

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

**NMD/C/**

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 6 July 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype**

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**In the Chair:** Councillor L Devlin

**In attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor M Gibbons	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor G Hanna	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 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 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/061/2020**

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Gallagher and Harte.

Councillor Devlin acknowledged it was the first Council Meeting since March 2020 due to the Covid 19 pandemic and her first as Chairperson.

Councillor Devlin acknowledged all those who had lost their lives due to Covid 19 and paid tribute to frontline staff, key workers, volunteers and council staff who had delivered essential services during the pandemic and said it was vital everyone adhered to guidelines

as restrictions were lifted.

Councillor Devlin welcomed Councillor Finnegan to her first Council meeting.

Mrs Ward advised Members that two emergency Notices of Motion were to be tabled at the Meeting and would require 16.1 of the Standing Orders to be suspended under a qualified majority. She said there would be a short recess to allow Members to look over the Motions before discussion would take place.

### **C/062/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Ms Carville, on behalf of all senior officers declared an interest in Item 8, Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Meeting held on 11 June 2020 – SPR/77/2020 – Annual Leave (Chief Officers)

Councillor Owen declared an interest in any health related matters.

### **C/063/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2020**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 2 March 2020 (copy circulated).

### **C/051/2020 2020 CF BATTLEFIELD TOURS**

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Walker seconded that Councillors Burgess and Owen attend the 2021 CF Battlefield Tours as they had been unable to attend the 2020 event due to it being cancelled as a result of Covid 19.

**Agreed: Councillors Burgess and Owen attend the 2021 CF Battlefield Tours on the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Walker.**

**Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 2 March 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

### **C/064/2020 MINUTES OF EMERGENCY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2020**

Read: Minutes of Emergency Council Meeting held on 16 March 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed: The Minutes of the Emergency Council Meeting held on 16 March 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Byrne.**

**C/065/2020**                    **RECORD OF DECISIONS TAKEN UNDER DELEGATED  
AUTHORITY AT PARTY REPS MEETINGS - MARCH - JULY 2020**

Read:                                The record of decisions taken under delegated authority at Party Reps Meetings held from March to July 2020.

In response to a query regarding the phased reopenings of the leisure centres, Mrs Ward advised information would be circulated to Members when guidance was received as to how Council fitted into the amendment of regulations.

Mrs Ward advised that whilst Officers were keen to resume physical meetings, this could only be done following government guidelines and the current platform for committee meetings was properly constituted following an amendment that had been made to the regulations by the Executive. Mrs Ward said she would bring a paper regarding this issue to the August 2020 Council Meeting.

**Agreed:                                It was agreed to stand down Delegated Authority on the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

**Agreed:                                The record of decisions taken under delegated authority at Party Reps Meetings March – July 2020 were agreed and adopted on the proposal of Councillor Savage seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/066/2020**                    **MINUTES OF ANNUAL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2020**

Read:                                Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                                The Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 1 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Andrews.**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/067/2020**                    **MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM  
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2020**

Read:                                Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2020 (copy circulated).

*ERT/062/2020*                    **AONB MANAGEMENT REVIEW / GEOPARK**

Councillor McAteer said he had requested a meeting with the NI Agricultural Producers Association along with the Ulster Farmers Union and asked that the Minutes were amended to reflect this.

Councillor McKee asked if there had been any further engagement with farmers regarding the Geopark proposal and if a meeting could be arranged with Mrs Ward, Mr Mallon and the

Mourne AONB Residents Action Group.

In response, Mr Mallon said a meeting with the Ulster Farmers Union was being arranged to take place towards the end of July and he would ensure the NI Agricultural Producers Association were also invited to the meeting. Mr Mallon also said he would speak to Councillor McKee regarding a meeting with the Mourne AONB Residents Action Group to discuss key people who should be in attendance.

**Agreed: It was agreed to amend the Minutes to include the NI Agricultural Producers Association when arranging the Meeting with the Ulster Farmers Union.**

*ERT/065/2020      NEWCASTLE HARBOUR: LEASE OF SLIPWAY*

Councillor McKee asked if some form of clothing storage for swimmers could be provided. Councillor Clarke also asked if this would be possible. Mr Mallon replied he would investigate providing a facility for clothing storage for swimmers.

**Agreed: It was agreed that officers would investigate the possibility of providing clothing storage facilities for swimmers at Newcastle Harbour.**

*ERT/047/2020      ERT SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS*

Councillor Sharvin asked for assurance that no decisions had been taken to amend any of the Service Level Agreements and enquired as to when this item would be tabled at the SPR Committee Meeting.

Mr Mallon said no decision had been taken to amend the SLAs as they were currently subject to review and an update would be tabled at the SPR Committee Meeting in August 2020.

*ERT/063/2020      CONSULTATION RE: FREE PORTS*

Councillor Clarke stated he had concerns regarding free ports and although he acknowledged it was still at local consultation stage, asked that his objections be noted.

*ERT/064/2020      WARRENPOINT BATHS*

Councillor McAteer stated that more detail be brought forward from Officers regarding the restoration of the baths and proposed that discussions be had involving the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Historic Environment Division. Councillor Byrne seconded the proposal.

Mr Mallon stated the proposal would be taken forward at the ERT Committee Meeting.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor McAteer seconded by Councillor Byrne that Officers arrange to have discussions with the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Historic Environment Division regarding the restoration of the Warrenpoint Baths.**

**Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 8 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the**

**proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews subject to the above amendments being made.**

**C/068/2020**                    **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 11 JUNE 2020**

Read:                                Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:**                                **The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 11 June 2020, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor O’Muir.**

**C/069/2020**                    **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 15 JUNE 2020**

Read:                                Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2020 (copy circulated).

*AHC/62/2020*                    *REOPENING OF OUTDOOR LEISURE FACILITIES – PHASE 2*

In response to queries from Members, Mr Lipsett confirmed that those tennis courts that could accommodate bookings and where the track and trace initiative could be facilitated would be reopened from Friday 10 July. Mr Lipsett said the grass pitches would remain closed until September, this was normal practice to allow maintenance to be carried out, however individual cases could be reviewed on a case by case basis.

Members raised a number of queries not pertaining to the AHC Minutes, which, it was agreed would be addressed offline with Directors.

Mrs Ward advised that as soon as updated guidance regarding the reopening of all facilities was received from Stormont, it would be circulated to Members.

**Agreed:**                                **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 15 June 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor O’Muir, seconded by Councillor Trainor.**

**C/070/2020**                    **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 JUNE 2020**

Read:                                Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2020 (copy circulated).

*NS/156/2020*                    *NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG FOULING ACROSS THE DISTRICT*

Councillor Andrews stated the incidences of dog fouling had increased significantly during

the Covid 19 period and proposed a review of the Council Bye Laws be undertaken with a view to naming and shaming offenders. Councillor Lewis seconded the proposal.

Councillor Hanna stated a lot of work had been done previously regarding this issue and more action was needed to address it. Mr Moore replied that findings from previous work carried out would be used in the process going forward.

Councillor Trainor agreed the issue of dog fouling needed to be addressed and proposed that Officers look at how other Councils tackled the issue, in particular Ards and North Down Council which had a high rate of enforcement and had undertaken a variety of initiatives. Councillor Trainor asked that a paper be brought back to NS Committee in this regard. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Councillor Mulgrew asked that Officers circulate to Members details of all successful penalties Council had issued for dog fouling and illegal dumping throughout the district.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Lewis that a review of the Council Bye Laws be undertaken regarding dog fouling.**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Trainor seconded by Councillor Andrews that Officers look at how other Councils tackle the issue of dog fouling and bring a paper back to the NS Committee.**

**Agreed:** **It was agreed that Officers circulate to Members details of all successful penalties Council had issued for dog fouling and illegal dumping throughout the district.**

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2020, were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Owens subject to the amendments above.**

**C/071/2020** **MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 25 JUNE 2020**

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 26 June 2020 (copy circulated).

*SPR/81/2020* **PAVEMENT CAFÉ AND PROVISION OF OUTDOOR SPACE**

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin regarding extended alcohol licences for businesses, Mr Mallon advised there were three distinct options open to businesses:

1. Pavement Café Licence
2. Use of council land – where the existing liquor licence could be transferred for events
3. Occasional licences – would cover up to 30 events per year

Councillor Sharvin proposed Council write to Minister Naomi Long seeking clarity on licensing issues regarding the use of private lands. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Sharvin seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed that Council write to Minister Long seeking clarity on licensing issues regarding the use of private lands.**

**Agreed:** **The Minutes of Special Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee held on 26 June 2020, were agreed as an accurate recorded and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

**C/072/2020** **EXTRACT OF DRAFT MINUTES FROM PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 3 JUNE 2020**

Read: Extract of Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2020. (copy circulated)

**Noted:** **There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 3 June 2020.**

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**C/073/2020** **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – MARCH & JUNE 2020**

Read: Bulletins dated March and June 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletins were noted.**

**C/074/2020** **DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES RE: MOTION C/058/2020 BENEFIT SYSTEM FOR TERMINALLY ILL**

Read: Correspondence dated 15 May 2020 from the Department for Communities in relation to Motion C/058/2020, Benefit System for Terminally Ill. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** **The correspondence from the Department for Communities was noted.**

**C/075/2020** **FERMANAGH AND OMAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL RE MOTION C/037/2020 –A1 JUNCTIONS**

Read: Correspondence dated 5 May 2020 from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council in relation to Motion C/037/2020, A1 Junctions.

**Agreed: The correspondence from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council was noted.**

## **NOTICES OF MOTION**

### **C/076/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – PERIOD POVERTY CAMPAIGN**

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

**"That this Council supports the "Period Poverty" campaign and charities such as the Homeless Period and Red Box Project, the aim of these are to highlight the issue that sanitary products are not affordable for all females.**

**As an initial step, that this Council looks at the feasibility of the introduction of free sanitary products in all council public conveniences.**

**We should strive to proactively help efforts to tackle period poverty and be part of bringing about such positive change.**

**It should be the norm in schools, universities colleges, workplaces, football grounds, concert venues for free access to sanitary product provision.**

**We as a Council will also write to the to the relevant ministers to ask for an update on the introduction of free sanitary products in schools and education facilities. Currently the North is the only area of the UK where free products are not provided to those in need".**

Councillor McEvoy seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee.

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

### **C/077/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CREATION OF NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

**"As next year is 2021, the 100th anniversary of the creation of Northern Ireland. Newry, Mourne and Down Council should seek to secure any funding from Westminster, Stormont or elsewhere that becomes available in the current year, or in 2021, to support events in the council area".**

Councillor Walker seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Good Relations Forum.



**Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Good Relations Forum in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.**

**C/078/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION - COARSE FISHING**

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

**'Recognising the importance of Coarse fishing to tourism and the local economy, particularly in the Quoile River, and noting the proactive approach taken by other Councils in Northern Ireland to restock fish on behalf of anglers, this Council will commit to fund restocking of fish in line with other Council areas, carry out a review of Course fisheries across the District, and work with DEARA and other councils to develop a best practice approach.'**

Councillor Brown seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

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

**C/079/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – UNIVERSAL BASIC INCOME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND**

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

**'In the wake of the economic crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic, this Council recognises the need for a reformed, fairer welfare system that protects everyone in society.**

**It recognises the need to provide economic security for all and invest in people to protect livelihoods and kickstart the economy.**

**Therefore, it calls on the Departments of Communities and Finance and the UK Treasury to design and deliver a recovery Universal Basic Income (UBI) for Northern Ireland.**

**Additionally, this Council supports in principle the investigation of a full, permanent UBI for Northern Ireland, recognising the need for a radical overhaul of the welfare state and the positive impact this would have on poverty alleviation, inequality and mental health in particular. Council will commit to producing a plan for how a pilot of a full UBI would be implemented within the District, and formally expresses its support for said pilot.'**

Councillor Trainor seconded the Motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

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

**C/080/2020:    NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID 19 IMPACT AND RECOVERY  
    CAMPAIGN**

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

**“That this Council recognises the unprecedented impact that Covid-19 global pandemic is having on our society and economy; commends the invaluable contribution made by our front-line workers who have provided vital service, selflessly, throughout this pandemic; believes that a fair and just and green economic recovery strategy is required in the aftermath of this crisis; agrees that an economic recovery strategy must not only recognise but also demonstrate that we value our front-line workers and want to protect them, and the most vulnerable, through any impending recession; understands that workers' rights and public services must be protected; commits to existing economic challenges being tackled by a just and green transition to a more high-skilled, regionally balanced and sustainable economy which works for workers, their families, and businesses; and calls on the Executive to ensure that these principles underpin an economic and society-wide recovery guided by a social partnership approach involving government, Trade Unions, businesses and the Third Sector.”**

In proposing the motion Councillor Mason said the coronavirus pandemic had highlighted there was a need to plan for an economic and social recovery and a strategy to do so should be put in place.

Councillor Mason stated the outworkings of the crisis must not be further austerity, and an argument for economic stimulus had to be made, otherwise the interventions to date would have been in vain with escalating unemployment in the district, economic stagnation and greater inequalities. Covid had changed so much and decisions would need to be made as to how to move forward and re-open society.

Councillor Mason outlined the following key principles for a strategy for recovery:

- 1) Supporting workers and families.
- 2) Supporting businesses to create and sustain employment
- 3) A Just transition to a net zero carbon society

Councillor Clarke seconded the Motion and paid tribute to the valuable work of all frontline workers commenting that there needed to be investment in a just transition for all of society. The recent crisis had strengthened the argument for stimulus and the provision of a substantial green jobs programme with apprenticeship schemes fit for purpose working with colleges, support for a zero carbon society, renewable energy systems and the need for building blocks towards a new green economy. Councillor Clarke spoke of the need for an equal and green society.

Members from each of the political party's spoke in support of the motion and it was unanimously agreed.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Clarke that Council recognises the unprecedented impact that Covid-19 global pandemic is having on our society and economy; commends the invaluable contribution made by our front-line workers who have provided vital service, selflessly, throughout this pandemic; believes that a fair and just and green economic recovery strategy is required in the aftermath of this crisis; agrees that an economic recovery strategy must not only recognise but also demonstrate that we value our front-line workers and want to protect them, and the most vulnerable, through any impending recession; understands that workers' rights and public services must be protected; commits to existing economic challenges being tackled by a just and green transition to a more high-skilled, regionally balanced and sustainable economy which works for workers, their families, and businesses; and calls on the Executive to ensure that these principles underpin an economic and society-wide recovery guided by a social partnership approach involving government, Trade Unions, businesses and the Third Sector."**

**C/081/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – ENVIRONMENTAL WARDENS**

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

**"Whilst this Council recognises the strategic importance of sustainable tourism as a local economic driver; it notes with growing concern that increasing numbers of visitors to the district is creating stress on our local environment, including many areas of ecologically sensitive importance. In recognition of this, this Council will bring forward options towards the establishment of Environmental Wardens - including delivery model, resource implications and partnership opportunities with existing organisations".**

Councillor Mason seconded the motion.

The Chairperson advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6 the motion would be referred to the Enterprise Regeneration and Tourism Committee.

**Agreed:**

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

**C/082/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – NEW CIVIC CENTRE PROJECT**

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



The Chairperson advised Members that Councillors Hanlon and Savage wished to bring forward Emergency Notices of Motion at this stage, and in order to do so, it would be necessary to suspend Standing Orders, for which a qualified majority vote was required (80% of Members present and voting).

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKee to suspend standing orders 16.1 at this point in the meeting to allow for the tabling of two emergency motions, due to the urgency of the issues and the importance to the District. The Chairperson put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

**FOR:** 35  
**AGAINST:** 0  
**ABSENTIONS:** 0

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

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed that Standing Orders be suspended in order to allow the emergency Notices of Motion received from Councillors Hanlon and Savage for those items only.

**C/084/2020:** **EMERGENCY MOTION – REINSTATEMENT OF A&E AT DOWNE HOSPITAL**

The following Emergency Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Hanlon:

**“This Council supports the reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital. We recognise the tireless dedication and hard work of all the NHS staff during the COVID19 pandemic which is still ongoing. This Council however notes, with regret that the SE Trust have not been able to provide a date for the restoration of the Emergency Dept / A&E; further regrets that hospital staff, local representatives, nor the local community were consulted about the introduction of a 7 days-a-week Minor Injuries Unit; We will write to Minister for Health to request urgent intervention and make immediate plans to restore all services at the Downe”.**

In presenting the motion, Councillor Hanlon voiced her disappointment that staff at the Downe Hospital had yet to be consulted regarding a date for the restoration of the A&E department however at recent meetings the Southern Trust had been able to provide a date for the restoration of services at the Daisy Hill Hospital. Councillor Hanlon stated it was not acceptable that there were no A&E services in this part of the constituency.

In seconding the motion, Councillor Trainor paid tribute to all NHS staff and those working within the healthcare sector during the Covid 19 Pandemic. He pointed out that for 3 months the people of South Down, Newry and Slieve Gullion had gone without local emergency cover and given the timeline of events it was important that the Minister made a commitment to the people of Newry, Mourne and Down that he would work with those within his department and the Trust to ensure the full reintroduction of Services at the Downe as soon as possible.

Members from each of the political party's spoke at length in support of the motion.

Councillor Walker proposed a minor amendment to the Motion which s follows:

**"This Council supports the reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital. We recognise the tireless dedication and hard work of all the NHS staff during the COVID19 pandemic which is still ongoing.**

**This Council however notes , with regret, that the SE Trust have not been able to provide a date for the restoration of the Emergency Dept / A&E; further regrets that hospital staff, local representatives, nor the local community were consulted about the introduction of a 7 days-a-week Minor Injuries Unit; We will seek a virtual meeting or in person with the Minister for Health to request urgent intervention and make immediate plans to restore all services at the Downe".**

The proposed amendment was seconded by Councillor Brown.

Councillors Hanlon and Trainor accepted the amendment to meet with the Minister of Health and requested that the meeting include the Health Working Group.

**Agreed:** **It was unanimously agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Trainor that Council supports the reinstatement of A&E at Downe Hospital. We recognise the tireless dedication and hard work of all the NHS staff during the COVID19 pandemic which is still ongoing. This Council however notes , with regret, that the SE Trust have not been able to provide a date for the restoration of the Emergency Dept / A&E; further regrets that hospital staff, local representatives, nor the local community were consulted about the introduction of a 7 days-a-week Minor Injuries Unit; We will seek a virtual meeting or in person with the Minister for Health to request urgent intervention and make immediate plans to restore all services at the Downe.**

**C/085/2020: EMERGENCY MOTION – AMBULANCE COVER**

The following Emergency Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Savage:

**"This Council is deeply concerned that the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area has been left with no NI Ambulance Service cover in recent days and has been reliant on the support of St. John's Ambulance Service and Rapid Response vehicles to provide cover in the area; expresses anger at the unacceptable lengthy delays in getting ambulances to the scene of a serious road accident and other emergencies over the weekend and asks the Council Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service requesting an urgent meeting with Councillors to discuss the lack of ambulance cover across the district; writes to the Health Minister Robin Swann seeking assurances that adequate funding has been sought and secured to ensure any potential ambulance triaging as part of a new-look post Covid-19**

**Emergency Service can operate without difficulty and tackle issues around crew shortages; and writes to Finance Minister Conor Murphy requesting that adequate funding is provided to the Department of Health and NIAS to ensure Emergency Services can be restored to Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals in the timeframes outlined by the Southern and South Eastern Health Care Trusts”.**

In proposing the motion Councillor Savage advised the emergency motion brought forward reflected the deep concerns of every elected representative and the people they represent.

Councillor Savage referred to a serious road traffic incident that morning and another incident over the weekend when ambulance crews were required and their response times were an hour and 2 hours following the emergency calls and that waiting times were unacceptable and due to lack of cover. He paid tribute to the heroic work of Ambulance crews who were being led by a system not fit for purpose.

Councillor Savage questioned why this area was being left with no cover during a pandemic and when there were no emergency departments in Daisy Hill or Downe Hospital as part of the response to Covid 19 and urged Members to support the motion.

In seconding the motion, Councillor McKeivitt expressed her disappointment that the District had been left with no emergency cover in the emergency departments and no ambulance cover. She pointed out the Health Service was a business of saving lives, not pennies and that it was time for investment in emergency services within South Down.

Councillor Andrews, Byrne, Hanna, Taylor, Trainor and Reilly spoke in support of the motion.

Councillor Ó Muirí advised his party broadly agreed with the motion however it was the Northern Ireland Executive that decided a budget in March and that Council should write to the Executive as opposed to individual Ministers.

Councillor Ó Muirí proposed an amendment to read as follows:

**"This Council is deeply concerned that the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area has been left with no NI Ambulance Service cover in recent days and has been reliant on the support of St. John's Ambulance Service and Rapid Response vehicles to provide cover in the area; expresses anger at the unacceptable lengthy delays in getting ambulances to the scene of a serious road accident and other emergencies over the weekend and asks the Council Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service requesting an urgent meeting with Councillors to discuss the lack of ambulance cover across the district; *writing to the Executive requesting that adequate funding is provided to the Department of Health and NIAS to ensure Emergency Services can be restored to Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals in the timeframes outlined by the Southern and South Eastern Health Care Trusts.*"**

Councillor Howell seconded the proposed amendment.

Councillor Savage did not accept the proposed amendment and the Chairperson then put the matter to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows (copy of recorded vote

appended to these minutes)

**FOR: 14**  
**AGAINST: 16**  
**ABSENT: 11**

**The proposal was LOST.**

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt Council is deeply concerned that the greater Newry, South Down and South Armagh area has been left with no NI Ambulance Service cover in recent days and has been reliant on the support of St. John's Ambulance Service and Rapid Response vehicles to provide cover in the area; expresses anger at the unacceptable lengthy delays in getting ambulances to the scene of a serious road accident and other emergencies over the weekend and asks the Council Chief Executive to write to the Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service requesting an urgent meeting with Councillors to discuss the lack of ambulance cover across the district; writes to the Health Minister Robin Swann seeking assurances that adequate funding has been sought and secured to ensure any potential ambulance triaging as part of a new-look post Covid-19 Emergency Service can operate without difficulty and tackle issues around crew shortages; and writes to Finance Minister Conor Murphy requesting that adequate funding is provided to the Department of Health and NIAS to ensure Emergency Services can be restored to Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals in the timeframes outlined by the Southern and South Eastern Health Care Trusts.**

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.02pm.

**Signed:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Chief Executive**

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



## RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020

VENUE: Skype Meeting

MEETING: Council Meeting

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Qualified Majority Vote to suspend Standing Order 16.1 to allow discussion for Emergency Notices 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	34			
L Devlin	6			
S Doran	7			
C Enright				2
A Finnegan	8			
H Gallagher				3
M Gibbons	9			
O Hanlon	10			
G Hanna	11			
V Harte				4
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				5
D Murphy	23			
G O'Hare	24			
B Ó Muirí	25			
K Owen	26			
H Reilly	27			
M Ruane	35			
M Savage	28			
G Sharvin	29			
G Stokes	30			
D Taylor	31			
J Tinnelly				6
J Trainor	32			
B Walker	33			
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>

**NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**RECORDED VOTE**

**DATE:** 6<sup>th</sup> July 2020      **VENUE:** Skype Meeting      **MEETING:** Council Meeting

**SUBJECT OF VOTE:** Amendment to Emergency Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor Howell

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>FOR</b>	<b>AGAINST</b>	<b>ABSTAIN</b>	<b>ABSENT</b>
T Andrews		1		
P Brown		2		
R Burgess				x
P Byrne		3		
C Casey	1			
W Clarke	2			
D Curran		4		
L Devlin		5		
S Doran	3			
C Enright				x
A Finnegan	4			
H Gallagher				x
M Gibbons	13			
O Hanlon	5			
G Hanna		6		
V Harte				x
R Howell	6			
M Larkin	7			
A Lewis				x
O Magennis	8			
G Malone		7		
C Mason	9			
D McAteer		8		
L McEvoy	14			x
H McKee		9		
K McKevitt		10		
A McMurray		11		
R Mulgrew				x
D Murphy				x
G O'Hare	10			
B Ó Muirí	11			
K Owen				x
H Reilly		12		
M Ruane	12			
M Savage		13		
G Sharvin		14		
G Stokes		15		
D Taylor				x
J Tinnelly				x
J Trainor		16		
B Walker				x
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>