

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 August 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor C Mason

In attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
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 V Harte	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor L McEvoy	Councillor H McKee
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D Murphy	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 W Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

C/153/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Burgess, Finnegan, McAteer and Owen and Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism.

The Chairperson congratulated the Down Under 20 panel for their victory over Monaghan in the Ulster Final and securing their place in the All-Ireland semi-final. To mark their success and show support Council buildings across the District would be lit in red in the coming week.

The Chairperson congratulated Emma McQuade who had finished 12th fittest woman in the world, representing Newry and Ireland at the Crossfit games in America.

The Chairperson spoke of the rise in COVID cases across the District over the past number of weeks and how people were still losing their lives due to COVID and took a moment to remember those who had lost their lives since the last Council Meeting. She urged anyone who had not yet received their vaccines to do so as soon as possible and thanked those across the district who had received their first and second vaccines.

The Chairperson reminded Members she was commencing Council meetings with a mental health topic and last month the focus had been addiction. She thanked those who reached out to local addiction services and who relayed their experience of speaking with addicts and recovering addicts.

Members were informed the topic for August was around isolation and loneliness and how this impacted mental health in both older and young people.

The Chairperson spoke at length of the growing concern around the number of residents in the North of Ireland, particularly in rural areas that were living in isolation. This had a huge impact on the mental health of these individuals and could cause many to struggle with day-to-day life.

The Chairperson asked Members to be mindful of friends, relatives and community members who lived in rural areas and to reach out to them and make sure they were ok. It could be difficult for many, especially elderly neighbours or perhaps members of the farming community who felt isolated or unsure of where to find support or help in an age of digital technology. A simple phone call for a quick chat could go a long way in helping to tackle overwhelming feelings of isolation and loneliness.

The Chairperson advised she would be actively reaching out to organisations in the area to see what more could be done to tackle this issue and create more inclusive and united communities and urged Members to do the same. She asked that Members feel free to share their experiences on social media to raise awareness or share them directly with herself.

C/154/2021 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/155/2021 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2021

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/156/2021 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2021

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 5 July 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Lewis.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/157/2021 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5 JULY 2021

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2021 (copy circulated).

Items restricted in accordance with Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Howell it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of Part 3 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (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 these items of business.**

On the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to come out of Closed Session.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 5 July 2021 were agreed and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne with the inclusion of a declaration of interest from Councillor Byrne for Item AC/064/2021: ASM Internal Audit Summary Report.**

C/158/2021 AUDIT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2020/21

Read: Report dated 15 June 2021 from Mrs B Slevin, Independent Chair of Audit Committee, regarding Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/2021.

Agreed: **The Audit Committee Annual Report 2020/21 was approved on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Byrne.**

PLANNING

C/159/2021

PLANNING MINUTES

Items raised at the Planning Committee Meeting on 28 July 2021 to be tabled at the Council Meeting on 6 September 2021.

C/160/2021

FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: NOTICE OF MOTION 'RIGHTS OF NATURE'

Read: Correspondence dated 6 July 2021 received from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council regarding Notice of Motion 'Rights of Nature' (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

C/161/2020

ARDS & NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL RE: NOM C/111/2021 DENTAL SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Read: Correspondence dated 8 July 2021 received from Ards & North Down Borough Council regarding Notice of Motion C/111/2021 Dental Services during Covid-19 Pandemic. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

C/162/2021

DERRY CITY & STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL RE: NOM 'RIGHTS OF NATURE'

Read: Correspondence dated 8 July 2021 from Derry City & Strabane District Council regarding 'Rights of Nature'. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.**

C/163/2021

DEPARTMENT FOR THE ECONOMY RE: NOM C/081/2021 COVID DISRUPTION PAYMENT

Read: Correspondence dated 27 July 2021 from Department for the Economy regarding Notice of Motion C/081/2021 Covid Disruption Payment.

Councillors Stokes and Hanlon voiced their disappointment at the response received from the Department for the Economy.

Councillor Stokes stated the Department for the Economy needed to put measures in place for the future should the need arise for students studying in Scotland, England, Wales or the Republic of Ireland to not be discriminated against.

Councillor Hanlon added that Council should go back to the Department for the Economy and challenge the correspondence received.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

It was agreed to respond to the Department for the Economy and challenge the correspondence received regarding Covid Disruption Payment for students.

**C/164/2021 OFFICE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOUNDARIES
COMMISSIONER RE: PROVISIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

Read: Correspondence dated 27 July 2021 from the Office of the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner regarding Local Government Boundaries in Northern Ireland Provisional Recommendations.

Councillor Murphy referred to the recommendations and how the Local Government Boundaries Commissioner were inviting people to make further representation as part of the public consultation and for inclusivity he felt South Armagh should be part of the corporate identity of Council.

Councillor Stokes pointed out that the Department were asking for further contributions, however the name of the Council was not within the scope of this review and that Council could at any time write to the Department of Communities and request a change to the name at any time.

Agreed: The correspondence was noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Gallagher.

The Chairperson asked Members to take care when bringing forward Motions to not to double up on Motions previously brought to Council.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/165/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – WHEELCHAIR BEACH ACCESS

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Brown:

"This Council supports accessibility for all our residents and notes the lack of accessibility onto beaches for those in wheelchairs in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Therefore, Council will trial the provision of beach wheelchairs, 'floating' wheelchairs and beach access matting on Newcastle beach, with the intention of expanding to other beach areas in due course."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Lewis.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Active and Healthy Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6

The Chairperson noted that she was aware this matter was brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee in September 2019.

C/166/2021 NOTICE OF MOTION – STAFF SHORTAGES WITHIN THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Devlin:

"Recognising the significant and growing staff shortages within the Hospitality sector, this Council calls for the establishment of a forum with representatives from the South Eastern and Southern Colleges, Department for the Economy and other key stakeholders to undertake an assessment of the training needs to address the shortage within the hospitality sector with the aim of providing short, medium and long term solutions to tackle this crisis and to enable our hospitality industry to survive and to aid our covid recovery."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Savage.

Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 18.31pm

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 September 2021.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive