

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 February 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair Councillor Kearney

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, O'Neill, Quinn, Robinson, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C024/20 Apologies

None

C025/20 Declarations of Interest

The Chair Councillor Kearney reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest.

C026/20 Chair's Business

Councillor Kerr advised that Shannon Whitehouse had sadly passed away having suffered from cancer. He advised in her last days she had raised upwards of £60,000 for the Boom Foundation and spoke of her courage in facing her illness and the inspiration she had been to so many quoting her as having said, *"People will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but they won't forget how you make them feel."*

Councillor Doris expressed sympathy to Shannon's family and friends and spoke of her grace and acceptance in the face of such a diagnosis and the inspiration she had been to so many.

Councillor Oneill paid his respects to Shannon stating she had been an amazing girl who had left a legacy of hope to her many young friends. He also commended Shannon, her family and friends for the exceptional amount of money raised for the Boom Foundation stating that many would still contribute.

Councillor M Quinn stated he had not known Shannon until recently but spoke of her story, her acceptance of her diagnosis and courage in her last days and stated in the face of such news he could not have done what she had done. He extended sympathy on behalf of the SDLP.

Councillor Wilson stated he had not known Shannon until she had met with the Members of Development Committee two weeks previous when he witnessed at first hand her bravery and that of her family. He stated that thoughts and prayers were with them at this time.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney spoke of how he had met Shannon two weeks previous together with her family and representatives of the Boom Foundation. He stated she bore her illness with great dignity and may she rest in peace.

Councillor Kerr requested that the Chair send a letter of congratulations to Siobhan Trainor on being elected the first lady as Honorary Chair of Philadelphia GAA. He stated that she had grown up on the same estate as himself in Coalisland and the pride he and others felt of her great success in GAA circles in America where she had served for over 35 years as a player, volunteer and supporter.

Resolved That the Chair, send a letter to commend Siobhan Trainor on being elected first lady Honorary Chair of Philadelphia GAA.

Councillor M Quinn highlighted the recent figures released by Invest NI on investor visits of which Mid Ulster district received one. He highlighted the area was third from the bottom with the other two receiving none. He further stated this was an insult given that the district was the capital of engineering in the north. He requested that the Chair send a letter to Invest NI seeking an update on investment figures for the district.

Councillor Colvin stated that he had been a Director of Tyrone Development 30 years ago and appeared that nothing had changed in that time.

Resolved That Council to write to Invest NI seeking an update on investment figures for the district

Councillor Wilson referred to the presentation made by the Northern and Southern Health Social Care Trusts at the November meeting of Council during which future plans for local service provision had been mentioned. He highlighted that as a representative of Cookstown DEA it was noticeable that little reference was made to current or future efforts towards the provision of GP surgeries and/or the development of a medical hub model. He also referred to previous discussions with GPs and local private provider solutions but highlighted that as a public body the Council were not aware of the current status.

Councillor Wilson stated that Cookstown DEA representatives would be aware of discussions on the provision of an all-encompassing medical service hub located on the existing council offices site incorporating adjoining facilities including doctors surgeries, the adult centre and Westland Care Centre, yet in spite of recent presentations to Council he was not convinced there had been any progress on these opportunities.

Highlighting the resolve at the January Council meeting for the Dungannon DEA Members to meet with the Southern Health Trusts to discuss similar matters he stated that it was also appropriate for a meeting to be sought with the most senior officials within the Northern Health Trust and related bodies to assess progress for future health services for Cookstown and surrounding areas.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That Council to write to Northern Health and Social Services Trust and Health and Social Care Board regarding GP Hub for Cookstown

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to the outbreak of Coronavirus and highlighted that it had been announced that a case had now been identified in the north. He stated that although the Audit Committee was not scheduled to meet until 24 March 2020 Coronavirus should be added to the risk register and proposed that in line with Public Health Agency guidelines Council should use its social media platforms to spread the word to the public on how they might protect themselves.

Resolved That Council

- (i) add Coronavirus risk to Corporate Risk Register;
- (ii) use Social Media platforms to inform public on how to protect themselves

The Chair, Councillor Kearney shared that he had attended the months mind Mass at Mullaghbrack in County Armagh of the late Seamus Mallon. He said he was a man of great integrity who had had a life-long commitment to building peace and whilst society had lost the man his legacy would live on.

Councillor Wilson spoke of the recent death of Mr Harry Gregg who was born in Tobermore had become a great goalkeeper and sporting legend. He further spoke of his courage entering a burning plane rescuing fellow teammates and passengers. He concluded speaking of the Harry Gregg Foundation established in 2015 and how the humble man who never forgot his routes will be missed by family and friends.

Councillor Forde concurred stating that he had contributed much to football and was known as a great hero.

Councillor McKinney concurred with previous speakers stating that those he had rescued from the burning plane had included a baby and a pregnant mother.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney concluded that he was a great athlete and statesman.

The Chair Councillor Kearney proposed that in appreciation of the Air Ambulance NI he would host a gala event to raise funds for the charity. He highlighted that there were many competing charities and of how Councillor Ashton had brought the Air Ambulance NI funding before Council. Speaking of the work of the organisation he highlighted how the air ambulance had been used in the district highlighting examples of its use when a council employee had been injured, at the time of an accident in Dungannon when local men, Malachy Cush and Andrew Trotter had been injured. The Chair, spoke of the crew that included a pilot, doctor and paramedic which was available 365 days a year, 12 hours per day that can reach any part of the province within 34 minutes and how over 50% of tasks resulted from serious road accidents. The Chair stated that it was his hope that many would support this event.

Proposed by Chair, Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor Ashton and

Resolved That the Chair, Councillor Kearney host a Gala Charity Event in aid of Air Ambulance NI

C027/020 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 23 January 2020

Proposed by Councillor S McAleer
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 23 January 2020 (C001/20 – C023/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C028/20 Special Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 30 January 2020

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 (SP006/20 – SP015/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C029/20 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4 February 2020

Councillor McFlynn drew attention to item - PO16/20 LA09/2019/1605/F Installation of play-park with accompanying wet pour, 1.2m high bow top fence and an asphalt concrete path to be installed around the perimeter at lands off Barrack Road and directly adjacent to O'Neill Park, Ballymagaigan for Mid Ulster District Council

Councillor McFlynn advised that Cllr D McPeake and herself had met with residents back in November and sought clarity as to the position of the proposed play park

costing £40,000. She highlighted issues in the area including the position of the park near the boundary wall of housing and lack of parking in the area. She asked if under the power of competence Council could provide car parking, as many could not access their properties. She expressed disappointment in the proposals passed for the position of the play park and highlighted that Council owned the entire piece of ground.

Councillor D McPeake concurred with previous comments and stated that during discussion with the residents, eight parking spaces had been discussed and the play park relocated to another position within the ground mentioned. Councillor D McPeake sought clarity.

Councillor S McPeake stated that in an earlier conversation with the LAG Manager the proposed play park was a successful project.

Declaration of Interest: Councillor S McPeake declared an interest in PO16/20 LA09/2019/1605/F as a representative on LAG.

Councillor S McPeake stated that any discussion should include Property Services officers and the LAG manager.

Councillor McKinney stated that the play park may only be costing £40,000 but it was a lot more than other areas were receiving. He emphasised that the planning application had been approved thus it simply could not be moved unless there was a further planning application and reiterated it was not within the remit of the meeting to simply move the play area.

Councillor Clarke stated it would be appropriate to have the Planning Manager involved in any conversation in relation to the matter.

Resolved That a meeting be held organised with Members and relevant staff to include Head of Technical Services, LAG Manager, Planning Manager regarding the approved location of aforementioned play park.

Councillor Graham drew attention to Eglish Play Park stating that she had met with residents and highlighted the ongoing situation with the play park in relation to flooding, future plans and proposals and a recent press release which residents say was not accurate. Councillor Graham stated she had made contact with Council officers the previous day who were in the process of arranging a meeting but emphasised that the matter was urgent and spoke of her fear of a child running onto the road.

She suggested that Clogher Valley DEA Members be invited to a meeting being progressed to discuss ongoing issues at Eglish Play Park

Councillor Gildernew stated that this had been an ongoing for a long time and stated that the situation regarding flooding was a problem. He emphasised that the issue of flooding needed addressed first and highlighted that there was substantial funding through LAG for play parks, which would be starting in the near future. He stated

that the situation needed to be resolved but that there was many opinions regarding outcomes.

Councillor McAleer stated that any meeting should include all Clogher DEA Members and concurred with Councillor Gildernew that there were many opinions throughout the area regarding the matter. Councillor McAleer stated there was a play strategy for allocation of the money and stressed that all parties should be represented.

Councillor Burton stated that children's safety must be a priority and concurred with previous speakers that there was mixed opinions in the area but that although there had been a period of exceptionally wet weather the matter needed to progress as soon as possible.

Resolved That Clogher Valley DEA Members be invited to meeting being progressed to discuss ongoing issues at Eglish Play Park

Proposed by Councillor Bell
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 February 2020 (P013/20 – P025/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C030/20 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 6 February 2020

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *PR030/20 Corporate Plan 2020-2024 Consultation Outcome* and stated as previously raised by Councillor Wilson, when final documents were being approved they should form part of the Council papers. He stated Members were being asked to approve a document without the final sight of it and not having been at the Policy & Resources Committee would not be aware of the discussion. He further highlighted the resolve which mentioned proposed changes and stated that he would have an issue with the document being adopted.

Councillor Monteith stated the Corporate Plan did not take cognizance of many issues for example no reference to the anti-poverty strategy, the climate change motion presented to Council a few months ago was mentioned but was down the list and although council had to take climate change into account it was not robust enough. Councillor Monteith sought clarity on the resolution detailed in the minute and stated that it was not appropriate for Council to adopt at this point.

Councillor Wilson stated he did raise the matter previously of documents progressing through committees but not included in the Council papers for the final resolution. He also concurred with Councillor Monteith that Council should not be asked to agree document without having full sight.

The Chief Executive stated he had not been present at the Policy and Resources committee when the matter was being discussed but explained that a committee considers a matter and makes a recommendation to the council to adopt. He stated that the recommendation was clear.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the text which detailed that the Director of Business and Communities was to provide an update and that he was not aware if this had happened.

The Head of Democratic Services advised he had presented the report and that it was his understating that although an update was to be provided the meeting had resolved the adoption of the Corporate Plan. He stated Councillor Ashton had raised the issue in relation to providing an update on 'PUL' community engagement within plans.

Councillor Ashton stated she had raised the matter as there had been a strong response from communities and acknowledged that to date no update had been provided as to whether the Council's Good Relations Programme reflected these.

Councillor McLean concurred with the Head of Democratic Services that the recommendation was not subject to the clarity being provided but he had no issue if the matter was referred back to committee.

Councillor Monteith stated that the resolution could be read two ways but emphasised if you were not at the meeting you would have no way of knowing that the two matters were not linked.

Councillor Molloy stated that he was happy for the matter to come back to the Policy and Resources Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That PR030/20 Corporate Plan 2020-2024: Consultation Outcome be referred back to Policy & Resources Committee for further discussion

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Secunder by Councillor Gildernew and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 February (PR026/20 – PR052/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C031/20 Special Council Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2020

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That the Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 10 February 2020 (SC001/20 – SC009/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C032/20 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 11 February 2020

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E036/20 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 January 2020* highlighting issue in relation to the long-term plan for the recycling facility in Coalisland. He stated that a meeting be held with the Torrent DEA Councillors to discuss the issue in more detail as the area did not want to lose the facility.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That a meeting be held to discuss Recycling Centre, Coalisland with Torrent DEA Councillors

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E046/20 Bus Shelter Collaborative Workshop* and advised he had been unable to attend the meeting but had emailed his responses regarding the matter. He stated that a firmer attitude was required to ensure positive outcomes as constituents were contacting Members regularly. Councillor Kerr proposed that each DEA received a monthly progress report regarding bus shelters.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that he had attended the meeting and since then officers had endeavoured to progress the issues with DfI Roads and Translink, and highlighted, the disconnect was not with officers but with other agencies.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney said that was his recollection also and acknowledged there was problems.

Councillor Monteith seconded Councillor Kerr's proposal and stated that he fully accepted there was good work ongoing but it would be good for each DEA to be updated regarding the bus shelters in their area.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that the report should come through the Environment Committee.

Councillor Monteith stated that if this happens going forward it would be acceptable but to date this had not happened.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney asked if Members were happy to progress in good faith that a report would be brought through committee.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed that a report be brought through Environment Committee papers each month.

Councillor McKinney stated that he had attended a meeting at which the DfI and Translink officers had been in attendance but the Education Authority had not attended. He acknowledged that whilst Council staff were working hard to progress some areas were waiting five years to get a bus shelter.

Councillor Monteith stated that he did not mind which way the report was delivered as long as it was on a monthly basis.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

That a monthly report be brought to Environment Committee

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that there were two proposals as undernoted and advised that the meeting discussed had taken place in January.

- (i) to provide a monthly update to DEA Members; or
- (ii) to bring an update to the Environment Committee

Councillor B McGuigan stated that the process should work through the Environment Committee that he could take on board the issues that people have but it would be his view that the officer team should report through the committee.

Councillor Monteith stated there should be an update on each application on a monthly basis but to date this had not happened but he would be happy enough if it come through the Environment Committee.

Councillor Kerr concurred.

Resolved That monthly update on individual bus shelter progress be reported through Environment committee

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 (E026/20 – E062/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C033/20 Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 13 February 2020

Councillor Wilson requested an amendment to the minute at D031/20 Community Development Report. Amendment to minute to read *The Chair, Councillor Wilson declared an interest as Chair of Mid Ulster Pipe Band Association.*

Councillor Burton requested an amendment to the minute at D026/20 Chair's Business. Amendment to minute page two, third paragraph, second sentence to read *"She said that if concerns were raised about overgrown trees and hedges on privately owned property with the DfI Roads they write to them but unless the landowner is willing to co-operate nothing happens"*

Councillor Cuddy drew attention to the minute in relation to the Boom Foundation and acknowledged that Councillor Kerr hoped to bring a notice of motion to highlight

the work of Boom. He stated that everyone had been touched at the meeting when they had met with Shannon and her family and it was important to spread the word and get the message out.

Councillor Wilson concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 13 February 2020 (D024/20 – D044/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C034/20 Conferences, Seminars & Training Report

Approval was sought for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

(i) Member Approvals

- *Lough Neagh Conference – The Way Forward*

Tuesday 10 March 2020 (9.30am-4.30pm) – Lough Neagh Discovery Centre
Travel and subsistence

- *Building the Cross-Border Economy: Post Brexit*

Wednesday 11 March 2020 (9am-1.30pm) – Carrickdale Hotel, Dundalk,

- *The Computer Says No: How ‘Welfare’ Algorithms Punish the Poor*

Wednesday 25 March 2020 (5.30pm) – Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast
Campus, Ulster University, York Street, Belfast
Free travel and subsistence
Councillor Molloy

- *NI Housing Conference*

Thursday 26 March 2020 – Titanic, Belfast
Fee: £195+VAT
Travel and subsistence

- *NILGA – Caring Councils: A Local Government Response to Poverty, Addiction and Improving Mental Health*

Friday 27 March 2020 – Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast
Travel and subsistence

- *Cross Border Tourism Conference 2020 – Be Part of Ireland’s Ancient East Brand Growing Your Visitors – Learning from the Best*

Wednesday 22 April 2020 (8.30 am – 2.00 pm) – Four Seasons Hotel, Carlingford

Fee: €30 plus VAT

Travel and subsistence

- NI Local Partnership on Travellers Issues ‘Pioneering a Brighter Future Together with the Travelling Community’

Thursday 14 May 2020 – Corick House Hotel & Spa, Clogher

Fee: To be confirmed

Councillor D McPeake

(ii) Officer Approvals (retrospective approval)

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee
BCNI Fire Safety Conference	6 February 2020	2	Armagh	Yes
The Future of Local Government – NILGA Conference	20 February 2020	1	Belfast	Yes
NI IOT & Industry 4.0 Expo Conference & Exhibition	27 February 2020	1	Belfast	No

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee
VAT Conference	4 March 2020	1	London	Yes
Climate Change – Our Challenge Conference	12 March 2020	2	Killeavy	No
Lough Neagh Conference	10 March 2020	1	Lough Neagh	No

Proposed by Councillor Oneill

Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

C035/20 Requests for Civic Recognition

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, as detailed within the report at appendix a and appendix b.

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the four recommendations detailed in Appendix A in relation to the Gaelic Life awards advising that the appendix A, as issued was the draft working copy and thus the wrong version had been inadvertently presented and stated that the recommendation should have read that the four Gaelic Life Awards recipients should receive a letter.

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to the recommendation in relation to the Principal at Coagh Primary School and stated that he had achieved at the highest level as there was no overall winner and that it had been a Northern Ireland competition as the criteria stated the person had 'won at the highest level'.

In response, the Head of Democratic services stated that the achievement had been 'Best Principal in County Tyrone' thus the rationale for a letter.

Councillor Glasgow expressed his appreciation for the work that goes into the assessment of nominations but reiterated that the principal had achieved at the highest level of the competition and it was disappointing that it was not recognised.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney said he would visit the school personally to commend the achievement.

Councillor Kerr referred to the four Gaelic Life Award recipients and stated he felt they should receive a civic reception drawing the similarity to Ulster Boxing titles and that the people listed on the team were the top 15 players depicted by Gaelic Life which had a province wide readership. Councillor Kerr asked that the nominations are considered for a civic reception.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that the policy would indicate a letter.

Councillor Monteith reflected on previous nominations and said the precedent had been set when Irish News All Stars received civic awards but Tyrone Team Talk a county event received letters thus Gaelic Life should be award level.

Councillor Doris requested that the names of Councillors N McAleer, O'Neill and herself be added to the undernoted nominations:

- St Joseph's College Donaghmore Ulster Championship, Girls - Under 20;
- St Patrick's College, Dungannon BT Young Scientist group,
- St Patrick's Academy Dungannon, Camogie Cup Final

Councillor McFlynn stated that Council had recently granted civic awards to Ulster College Football All Stars and Gaelic Life awards would be similar.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by councillor McFlynn and

That those recipients of Gaelic Life Awards nominated for civic recognition receive civic reception status.

Councillor Mallaghan sought clarity on the rationale used for the determination. In response the Chair, Councillor Kearney said he did not have the rationale at present.

Councillor Wilson sought clarity that nominations he had submitted were in the system.

Councillor Glasgow sought clarity that the awards in relation to Gaelic Life were provincial awards.

Councillor McLean stated that Council needed to review the policy sooner rather than later stating that he was not familiar with Gaelic football to comment but he would be aware that a school principal nominated would have worked extremely hard yet only received a visit from the Chair of Council. He stated that the policy needed to be reviewed.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney suggested a workshop to discuss.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

That a workshop be organised to review the civic awards arrangements.

Councillor S McPeake stated that the matter had been discussed at a recent outside bodies working group and a Civic Recognition Working group was scheduled to be reconvened in the near future.

Approval was sought to approve reception for the Tyrone Milk Cup as detailed at Appendix B of the report.

Proposed by Councillor Brown
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That an event be hosted to launch the County Tyrone Milk Cup.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn

Resolved That subject to the foregoing, approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report.

C036/20 Mid South West Region Growth Deal

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report seeking approval for the 'final draft' Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West as endorsed by the Governance Steering Group and to provide an update on the forward work plan. The Chief Executive and Director of Business and Communities delivered presentation (appendix one).

During the presentation Councillor N McAleer left the meeting at 8.05pm and returned at 8.06 pm, Councillor Mullen left the meeting at 8.20 pm returning at 8.24 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked the officers for the in-depth presentation and commended the officers of three participating Councils for their ongoing work.

Councillor Mallaghan said he was chairing the process and was excited at the 'once in a generation' opportunity it was presenting. He highlighted that the pillars detailed in the presentation encompassed much which will be taken into the growth deal stating that there was a great appetite for it, businesses were very keen and his only concern was delivery time that businesses 'lips were wet' and they want to know what can be done now.

Councillor Mallaghan said there was an opportunity to make significant changes in the lives of young people enabling them to live, learn and work at home. He alluded to scepticism in relation to local colleges but emphasised that this provided the opportunity to design required courses and be a game changer for the Mid South West Region. He concluded saying the presentation was also being delivered to fellow participating Councils in Fermanagh and Omagh and Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon and proposed that Council grant approval.

Councillor Black commended officers on the presentation stating that their enthusiasm speaks volumes and asked how far the £300m would go to delivering and how much more would be needed.

In response, the Chief Executive stated that the New Decade, New Approach was being fully costed. He stated there would be £163m for Mid South West and Causeway Coast and Glens and that funding would be matched by Stormont and contribution from Councils. He reminded Members of the Director of Business and Communities comments regarding the Shared Prosperity Fund, peace plus consultation which leads to Peace and INTEREG funding which should position Council better. The Chief Executive stated that the proposal and outcomes had to be world class, would take 12-18 months to develop and a number of years before it was all on the ground highlighting that design work on Cookstown bypass was happening now but in all there was much work to be done.

Councillor McLean seconded Councillor Mallaghan's proposal stating that the work of Mid South West was an eye-opener, that work to date had been phenomenal and the appetite for the deal was encouraging. He stated the work was across the three council areas and all parties working to focus on what can potentially be delivered which was not just for tomorrow but many tomorrows. Councillor McLean stated whilst there is enthusiasm and excitement and strengths had been identified he felt it did not sell Mid Ulster well enough but even with the weaknesses identified there was much potential.

Councillor McFlynn left the meeting at 8.41 pm returning at 8.42 pm

Councillor Graham left the meeting at 8.42pm

Councillor Wilson concurred with previous speakers and stated that the whole idea is to get the plans on paper but that the hard work would now commence. He commended the work of the officers and the Members that sit on the team and foresight of the businesses that fed into the process who have high expectations but understand delivery times.

Councillor Doris left the meeting at 8.45 pm

Councillor Monteith commended the opportunity to view the economic strategy of which a large section focused on infrastructure. He spoke of private business input but emphasised there was a large section of the community not spoken or thought of such as people stuck in low paid jobs, rented accommodation with no hope of buying their own home. He stated there was no opportunity for them or older people highlighting that people in their late 50s had often to come out of manual employment and thanks to Stormont austerity the pension age had risen to 67 and maybe 70 when further Stormont endorsed Tory policies come in. Councillor Monteith mentioned childcare and stated that productivity could not be discussed without accessible childcare. He also stated that there was no mention of retail and that the document did not even acknowledge the dangers faced there.

Councillor Doris returned to the meeting at 8.47 pm

Councillor Monteith stated as a socialist he was nervous when big businesses expressed support, he said many parts were good but much had been left unsaid.

Councillor Colvin stated that it was a fantastic piece of work with a very broad approach highlighting opportunities for connections in tourism and infrastructure. Councillor Colvin said projects should be weighted and prioritised and the ongoing works would require focus.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney responded stating that weighting and prioritising would be in action plan stage.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the proposal.

For	36
Against	0
Abstained	3

Proposed by councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That approval be given to:

- 1) The final draft Regional Economic Strategy for the Mid South West as endorsed by the Governance Steering Group.
- 2) Endorse ongoing engagement with Central Government in Whitehall and Stormont regarding the structure and flexibility required in relation

to the profile of the UK Government's investment in a growth deal for the Mid South West Region.

Councillor Bell left the meeting at 8.50 pm

Matters for Information

C037/20 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council as outlined:

- Patron of Ancre Somme Association based at Brownlow House, Lurgan
- Clerk to the Clerking & Member Support - Northern Ireland Assembly
- Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down DC. It was agreed that a letter of support be provided to request for an urgent upgrade of A1 Junction.

Councillor Bell returned to the meeting at 8.51pm

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That Council provide a letter of support be provided to request an urgent upgrade of A1 Junction.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to correspondence received from Ancre Somme Association and proposed that Council through Property Services and Community Development work with communities wishing to be involved in the campaign.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That Council through Property Services and Community Development work with communities wishing to be involved in the campaign

Councillor Mallaghan left the meeting.

Councillor Doris welcomed correspondence regarding the PIP appeals stating that use of Court House accommodation was intimidating for those in attendance.

Councillor Mallaghan returned to the meeting at 8.52 pm

Resolved That Council note the correspondence report.

C038/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster Council District Council

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council for comment.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to the Hate Crime Review Team: Independent Review of legislation for dealing with hate crime in Northern Ireland and proposed that Council respond through Policing & Community Safety Partnership

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That Council respond through Policing and Community Safety Partnership to the Hate Crime Review Team: Independent Review of legislation for dealing with hate crime in Northern Ireland.

Resolved That Council note report on Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

C039/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Brown moved motion undernoted

That this Council recognises the vital contribution that farming makes to our rural economy and that our local agriculture industry is in a state of crisis due to unprecedented low farm-gate prices.

Mid Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved Government and the British Government to invest in Local Farmers by making additional funding available to help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit.

We appreciate the high nutritional value and traceability of our local farm produce and support the calls for an intense and co-ordinated period of product protection and promotion by processors, retailers and the food service industry.

That this Council will take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible”.

Councillor Brown spoke at length on the motion stating,

“Agriculture is one of Northern Ireland’s most important industries. The agri-food industry turns over more than £4.5 billion every year and supports one in eight jobs in the UK, making it a cornerstone of Northern Ireland’s economy and farmers play a key role in this.

Currently, there are over 25,000 farm businesses in Northern Ireland producing the wide variety of raw materials needed by processors and retailers to meet the demands of consumers. According to the Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland results for June 2019 there are 4,144 farms across Mid Ulster: Very Small 3235, Small 454, Medium 221 and Large 234 employing a total of 7,809.

This figure does not include those who are employed in businesses such as Dale Farm, Dunman and Karro Food Group, Cookstown.

Farming in Northern Ireland is not just a job; coming from a farming family, I know and understand it is a way of life and we are extremely proud of our family farming structure. Our rural communities are extremely close knit and farming families are at the heart of our communities.

When you compare Northern Ireland to the other UK regions, and in fact the rest of Europe, we are a region that punches above its weight when it comes to farming. Beef, sheep, and dairy would be the largest commodity sectors in Northern Ireland, but we also have impressive pig, poultry, cereal, fruit, potato, and vegetable sectors.

Many of our local farmers are forward thinking and innovative and are at the forefront of their sectors when it comes to farming practices, technology, supplier relationships and getting their products directly to consumers.

Profitability and market volatility remain the two biggest issues facing farmers. Over the last few years volatility in the prices paid to farmers for their produce has caused significant problems for the industry. Often, farmers see their profits squeezed by other partners in the supply chain and market volatility across sectors has wreaked havoc with farm gate prices.

As the Senior Agriculture Manager from Ulster Bank stated in a recent newspaper article (Farmweek 20th February 2020), and I quote:

“According to DAERA, the ‘Total Income from Farming’ (TIFF) in Northern Ireland fell by 25% from £368 million in 2018 to £290 million in 2019. This isn’t a profit figure but rather the income earned by farmers as a result of their labour and the capital they have invested in their business.

This is a significant drop and if the rest of society had to absorb a 25% hit on their income there would be uproar. The £290 million figure equates to the money received as direct payments under the Common Agricultural Payments. Without this payment, the income figure would be zero.

The wider population rightly demands good quality food, produced to high standards and with minimal damage to the environment. It equally demands that food be cheap, and always available, with little thought given to the long-term sustainability of the primary producer of that food.

The market has not delivered any increase in income in real terms. Farmers will quote today’s milk, beef, grain prices and remember getting the same price / litre of kg of beef 20 or 30 years ago. It is not sustainable for society to expect that farmers provide food at below the cost of production while at the same time meet all necessary commitments needed to manage climate change. If society is serious about the effects of climate change, then they must be concerned

about how food production has become devalued and that farmers cannot sustain an income drop of 25 per cent.”

It would seem obvious perhaps that we would buy local produce, but it isn't always the case, therefore it is more important than ever to champion what our local farmers do and the hard work that goes into producing quality foods. The farming industry is highly regulated, and it is important that we remind consumers that local farmers work to some extremely stringent standards. This gives me confidence that fresh, locally produced produce should remain top of the shopping list. We should be checking for the Red Tractor logo, as products bearing it have been independently inspected to accredited standards and are traceable from farm to pack. Local shops, restaurants, supermarkets and even ourselves here in Mid Ulster District Council have an important role to play in rebuilding consumer confidence in the local farming industry too. By supporting local farmers and the food they produce, it means that the food you eat is grown and produced in your local area, and that the money you spend for that food benefits local farmers and producers.

Whether it be a Leg of Lamb from Lissan, or a Chunky Chicken from Culnady a Porker Pig from Pomeroy, or a Beef Brisket from Ballygawley Whether it be Turnips from Tobermore, or Milk from Megargy, each one plays a vital role in our agricultural processes.

Locally grown food tastes better because it has had less time in transit and/or less time to sit around. Locally grown food is good for the environment, for sustainability and reduces our carbon footprint.

I therefore ask you to support this motion and encourage our Council to take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible in our facilities and to support the Agriculture Minister as he would seek to work with local farmers and the industry regarding Brexit, and to press our Government and the British Government in relation to the future farm subsidies, for our farmers. We as a District have so much to offer to our community when it comes to our agricultural sector”

In conclusion, Councillor Brown proposed the motion.

Councillor Robinson seconded the motion concurring with Councillor Brown's comments and added that it was difficult to encourage young men to enter farming if there was not a viable return. He stated it was a 24/7 job and referring to earlier discussions regarding the air ambulance emphasised that it could be a dangerous one highlighting far safety and making mention of the slurry season commencing if the weather allowed.

Councillor S McPeake proposed an amendment adding the 'Irish' as undernoted.

'Mid-Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved government and the British (and Irish) Government to invest in local farmers by making additional funding available to

help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit.'

Councillor S McPeake in proposing the amendment stated,

"As someone who comes from a farming background myself, I support the ethos of the motion in that I fully understand the importance that farming is and has been for sustaining generations in our rural areas. I do recognise the challenges that farmers currently face in attempting to achieve realistic and sustainable farm gate prices for the top quality produce that they send to market. Farming has now developed into a major industry where the numbers of full-time farmers has dwindled year on year with the size of farming units themselves increasing. No more the small family holding which self produced food for the family table with surplus products sold in the neighbouring market town.

Farming has become significantly mechanised with major financial capital investment into livestock, farm buildings and machinery. Farmers here are producing foods to the very highest standards with quality assurance and traceability levels second to none anywhere within these islands. In what should be a rewarding situation for our farmers achieving these high standards it is in fact turning out into the opposite for them. The market place is becoming more specialised and controlled with fewer buyers who are wielding significantly more 'clout'. The conglomerates of the big processing plants and the major supermarket chains are squeezing farming profit margins. Gone is the day when farmers could leverage the additional costs that they would require simply to keep up with increased output costs in order to turn a sustainable profit.

Whilst the ever increasing input costs of which the farmer has little or no control over, spirals unabated, the farmer doesn't have the means to seek an increase in farm gate price just to break level. The most recent figures that I have seen from DEFRA show that farm incomes have fallen by 24% in the last financial year.

Crucial to the prospects of farmers here being able to trade profitably in the future is securing the marketplace and as wide and varied and as open a marketplace such as they can. A quarter of all the milk that is produced here in the north (approximately 800m litres) is transported to south for processing. Most of the sheep sold from here end up in the south. Approximately half a million pigs are imported from the south each year where most of these end up being processed in Cookstown. Many milk and cereal products have crossed the border many times before ending up in the market place shelves. The levels of interchanging and cross border activities relating to the sale and processing of our food products is huge.

And that is why many, not least those from the farming community have been puzzled in recent years by the position taken by the DUP to strongly advocate for Brexit. Now we have a motion coming from the same party here tonight are seeking the stops to be pulled out now in an effort to save the farming and agri

food industry. I welcome that fact but I fail to understand why a party would be supportive of adding to the present uncertainties of an already stressed sector in cutting off of markets that will inevitably lead to more difficulties being placed upon the agriculture and agriculture-foods sectors that are so vital to our economy here.

To be sustainable the family farm needs all the support that it can get at this time. With the average of farmers here in the north at 59 years of age I welcome the new farmer payment schemes offering incentives for young people to enter into the farming tradition. We need more of that. We need rural communities backing our farmers and using local produce whenever they can. I welcome that aspect within the motion that we as a council sources and promotes local farm produce where we can. In fact this motion to Council that is in front of us tonight is in fact almost identical to the one which was penned by my colleague in Fermanagh/Omagh District Council a few weeks ago. The only difference that I can see in it is that the proposer has (maybe mistakenly) omitted to include the Irish government in that element of the motion that on that night received unanimous all party support. I would respectfully ask the proposer to include the Irish government along with other institutions as the nature of the difficulties that we face is a collective difficulty for the entire sector. The stand taken by the farmers protesting outside the meat plants across the south late last year resonated with many farmers in the north who were being squeezed by the might of those powerful meat plants. The same problems pertain in the north. In the period ahead when we will have no MEP's in the North at the EU negotiating table and with a Brexit trade agreement so crucial for the agriculture and agriculture-food sectors in the island of Ireland it is crucial that the Irish government is there to support the industry across the Island of Ireland given that agricultural processing is organised on an all-Ireland basis."

Councillor S McPeake concluded that Sinn Féin was happy to support the motion with the amendment that we include the Irish Government as a stakeholder within any representations on this issue. He also highlighted that all parties in Fermanagh & Omagh Council had approved the same motion.

Councillor S McAleer left the meeting during the aforementioned proposal at 9.01pm and returned at 9.04 pm

Councillor McFlynn left the meeting during the aforementioned proposal at 9.03 pm returning at 9.05 pm

In response to Councillor McKinney's comment the Chair, stated that he must deal with one amendment at a time.

Councillor Clarke seconded Councillor S McPeake's amendment.

Declaration of Interest - Cllr Clarke indicated a declaration of interest in his capacity as a farmer.

A copy of the amendment was distributed.

Councillors Monteith and Kerr left the meeting at 9.09 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney drew attention to the amendment which added the word Irish into the motion.

Councillor Brown indicated that he would accept the amendment and was aware that the Minister for DEARA had engaged on the matter.

Declaration of Interest - The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared an interest as he had formed part of a delegation that had engaged with the Dublin government on the same matter.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared that the amendment was accepted and now became the substantive motion.

Declaration of Interest - Councillor McKinney declared an interest as a farmer.

Councillor McKinney posed the question in relation to the second paragraph as to which department the money should be taken from to fund the proposal.

Councillor McKinney proposed a further amendment to the second paragraph of the motion as undernoted:

‘Mid Ulster council therefore calls on the devolved government and the British Government to invest in local farmers by making support available to farmers who are producing the primary produce eg beef, lamb, poultry, milk, pork and arable’

Councillor Glasgow seconded the motion concurring with previous speakers on the importance of farming to the economy highlighting trading standard marks such as the ‘Red Tractor’ and ‘British Lion’ and how the standards of Northern Ireland farmers was renowned throughout the world. He further highlighted the importance of the farmers marts in Mid Ulster and that he had previously moved a motion in relation to the milk crisis

A copy of the proposed amendment was tabled.

Councillor Ashton on a point of order asked had the motion not already been carried with Councillor S McPeake’s amendment.

It was clarified that this was now a further amendment.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney sought clarity on the proposed amendment which omitted the last paragraph of the substantive motion.

Councillor Mullen left the meeting at 9.24 pm

Councillor McKinney stated that the last paragraph should remain in the amendment to the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the proposed amendment.

For	5
Against	23
Abstained	2

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the amendment fell

The Chair, Councillor Kearney referred back to substantive motion as amended by Councillor S McPeake and called for a vote.

For	30
Against	0
Abstained	0

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried as undernoted:

“That this Council recognises the vital contribution that farming makes to our rural economy and that our local agricultural industry is in a state of crisis due to the unprecedented low farm gate prices.

Mid-Ulster Council therefore calls on the devolved government and the British and Irish Governments to invest in local farmers by making additional funding available to help them deal with the current financial crisis and the uncertainties created by Brexit.

We appreciate the high nutritional value and traceability of our local farm produce and support the calls for an intense and co-ordinated period of product protection and promotion by processors, retailers and for the food service industry.

That this Council will take a lead by pro-actively promoting and sourcing local farm produce where possible”

Councillor Cuthbertson sought clarity on procedure stating that he had not voted on the second amendment as he had not received a copy of it stressing that this was not the fault of the Officer, as 40 copies had not been lodged prior to the meeting.

Councillors McLean and Buchanan left the meeting at 9.26pm

C040/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Doris speaking on the motion stated,

“As most people in this Council will already be aware, on the 18th December Noel Sweeney was driving home from work and was tragically killed by a fallen branch from a tree. This was a massive shock to the community of Coalisland and surrounding areas. Noel was full of life a real joker and I can never remember seeing him in a bad mood. He was a great community man

volunteering for many charities and coaching Coalisland Athletic Football club. He was not only a coach but a mentor to many and kept many of the young lads out of trouble and on the right path. Three weeks after Noel's tragic accident another tree came down onto the exact same road that Noel was killed on but thankfully it did not hurt or injure anyone. From the second incident occurred, despite her grief Noel's daughter Helen has been tirelessly campaigning to ensure that some other family don't have to suffer the loss that she has had in losing her daddy. While as a Council we have a limited power over removing dangerous trees that are located On private land I believe that we have a responsibility to do what we can to support Helen in her efforts and lobby the executive and relevant departments to do what they can to prevent tragic accidents from taking place in the future."

Councillor Doris concluded by moving the motion as follows,

That this Council acknowledges the important role landowners and TNI play to ensure our roads are safe to travel on. However, on some occasions more can be done to prevent danger to the public. I therefore propose that this council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure requesting that inspections of dangerous trees along roads receive additional resources to prevent tragic incidents

Councillor Oneill seconded the motion commending his fellow Councillor for bringing the matter before Council. He advised that Francie Molloy MP had been in touch with the road service and also noted that more trees had been removed by landowners at their own accord and acknowledged this action stating that it would be a comfort Helen, Sharon, Aaron and the wider Sweeney family.

Councillor Burton concurred that it was an important issue which cannot be emphasised enough and stated that the Minister for Infrastructure should be lobbied to have legislation changed that they are permitted to remove dangerous trees as one life lost is too many. She further highlighted trees in her own area which would be down if it were not for telephone and electric cables supporting them.

Councillor Gildernew concurred stating that he had lobbied for years with regard to the trees aforementioned and if as he had been advised they were within the ownership of Transport NI they should be dealt with.

Councillor Colvin stated that his late father had always said there should not be a tree within 40 foot of the county road. He said the motion was a good one which the UUP would support but there had to be a will to enforce legislation.

Councillor Hughes stated that the SDLP would support the motion and thanked Councillor Doris for bringing it forward. She advised that Councillor Quinn had worked with the Sweeney family since the incident.

Councillor McKinney stated that he too supported the motion and commended local farmers who lifted trees which had fallen on Monday following the snow as Transport NI had been unable to remove them all.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney sought clarity from Councillor Burton as to whether her statement regarding lobbying the Department of Infrastructure was to be considered as an amendment as most appeared to be content with the motion.

Councillor Hughes left the meeting at 9.35 pm

The Chair Councillor Kearney called for a vote on the motion

For	32
Against	0
Abstained	0

C041/20 Notice of Motion

Councillor Wilson moved motion as undernoted –

That this Council writes to Steve Barnett, Assistant Director of Operations at the Royal British Legion (RBL), Johnny Mercer MP Minister for Defence People and Veterans and the Minister for Veterans' Affairs in the Cabinet Office expressing our disappointment at the proposed closure of Bennet House, Portrush. The Council notes the integral support and respite this facility has provided to many residents from our district and calls upon the Ministers to engage with the RBL to ensure a sustainable solution is brought forward to retain this vital service.

Councillor Clarke left the meeting at 9.37 pm

Speaking on the motion Councillor Wilson stated it was not the aim to score political points but highlighted the importance of the service and the vital role played in supporting the service community in Northern Ireland. He referred to many discussions regarding mental health issues and stressed the importance of the vital role Bennett House played in offering respite.

Councillor Glasgow seconded the motion.

Councillor Black said that party colleagues had been in touch with Steve Barnett, had attended protests and engaged with local branches of the Royal British Legion as this was the only service delivery of this nature in Northern Ireland. He said that many continue to bear the scars today of their service especially the families of those who had paid the ultimate sacrifice. Councillor Black said the DUP would support the motion.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that he considered the matter an internal one for the Royal British Legion as there was no requirement for the government to provide funding and thus Sinn Féin would not support the motion.

Councillor Clarke returned to the meeting at 9.39 pm

Councillor McFlynn stated that any society or association that offers respite to residents should be supported.

Councillor Hughes returned to the meeting at 9.40 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote

For 16
Against 17
Abstained 0

The Chair Councillor Kearney stated that the motion falls.

C042/20 Notice of Motion

The Chair, Councillor Kearney advised that Councillor McFlynn would move the motion.

Councillor S McGuigan asked if this was in line with standing orders.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to Standing Order 16.1.

Councillor McFlynn stated the motion should have been submitted in her name.

Councillor Gildernew left the meeting at 9.40 pm

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that it was his understanding that Councillor McFlynn was to move the motion.

Councillor McFlynn moved motion as undernoted.

That this Council welcomes the announcement from the Infrastructure Minister that an additional £3m will be allocated to fixing street lights and filling potholes in our roads; notes the positive impact that fixing these problems will have on the lives of ratepayers; further notes the severe pressure on maintenance budgets; and agrees to write to the Minister for Finance to outline the need for additional resource to tackle these and other pressures that are vital for improving lives across our communities

Councillor McFlynn stated that the motion speaks for itself and took the opportunity to extend thanks to the local staff who do what they can on the ground although they are greatly restricted with lack of budget. The Councillor highlighted that all Members constantly highlighted pot holes and street lights not working and although welcomed the LED lights being installed in the district stated that more funding was needed highlighting the examples of bypasses and water upgrades all to improve the life of people in the district. Councillor McFlynn stressed the need to continue to lobby for funding for Mid Ulster area.

Councillor Hughes seconded the motion. The Councillor advised that daily she had to contact the sub-sections offices of the Department of Infrastructure to be told that currently there was no budget to complete the works but it is hoped the budget deficit will be remedied in the near future.

Councillor Cuthbertson welcomed the investment but stated that across 11 Council areas £3m would not go very far highlighting that just three weeks ago it was reported that over 800 street lights were out, the pot holes were starting to form with the bad weather and whilst he was not criticising the motion much more was needed in relation to road safety measures including dangerous junctions and footpath provision. He stated that DfI had to look down a long list and pick one to complete as that was all they had a budget for.

Councillor Colvin said there was a formidable backlog for street lighting across the Mid Ulster region some of which were outside primary schools which led to health and safety issues. He stated that the money allocated was not adequate and whilst DfI personnel were doing the best job they can £3m would not touch it.

Councillor Glasgow welcomed the motion and stated whilst £3m appeared to be a large sum it was not adequate but was better than nothing. He also referred to discussion at a recent meeting of NILGA at which best value for money should be a determine for new policies in relation to fixing rural roads and highlighted that further investment was required to ensure rural communities are not cut off from big towns. He highlighted that everyone needed to lobby regarding the issue even though the response was the usual script of lack of money. Councillor Glasgow concluded stating that the current Minister had great ambition but the motion was welcome.

Councillor Bell stated that Sinn Féin welcomed the additional funding allocated by the Minister of Finance Conor Murphy for the DfI to address issues of defective roads and street lighting but stated that the local section offices don't see the benefit of it. He emphasised that Council should be seeking clarification on how the DfI would be allocating the funding.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that currently the section office was delivering the best service possible with limited resources but the bottom line was the budget was not there.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote.

For	32
Against	0
Abstained	0

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

The press and public withdrew from the meeting at 9.50 pm

Proposed by Councillor Oneill
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That items (C043/20-C052/20) be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 23 January 2020
- (ii) Special Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 30 January 2020
- (iii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 4 February 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 6 February 2020
- (iv) Special Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 10 February 2020
- (v) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 11 February 2020
- (vi) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 13 February 2020
- (vii) Document for Sealing: Lease of lands situated at Somme Park, Killyman, between NIHE and Mid Ulster District Council
- (viii) Document for Sealing: Licence of a 3G Synthetic Pitch at Aughnacloy College, 23 Carnteel Road, Aughnacloy, between The Education Authority and Mid Ulster District Council
- (iv) Document for Sealing: Lease with the Church of Ireland for Lands at Maghera (Footpath and Walled Garden)

C053/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.52 pm

Chair _____

Date _____