

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 August 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:	Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
	Councillor P Byrne	Councillor C Casey
	Councillor W Clarke	Councillor D Curran
	Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
	Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
	Councillor G Hanna	Councillor V Harte
	Councillor R Howell	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 McKevitt
	Councillor A McMurray	Councillor D Murphy
	Councillor K Owen	Councillor G O'Hare
	Councillor B Ó Muirí	Councillor H Reilly
	Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
	Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor
	Councillor J Tinnelly	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
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/086/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Burgess, Doran, Gallagher, Mulgrew, Ruane and Trainor.

- The Chairperson paid tribute to John Hume who had sadly passed away following a short illness and spoke at length about John and his lasting legacy on the island of Ireland as a person who was highly respected by all communities. The Chairperson advised she had opened a virtual book of condolence for people to pass on their sympathies to his wife Pat and the wider Hume Family.

Councillors Byrne, Clarke, McMurray, Taylor and Walker paid tribute to John Hume and offered their condolences and that of their respective parties to John's wife, family and his colleagues in the SDLP.

- The Chairperson offered condolences to the family of Richard Weir from Warrenpoint who had passed away following a car collision in November 2019.
- The Chairperson acknowledged the tragic death of Patrycja Wyrebek in Drumalane over the weekend in tragic circumstances and offered condolences to her family. She commended the Community response by way of a Go Fund me page to enable Patrycja's family to fly here to pay their respects.
- The Chairperson offered condolences to Joe Deegan, Community Services Manager for East of the District and his children and family following the death of his wife Jennifer following a short illness.
- The Chairperson also paid tribute to Mrs Margaret Walsh, the grandmother of Miss Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager who had recently passed away.
- The Chairperson took the opportunity to raise COVID-19 and remind people that the virus was still very much among us. She urged everyone to exercise extreme caution and when indoors and/or in a situation where they could not socially distance urged people to wear masks, keep their distance and regularly wash their hands.
- The Chairperson reminded everyone that the "Dine out, Eat out Scheme" had been launched from 3 August 2020 with 50% off food and non-alcoholic beverages at a variety of businesses right across the District from Monday to Wednesday and encouraged people to participate and support the hospitality sector whilst ensuring all guidelines were adhered to.
- Members were advised an emergency motion relating to Collins Aerospace in Kilkeel was to be considered later in the meeting, a copy of which had been circulated.

C/087/2020

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/088/2020

ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

C/070/2020 - NS/156/2020: Notice of Motion: Dog Fouling across the District

Councillor Casey expressed his disappointment at the level of fixed penalty notices issued for dog fouling within the District.

In response to queries from a number of Members Mr Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services confirmed an Enforcement Improvement Plan was to be presented at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting on 19 August 2020.

C/067/2020 - ERT/064/2020: Warrenpoint Baths

In response to a query from Councillor McAteer, the Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism, Mr Mallon confirmed a report would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on 10 August 2020.

C/071/2020 - SPR/81/2020: Pavement Café and Provision of Outdoor Space

In response for clarity from Councillor Finnegan in relation to applications for a café pavement licences and that consideration be given for the needs of people with disabilities and sight loss, Mr Mallon confirmed one of the fundamental elements of the application process was that there was free unobstructed passage on the pavement, and that any pavement café provision would not impact on the free passage of pedestrians of all abilities.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/089/2020

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

In response to a query raised from Councillor Hanlon, Mrs Ward confirmed a report regarding the reopening of swimming pools would be presented to Strategic Policy and Resources Committee in August 2020.

C/085/2020 Emergency motion – Ambulance Cover

Councillor Ó Muirí enquired if it had been of benefit for the motion to go to the individual Ministers as opposed to the NI Executive and if there had been any responses received to date. Members were advised the responses received to date were included within the agenda.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/090/2020

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 6 JULY 2020

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 6 July 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 6 July 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

C/091/2020

EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON 29 JULY 2020

Noted: **There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 29 July 2020.**

CORRESPONDENCE

C/092/2020

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH RE. MOTIONS C/084/2020 – REINSTATEMENT OF EMERGENCY COVER AT DOWNE HOSPITAL AND C/085/2020 – AMBULANCE COVER

Read: Correspondence from R Swann, Minister of Health in relation to Motions C/084/2020 – Reinstatement of emergency cover at Downe Hospital and C/085/2020 – Ambulance cover. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage acknowledged the detail within the response received however expressed disappointment that the Minister of Health had not agreed to meet with Council and hoped that the reinstatement of the emergency departments would be delivered. Councillor Hanlon echoed these comments.

Councillor Savage referred to the future funding of NIAS and its Clinical Response Model and proposed Council write to the Chief Executive of NIAS and the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Health requesting that Council be provided with updates and progress reports on the Clinical Response Model. He pointed out Council needed to be provided with an update at the earliest opportunity given its rural District to ensure emergency cover provision met the demand and need. This was seconded by Councillor Byrne.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Byrne to write to the Chief Executive of NIAS and the Permanent Secretary for the Department of Health requesting that Council be provided with updates and progress reports on the Clinical Response Model.

Agreed: The correspondence from Mr R Swann, Minister of Health in relation to Motions C/084/2020 – Reinstatement of emergency cover at Downe Hospital and C/085/2020 – Ambulance Cover was noted.

C/093/2020

THE SOMME ASSOCIATION - INVOICE

Read: Invoice from The Somme Association for Council Membership Subscription Fee – April 2020 – March 2021. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillors Andrews to pay the invoice from the Somme Association for Council Membership Subscription Fee for April 2020 – March 2021.

C/094/2020

DERRY CITY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL – MOTION RE. PUBLIC HEALTH STRATEGY

Read: Correspondence dated 10 July 2020 from Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to a Motion regarding Public Health Strategy. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Murphy voiced support for the Motion from Derry and Strabane District Council and spoke of how two different health strategies were dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic and how effective shared services such as paediatric cardiac services in Dublin had been. Councillor McAteer concurred with these comments.

Councillors Taylor and Owen voiced concern that it may be politically motivated however supported the referral to the Health Working Groups for consideration.

Agreed: **It was agreed by all to refer the correspondence received from Derry City and Strabane District in relation to a Motion regarding Public Health Strategy be deferred to the Health Working Groups to formulate a response.**

C/095/2020 **DFI ROADS SOUTHERN DIVISION RE. HILLCREST VILLAGE, BESSBROOK**

Read: Correspondence dated 2 July 2020 from DFI Roads regarding the adoption of streets at Hillcrest Village, Bessbrook

Agreed: **The correspondence from DFI Roads was noted.**

C/096/2020 **DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE RE. PAVEMENT CAFES AND THE USE OF PRIVATE LAND FOR THE CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL**

Read: Correspondence dated 30 July 2020 from Minister of Justice, Naomi Long in response to letter dated 21 July regarding Pavement Café and Provision of Outdoor Space Ref: C/071/2020 – SPR/81/2020.

Councillors Byrne and Hanlon welcomed the response from Minister of Justice and asked that officers ensure to follow up on the matter being passed to the Minister for Communities.

Agreed: **The Correspondence from Minister of Justice, regarding Pavement Café and Provision of Outdoor Space Ref: C/071/2020 – SPR/81/2020 was noted.**

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/097/2020 **NOTICE OF MOTION – SUPPORTING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY**

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

“That the Council supports, where possible, our local producers and businesses within the procurement processes of Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. This will complement the “SHOP LOCAL” initiative supported by various elected representatives and will provide much needed investment to the Council’s area. We would ask that a report on this matter is brought forward as quickly as possible with a view to supporting our local economy.”

Councillor Lewis seconded the proposal.

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

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

In presenting the Motion, Councillor Owen advised Members that on 7 July various media outlets had reported an outbreak of up to 30 COVID positive cases within the Crossgar / Ballynahinch areas. She said the information was completely unfounded and only served to create fear and panic locally, resulting ultimately in businesses being adversely affected due to a reduction in footfall. Councillor Owen said local councillors were unable to get specific guidance from the Department of Health and Public Health Authority and only after many phone calls to local residents they were able to confirm there were indeed 11 confirmed cases, however not in the locations being reported, but rather in the Rowallane area. Councillor Owen continued, saying had more specific information been available, it would have been possible to allay fears quickly and avoid areas being adversely affected through misinformation and rumour.

Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal saying the misinformation had resulted in huge anxiety and a downturn in footfall for businesses which was completely unwarranted. He said a dedicated helpline telephone number should be put in place and he asked that the motion be circulated to the other 10 Councils in N. Ireland.

6

Councillor Howell stated she fully supported the motion and asked that a small amendment be made to include writing to the Public Health Agency in addition to the Department of Health.

Councillor Owens accepted Councillor Howell's amendment to include writing to the Public Health Agency and Councillor Andrew's request that the motion be circulated to all 10 Councils in N. Ireland.

Councillors Hanlon, O'Muiri, Taylor Clarke and McAteer all spoke in strong support for the motion saying a balanced approach was needed, testing more readily available and best practice undertaken.

In summing up, Councillor Owens thanked Members for their support for the motion and said with the latest figure of 34 cases in the district, it was very timely.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owens seconded by Councillor Andrews that That this council supports the need for greater localised information from the Department of Health regarding localised outbreaks of COVID positive cases in the area. In the wake of the suspected localised outbreak in the Rowallane area, had local representatives access to more specific information, a downturn in footfall and containment of anxiety in non-affected regions may have been prevented.

Therefore this council calls on the Department of Health and Public Health Agency to provide DEA specific information or to provide a helpline for Councillors to reduce this from happening to other areas going forward.

It was agreed the Motion be circulated to the other 10 Councils in N. Ireland.

Mrs Ward advised an emergency Notice of Motion had been received, the wording of which had been emailed to all Councillors earlier in the day and to enable it to be heard, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders 16.1 for which a qualified majority vote was required. (80% of Members present and voting).

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Clarke to suspend Standing orders 16.1 at this point in the meeting to allow for the tabling of the emergency motion due to the urgency of the issue and its importance to the district. The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	33
AGAINST:	0
ABSTENTIONS:	0

It was unanimously agreed by qualified majority vote to suspend Standing Orders 16.1. (copy attached).

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed that Standing Order 16.1 be suspended in order to allow the emergency Notice of

Motion received from Councillors McKevitt, Doran, Hanna and McKee for that item only.

C/099/2020: EMERGENCY MOTION – IMPACT OF JOB LOSSES AT COLLINS AEROSPACE, KILKEEL

The following Emergency Motion came forward as a four party proposal with Councillors Karen McKevitt, Sean Doran, Glynn Hanna and Harold McKee jointly proposing:

“This Council acknowledges the devastating impact of job losses at Collins Aerospace Kilkeel, recognises the need to help employees their families and local economy at this very difficult time. This Council will write to the N.I Executive, the UK Government, urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to address the serious impact of Covid-19 on the aviation sector and work with the Northern Ireland Executive to rebuild the sector.”

In proposing the motion, Councillor McKevitt said Collins Aerospace was a major employer in the area and manufactured aircraft seats for some of the biggest airlines in the world. It was a great company to work for and ensured job security and stability for many families in the district. She said it currently employed 948 employees and before the COVID pandemic, the company was seeing growth, however orders were showing a decrease of 40% this year and 40% next year resulting in a loss of 235 jobs.

Councillor McKevitt advised the company were proactive in proposing salary cuts, job sharing and reduced working hours to soften the devastating impact. They had also invited applications for voluntary redundancies in an effort to reduce the need for compulsory redundancies, however Councillor McKevitt said the redundancies stood to cost the local economy £10 million per year.

Councillor McKevitt said the 28 October 2020 was the date that consultation between management, unions and staff representatives ended and therefore there was less than 90 days for Council to do all they could to save jobs. She said a proper strategy to future proof the aviation industry was needed in addition to setting up training programmes and it was vital to do everything possible to save jobs and skills.

Councillor Murphy seconded the motion saying the NI Assembly and UK Treasury needed to address this issue as a matter of urgency.

Councillors Clarke, McMurray, Hanna, Reilly and McKee all spoke in strong support for the motion reiterating the devastating effect the job losses would have to the local economy, the importance of providing measures around skills and retraining, exploring sustainable employment opportunities, the possibility of ring fencing funding for when the aviation industry would recover, and additionally that consideration should be given to those families where two or more members were employed by Collins Aerospace.

In summing up, Councillor McKevitt thanks Members for their support and said she hoped that significant work could be done before the deadline of 30 October resulting in being in a position to have some positive news for the employees.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed on the joint 4 party proposal by Councillors McKevitt, Doran, Hanna and McKee that this Council acknowledges the devastating impact of job losses at Collins

Aerospace Kilkeel, recognises the need to help employees their families and local economy at this very difficult time. This Council will write to the N.I Executive, the UK Government, urge the Chancellor of the Exchequer to address the serious impact of Covid-19 on the aviation sector and work with the Northern Ireland Executive to rebuild the sector.”

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.38pm.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 3rd August 2020 **VENUE:** Skype Meeting

MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Qualified Majority Vote to suspend Standing Order 16.1 to allow discussion for Emergency Notice of Motion

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
P Brown	2			
R Burgess				1
P Byrne	3			
C Casey	4			
W Clarke	5			
D Curran	6			
L Devlin	7			
S Doran				2
C Enright				3
A Finnegan	8			
H Gallagher				4
M Gibbons				5
O Hanlon	9			
G Hanna	10			
V Harte	11			
R Howell	12			
M Larkin	13			
A Lewis	14			
O Magennis	15			
G Malone	16			
C Mason	17			
D McAteer	18			
L McEvoy	19			
H McKee	20			
K McKevitt	21			
A McMurray	22			
R Mulgrew				6
D Murphy	23			
G O'Hare	24			
B Ó Muirí	25			
K Owen	26			
H Reilly	27			
M Ruane				7
M Savage	28			
G Sharvin	29			
G Stokes	30			
D Taylor	31			
J Tinnelly	32			
J Trainor				8
B Walker	33			
TOTALS	33			8