

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 17 November 2020 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor T Andrews

Members:

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

Non-Committee Members Councillor P Brown Councillor C Enright

Officials in Attendance: Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

NS/240/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Magennis.

NS/241/2020: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

NS/242/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 20 OCTOBER 2020

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2020. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20 October 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

NS/243/2020: NOTICE OF MOTION – GREEN NEW DEAL STRATEGY

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor Brown, seconded by Councillor Enright:

'The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly demonstrated the importance of our green spaces and a sustainable environment in supporting the health and wellbeing of everyone in society. Council also recognises the role a green economy can have in the post-COVID recovery and building a better economy. Therefore, Council commits to producing a 'Green New Deal' strategy document, outlining how it will transform and protect the local environment including through:

- **Committing to delivering a new Council funded green space/park project in every DEA, and identifying these for inclusion in capital plan by the end of 2021/22 financial year**
- **Installing recycling bins in Council-owned public places where they do not already exist**
- **Develop an allotment strategy for the district, allowing local communities to draw down support to establish allotments in their communities, with the aim of having at least 1 Council supported allotment in each DEA by 2024**
- **Working with local businesses, especially large chains, to trial a campaign of printing customer's licence plates on takeaway bags to discourage littering**
- **Producing a detailed report for how each Council-owned or operated building can become carbon neutral by 2035 and setting a budget to facilitate this starting from 21/22**
- **Stop buying any fossil fuelled vehicles immediately, and start replacing current vehicle inventory with electric and/or hydrogen powered vehicles**
- **Setting a goal of 10% of Council's rates coming from renewable energy developments by 2025, and developing a Taskforce to attract inward investment to meet this target**
- **Setting a goal for each Council owned car park to have at least 5% of their parking bays as charging points for exclusive use by electric/hybrid vehicles. And larger Council-owned car parks to install PV panels providing power for 10 or more spaces**
- **Draw up a detailed Climate Change Emergency Plan, taking into account all these points, reflecting the recommendations of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities Group, and embedding these throughout the Council's new Local Development Plan**
- **A commitment to reflect throughout the new Local Development Plan the importance and impact of the circular/electrified economy, and**

how the Plan will facilitate Council to take advantage of opportunities in this area."

Councillor Brown formally proposed and Councillor Enright seconded the Motion.

In proposing the Motion Councillor Brown emphasised the importance of the Motion and said there was no doubt we were in the midst of climate crisis with global temperatures and emissions continuing to rise and the threat of irreversible environmental destruction likely in many of our lifetimes. He said whilst the bulk of responsibility lay with World Leaders, as individuals and as a Local Authority everyone had a part to play in reducing emissions and building a more sustainable future and tackling the climate emergency.

Councillor Brown said the Council had already led on these issues by declaring a climate emergency and establishing a Climate Change and Sustainability Working Group and supporting the divestment of funds from fossil fuels and supporting a tree planting and bio diversity strategy, but he said more could still be done.

Councillor Brown said COVID had shown the need for green space and a clean environment and the Motion was trying to balance priorities that were linked to climate change concerns with also those linked to the local environment.

Councillor Brown then individually outlined each of the 10 proposals contained in the Motion.

Councillor Enright formally seconded the Motion. He said in his view the Sustainability Committee should be merged with the Strategic Finance Committee as there was not one aspect of the new circular economy that does not raise Council revenue, raise rates or reduce Council costs. He said there were no costs associated with the new circular economy for the Council, only opportunities.

Councillor Enright spoke on the issue of electric vehicles and said on this alone there would be a need to quadruple the amount of electricity within our area, some of which had to be produced here and not have all the rates going to other Councils in Northern Ireland and none coming to this Council. He said there was a clear revenue opportunity for the Council in terms of the number of car parking spaces they had available and the thousands of cars that would need to be charged.

Councillor Enright referred to the impact on ordinary people in Newry, Mourne and Down and said outlined measures that all new houses in England had to have to achieve zero energy. He said Council controlled the development plan, controlled building regulations and there was the opportunity to increase the take home income of every household across the area by massively reducing the expenditure they had to make every week on petrol, diesel, electricity bill and heating bill. He also spoke on the provision of local jobs in the new circular economy.

Councillors Clarke, McKee, Stokes, and McKeivitt spoke on the Motion.

Following the discussion Councillor Clarke proposed and Councillor Owen seconded to amend the Motion and grant approval to Officers to further scope the issues contained within the Notice of Motion and to prepare a report which summarises the status of existing and planned activity in this area. A report to be tabled at a future Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and to also write to the Northern Ireland Executive clarifying what actions are currently being taken and what actions are being planned by the NI Executive in respect of climate change.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed to accept the amendment to the Motion and to grant approval to Officers to further scope the issues contained within the Notice of Motion and to prepare a report which summarises the status of existing and planned activity in this area. A report to be tabled at a future Meeting of the Neighbourhood Services Committee and to also write to the Northern Ireland Executive clarifying what actions are currently being taken and what actions are being planned by the NI Executive in respect of climate change.**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes regarding the above Notice of Motion and outlining the key issues for Council. *(Circulated)*.

Noted: It was noted Committee had unanimously agreed to approve the way forward as outlined above.

NS/244/2020: **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE
EMERGENCY PLAN (OCTOBER 2020-MARCH 2021)**

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J McBride, seeking approval from the Committee to the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan which covered the period from October 2020 to March 2021. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- Councillor Casey said he had received many representations from people who had wanted to purchase double burial plots in Monkshill Cemetery but because of possible excess COVID 19 deaths, they were only able to purchase a single plot with the single slot beside their grave being left empty, to enable them to purchase at a later date. However it was now 6 months down the line and people were looking to erect headstones and to do this they needed to have a double plot. He expressed his concerns that letters were to have been sent out providing clarity on this but that had not been done. In response Mr Scullion said it had been a decision of the Council to implement these procedures during the pandemic and that the second plot would be offered when the

Council agreed to do so. He said letters would be sent out to people this week explaining the situation

- Councillor Stokes referred to the ballot for industrial action and asked if this would have an impact on Council services. In response Mr McBride advised staffing issues were restricted items, considered at the SP&R Committee but the Department had contingency plans for a range of scenarios.

(Councillor Stokes left the meeting)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor McKee it was agreed to approve the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Emergency Business Plan (October 2020- March 2021) with the exception of the current arrangements for the prioritisation and protection of the Council burial service.**

It was agreed officials bring a report to the December Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting on permitting people who have purchased a single cemetery plot, to now purchase the additional adjacent plot to enable them to erect headstones.

It was also agreed that letters of clarification on this issue be sent to all people who had been affected by the procedures in relation to the purchasing of burial plots in Council owned cemeteries during the pandemic.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

NS/245/2020: CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS AND CELEBRATIONS GROUP MEETING – 15 OCTOBER 2020

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Action Sheet from the Council's Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting held on 15 October 2020. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKevitt, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the contents of this report and the Action Sheet of the Christmas Illuminations Group Meeting held on 15 October 2020.**

Noted: Mr Scullion advised he had received a request on behalf of business owners in the English Street area of Downpatrick for the Council to erect some type of Christmas illuminations in the area. He advised officials had visited the area but there were difficulties with this request as the façade of the street was historic and there

were no lamp posts on which to erect features and there was no natural extension of the current scheme. He said officials had considered lighting up the façade of Down Arts Centre which faced into both English Street and Scotch Street but it was currently closed and this was an expensive option with costings in the region of £6k and annual recurring costs of approximately £3k.

AGREED: **It was unanimously agreed that no action be taken on a request to provide Christmas Illuminations in the English Street area of Downpatrick this year but that this matter be referred to the January/February Meeting of the Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting for further discussion and consideration.**

WASTE MANAGMENT

NS/246/2020: REPORT ON FLY TIPPING REVISED SHARED PROTOCOL

Read: Report dated 20 October 2020 from Mr J Parkes, re: revised Fly Tipping Shared Protocol. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Council now sign up to the Fly Tipping Revised Shared Protocol and review after 12 months.**

AGREED: **At the request of Councillor Taylor it was agreed Mr Parkes contact DAERA and ask them to arrange to have a burnt out car removed from Ballymoyer Forest as quickly as possible.**

NS/247/2020: CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR ARRANGEMENTS – REFUSE COLLECTION AND HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes providing an update to the Committee on proposed holiday arrangements. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor McKevitt , it was agreed to note the Christmas and New Year arrangements for refuse collection and household recycling centres.**

AGREED: **At the request of Councillor McKevitt it was agreed Officers prepare a social media message on the proposed holiday**

arrangements so that Councillors could share this information.

FOR NOTING

NS/248/2020: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – OCTOBER 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – October 2020. *(Circulated)*.

NS/249/2020: Arc21 JC MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 2020

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 24 September 2020. *(Circulated)*.

NS/250/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Mason, 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 13-19 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 Murphy, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.

NS/251/2020: HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE (HRC) RESIDUAL WASTE PRICE INCREASE

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Household Recycling Centre Residual Waste price increase. *(Circulated)*.

NS/252/2020: RESIDUAL WASTE PROCESSING CONTRACT

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes, re: Residual Waste Processing Contract. *(Circulated)*.

(Councillor Finnegan and Councillor Murphy left the meeting).

NS/253/2020: BUSINESS CASE – SUPPLY OF SUMMER AND WINTER BEDDING PLANS FOR PUBLIC SPACES 2021 TO 2023

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for the supply of summer and winter bedding plants for public spaces 2021 to 2023.. *(Circulated)*.

NS/254/2020: BUSINESS CASE – REPLACEMENT OF SMALL VEHICLES

Noted: It was noted this item had been removed from the agenda.

NS/255/2020: BUSINESS CASE – RECEIPT/COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND PROCESSING (RECYCLE/RECOVERY) OF PLASTICS CARDBOARD, AND PAPER WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE COUNCIL’S HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRCs)

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Business Case: Receipt/collection, treatment and processing (recycle/recovery) of plastics, cardboard and paper waste deposited at the Council’s Household Recycling Centres. *(Circulated)*.

NS/256/2020: BUSINESS CASE – COLLECTION, TREATMENT AND PROCESSING OF RUBBLE, SOIL AND DIY WASTE DEPOSITED AT THE COUNCIL’S HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES (HRCs)

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Business Case – Collection, Treatment and Processing of rubble, soil and DIY waste deposited at the Council’s HRCs. *(Circulated)*.

NS/257/2020: BUSINESS CASE – MONITORING, REPORTING, SAMPLING AND TESTING SERVICES AT THE COUNCIL’S CLOSED LANDFILL SITES

Read: Report dated 17 November 2020 from Mr J Parkes re: Business Case – Monitoring, reporting, sampling and testing services at the Council’s closed Landfill Sites. *(Circulated)*.

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

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

Item 13 – Report on Household Recycling Waste (HRC) Residual Waste Price Increase

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the price increase for the collection, treatment and processing of HRC residual waste as set out at section 2.1 of the report.**

Item 14 – Report on Residual Waste Processing Contract

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to approve the Heads of Terms of Agreement following mediation for the settlement of the dispute between the two parties in respect of the Council’s residual waste processing contract.**

Item 15 – Business Case – Supply of summer and winter bedding plants for public spaces 2021 to 2023

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the findings of the Business Case presented in that Option three was the preferred option. Option three will see the appointment of a competent supplier of bedding plants who will supply the Council with summer and winter bedding plants over a three-year period with an annual value of £26,000. Savings realised from Option 3 (over Option 2) will be directed toward permanent sustainable landscape improvements – moving to become more sustainable and providing a more permanent year-round display.**

It was also agreed officers write to DfI and ask them to consider making a financial contribution towards costs incurred by Council in planting out DfI owned lands.

Item 16 – Business Cases – Replacement of small vehicles

Noted: **This item was withdrawn from the agenda.**

Item 17 – Business Case – Receipt/collection, treatment and processing (recycle/recovery) of Plastics, Cardboard and Paper Waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract(s) for the receipt / collection, treatment and processing of Plastics, Cardboard and Paper waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).**

Item 18 – Business Case – Collection, treatment and processing of rubble, soil and DIY waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract for the collection, treatment and processing of Rubble, Soil and DIY waste deposited at the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).**

Item 19 – Business Case – monitoring, reporting, sampling and testing services at the Council's closed landfill sites

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a contract for the provision of monitoring, reporting, sampling & testing services at the Council's closed landfill sites.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.40 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 December 2020.

Signed: **Councillor T Andrews**
Deputy Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee

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