

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16 March 2021 at 6.00pm via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis

Deputy Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor

Non-Committee Members: Councillor P Brown Councillor J Tinnelly

Officials in Attendance: Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing and Enforcement
Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance, Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mr T Daly, Head of Fleet Management
Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing
Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

NS/033/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor K Owen, Councillor H McKee, Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director and Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director

NS/034/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

NS/035/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the**

Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2021 be noted and actions removed as marked.

In response to a query from Councillor McKevitt, Mr Dinsmore said that when permitted to do so, support in terms of supply of litter pickers and refuse bags and waste to be received at HRC sites, would be made available to community groups etc. for clean-up initiatives.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/036/2021: GLYCOPHOSPHATE REVIEW

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: use of herbicides across the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Estate. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and enable Grounds Maintenance to continue to utilise herbicides in an integrated control process with the intention of reducing applications where practical (working towards an eventual cessation) and progressing all emerging alternative solutions.

In response to a query from Councillor Brown, Mr Mallon confirmed that where glyphosphate was used, appropriate signage was being erected.

NS/037/2021: COUNCIL'S TREE STRATEGY

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion, re: the Developing Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Tree Strategy (early March 2021). *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- Members thanked Mr Ellis and his team for the work they had done in relation to the development of the Council's Tree Strategy and for the report produced and the enormous amount of detail in it.
- Welcome the commitment to engage with communities on the plans.
- Encourage the team to begin thinking about tree planting for the future Albert Basin Park project.
- An update on the re-wilding scheme be brought to the next Committee Meeting.

- Officers should contact relevant staff in APSE to exchange information which would help progress issues re: re-wilding scheme.
- Issues raised about the amount of tree felling in Kilbroney Park and a request that Councillors be advised of any proposals to fell trees and the reasons for doing so.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the content of the report and support the Council's Tree Strategy and the ongoing work of Mr J Ellis and his team in developing the Strategy throughout the District.

It was agreed an annual update be brought to Committee on the actions over the previous 12 months and the next 12 months of emerging activity.

It was also agreed officers collate information regarding proposed felling of trees in Council parks which had reached the end of their life span or had been identified as a health and safety risk, and that this information be circulated to Councillors.

It was noted a report on the re-wilding scheme would be brought to the April Committee Meeting for consideration.

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/038/2021: ENFORCEMENT IMPROVEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: Enforcement Improvement Plan update, relating to dog fouling and illicit dumping. ***(Circulated)***

In presenting the report, Mr Dinsmore outlined the actions which Officers had taken, and were currently taking in relation to fly tipping and dog fouling. He said there was a 75% increase in fly tipping from the previous year and he assured Members that officers responded to every complaint and attended every report of fly tipping although it was sometimes difficult with the number of complaints they had.

Mr Dinsmore confirmed an additional two seasonal enforcement staff were in process of being employed which would increase the staffing levels from 4 to 6. He said officers would be targeting dog fouling removal complaints, with a significant communications plan to promote responsible dog ownership; undertaking joint patrols with dog wardens and a number of community projects that would be re-launched once COVID restrictions allowed.

Mr Dinsmore also gave an update on the number of fixed penalty notices issued in the first two months of this year and said officers would issue notices where evidence was found. He said the statistics in relation to this matter would be published.

Issues raised by Members

- Members welcomed the report and the increase in enforcement staff levels but said that the Council needed to get serious about fly tipping and dog fouling and ensure there was strong enforcement and increased numbers of fixed penalty notices issued. If the Directorate needed additional resources the request should be put to Council for consideration.
- CCTV should be put in place at well-known dumping hot spots.
- There seemed to be a good educational message about these issues at primary school level but this did not seem to extend to secondary, grammar or further education level and it was important everyone took on personal responsibility for such issues.
- Possibility of Council supplying dog bags along popular walking routes.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed to note the content of this report and that a further update be provided to the Neighbourhood Services Committee in May 2021.**

It was also agreed a regular report be brought to Committee on the issuing of fixed penalty notices and a quarterly update report on the Enforcement Improvement Plan.

NS/039/2021: WASTE MANAGEMENT CHARGES 2021-2022

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: Waste Management Scale of Charges 2021/2022. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the adoption of the proposed Waste Services Scale of Charges 2021/2022 as set out in section 2.1 Appendix 1, circulated.**

In response to a query from Councillor Taylor, Mr Dinsmore said officers would be engaging with Caravan Operators in relation to the proposed scale of charges for Caravan sites.

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke, Mr Dinsmore said he anticipated bringing a report on the proposed permit scheme for commercial customers at HRCs to Committee at the end of September 2021.

In response to a query from Councillor Clarke, Mr Dinsmore confirmed there had been no change to the Council Policy relating to bins that were stolen and a replacement required and he advised he would arrange for the Policy to be circulated to the NS Committee Members for their information.

NS/040/2021: REFUSE COLLECTION HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS 2021/22

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: arrangements for refuse collections and opening of HRC sites at public holidays, during period 1 April 2021 -31 March 2022. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the content of this report and approve the alternative refuse collection services for period 1 April 2021-31 March 2022 apply as per Appendix 1 circulated; that opening arrangements for HRC sites during period 1 April 2021 – 31 March 2022 apply as per Appendix 1 circulated, and that notification be provided in the local press and appropriate Council communications, in advance of each Public Holiday, where deemed necessary.

NS/041/2021: SITING OF BEE HIVES ON FORMER COUNCIL LANDFILL AT AUGHNAGUN

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore, re: siting of bee hives on the former Council landfill at Aughnagun. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of this report and recommended Council give permission to the Beekeeping organisation to place 6 hives on the former landfill site at Aughnagun, initially for 1 x year subject to:

- 1. Successful engagement with local residents and on-site gas-extraction partner, to support the placing of beehives on the Aughnagun site.**
- 2. Meeting to be held with Beekeeping Organisation and to seek assurances regarding**
 - access arrangements to site and to hives**
 - location for hives**
 - communications with Local residents**
 - ongoing review**
 - renewal dates/periods**
 - any potential insurance implications**
 - Strict guidance with respect to attendance on site to be adhered to**

FOR NOTING

NS/042/2021: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – 25 FEBRUARY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – 25 February 2021. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/043/2021: Arc21 JC MINUTES – 28 JANUARY 2021

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on 28 January 2021 *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: It was agreed to mark this correspondence noted.

NS/044/2021: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Items 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, and 23 are deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/045/2021: ARC 21 IN COMMITTEE JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2021

Read: Arc 21 In Committee Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 28 January 2021. *(Circulated)*.

NS/046/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROVISION OF HIRE OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS PLANT AND MACHINERY

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for the provision of hire of building maintenance and grounds plant and machinery. *(Circulated)*.

NS/047/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR DEEP CLEANING OF PAVED SURFACES IN PUBLIC REALM AREAS

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for deep cleaning of paved surfaces in public realm areas. *(Circulated)*.

NS/048/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 120L STREET LITTER BINS

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr J McBride re: business case for supply and delivery of 120L street litter bins. *(Circulated)*.

NS/049/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF MEDIUM SIZE CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES (COVER REPORT)

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for the replacement of medium-size chassis cab vehicles. *(Circulated)*.

NS/050/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF 5 X 3,500 – 6,500 MEDIUM SIZED CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES FOR CLEANSING

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for the replacement of 5 X 3,500-6,500 medium sized chassis cab vehicles for Cleansing. *(Circulated)*.

NS/051/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF 10 x 5,000 – 6,5000 kg MEDIUM SIZED CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES FOR FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 – 6,5000 kg medium sized cab vehicles for Facilities Management and Maintenance. *(Circulated)*.

NS/052/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REPLACEMENT OF 5 x 3,500 kg MEDIUM SIZED CHASSIS CAB VEHICLES FOR FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr T Daly re: business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 – 3,5000 kg medium sized cab vehicles for Facilities Management and Maintenance. ***(Circulated)***.

NS/053/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR MISCELLANEOUS SERVICES

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case for appointment of contractor to provide miscellaneous services including: collection of cetaceans, collection of dead animals, collection of illicit dumping, salting of waste facilities, squashing of skip contents and miscellaneous transport. ***(Circulated)***.

NS/054/2021: BUSINESS CASE FOR HRC SMALL SKIP SERVICING

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case for the collection and transport of skips at the Hilltown Household Recycling Centre.. ***(Circulated)***.

NS/055/2021: BUSINESS CASE – SUPPLY OF WHEELED BINS

Read: Report dated 16 March 2021 from Mr L Dinsmore re: business case for supply of wheeled bins. ***(Circulated)***.

Councillor Mason proposed and Councillor Clarke seconded to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:-

NS/045/2021 – Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes – Thursday 28 January 2021

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 28 January 2021.

NS/046/2021 – Business Case for the provision of hire of building maintenance and grounds maintenance plant and machinery

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the business case

presented in Option three which would see the appointment of suitable hire firm(s) to supply ad hoc plant and machinery for the next 12 month period with an option to extend or up to a maximum value of £80,000.

NS/047/2021 – Business Case for deep cleaning of paved surfaces in public realm area

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract for the provision of deep cleaning of public realm areas within the District.**

NS/048/2021 – Business Case for the supply and delivery of 120L street litter bins

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract for the supply and delivery of 120l street litter bins.**

NS/049/2021– Business Cases for the replacement of Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business cases for the replacement of medium-size chasis cab vehicles.**

NS/050/2021 - Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Cleansing (Appendix II)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the business case at Appendix II for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Cleansing.**

NS/051/2021 - Business case for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance (Appendix III)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the business case at Appendix III for the replacement of 10 x 5,000 – 6,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance.**

NS/052/2021 - Business case for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance (Appendix IV)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to approve the business case at Appendix IV for the replacement of 5 x 3,500 Kg Medium-Size Chassis Cab Vehicles for Facilities Management & Maintenance.**

NS/053/2021 - Business Case for Miscellaneous Services

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract for the undertaking of miscellaneous duties including collection of cetaceans, collection of dead animals, collection of Illicit Dumping, salting of facilities, squashing of skip contents and miscellaneous transport.**

NS/054/2021 - Business Case for HRC Small Skip Servicing

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Mason, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case to procure a contract for the collection & transport of skips at the Hilltown Household Recycling Centre (HRC).**

NS/055/2021 - Business Case for the Purchase of Wheeled Bins

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the business case for the supply of wheeled bins.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.45 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Wednesday 7 April 2021.

Signed: **Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee**

Signed: **Mr J McBride
Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)**