

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 7 September 2020 at 6.00pm via Skype

In the Chair: Councillor L Devlin

In attendance:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Brown
Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor S Doran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor H Gallagher	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 K McKeivitt	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Owen
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 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/100/2020

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Mason, McKee and Mulgrew.

The Chairperson expressed her sadness at the death of Brian Black in Strangford in August and passed on her condolences and that of the Council to his family.

The Chairperson offered condolences to Councillor Cathy Mason and her wider family on the sad passing of her grandmother Mrs Noade.

The Chairperson thanked the community of Newcastle for rallying around all those who had been adversely affected by the recent flood and said it was devastating with many houses destroyed and many people out of their homes for months.

The Chairperson thanked Minister Mallon for attending the scene and for pressing ahead with the much needed Shimna River Flood Alleviation Scheme and also thanked Council staff, agencies and voluntary organisations who worked together extremely well in very difficult circumstances.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to once again raise COVID-19. She reminded people the virus was still very much among us and there was a need to exercise extreme caution. She encouraged everyone that whilst indoors and, in a situation, where they could not socially distance, people should wear masks, keep their distance and regularly wash hands. She pointed out there remained an onus on all of us to exercise personal responsibility and that Covid-19 must be at the forefront of all that we do.

C/101/2020 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/102/2020 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2020

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

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Savage.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/103/2020 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 AUGUST 2020

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

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Savage.

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/104/2020 MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 10 AUGUST 2020

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

ERT/096/2020: Exempt Information- Support Programme – Tourism Events & Arts Centre

In response to a query from Councillor Finnegan regarding support programmes for Halloween and Christmas events, Mr Mallon confirmed a report would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 14 September 2020.

ERT/099/2020: Brexit Forum

Councillor Stokes expressed concern at a recent announcement by the UK government regarding a decision to pass legislation to revoke a previous decision with regard to a hard border on the island of Ireland. Councillor Stokes proposed that a meeting of the Brexit Forum be convened urgently to discuss the potential impact of this. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Councillor Taylor asked that it be noted that the UUP was not happy with the current protocol regarding Brexit and would support changes and it was important to note there were differing points of view from the political parties in terms of Brexit. The Chairperson advised this would be a topic for further discussion at the Brexit Forum.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes seconded by Councillor Andrews that a meeting of the Brexit Forum be convened urgently to discuss the recent announcement regarding the decision made by the UK government to revoke a previous decision with regard to a hard border on the island of Ireland.**

ERT/093/2020 – Warrenpoint Baths

Councillor Ruane referred to a report that was to be brought back to Council and asked for assurances the report would include details of the approved planning permission. Mr Mallon responded, saying a full assessment of all options including refurbishment and planning permission would be included in the report.

Councillor McAteer stated he had recently had a very positive meeting with the CEO of Tourism NI regarding Warrenpoint Baths and advised that the CEO of Tourism NI would be contacting senior council staff in the very near future to discuss further tourism potential of the baths.

Councillor Gibbons stated urgent action was needed with regard to Warrenpoint Baths.

ERT/084/2020 – Notice of Motion re Universal Basic Income

Councillor Clarke stated that whilst Sinn Féin appreciated the Motion was well intended, they considered part b of the Motion was not a matter for Council, but rather the British Treasury, and he proposed to remove part b. from the Motion. Councillor Ó'Muirí seconded the proposal.

The Chairperson put the proposal to a recorded vote, the results of which were as follows:

FOR:	15
AGAINST:	19
ABSTENTIONS:	3

The proposal was declared 'lost'. (copy attached).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 10 August 2020**

were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Brown.

C/105/2020 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 AUGUST 2020

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

SPR/90/2020: Notice of Motion referred from Council Meeting held on 6 July 2020

Councillor Stokes referred to the proposed site for the new Civic Centre and suggested writing to other central government partners advising that a full public consultation take place. The Chair thanked Councillor Stokes for his comments.

Mr Mallon advised the list of stakeholder engagement would be circulated to all members tomorrow.

Agreed: The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 13 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Doran.

C/106/2020 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 AUGUST 2020

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

AHC/74/2020: Safe Cycling Initiatives

In welcoming the recommendations for the Safe Cycling Initiatives, Councillor McMurray requested a meeting with the Walking and Cycling Champion and asked for a briefing regarding the Newcastle, Downpatrick, Comber Greenway.

Mr Lipsett confirmed he would arrange a meeting with Councillor McMurray.

Councillor Clarke proposed that Council develop a cycling strategy for on road / off road cycling. Councillor McMurray seconded the proposal.

Mrs Ward stated that Mr Lipsett would bring a report to the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting on 21 September regarding the issues that would have to be considered in developing a cycling strategy.

AHC/70/2020: Financial Assistance – Community Engagement

Councillor Sharvin referred to the agreed action and asked if there was a timeframe for this to be completed. Councillor Sharvin also asked if the call for capital projects could be put out as a priority to help kickstart the local economy.

Mrs Ward advised she was very keen to promote growth within the district, but it would have to be within the constraints of Council finances. Mrs Ward continued, saying the matter

would be discussed at the SMT meeting this week with a set of proposals to be agreed and a report would be brought to the next Active and Healthy Community Committee on 21 September 2020.

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 17 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Andrews seconded by Councillor Ó'Muirí.**

C/107/2020 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 18 AUGUST 2020**

Read: Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2020 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 18 August 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

C/108/2020 **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 19 AUGUST 2020**

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

NS/180/2020: Rewilding and Wildflower Areas across the Newry and Mourne District Council Estate

In response to Councillor Casey, Mr Moore confirmed an officer would contact him regarding the replacement of trees along the walkway at Newry Canal.

With regard to the central verge at Knockcree Avenue, Kilkeel, Councillor Hanna proposed that residents be consulted prior to any rewilding work being undertaken. Councillor Doran seconded the proposal.

Councillor McAteer asked that Derryleckagh Bridge on the Newry to Mayobridge Road be examined for inclusion on the list. Mr Moore advised the relevant staff were liaising with DEAs and this could be taken on board for future development.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Doran to remove the plan for rewilding at Knockcree Avenue, Kilkeel until such times as residents have been consulted with.**

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

C/109/2020

EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 26 AUGUST 2020

Noted: **There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 26 August 2020.**

CORRESPONDENCE

C/110/2020

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 11 JUNE 2020

Read: Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 June 2020. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Savage welcomed the detail provided via the Housing Council Minutes and referred to a recent meeting with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. He stated it was clear there was still a huge housing problem within the District and whilst there had been an increase in sites and units, the reality was that there was still a shortfall of approximately 830 units for 2020/23.

Councillor Savage proposed that a second Housing Needs Conference be held in February/March 2021. He said it should be community led and due to the Covid pandemic, it could be a hybrid conference with Councillor Ruane providing a debrief from the Housing Council and Council engaging with the Communities Minister, the Permanent Secretary of the Department and the Chief Executive of the Housing Executive. Councillor Andrews seconded the proposal.

Councillor Clarke supported the proposal for a second symposium saying there was a chronic situation right across the District and asked that this be done through Community Planning and working with the DEAs. Councillor Savage agreed the DEAs could be used as shaping bodies for the conference that must be solution led.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Andrews to hold a second Housing Needs Conference in February/March 2021 and for this to be organised via Community Planning and DEAs.**

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 11 June 2020 were noted.**

C/111/2020

NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN – AUGUST 2020

Read: Bulletin dated August 2020 from Northern Ireland Housing Council. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: **The Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin was noted.**

C/112/2020 **CORRESPONDENCE DATED 20 AUGUST RECEIVED FROM N. IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE REF. C/092/2020**

Read: Correspondence dated 20 August from N. Ireland Ambulance Service ref. C/092/2020. (Copy circulated)

Agreed: The correspondence was noted.

C/113/2020 **THE FLOODING CONFERENCE: RESILIENCE, MANAGEMENT AND RESPONSE CONFERENCE**

Read: Government Events
23 February 2021 - Central Manchester
Public sector rate: £389

Mrs Ward advised that the conference would be a virtual one and recommended the Council's Emergency Planning Officer attend and report back. Following a query regarding the cost of the conference, she stated, officers would look at the validity of it before committing to any attendance.

Agreed: It was agreed that on consideration of the validity of the Flooding Conference, the Council's Emergency Planning Officer would attend and report back.

NOTICES OF MOTION

C/114/2020 **NOTICE OF MOTION – DOG EUTHANASIA**

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

"Council welcomes reports from DAERA that incidences of dog euthanasia are down across Northern Ireland in 19/20, but is extremely concerned that in the same period our District has had substantially more dogs put down than any other council area. To address this Council will take the following actions:

- **Undertake an investigation into why these figures are so high in the District and bring a report back for consideration on this to the AHC committee.**
- **Write to the 10 other council areas asking what measures they took to successfully reduce the number of animals killed, particularly Derry & Strabane which has seen an 80% reduction and Ards & North Down which killed zero dogs this year**
- **Consider ways in which the Council can bring together strategic partners such as the Dog Warden, local kennels, Animal Welfare Officer, PSNI and animal rescue charities, to address the issue, including through tackling illegal and unethical breeding and sale of dogs, particularly online."**

Councillor Enright 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/115/2020 NOTICE OF MOTION – SOCIAL VALUE STRATEGY

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

“This Council agrees to develop a social value strategy to further social, environmental and economic goals of Newry Mourne and Down Council.

As far as permissible by Law, this Council should increase the value of social impact clauses at the pre-procurement stage and to include them within the award criteria.

Contracts should be informed by a social needs assessment with consideration given to how social clauses can help address those needs. Assessments should be conducted with key stakeholders, including members of the public, as appropriate.

The social value strategy should promote more creative use of social clauses to deliver positive social benefits. Council officials should set up monitoring and evaluation frameworks for the delivery of social clauses at the start of the contract and these should be included in the tender documents. The social value strategy should be outcome based and used to tackle poverty, particularly within areas of multiple deprivation.

Tackling zero hour contracts and encouraging living wage employment should be central to the strategy and should include but not be limited to our own council and its workforce”.

Councillor Hanlon 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 19.11pm.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 7 September 2020

VENUE: Via Skype MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: ERT/084/2020 – To remove Part B of the Notice of Motion re. Universal Basic Income

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