

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMC/SC

Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 24 October 2022 at 6.00pm in Downshire Chamber and via Microsoft Teams

In the Chair: Councillor M Savage

In attendance in Chamber: (Councillors)
Councillor T Andrews
Councillor A McMurray

In Attendance via Teams: Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey
Councillor W Clarke
Councillor O Hanlon
Councillor R Howell
Councillor M Larkin
Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis
Councillor O Magennis
Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor H McKee
Councillor R Mulgrew
Councillor D Murphy
Councillor G O'Hare
Councillor K Owen
Councillor M Rice
Councillor D Taylor
Councillor J Trainor

In attendance in Chamber: (Officials)
Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

In Attendance via Teams: Mr M McPeak, DfI Roads
Mr S Duffy, DfI Roads
Mr I Campbell, DfI Roads

SC/24/2021

APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Curran, Devlin, Hanna, McAteer, Sharvin, and Stokes.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr M McPeak, Mr I Campbell and Mr S Duffy from DfI Roads to the meeting, advising there had already been an opportunity for Members to submit queries and attend the recent Clinics to discuss local and less strategic issues. If Members had any unresolved issues they could contact the representatives from DfI Roads after the meeting.

SC/25/2021

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

SC/26/2021

PRESENTATION FROM DFI ROADS – ANNUAL REPORT 2022/2023

The Chairperson then invited the representatives from DfI Roads to make their presentation.

Mr McPeak thanked Members for the opportunity to present the report and thanked Members for their attendance at the recently held Clinics, advising Members that the two section office staff were the first port of call for any queries.

Mr McPeak then proceeded to make his presentation. (copy appended to these minutes)

Following the presentation there was a question and answer session and the following points were raised:

- There was approximately 23,000 pieces of correspondence received a year, with limited resources, staff do their best to respond and response times in general were very good. Traffic team had a backlog in responses at present however there was a lot of background work happening to improve this and the 'report a fault' system was currently being reviewed to include a map associated with reported defects.
- Members took the opportunity to thank the staff at DfI Roads and section office for being very helpful and courteous.
- Ballynahinch Bypass – Members raised concerns at the delay in getting the project shovel-ready and the effect it was having on local businesses and services. Mr McPeak confirmed the Department was committed to the scheme. Progression to construction would very much depend on multi-year budgets going ahead and currently awaiting a decision as to where the scheme fits in priority of funding in future years.
- Doran's Rock – Nothing seems to have changed, why had scheme been paused and was the scheme subject to statutory process.
- Darragh Cross 40mph speed limit - There was standard guidance and criteria regarding where speed limits are applied and at present Darragh Cross still met the 40mph speed limit.
- Coastal Erosion - Councillor Clarke raised concerns especially at the Glen River carpark as there was huge erosion and there was a real danger of the road being washed into the tide if there was a heavy storm. Mr McPeak confirmed the Department was currently engaged with NIEA in undertaking a coastal survey of the whole of Northern

Ireland, it would take a number of years to establish a baseline and monitor this to establish future erosion. Mr Duffy agreed to take a closer look at Glen River and see what the issues were and what was required at the location.

- Resurfacing – No additional resources had been allocated to help with the backlog due to the absence of a contractor, however a contractor had now been appointed. Newry Mourne and Down area had been one of the first areas prioritised to maximise resources to deliver as much as they could this financial year and a lot of prep work had already been done.
- Main Street Saintfield – Aware of the issues and some works had been carried out in recent months, however not considered a priority at present considered medium term project over the next few years.
- Ardglass Road/Edward Street upgrade – Mr McPeak would investigate further what the issues were and revert to Councillor Hanlon.
- Dublin Road, Kilcoo - There was no timeframe at present, however the Department was committed to carrying out a holistic safety review of Kilcoo village and possibly have a combination of restrictions to slow traffic down, Mr McPeak advised he would feedback on a timeframe for this.
- Representatives responded regarding local roads issues raised as follows:
 - Hilltown/Mayobridge/Rostrevor – Large scale patching to be carried out early 2023, gullies issues be addressed in coming weeks.
 - Representatives to come back with an update with regards the Crossgar Island/zebra crossing request.
 - Jolly's entrance Newry – would clarify but didn't think it warranted bollards to be installed.
 - An annual traffic report is available for the public to view, however speeding was a police matter and should be reported on the non-emergency telephone number 101.
 - Mr S Duffy agreed to carry-out an inspection of the Annacloy B2 Road to inspect the road surface as reports of it being slippery when wet.
 - Monaghan Street, Newry – Gullies need inspected as soon as possible after recent heavy rainfall.
 - In response to a query from the Chairperson, representatives advised The Glenn would commence on the 5th November 2022 once final approval had been received regarding the road closure. A letter drop, discussions with residents and press release would then commence.
 - Catherine Street project would be a summer scheme due to warranty period with Firmus and 3 schools in the area would make it difficult to do before then.

The Chairperson thanked the delegation from DfI Roads for their very comprehensive report and continued efforts and engagement over the past year.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.01pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 7 November 2022.

Signed: _____
Chairperson

Chief Executive