

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Ref: AHC/2022

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**Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on  
Monday 21 March 2022 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Estate  
and via Microsoft Teams**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)

**In attendance in  
Chamber:**

Councillor Casey	Councillor Harte
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor McMurray

**In attendance via Teams:**

Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor Gallagher
Councillor G Malone	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor G O'Hare	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor J Tinnelly	

**Also in attendance via  
Teams:**

Councillor Brown

**Officials in attendance  
In Chamber:**

Mr M Lipsett, Director Active and Healthy Communities  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

**Officials in attendance  
Via Teams:**

Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director Health and Wellbeing  
Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement  
Mrs L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

**AHC/050/2022:**

**APOLOGIES & CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Sharvin and Trainor.

The Chairperson congratulated Celtic Bhoys, Downpatrick on winning the Bobby Dalzell Cup against Ardglass on St Patrick's Day.

The Chairperson congratulated everyone who took part in the St Patrick's Day parades in Downpatrick and Newry which were excellent and enjoyed by all and congratulated the organisers and runners of the Jimmy's 10k.

Following a query from the Chairperson, Mr Lipsett advised the strike by UNITE was in relation to the national pay award and was something the Council could not directly affect. He confirmed it would have some affect particularly in the Down Leisure Centre and Ballymote Centre with temporary closures of some facilities over the coming week e.g.

swimming pool and gym due to minimum staffing and safety requirements. He added there was likely to be minimal disruption in the Newry Leisure Centre particularly in relation to the swimming pool.

Mr Lipsett advised it was a changing scenario and that officers were trying to bring staff in to cover extra shifts and overtime to cover gaps in an attempt to keep disruption at a minimum.

Mr Lipsett advised Members would be kept up to date via the NMD Leisure app and social media channels and any block bookings or groups affected would be contacted directly.

**AHC/051/2021:                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**AHC/052/2022:                    ACTION SHEET OF THE ACTIVE & HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON MONDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2022**

Read:                                    Action sheet of the Active & Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 February 2022. **(Copy circulated).**

In response to a request from Councillor Lewis to add the upgrade to Dundrum Playing Fields at the Old Belfast Road to the action sheet, Mr Lipsett agreed to contact him directly with an update on the flood risk assessment and bring a report back to the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting in April 2022.

*AHC/231/2021: Notice of Motion – Accessibility onto beaches in Northern Ireland*

In response for clarity from Councillor Brown, Mr Lipsett advised it had been agreed to add the feasibility study to Outdoor Recreation NI's (ORNI) Service Level Agreement for next year and that ORNI had already visited most the beaches within the District and had started work on that. The Service Level Agreement would be presented for approval by Committee in May 2022 or sooner if possible.

Mr Lipsett advised a timeline for the delivery of the feasibility study would be provided as part of the report to be presented to Committee and added that the advantage of using ORNI was they are aware of the beaches, the issues and in contact with key stakeholders in terms of taking the work forward.

*AHC/143/2021: Notice of Motion – Defibrillators*

Councillor Lewis on behalf of Councillor Taylor enquired about the original motion requesting officers to start up an access fund for defibrillators.

Mr Devlin confirmed that as part of the motion officers were to liaise with the Heart Foundation regarding funding for defibrillators and as yet that had not been progressed. He confirmed an update would be presented at the next Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting in April 2022.

**Agreed:                                    It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, to note the Action Sheet**

**of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee  
Meeting held on Monday 21 February 2022.**

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

**AHC/053/2022: PEACE IV LOCAL ACTION PLAN**

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace IV Local Action Plan (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the recommendations agreed by the Partnership on 3 March 2022 as follows:**

**Building Positive Relations:**

- **Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver Capacity Building Programmes preparing groups for the co-design and implementation of Peace Plus projects across the 7 DEAs. Estimated cost: £35,000 – £50,000;**
- **Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver Irish Traveller Storytelling Project. Estimated cost: £25,000;**
- **Delegated authority to procure and deliver other projects under Building Positive Relations in line with community need to utilise the predicted underspend.**

**Children and Young People:**

- **Procure and appoint relevant facilitators to deliver a cross-community project for children in the Bessbrook area with the aim of creating messages of ‘peace and reconciliation’ which will be inscribed on a seating bench within Derrymore Estate - Estimated cost: £4,500.**

**AHC/054/2022 PEACE PLUS PARTNERSHIP**

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Peace Plus Partnership. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Ó Muirí thanked Mrs Hillen for the report and spoke the importance of making sure it was representative of Councillors. He welcomed that it was to be presented for approval at the Party Representatives Forum and added that it could possibly go to the Equality and Good Relations Forum.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to approve the proposed composition of the new Peace Plus Partnership including the approach for Pillars 2 to 4 and the selection of elected members to complete Pillar 1 in line with Council practice and Peace IV agreement. It was noted this was subject to Party Leaders approval.**

**AHC/055/2022**

**FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Read: Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding Financial Assistance. (Copy circulated)

In response to a query from the Chairperson regarding how much would be required for funding to all who had applied in Sports Capital, Mrs Hillen advised with the original allocation plus the £60,085 there would still be a substantial shortfall in the region of £531,000 approximately. Members were reminded this had been the case last year and funds had come from the DfC Covid Recovery Funding, however sports capital seemed to be consistently oversubscribed each year.

Councillor Finnegan enquired about the potential for external funding streams and Mrs Hillen confirmed officers would explore that but that the Covid Recovery Funding had been a unique scenario.

Councillor Tinnelly raised concerns regarding the high level of failure for some groups with regards their applications including community capital, events and festivals and summer schemes and how for some groups the funding meant the difference in proceeding with events or not.

Mrs Hillen advised officers had put a lot of effort in this year and had run online, virtual events with high attendance rates with further online tutorials and guidance and assistance being offered in a future call. Mrs Hillen reiterated the importance of groups coming back and seeking feedback on their applications.

Councillor Tinnelly questioned if the application process set the bar too high. Mrs Hillen advised as a Unit, such matters were re-evaluated and assessed to see what the issues were in relation to any financial assistance calls and that it was a competitive process involving public funding. She added she would go back to Unit staff and look at those themes in which applications were consistently high with failure rates.

Councillor Ó Muirí commented that the standard of application was high and competitive and that as a Council when examining the rates process at the end of each year Council needed to put more money to it.

The Chairperson asked if there was any Covid Recovery Funding available given that Covid was still about and with many new groups having been established coming out of Covid. Mrs Hillen informed Members it was not anticipated that there would be revenue from DfC however they meet on a monthly basis through the Coordination Hub, and she would ask DfC if they could fund this shortfall.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Casey to approve the following:**

- **The attached appendices for revenue and capital projects.**
- **Pre-letter of offer conditions met prior to issue of full letter of offer issued.**
- **Re-allocate the £60,085 from the legacy sport capital project to the sports programmes and items themes.**

**AHC/056/2022: DISTRICT ELECTORAL AREA (DEA) FORUMS UPDATE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding District Electoral Area (DEA) Forums Update Report **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Casey asked for an update regarding a request from the Greater Armagh Road Men's Shed to lease a piece of land at the Drumgullion Play Area. Mrs Hillen confirmed the Outdoor Leisure Officer was to contact the Men's Shed group to progress the expression of interest. Mrs Hillen undertook to report back to Councillor Casey with an update.

Councillor Ó Muirí expressed concern that Minutes of the Slieve Gullion DEA Private Meeting were not on the agenda. Mrs Hillen apologised and advised meeting schedules had been reset to enable the minutes to be presented at Committee and confirmed she would follow up on the matter.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Gallagher to note the report and approve the actions in the action sheets attached to the officer's report for:**

- **Newry DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Thursday 17 February 2022.**
- **Slieve Croob DEA Forum Private Meeting held on Tuesday 22 February 2022.**

**AHC/057/2022 COMMUNITY COORDINATION HUB – UPDATE REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding an update report for the Community Coordination Hub. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Harte, to note the report and approve the actions in the Action Sheet attached for the Community Coordination Hub (CCH) Meeting held on Wednesday 23 February 2022.**

**HEALTH AND WELLBEING**

**AHC/058/2022 SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM**

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr E Devlin, Assistant Director, Health and Wellbeing regarding the Sustainability and Climate Change Forum. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to approve the actions as contained within the action sheet for Sustainability and Climate Change Forum Meeting on 17 February 2022.**



AHC/060/2022

**MULLAGHBAWN COMMUNITY CENTRE, ROOF REPAIR**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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.

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director, Community Engagement regarding a roof repair for Mullaghbawn Community Centre. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Finnegan, that Mullaghbawn Community Centre remained closed for the foreseeable future or until the roof repair works were completed, as the building was a health and safety risk and currently not fit for purpose. It was further agreed Council gave the Landlord a reasonable timeframe (12 weeks) to complete the structural repairs and in the event that this was not complied with that Council take actions to terminate the lease.

AHC/061/2022

**ANNALONG TENNIS CLUB LEASE**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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.

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the proposed lease of lands at Annalong Rectory . **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan:

- To renew the lease on the lands marked in red on the map attached hereto to 'The Representative Church Body' for a term of 15 years subject to 'The Representative Church Body' consent.
- The rent payable under the existing Lease is £1400 per annum.

**AHC/062/2022**

**LEASING OF COUNCIL LAND - EXPRESSION OF INTEREST LISDRUMLISKA RECREATION AREA GLEN HILL NEWRY & A SECTION OF LAND AT ST ANNE'S PARK RECREATION AREA MAYOBRIDGE**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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.

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding the Expressions of Interest (EOI) received for the leasing of Council land at Lisdrumliska Recreation Area Glen Hill Newry by Lisdrum Football Club and section of land at St Anne's Park Mayobridge by Mayobridge Men's Shed. (Copy circulated)

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Casey, to approve the Expressions of Interest for leasing of the Glen Hill Newry and a section of ground at St Anne's Park Mayobridge was progressed in line with Councils Sports and Community Facility Management and Leasing Policy (2016) and in the interim allow both parties to enter into a Licence Agreement to place storage containers on both sites.



AHC/063/2022

**CASTLE PARK SEASONAL OPERATIONS**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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.

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr P Tamati, Assistant Director, Leisure and Sport regarding seasonal operations at Castle Park, Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to continue the appointment of the preferred bidder for Seasonal Operations at Castle Park for 2022/23 financial year.

AHC/064/2022

**SCHEME OF DELEGATION – SEPTEMBER 2021 TO MARCH 2022**

**Agreed:** On the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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.

**Read:** Report dated 21 March 2022 from Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active and Healthy Communities regarding the Scheme of Delegation for the period September 2021 to March 2022. **(Copy circulated)**

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

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gallagher, to note the report and attachments.

**FOR NOTING**

**AHC/065/2022**

**NEWCASTLE ROCKPOOL - UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 21 February 2022 from Mr C Boyd, Assistant Director Capital and Estates regarding an update on the Newcastle Rockpool.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the contents of the report in relation to the current position of Newcastle Rockpool and next steps.**

**AHC/066/2022**

**DFC ADDITIONAL FAIR FUNDING SALARY UPLIFT AWARD REPORT**

**Read:** Report dated 21 February 2022 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director Community Engagement regarding additional DFC fair funding salary uplift.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí, to note the report.**

**There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.51pm.**

**Signed:** Councillor K McKeivitt  
Chairperson

**Signed:** Michael Lipsett  
Director Active and Healthy Communities