current arrangements regarding existing memorials be extended to cover this memorial also.**

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FOR NOTING

RTS/26/2015: DoE PASSENGER TRANSPORT LICENCING DIVISION – APPLICATION TO RENEW A ROAD SERVICE LICENCE

Read: Letter dated 23 April 2015 from the Driver and Vehicle Agency advising an application to renew a Road Service Licence had been received from Cross Country Coaches Ltd. 31 Ballylintagh Road, Coleraine. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/27/2015: Arc21 PROPOSED CHANGES TO CONTRACTS MRF AND BRING BANK COLLECTION SERVICES FOR PAPER CONTRACTS

Read: Information on proposed changes to contracts MRF and Bring Bank Collection Service for Paper Contracts (paper tabled at the Joint Committee Meeting on 30-4-15). (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/28/2015: Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MEMBERS’ MONTHLY BULLETIN 30 APRIL 2015

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting – Members’ Monthly Bulletin 30 April 2015. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/29/2015: Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETINGS – 26 FEBRUARY AND 26 MARCH 2015

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meetings – Minutes of Meetings held on 26 February 2015 and 26 March 2015. (Copies circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/30/2015: NIEA – SLIEVE CROOB AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST NOTIFICATION

Read: Correspondence from the NIEA giving notification of the delineation of Slieve Croob as an Area of Special Scientific Interest

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(Notification Under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) 2002. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/31/2015: **DoE NEWS RELEASE – NI HOUSEHOLDS PRODUCING MORE WASTE**

Read: News release dated 23 April 2015 from the DoE giving the latest figures which revealed that Councils in Northern Ireland collected more waste between October and December 2014 than during the same period of the year before. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/32/2015: **DoE NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS – OCTOBER/DECEMBER 2014**

Read: Correspondence dated 23 April 2015 from the DoE giving details for accessing information on NI Local Authority collected Waste Management Statistics – October/December 2014. (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/33/2015: **DoE CONSULTATION ON ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING**

Read: Correspondence dated 1 May 2015 from the DoE advising of the launch of a consultation on the report by the Entertainment Licensing Review Group (**responses by Friday 26 June 2015**). (Copy circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/34/2015: **DoE CONSULTATION PAPER ON THE PLANNING (HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES) (AMENDMENT) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2015 – PLANNING POLICY DIVISION LETTER DATED 30-4-15**

Read: Correspondence dated 1 May 2015 from Planning Policy Division attaching a Consultation Paper on the Planning (Hazardous Substances) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2015 (**responses by 11 June 2015**).

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AGREED: It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

CONFERENCES/EVENTS

RTS/35/2015: **CONFERENCE ON ENERGY POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Read: Details of a Conference on Energy Policy in Northern Ireland – Department of Energy and Climate Change: the Enterprise, Trade and Investment Committee Chair and Utility Regulator Chief Executive to be held on Thursday 17 September 2015 in Belfast – fee £210 plus VAT. (Details circulated).

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKee, to appoint Councillor Enright and Councillor Murnin to attend the above Conference.

ITEM TO BE CONSIDERED WITH PRESS AND PUBLIC EXCLUDED

RTS/36/2015: **NEW 3G SPORTS PITCH AT VALLEY RANGERS FC/BALLINRAN COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, KILKEEL**

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Harte, to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Harte, seconded by Councillor Hanna, that the Committee come out of closed session.

AGREED: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that it had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to accept the recommendation contained in the report dated 20 May 2015 from Mr P Brannigan in relation to funding options for the new 3G Sports Pitch at Valley Rangers FC/Ballinran Community Association, Kilkeel.

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There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 June 2015.

Signed: **Councillor Terry Andrews (Chairperson)**

Signed: **Mr Liam Hannaway (Chief Executive)**