

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 8 September 2022 in the Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor S McAleer, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, Kearney, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, Molloy and Quinn*

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD: CSF)
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy and Performance** (AD: ODSP)
Ms McNally, Assistant Director of Finance, Legal, Governance and Transformation** (AD: CSF)
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

Others in Attendance

Councillor Burton***

* Denotes members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.03 pm.

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer acknowledged the news today regarding the passing of the Queen and advised that she would invite members to speak under Chair's Business after housekeeping rules.

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor S McAleer in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

PR154/22 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's YouTube site.

PR155/22 Apologies

Councillor Totten.

PR156/22 Declarations of Interest

The Chair, Councillor S McAleer reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

PR157/22 Chairs Business

The Chair invited members of the DUP to speak.

Councillor McLean thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak and made the following statement to the meeting.

Members it is with great sadness that we have just learnt of the death Her Majesty the Queen. Her Majesty has been a steadfast and unshakeable Head of State for the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth. Her gracious approach has been a constant throughout our lives. In 1952 during her first Christmas broadcast Queen Elizabeth II asked the nation to pray "that God may give me wisdom and strength to carry out the solemn promises I shall be making, and that I may faithfully serve Him and you, all the days of my life. Today we mourn Her Majesty's death, but we do so with tremendous honour for one who served God and her people faithfully. Her Majesty led by example in Northern Ireland and reached out the hand of friendship to help with the reconciliation process. We are duty bound to build on that foundation. Today we pray for the Royal Family as they mourn the passing of a mother, grandmother and great-grand-mother."

I therefore propose that we adjourn the meeting tonight as a mark of respect on the death of Her Majesty the Queen.

The Chair invited members of the UUP to speak.

Councillor McKinney thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak and made the following statement on behalf of the UUP:

Members we have all lost someone which was near and dear to us. On the way to the meeting tonight I just learnt of the passing of Our Majesty. She seen out 15 Prime Ministers in her lifespan and served us all well, it didn't matter what background people came from and maybe sometimes people may not agree. I share the faith of Her Majesty the Queen and the example she had set towards the Christians over her lifespan, which has been one second to none. I just want to give thanks for her life, give thanks for her example and at this time pray for her family when they were so much in the public eye, for today this day of mourning and for the days that lay ahead. I just trust and pray that God will be there to support them and for their protection in these days.

I second Councillor McLean's proposal to adjourn tonight's meeting as a mark of respect and give those time to control their thoughts. For those in the days that lie ahead, there's deep sadness as we mourn the loss of Our Majesty the Queen.

The Chair invited members of the SDLP to speak.

Councillor Kearney thanked the Chair for the opportunity to speak and made the following statement on behalf of the SDLP:

Members on behalf of the SDLP we offer our condolences to the Queen's immediate family firstly. She performed her duties with great resilience and unbroken service and her loss will be profound at both home and abroad.

I would also agree to the adjournment of tonight's meeting.

The Chair advised that she had no problem with adjourning tonight's meeting and sought members' agreement.

Members were all in agreement to adjourn tonight's meeting as a mark of respect on the passing of HM the Queen to be reconvened on a later date and time.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to adjourn tonight's meeting as a mark of respect on the passing of Our Majesty the Queen.

PR158/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.12 pm.

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.