

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 2 March 2020 at 6.00pm in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick

In the Chair: Councillor C Casey

In attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
Councillor S Doran	Councillor C Enright
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
Councillor T Hearty	Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor G Malone
Councillor C Mason	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKeivitt
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 D Taylor
Councillor J Tinnelly	Councillor J Trainor
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mrs D Carville, Director of Corporate Services
Mr M Lipsett, Director of Active & Healthy Communities
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism
Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Mrs L Fitzsimmons, HR Manager
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer

C/041/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Devlin, Gallagher, McEvoy, Owen and Stokes.

- The Chairperson expressed his sympathy to Councillor Stokes and his family on the passing of his mother.
- The Chairperson offered condolences to the families of the 3 people who lost their lives in an accident over the weekend in the Newry area.

C/042/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Mrs Carville declared an interest on behalf of all the senior officers in relation to minute SPR/11/2020 in agenda item 6 - Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2020

Councillor Hanna declared an interest in minute SPR/26/2020 in agenda item 6 – Minutes of Strategy, Policy & Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2020.

C/043/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 February 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 February 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Sharvin. Mrs Ward agreed to send a reminder letter to the Minister for Infrastructure in relation to Ballynahinch By-Pass if a response was not forthcoming within the next two weeks.**

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/044/2020 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 FEBRUARY 2020

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 February 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 February 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/045/2020 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2020

Read: Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 February 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

C/046/2020 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 FEBRUARY 2020

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2020 (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin on a point of accuracy advised his expression of disappointment in the Minister of Finance's response Re: SPR/20/2020 had not been noted and asked that this be amended.

The Chief Executive advised she would ensure the minute was amended to reflect Councillor Sharvin's comments.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 February 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí.**

C/047/2020 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 FEBRUARY 2020**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 February 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Trainer.**

Read: Report dated 2 March 2020 from Mrs J Hillen, Assistant Director: Community Engagement, regarding Inclusive Cities Project. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to nominate the Chairperson as the strategic lead for the Inclusive Cities project.**

C/048/2020 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 FEBRUARY 2020**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 19 February 2020, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor McKee.**

C/049/2020 **EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 FEBRUARY 2020**

Read: Extract of Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The extract from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 12 February 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ruane and seconded by Councillor Hanna.**

CORRESPONDENCE

C/050/2020 HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – FEBRUARY 2020

Read: A bulletin dated February 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted and it was agreed to feedback issues raised on the level of detail provided in the bulletins to Kelly Cameron.**

CONFERENCE/EVENTS

C/051/2020 2020 C.F. BATTLEFIELD TOURS

Read: Correspondence regarding 2020 C.F. Battlefield Tours. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Hanna, that Councillors Burgess and Owen would attend The Somme Pilgrimage from 28th June 2020.**

C/052/2020 AGENDANI – NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING CONFERENCE

Read: Correspondence from AgendaNI in relation to the Northern Ireland Housing Conference on 26 March 2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed that Councillor Ruane would confirm if he was able to attend the conference.**

C/053/2020 APSE CEMETRIES AND CREMATORIA SEMINAR 2020

Read: Correspondence from APSE in relation to Cemeteries and Crematoria Seminar on 16 April 2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The correspondence received was noted.**

C/054/2020 APSE CLIMATE EMERGENCY SEMINAR

Read: Correspondence from APSE in relation to Climate Emergency Seminar

on 5 March 2020. (copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was agreed that Councillor Lewis would attend the Climate Emergency Seminar on 5 March 2020.**

C/055/2020 **CROSS BORDER TOURISM CONFERENCE 2020**

Read: Correspondence regarding the Cross Border Tourism Conference on 22 April 2020. (copy circulated)

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor McAteer that Councillors, Andrews, Curran, Devlin, Mulgrew, Murphy, McAteer and Reilly would attend the Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/056/2020 **NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG FOULING**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown:

‘Recognising the extent of dog fouling across the District and the need to consider innovative solutions to tackle this problem, the Council will investigate the viability of using DNA testing to identify offenders and aid enforcement officers in issuing fines, alongside an enhanced public awareness campaign of the dangers of dog fouling similar to that of other councils.’

Councillor Hanlon seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/057/2020: **NOTICE OF MOTION – CHANGING PLACES TOILET FACILITIES**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor McMurray:

"That this Council will proactively enable Changing Places (CP) toilets within our council area by: committing to include CP toilets in all new council buildings and leisure facilities; to review and resource retro fitting of CP toilets to all our public buildings over the next 10 years; require all applications for new buildings, open to the public, to install CP toilet instead of a basic disability toilet; to resource a fund for local businesses and charities to retro fit or install a CP toilet."

Councillor Brown seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

C/058/2020: **NOTICE OF MOTION – BENEFIT SYSTEM FOR TERMINALLY ILL PEOPLE**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Sharvin:

"Newry, Mourne and Down District Council write to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Minister Justin Tomlinson MP to request that they prioritise the planned review into how the benefits system supports terminally ill people and that they conclude this review as quickly as possible so that people with illness such as Motor Neurone Disease can access benefits quickly and sensitively."

Councillor Andrews seconded the Motion.

In proposing the motion, Councillor Sharvin asked that a slight amendment be made to include writing to the Department of Communities Minister, Deirdre Hargey. All Members were in agreement with the amendment.

Councillor Sharvin stated that six months ago a fresh and honest evaluation of the benefits system that would ensure it was more responsive to the needs of patients nearing the end of their life was promised. Six months is a long time, and over 2000 people had passed away waiting on those benefit assessments..

Members from all Parties spoke in support of the motion and it was unanimously agreed.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Andrews that Council writes to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) Minister Justin Tomlinson MP and to the Department of Communities Minister Deirdre Hargey to request that they prioritise the planned review into how the benefits system supports terminally ill people and that they conclude this review as quickly as possible so that people with illness such as Motor Neurone Disease can access benefits quickly and sensitively."**

C/059/2020: **NOTICE OF MOTION – STREET LIGHTING**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor McKeivitt:

"That this Council welcomes the announcement from the Infrastructure Minister that an additional £3m will be allocated to fixing street lights and filling potholes in our roads; notes the positive impact that fixing these problems will have on the lives of ratepayers; further notes the severe pressure on maintenance budgets; and agrees to write to the Minister for Finance to outline the need for additional resource to tackle these and other pressures that are vital for improving lives across our communities."

Councillor Savage seconded the Motion.

In proposing the motion, Councillor McKeivitt made the following points:

- Having the Assembly restored and Ministers in place would make a difference.
- The Department of Infrastructure had been chronically underfunded and required significant investment to allow the Minister to achieve her priorities.
- Roads Service compensation claims have risen by 60% in the last 3 years across the region. In Newry Mourne and Down District it has risen by 90% from 226,000 to 429,000 claims. From 2016/17 to 2018/19 there were 10,801 claims with 1,518 from this District alone.
- Recent study revealed that the combined depth of potholes is 1338m that's nearly 8 times the depth of the English Chanel.
- There were 50,000 complaints made about our roads in the last 3 years.

Members from all Parties spoke in support of the motion highlighting that a joined up thinking approach was required as to how repairs were carried out to street lighting and roads to reduce the amount of wastage and to expediate the processes.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Hanna that this Council welcomes the announcement from the Infrastructure Minister that an additional £3m will be allocated to fixing street lights and filling potholes in our roads; notes the positive impact that fixing these problems will have on the lives of ratepayers; further notes the severe pressure on maintenance budgets; and agrees to write to the Minister for Finance to outline the need for additional resource to tackle these and other pressures that are vital for improving lives across our communities**

C/060/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – DYING TO WORK CAMPAIGN

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Byrne:

This Council believes that;

Every employee, facing the trauma of a terminal illness diagnosis, should be treated with compassion and understanding in order to assist them at such a distressing time.

This Council resolves to;

1. **Support the TUC's Dying to Work campaign and sign up to its Charter outlining the principles in which terminally ill employees should be treated if they wish to continue to work.**
2. **Ensure as an employer that our employees will be given the freedom to make an informed decision for themselves as to the best course of action for them and their families**
3. **Ensure that all financial details, including death in service benefits, are fully explained so that any decision taken is an informed decision.**
4. **Write the principles of the Charter into our procedures and train our staff accordingly**
5. **Encourage employers throughout our city/town/borough/district/county to sign up to the Charter.**

Councillor Sharvin seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee.

Agreed: **The Motion was referred to the Strategy Policy and Resources Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.05pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Chief Executive