

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

**NMD/C/**

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### **Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 5 October 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 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 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 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 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/116/2020**

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

Apologies were received from Councillors Hanna and Trainor.

The Chairperson spoke of the dangerous place we were all in regarding COVID-19 and thanked members, community groups, local media and the wider public for supporting the communications drive undertaken over the weekend to get the message out and appealed for the momentum to be kept up.

The Chairperson thanked all those who had been following the guidance and appealed to those who hadn't to do so by washing hands, keeping their distance, downloading the app and wearing a mask.

The Chairperson passed on condolences of Council to Councillor John Trainor on the death of his father John Senior. John's wife Anne was a former Councillor in the legacy Down area and the whole family had given so much to the local area by way of community activism and the thoughts of Council were with them all.

The Chairperson advised in recent weeks the community had lost two young females, Maria Robinson, Deputy Head Girl from Our Lady's in Newry and Ellie McDonnell a Year 12 pupil from Down High School, Downpatrick. Thoughts of Council were with their family, friends and school communities at such devastating times.

The Chairperson paid tribute to Noel Mussen from Burren who had recently passed away. Mr Mussen had received a Chairman's award from Council for his services to the community last year and the condolences of Council were extended to the wider Mussen Family.

The Chairperson praised 16-Year-old Dara McNulty from Castlewella who had been awarded the 2020 Wainwright Prize for Nature writing, an outstanding achievement. Congratulations were passed on to Suzanne Smyth and Laura Kerr from Newcastle Glee Singers for their individual AIMS awards and also to the wider Glee Family for the amazing production of Calamity Jane last Christmas.

The Chairperson congratulated all of the local GAA clubs on their recent successes.

The Chairperson took the opportunity to thank members for their engagement, contribution and respect that had been shown whilst conducting meetings in a virtual format.

The Chairperson welcomed Deputy Chairman Harold McKee back and acknowledged the last number of weeks had been extremely tough for Harold and his family and wished him well in his further recovery.

Councillor McKee thanked the Chairperson, fellow councillors and staff for all the well wishes he had received since his stroke. Councillor McKee appealed to everyone to be aware of the symptoms of stroke and seek medical assistance should they feel unwell and paid tribute to the staff and care he received during his stay on the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast.

The Chairperson advised she had received a request for an emergency notice of motion from Councillor Brown regarding the Downe A&E. Members were advised this would be dealt with at the end of the agenda and would require a suspension of Standing Orders.

Councillors Taylor, Ó Muirí and Savage also paid tribute to and sent condolences to the family of Jeni Larmour from Newtownhamilton on her tragic passing.

## **C/117/2020            DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Mr Mallon, Director of Enterprise, Regeneration & Tourism declared an interest in item 7 regarding SPR/134/2020: Director Recruitment.

Mrs Ward, Chief Executive declared an interest in item 7 regarding SPR/140/2020: Chief Executives Appraisal 2019-2020.

Councillor Owen declared an interest in items 18 and 20 regarding Notices of Motion on the reopening of A&E Daisy Hill Hospital and the COVID-19 outbreaks at Daisy Hill Hospital and

**C/118/2020            ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read:                    Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                            The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Savage.**

**COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING**

**C/119/2020            MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read:                    Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                            The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Sharvin.**

**C/120/2020            MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read:                    Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 2 September 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:                            The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 7 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Gallagher, seconded by Councillor Burgess.**

**COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION**

**C/121/2020            MINUTES OF ENTERPRISE, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read:                    Minutes of Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2020 (copy circulated).

*ERT/116/2020: Lease of Albert Basin, Christmas Staff Car Parking*

Mr Mallon advised Members further correspondence had been received from the Quays Shopping Centre and an updated report regarding the lease of Albert Basin would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on 12 October 2020.

**Agreed:                            It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Clarke that an updated report**

**regarding the lease of Albert Basin would be presented at the next Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting to be held on 12 October 2020.**

*ERT/118/2020: Mountain Bike Trails*

Mr Mallon confirmed he would advise the Forest Service of concerns raised by Councillor McKee regarding the need for provisions to be made at Tollymore Forest Park Mountain Bike Trail for first time users and young cyclists.

**Agreed: The Minutes of the Enterprise, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 14 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Stokes.**

**C/122/2020 MINUTES OF STRATEGY, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 17 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2020 (copy circulated).

*SPR/125/2020: Assessment of Performance 2019-2020*

In response to Councillor Savage's request for an update regarding the proposed Newry Civic Centre and the motion previously passed by Council to await the consultant's report, Mrs Ward confirmed an outline business case for the project had gone before the Project Board in September and was to be presented to the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee on 15 October 2020.

Mrs Ward added the Project Board would work on all other elements of the Motion and how that would be actioned.

**Agreed: The Minutes of the Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 17 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Magennis.**

**C/123/2020 MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2020**

Read: Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2020 (copy circulated).

*AHC/70/2020: Financial Assistance – Community Engagement*

In response to a query from Councillor Sharvin, Mr Lipsett confirmed the proposal to not allow groups to reapply within certain timeframes had been removed and that it was hoped the call for financial assistance would be released prior to Christmas.

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 21 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Ó Muirí, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.

**C/124/2020** **MINUTES OF NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Read:** Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews.

**C/125/2020** **MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Read:** Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2020 (copy circulated).

**Agreed:** The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held on 24 September 2020 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor Owen.

**C/126/2020** **EXTRACT FROM DRAFT MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Noted:** There were no issues referred from the Planning Committee Meeting held on 23 September 2020.

**CORRESPONDENCE**

**C/127/2020** **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL MINUTES DATED 13 AUGUST 2020**

**Read:** Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 13 August 2020. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:** The Northern Ireland Housing Council Minutes dated 13 August 2020 were noted.

**C/128/2020**                    **NORTHERN IRELAND HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN –  
SEPTEMBER 2020**

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

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

**C/129/2020**                    **RESPONSE FROM MID ULSTER COUNCIL RE: C.098.2020 –  
INFORMATION REGARDING LOCALISED OUTBREAKS OF COVID  
CASES**

Read:                                Correspondence dated 4 September 2020 from Mid Ulster Council ref.  
C/098/2020. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:**                                **The correspondence was noted.**

**C/130/2020**                    **RESPONSE FROM PERMANENT SECRETARY, DEPARTMENT OF  
HEALTH RE: C.085.2020, AMBULANCE COVER & C.092.2020,  
CLINICAL RESPONSE MODEL**

Read:                                Correspondence dated 4 September 2020 from the Permanent  
Secretary, Department of Health re: C/085/2020 and C/098/2020.  
(Copy circulated)

**Agreed:**                                **The correspondence was noted.**

**C/131/2020**                    **RESPONSE FROM THE MINISTER FOR THE ECONOMY RE:  
C.099.2020, COLLINS AEROSPACE, KILKEEL**

Read:                                Correspondence dated 15 September 2020 from the Minister for the  
Economy re: C/099/2020. (Copy circulated)

**Agreed:**                                **The correspondence was noted.**

**NOTICES OF MOTION**

**C/132/2020**                    **NOTICE OF MOTION – INCREASE IN VEHICLE INSURANCE  
COSTS**

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

**"Newry Mourne & Down District Council shares the concerns of residents living in  
the BT34 & BT35 postcodes about the drastic increase in their vehicle insurance  
costs. The Council agrees to immediately write to the Financial Regulator to**

**request an investigation into the postcode lottery of car insurance and the outrageous rises in premiums that local drivers are experiencing."**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Magennis said car insurance premiums in the BT34 and BT35 areas were among the highest in N. Ireland. She said insurance companies calculated the risk according to post code and they considered BT34 and BT35 to be high risk areas and this was an extremely unfair system when everyone was made to suffer for the actions of a few and those drivers who drove uninsured and made multiple claims should be held to account.

Councillor Magennis acknowledged insurance premiums for 18 – 25 year olds would be high, but she said those who had been driving for years without incident should see a reduction in their premiums year on year, however, this was not the case in the BT34 and BT35 areas and in fact premiums were increasing year on year.

Councillor Magennis said the complexities of Brexit and how that might affect people living in border areas and travelling across the border was also a cause for concern.

Councillor Magennis said anomalies had been uncovered in the insurance industry in the ROI and had been effectively challenged and she called for the same action to be taken in the District.

Councillor O'Hare seconded the Motion and asked that an amendment be made to include the rising costs of house insurance as well. Councillor Magennis accepted the amendment.

Councillor McAteer supported the Motion and said a report had been provided by the Consumer Council N.I. to an All Party group in Stormont in March 2016 that outlined fifteen points of concern for the government to act on. Councillor McAteer asked that an amendment be made to the Motion to include that Council write to the Minister for the Economy asking that all recommendations raised in the report by the Consumer Council in March 2016 to the All Party Working Group be implemented.

Councillor Magennis accepted the amendment to the proposal.

Members spoke in strong support for the Motion saying a complete overhaul of the system was needed to eliminate the enormous disparity that was currently evident and agreed a more competitive market place was needed.

In summing up, Councillor Magennis confirmed she would accept both Councillor O'Hare and Councillor McAteer's amendments and she thanked Members for their support for the Motion. Councillor Magennis said she considered it unfair that an entire postcode area be penalized for incidences of car crime in particular townlands.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor O'Hare, that Newry Mourne & Down District Council shares the concerns of residents living in the BT34 & BT35 postcodes about the drastic increase in both vehicle and house insurance costs. The Council agrees to immediately write to the Financial Regulator to request an investigation into the postcode lottery of car and house insurance and the outrageous rises in premiums that local residents are experiencing.**

**Council write to the Minister for the Economy requesting that all recommendations raised in the**

**report by the Consumer Council in March 2016 to the  
All Party Working Group be implemented.**

**C/133/2020**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – RE-OPENING OF A&E IN DAISY HILL  
HOSPITAL**

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

**“The statement released by the Southern Trust on Friday 11th September notifying our community that the re-opening of the emergency department in Daisy Hill hospital has been delayed by almost a month has caused great concern for many. While we fully accept and appreciate the unique situation created by covid:19 and the logic behind the initial temporary closure, which has now lasted more than six months, we as a community cannot allow any further delays in the reinstating of this crucial service and indeed the services within the Downe hospital. The travel time for a significant percentage of our population to access services now exceeds an hour and this coupled with seasonal pressures and poor infrastructure has the potential to impact negatively on patients and indeed could mean the difference between life and death. We are asking that this Council contacts both Trusts and states in the strongest terms the concerns of our community and demands that there will be no further delays in the delivery of vital services. We also want to acknowledge the herculean efforts of all the staff within the health and care sector during this pandemic.**

**In light of the latest news that emergency surgery is to be withdrawn, from Daisy Hill hospital site and the fear that this has caused throughout our community and among staff we are asking that this council requests an urgent meeting with the trusts to clearly state that no downgrading of services is acceptable”.**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Mulgrew stated she had lodged the Motion three weeks previously as there was general feeling among staff and the community that there was more bad news to come which, she considered reflected the level of mistrust with the Trust and staff morale was at an all-time low.

Councillor Mulgrew said the removal of emergency surgery would see ambulances bypassing Daisy Hill Hospital and going to Craigavon Area Hospital which was a downgrading of service and would result in the Emergency Department in Daisy Hill Hospital becoming a minor injuries unit.

Councillor Mulgrew said all citizens were entitled to the same level of care and she considered the Trusts were hiding under the cover of COVID 19 in that, due to the pandemic, people would not protest.

Councillor Ó'Muirí seconded the Motion.

Councillor Brown stated he fully supported the Motion and said he had intended to propose an Emergency Motion at the Meeting regarding services at the Downe Hospital. He asked if Councillor Mulgrew would agree to amending the Motion to include the 'Downe Hospital' in the title of the Motion and also adding the following paragraph:

**“This Council is also extremely concerned at the news that the South Eastern Trust is planning to reverse its decision to re-open the Downe Hospital A&E as**



**planned on 19<sup>th</sup> October. It does not see a temporary 'Urgent Care centre' or 'Minor Injuries Unit' as adequate for the healthcare needs of this District. It would write to the Trust and the Minister asking them not to proceed with this course of action and that an enhancement of services at the Downe is what is needed in these times of crisis – not a reduction in services."**

Councillor Mulgrew agreed to accept the amendments and Councillor Brown withdrew his Emergency Motion.

Members spoke in strong support for the Motion raising the following points:

- Vital that staff and services be retained at the Downe and Daisy Hill Hospitals.
- Unacceptable that people would have to travel long distances in emergency situations especially coming into the winter months.
- The citizens of the district were being failed by the Trusts, resulting in a lack of trust in the Trusts.
- Both the Downe and Daisy Hill Hospitals were regarded by the Trusts as 'weaker' hospitals.
- Extremely disappointed in the most recent statement released by the South Eastern Trust.
- An urgent meeting with the Trusts was necessary so that Members had the opportunity to get answers to their questions.

In summing up, Councillor Mulgrew thanked Members for their support for the Motion, saying it was an issue that affected the entire district and it was vitally important to have an urgent meeting with the Trusts.

**Agreed:**

**It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor ÓMuirí, that the statement released by the Southern Trust on Friday 11th September notifying our community that the re-opening of the emergency department in Daisy Hill hospital has been delayed by almost a month has caused great concern for many. While we fully accept and appreciate the unique situation created by covid:19 and the logic behind the initial temporary closure, which has now lasted more than six months, we as a community cannot allow any further delays in the reinstating of this crucial service and indeed the services within the Downe hospital. The travel time for a significant percentage of our population to access services now exceeds an hour and this coupled with seasonal pressures and poor infrastructure has the potential to impact negatively on patients and indeed could mean the difference between life and death. We are asking that this Council contacts both Trusts and states in the strongest terms the concerns of our community and demands that there will be no further delays in the delivery of vital services. We also want to acknowledge the herculean efforts of all the staff within the health and care sector during this pandemic.**

**In light of the latest news that emergency surgery is to be withdrawn, from Daisy Hill hospital site and the fear that this has caused throughout our community and among staff we are asking that this council requests an urgent meeting with the trusts to clearly state that no downgrading of services is acceptable.**

**This Council is also extremely concerned at the news that the South Eastern Trust is planning to reverse its decision to re-open the Downe Hospital A&E as planned on 19<sup>th</sup> October. It does not see a temporary 'Urgent Care centre' or 'Minor Injuries Unit' as adequate for the healthcare needs of this District. It would write to the Trust and the Minister asking them not to proceed with this course of action and that an enhancement of services at the Downe is what is needed in these times of crisis – not a reduction in services.**

(7.30pm – Councillor Malone withdrew from the meeting)

(8.10pm – Councillor Sharvin withdrew from the meeting)

## **C/134/2020            NOTICE OF MOTION – FRACKING**

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

**"This Council, recognising we are in a climate emergency and being aware of the environmental damage caused by fracking and all forms of exploration and extraction of fossil fuels, calls on the Minister for the Economy to place an immediate moratorium on all licences and further calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to urgently implement changes to deny permitted development rights to any company seeking to prospect for oil and/or gas".**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Ó Muirí told Members we were in the midst of a severe climate and biodiversity crisis and a surge in CO2 emissions had sent global temperatures rising resulting in rising sea levels, melting ice caps and habitat destruction.

Councillor Ó Muirí said an urgent and radical programme of action was needed against the exploration, extraction and production of any further fossil fuels and that if two thirds of all proven fossil fuel reserves in the world were to be extracted and burned, we would exceed full use of existing reserves without the issuing of licenses to search for more carbon based fuels which would inevitably result in catastrophic and irreversible change to our climate and damage to the natural environment.

Councillor Ó Muirí said fracking was dangerous and environmentally invasive with no care for land, water, wildlife, plant life or communities and said that in December 2019 a sinkhole measuring nine metres wide had appeared in Co. Monaghan just thirty five metres from the main road. He said a company had been mining in the area at that time.

Councillor Gibbons seconded the Motion.

Councillor McKeivitt said she fully supported the Motion but asked in view of Minister Mallon's announcement today regarding her intention to remove the permitted development rights for oil and gas exploration, that the Motion be amended to reflect this.

Councillor Ó Muirí accepted the amendment.

Members spoke in full support of the Motion saying urgent action was needed and welcomed the announcement that had been made by the Minister today.

In summing up, Councillor Ó Muirí thanked everyone for their support and said although there was wide support for wind farms, no one wanted it in their own locality as it could

adversely affect the value of their houses, and therefore it was important to be creative and look at alternative locations such as on the side of mountains or off the coast in water.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Ó'Muirí, seconded by Councillor Gibbons, that this Council, recognises we are in a climate emergency and are aware of the environmental damage caused by fracking and all forms of exploration and extraction of fossil fuels.**

**This Council welcomes the recent announcement made by the Minister for Infrastructure of her intention to remove the permitted development rights for oil and gas exploration.**

**C/135/2020**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID 19 OUTBREAKS AT DAISY HILL HOSPITAL AND CRAIGAVON AREA HOSPITAL**

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillors Savage and Stokes:

**“This Council notes with concern the recent outbreaks of Covid-19 at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital and offers our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the bereaved and wishes those suffering from Covid-19 a full recovery.**

**Council notes that an independent investigation is being carried out into the outbreaks and expresses its full support and admiration for all the staff across the health and social care service at this difficult time. Council also calls on the Minister for Health and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to ensure the concerns of staff, patients and their families are fully addressed and these concerns are central to the investigation.**

**Council welcomes the planned reopening of ED Services at Daisy Hill Hospital in the coming days but requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister and the Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust seeking assurances that there are no plans, as a result of the current Pandemic measures, to move Emergency Surgery and High Dependency from Daisy Hill to Craigavon and Daily Clinical Care from Daisy Hill to South Tyrone in Dungannon.**

**Council requests that the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust comes before Council to address the concerns of Council and those we represent.”**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Savage acknowledged some of the points raised in the Motion had been included in the previous Motion put forward by Councillor Mulgrew but said it was extremely important there was transparency, trust and openness with the local Trusts. He extended his sympathies to the families of those who had sadly lost their lives due to Covid 19 and his best wishes for a speedy recovery to those suffering from the virus.

Councillor Savage said it was not a pleasant experience for patients to have to travel to Craigavon Area Hospital, bypassing Daisy Hill Hospital and he paid tribute to the health care workers and said it was extremely important that we support them at this time.

Councillor Stokes seconded the Motion.

In supporting the Motion, Councillors paid tribute to those families affected by Covid 19 and said hospital staff had been badly let down by the Trust and they welcomed the opportunity to meet with the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust.

In summing up, Councillor Savage thanked Members for their support and said Council fully supported those who had lost family members in their search for the truth. He said full transparency was needed, the Trusts needed to be held accountable and the people of the District should not be treated like second class citizens.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Stokes that this Council notes with concern the recent outbreaks of Covid-19 at Daisy Hill Hospital and Craigavon Area Hospital and offers our heartfelt sympathies to the families of the bereaved and wishes those suffering from Covid-19 a full recovery.**

**Council notes that an independent investigation is being carried out into the outbreaks and expresses its full support and admiration for all the staff across the health and social care service at this difficult time. Council also calls on the Minister for Health and the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to ensure the concerns of staff, patients and their families are fully addressed and these concerns are central to the investigation.**

**Council welcomes the planned reopening of ED Services at Daisy Hill Hospital in the coming days but requests that the Council Chief Executive writes to the Health Minister and the Chief Executive of the Southern Health and Social Care Trust seeking assurances that there are no plans, as a result of the current Pandemic measures, to move Emergency Surgery and High Dependency from Daisy Hill to Craigavon and Daily Clinical Care from Daisy Hill to South Tyrone in Dungannon.**

**Council requests that the Chief Executive of the Southern Trust comes before Council to address the concerns of Council and those we represent."**

(8.20pm – Councillor McKee withdrew from the meeting)

(8.30pm - Councillor Finnegan withdrew from the meeting)

**C/136/2020**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – RACISM**

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

**"That this Council recognises that racism is a scourge across this society. This Council further recognises the positive contribution made to society by those from Black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds; deplores the discrimination Black, Asian and minority ethnic communities face regularly; condemns racism**

**in all its forms, and calls on this Council to work together with the sector; local BAME representative groups; schools and colleges; private businesses and public enterprises to ensure that this Council area becomes a racism free zone".**

Councillor Mulgrew seconded the Motion.

Councillor Clarke expressed his disappointment that the Motion was to be referred to the Good Relations Forum saying it was an important issue that he considered should have had an All Party sign up and by referring it to the Good Relations Forum, that would not be the case.

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

## **C/137/2020            NOTICE OF MOTION – COVID PREVENTION MESSAGING**

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

**"Council affirms its support for the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising as the first line of defence against C-Covid19. Furthermore, condemns attempts by politicians and other high profile members of the public to undermine the COVID prevention messaging by the Department of Health."**

In proposing the Motion, Councillor Byrne said a level of complacency had been creeping in with regard to the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising and he said it was vital not to over complicate this issue. He said, as a society we needed to be led by the experts in an effort to protect ourselves and the most vulnerable in our society.

Councillor Byrne said the recent figures released according to the Corona Virus SIR Model were very alarming with one third of all our cases recorded in the last seven days and one sixth of our cases in twenty four hours.

Councillor Byrne said as we faced into a second wave of the virus, it was imperative to get the message out across the district of the importance of adhering to the two basic principles of wearing face coverings and hand sanitising, and he asked that Council formally put on record that it stands behind the COVID prevention message advocated by the Department of Health.

Councillor McKevitt seconded the Motion.

**Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Byrne, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, that Council affirms its support for the wearing of face coverings and hand sanitising as the first line of defence against C-Covid19. Furthermore, condemns attempts by politicians and other high profile members of the public to undermine the COVID prevention messaging by the Department of Health.**

(8.44pm - Councillor Clarke withdrew from the meeting)  
(8.50pm - Councillor Ruane withdrew from the meeting)  
(8.54pm - Councillor McAteer withdrew from the meeting)

(8.56pm - Councillor Mulgrew withdrew from the meeting)

Some technical difficulties were experienced during the meeting and to ensure Members were successfully linked in, a roll call was taken several times throughout the meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 8.58pm.

**Signed:**

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**Chairperson**

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**Chief Executive**