

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 June 2023 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber

In the Chair: Councillor V Harte

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor J Brennan	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor P Campbell	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor D Finn
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell	Councillor J Jackson
Councillor G Kearns	Councillor T Kelly
Councillor C King	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor A McMurray	Councillor S O'Hare
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor S Murphy	Councillor A Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor M Rice
Councillor M Savage	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Truesdale

In attendance via Teams: Councillor C Enright

**Officials in attendance
in Chamber:**

Mr A Cassells, Director of Sustainability and Environment
Mr C Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer.

C/108/2023 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Galbraith, Hanna, and Ruane and Mrs Ward, Chief Executive.

Councillor Reilly requested the safety policy in relation to jet skis be updated and circulated as the district was now entering the peak busy period in particular the Cranfield and Newcastle areas. He stated there had been an unfortunate tragedy whereby a man recently lost his life in Carlingford lough in a jet ski accident. The Chairperson agreed that the matter would be looked at by the relevant directorate.

C/109/2023 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

C/110/2023 ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 2023

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 3 April 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 3 April 2023 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanlon, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING

C/111/2023 MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 3 APRIL 2023

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 3 April 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 3 April 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer.

C/112/2023 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27 MARCH 2023

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 27 March 2023 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 27 March 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor McAteer.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/113/2023 MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 4 APRIL 2023

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023 (copy circulated).

In response to a query raised by Councillor Byrne, Mr Mallon confirmed that officers had met with the Labour Relations Agency (LRA) twice last week and a further meeting was planned for 28 June 2023 due to LRA availability. He advised that officers would engage with parties to provide a further update on the matter before the next planned meeting and provide further information with regards the Risk Register before the next Audit committee meeting.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 4 April 2023 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Byrne.**

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at this point – 6.35pm.

C/114/2023 PLANNING SECTION

Councillor McAteer voiced concerns at the level of staffing issues in the Planning Department causing a general reduction in output and the ongoing problems with the planning portal needed urgent action.

Councillor Lee-Surginor concurred with Councillor McAteer's comments agreeing that the matter needed urgent attention.

CORRESPONDANCE AND CONFERENCES

C/115/2023 LETTER FROM DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE RE:NOTICE OF MOTION C.053.2023: SCHOOL STREET SCHEMES (Copy circulated)

Read: Correspondence from Department for Infrastructure regarding School Street Schemes dated 6 April 2023.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence received from Department for Infrastructure regarding School Street Schemes dated 6 April 2023.

C/116/2023 **LETTER FROM MID ULSTER COUNCIL RE: C.075.2023 – REDUCTION IN VOTING AGE**

Read: Correspondence from Mid Ulster Council regarding reduction in voting age. **(Copy circulated)**

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence received from Mid Ulster Council regarding reduction in voting age dated 28 March 2023.

C/117/2023 **LETTER FROM MINISTER OF STATE NORTHERN IRELAND RE: NOTICE OF MOTION C.075.2023 - REDUCTION IN VOTING AGE**

Read: Correspondence from Minister of State Northern Ireland regarding reduction in voting age. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Andrews thanked members for their support in relation to reduction of voting age to 16 and proposed that Council write again to the Minister of State for Northern Ireland stating their disappointment in the response received and to strongly support the call for the right to vote for 16 year old plus to be extended.

This was seconded by Councillor Devlin.

Councillor Quinn spoke in support of the proposal highlighting that a better process should be authorized to allow younger people to vote and to be able to input on matters that affect them.

Councillor Finn requested that Council also write to the governments of the Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey and Scotland to build a stronger case of why young people should be afforded the right to vote and participate within the democratic institution.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the correspondence received from Minister of State regarding reduction in voting aged dated 21 April 2023.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Devlin to write again to the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, as well as Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey and Scottish governments stating their disappointment in the

response received and to strongly support the call for the right to vote for 16 year old plus to be extended.

It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Finn to suspend Standing Order 16.1.1 at this point of the meeting to discuss the future plans for the retention of services at Daisy Hill Hospital.

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

FOR: 36
AGAINST: 0
ABSTENTIONS: 0

The Motion was carried.

Councillor Savage proposed that Council request an urgent meeting with Directors and management of the Southern Health Trust to discuss their future and emergency plans for the retention and enhancement of services at Daisy Hill Hospital.

This was seconded by Councillor Taylor.

Councillor Savage stated that Daisy Hill had lost nine of its key consultants over the last 12 months, services were crumbling, staff were fearful for their futures, plans seen so far were dependent on the generosity of other Trusts across the North who were already struggling and under severe pressure. He highlighted The Southern Trust appeared to have lost the run of itself on how it manages and contributes to the running and managing of the Daisy Hill Hospital. More importantly the healthcare of the people in the South Down, South Armagh and greater Newry area. He had been lead to believe that stroke patients would no longer be able to attend Daisy Hill if suffering a stroke to receive Thrombolysis treatment, instead they would have drive onto Craigavon Hospital.

Councillor Savage advised that the people in charge need to be held accountable for their decisions.

Councillor McAteer, Murphy, Jackson, Taylor, McMurray and Tinnelly spoke in support of Councillor Savages proposal stating it was a really bad worrying situation and GP's felt a real threat to Daisy Hill and people in the area. Hard questions needed to be asked of the people paid to do a job and why they haven't done their job.

Councillor Savage thanked members for their support.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Taylor that Council to write

Directors and management of the Southern Health Trust to request a urgent meeting to discuss their future and emergency plans for the retention and enhancement of services at Daisy Hill hospital.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.55pm.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 July 2023.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL
RECORDED VOTE

DATE: 5th June 2023 VENUE: Downshire Civic Centre MEETING: Council

SUBJECT OF VOTE: Qualified majority vote for Suspension of Standing Orders

COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN	ABSENT
T Andrews	1			
C Bowsie	2			
J Brennan	3			
P Byrne	4			
P Campbell	5			
W Clarke	6			
L Devlin	7			
C Enright	8			
D Finn	9			
A Finnegan	10			
C Galbraith				1
M Gibbons				2
O Hanlon	11			
G Hanna				3
V Harte	12			
R Howell	13			
J Jackson	14			
G Kearns	15			
T Kelly	16			
C King	17			
M Larkin	18			
D Lee-Surginor	19			
A Lewis	20			
O Magennis	21			
A Mathers	22			
D McAteer	23			
L McEvoy	24			
A McMurray	25			
S O'Hare	26			
D Murphy	27			
K Murphy	28			
S Murphy	29			
A Quinn	30			
H Reilly				4
M Rice	31			
M Ruane				5
M Savage	32			
G Sharvin	33			
D Taylor	34			
J Tinnelly	35			
J Truesdale	36			
TOTALS	36	0	0	5

