

## **NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**NMD/C/**

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 September 2021 at 6.00pm via Hybrid in Downshire Chamber and Microsoft Teams**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor C Mason

**In attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor L Devlin	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 D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee	Councillor 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 G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	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 C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism  
Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
Mr A Patterson, Assistant Director, Culture, Tourism & Events  
Mr F O'Connor, Mr F O'Connor, Head of Legal & Administration (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/167/2021**

#### **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran, Gallagher and Owen.

The Chairperson paid respects to Mark Gibney, a Council employee and friend who had passed away suddenly. The Chairperson spoke of Mark being one of life's true gentlemen

who loved all things sport, being a former player at Loughisland GAC, former basketball player at Ardglass Sharks, played pool for Castlewellan League as well as being a passionate golfer at Spa Golf Club. His love for sport transferred into his work as a Fitness GP Referral instructor at the Newcastle Leisure Centre and he would be sorely missed by all his colleagues. The Chairperson passed on heartfelt sympathy to all Mark's family and friends at this difficult time.

The Chairperson then spoke at length about her mental health and wellbeing theme for the month of September being the focus of positive mental health and wellbeing in children and young people.

The Chairperson commented that with September bringing about not only a change in seasons, but bringing children and young people back to school. she believed it was crucial to take the opportunity to have important conversations with our young people and to focus on maintaining positive mental health.

The Chairperson also spoke about bullying and the implementation of the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act from 1 September 2021 aimed at tackling prejudice bullying in schools.

The Chairperson spoke of the World Prevention Suicide Day on 10 September 2021 which aimed to remove the taboo and start conversations about suicide and encourage everyone to have conversations with young people about all the services available and the importance of focusing on positive mental health.

Councillor Walker paid respects to former Down District Council Councillor Ethel Smyth who had passed away and asked that a letter of sympathy be sent to her family at this time.

**C/168/2021            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**C/169/2021            ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2021**

Read:                    Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                            The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

## **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

### **C/170/2021                    MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                                The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 2 August 2021 were agreed and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Sharvin subject to Councillor Enright being noted as present.**

### **C/171/2021                    MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 23 AUGUST 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 23 August 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                                The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 23 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Burgess, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

## **COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

### **C/172/2021                    MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 9 AUGUST 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2021 (copy circulated).

ERT/111/2021

In response for an update from Councillor Andrews regarding the procurement exercise to appoint a team to identify sites for electric charging points, Mr Mallon confirmed it was ongoing and should be back within the next 2/3 weeks.

**Agreed:                                The Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 9 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

### **C/173/2021                    MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 12 AUGUST 2021**

Read:                                Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                                The Minutes of Strategy, Policy Committee Meeting held on 12 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Hanlon.**

**C/174/2021**

**MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 16 August 2021 (copy circulated).

**Agreed: The Minutes of Active and Healthy Committee Meeting held on 16 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.**

**C/175/2021**

**MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE  
MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2021**

Read: Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2021 (copy circulated)

During discussion the following points were highlighted, and it was agreed Mr McBride would respond to individual Members regarding their queries:

NS/121/2021: Bus Shelter Requests

In welcoming the recommendations Councillor McAteer asked that officers liaise with the Translink Project Manager, Mr Jonathon Elliott to deliver the bus shelter at Bridge Road, Burren as soon as possible. Mr McBride advised an update would be provided at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting.

NS/119/2021: Neighbourhood Services Operational Update

Councillor Hanlon commended officers for their response and help at local festivals over the bank holiday weekend.

In requesting an update regarding the appointment of a contractor to carry out deep Cleansing, Councillor Hanlon expressed concern at the complaints being received regarding cleansing of towns and villages from residents and visitors from outside the District. Mr McBride confirmed a contractor had been appointed with work underway in coastal resorts and a schedule would be presented at the next Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting.

Councillor Ruane spoke about concerns regarding cleansing in Warrenpoint and highlighted sap falling from trees in Warrenpoint were causing pavements to become slippery and sticky and asked if officers could investigate.

Councillor Lewis thanked Mr McBride and his team for the response to issues regarding refuse collection within the Slieve Croob area and asked officers to examine better ways to communicate with residents within that area.

Councillor Lewis also asked if street cleansing within Maghera could be looked at.

Councillor Casey expressed concern at the amount of litter on the approach roads to the main roundabouts near Fiveways and Mourne Country.

NS/125/2021: Distribution of Compostable Food Bags and Food Waste Caddy Bins  
In response for a date for the rollout of food waste bins for schools across the District from Councillor Devlin, Mr McBride confirmed it would be done as soon as possible following ratification of the committee minutes at this meeting.

Councillor Harte asked the Neighbourhood Services Department to write to Openreach and NI Water regarding the ongoing work by the utility groups in the Church Street, Cann Street and Fullerton Road, Newry regarding the way in which the streets were being left.

Councillor Clarke commented about the marked improvement in cleansing of the Main Street, Newcastle and highlighted concerns regarding the cleansing of housing estates.

Mr McBride confirmed he would respond to the individual queries raised and contact Members offline.

**Agreed:** **The Minutes Meeting held on 18 August 2021 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Finnegan, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

**Councillor Brown left the meeting during the above item – 6.25pm.**

**C/176/2021** **PLANNING MINUTES**

Read: Extract from Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held on 28 July 2021 (copy circulated)

**Noted:** **The extracts from the Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 28 July 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

**FOR NOTING**

**C/177/2020** **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES JUNE 2021**

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 10 June 2021. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 10 June 2021 were noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

**C/178/2021** **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – AUGUST 2021**

Read: Bulletin dated August 2021 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage.**



**C/182/2021**

**CORRESPONDENCE DATED 10.08.2021 FROM CAUSEWAY & GLENS BOROUGH COUNCIL**

Read: Letter dated 10.08.2021 from Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council re Regional Home Safety Educational Facility. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Hanlon advised she felt further clarity was required on what it was Council was being asked to support.

The Chief Executive advised the matter would be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for consideration.

Councillor Byrne asked that when the paper was brought to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee that other ways of delivering safety messages be considered.

Councillor McKeivitt asked that the matter be brought to the PCSP for consideration also.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Ó Muirí for the correspondence from Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council regarding Regional Home Safety Educational Facility be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee for consideration.**

**C/183/2021**

**CORRESPONDENCE DATED 25.08.2021 FROM MINISTER OF HEALTH**

Read: Letter dated 25.08.2021 re. Notice of Motion C.090.2021. (Copy circulated)

The Chairperson welcomed the letter from the Minister of Health following a Notice of motion she had brought before Council and welcomed the new Mental Health Strategy.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Magennis to note the correspondence from the Minister of Health regarding the Notice of Motion C.090.2021.**

**C/184/2021**

**NILGA LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANNING PROGRAMME 2021 – 2022**

Read: NILGA Local Development Planning Programme 2021 – 2022

**Agreed: It was noted that NILGA Members wishing to attend to contact Democratic Services by 12pm on 7 September 2021.**

**It was noted Councillors Burgess, McKee and Murphy had already expressed an interest in attending the event.**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/185/2021**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION – ‘RIGHTS OF NATURE’**

The following Notice of Motion was received from Councillor Gibbons:

**“Council notes the legal and social movement globally for the ‘Rights of Nature’ aimed to strengthen protections for people, place and planet.**

**Council recognises that ‘Rights of Nature’ can help catalyse an innovative rethinking about how to create regenerative, not extractivist, economies while also making human and other living communities safer, stronger and more resilient.**

**Council commends the excellent work already being done by our Council officers on the climate emergency and biodiversity crisis but recognises the need for a rights based approach to nature.**

**Council will, over the next 6 months, collaborate with civic society (including The Gathering, Friends of the Earth Northern Ireland and trade unions) to explore what rights of nature mean for the people and economies of the region and to investigate how Rights of Nature could be expressed in community plans, corporate plans, improvement objectives and other strategic frameworks. In particular, the council will in the next 6 months hold two community workshops and work with the local community and stakeholders to draw up a Declaration for the Rights of Nature for the Council area to be brought back before Council for adoption.**

**Council asks for a report to come to Council on embedding ‘Rights of Nature’ as a keystone concept into Council’s operational practices, planning processes and long term decision making.**

**Council notes our position as a border region and our mutual environmental obligations under the Espoo Convention and so invites all Councils in the North to also explore ‘Rights of Nature’ for their Council areas”.**

The Motion was seconded by Councillor McMurray.

Councillors Gibbons and McMurray spoke of their disappointment that the motion was being referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee and not being considered by Council.

The Chairperson advised the motion was being referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee under Standing Order 16.1.6.

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 18.55pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 October 2021.



**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**