

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 April 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair Councillor Kearney

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell, Brown, Burton, Doris, Graham, Kerr, Mallaghan, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Monteith, Mullen, Quinn and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

Remote Attendance Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C082/20 Apologies - due to COVID 19 Social Distancing Requirements

Councillors Black, Buchanan, Clarke, Colvin, Corey, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Hughes, N McAleer, S McAleer, McFlynn, McKinney, McLean, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Oneill, Robinson and Totten

C083/20 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Kerr declared an interest in Coalisland Na Fianna GFC

Councillor Wilson declared an interest in The Hub, Cookstown

Chair, Councillor Kearney declared an interest in Bann Valley Community Group

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in assisting with procurement in Me, You and Them

C084/020 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked everyone for attending and stated had he hoped them and their families were keeping well in the trying times. The Chair said that society continues to face unprecedented and fundamental challenges as to how we live daily lives, work, shop, exercise and ensure personal safety. He reflected on the sobering COVID 19 bereavement figures of 263 across the North, 14 of which

were in the Mid Ulster area and extended thoughts and prayers to all the families and communities affected.

The Chair stated that it was often in the worst of circumstances that the greatest kindnesses were seen and spoke of the generosity of people helping the most vulnerable in their communities from food deliveries to collecting prescriptions. He also commended fellow Members for the invaluable work they were doing within their own communities and the wider Mid Ulster area. From giving advice in relation to grant aid to struggling businesses and employers to standing up for workers' rights, organising litter picks, PPE provision each one was a great credit to the position of councillor.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney extended his thanks to Council staff who under the direction of senior management were keeping services running, especially the essential ones. He further commended staff who had redeployed to support other key council services and initiatives at this difficult and challenging time. The Chair also spoke of the dedicated staff team receiving the referrals from the COVID 19 help line and stated it could not be underestimated. He highlighted that Minister Harghey for Department of Communities had visited the 'hub' at Cookstown to see first-hand the distribution service in operation. He also extended thanks to the St Vincent de Paul for the supply of thousands of items of PPE including gloves and sanitiser for staff.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney spoke of the accolade for Mid Ulster District Council for having the highest percentage of innovative businesses according to a new table released but highlighted that the predicted drop in the economy would hit hard and thus a bespoke intervention by the Department of the Economy and Invest NI was being sought if the Mid Ulster economy was not to be shredded following the impact of the pandemic. He stated that Council was engaging with local businesses from manufacturing to retail to assist with council demonstrating its need.

In conclusion the Chair stated that the forthcoming weekend was to be the gala fundraising event for the Air Ambulance and that the event had been postponed. He advised that the Air Ambulance itself had had to suspend services for a short time but he was glad that it was now up and running again.

The Chair Councillor Kearney shared some wise words of the acclaimed poet Seamus Heaney

"if we winter this one out, we can summer anywhere."

C085/020 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 26 March 2020

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 26 March 2020 (C054/20 – C065/20 and C081/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C086/20 Council's Governance Arrangements during COVID 19

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report and sought approval to

- (i) Recommence committee meetings in June 2020 as per original dates.
- (ii) The Chief Executive, guided by input from Party Leaders and Independents, informed by the latest advice and guidance on the coronavirus, is delegated authority to determine the format in which June committees, the AGM and the monthly council meeting will be held.

Councillor Monteith stated that whilst he had great faith in Council staff one only needed to watch international news channels to know that virtual/remote connections cause issue on a regular basis. He stated he thought it would be more practical to use a larger room for example Dungannon Leisure Centre which would permit full attendance by Members and thus some would not have to attend virtually to permit social distancing requirements. Councillor Monteith stated that the Chamber in Dungannon would permit full committee attendance.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that it was hoped that from June onwards Council would be back to full capacity.

Councillor Ashton thanked political party leaders and officers for their leadership at this time and drew attention to 3.6 of the report which stated "*remoted access for some members may need to be facilitated in another council building should their home broadband be insufficient for remote access*", and stated that it would be more practical to use a different room in the building the main meeting was taking place.

Councillor Mallaghan stated whilst he understood previous comments some Members are shielding and could not attend a meeting thus there needs to be an opportunity to attend remotely.

Councillor Wilson stated that there are pros and cons to both methods of meeting and sought clarity as to when the legislation would come in.

The Chief Executive advised that the Department had not released a date as other matters were deemed to be a higher priority but stated it could be early May. He stated that rather than wait he had brought the paper to allow some additional options and clarified that regionally the matter was being pushed and that the legislation could be made by negative resolution which would make it simpler for the NI Assembly to implement.

Councillor Monteith stated for clarification that he was not opposed to virtual attendance but felt a bigger room would allow both virtual and maximum physical attendance.

In response to points raised the Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that all opinions and concerns would be noted.

In response to Councillor Burton's query it was confirmed that if home broadband was insufficient for remote access Members would be facilitated in another room or Council building.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Brian McGuigan and

Resolved That approval be granted to

- (i) Recommence committee meetings in June 2020 as per original dates.
- (ii) The Chief Executive, guided by input from Party Leaders and Independents, informed by the latest advice and guidance on the coronavirus, is delegated authority to determine the format in which June committees, the AGM and the monthly council meeting will be held.

Matters for Information

C087/20 Council Services Update Report

The Chief Executive advised that Members had been kept informed of service provision and drew attention to the undernoted:

- **Environment & Property Services**
 - Refuse Collection fully operational and three bin system continues to operate
 - Street cleansing has continued to operate but at a reduced level but in recent days more mechanical sweepers have been operational;
 - Levels of attendance by front line staff is fantastic;
 - Community litter picks have been supported;
 - Fly-tipping is slightly higher than normal but being managed but to date not a major problem;
 - Bulk waste household suspended and recycling centres closed.
 - Cemeteries closed due to NI Assembly regulations which has presented difficulties for some people;
 - Additional works carried out at Forthill cemetery in preparation of an expected surge in deaths which thankfully had not been realised;
 - Vehicle maintenance continuing with some overtime to keep fleet overtime to keep fleet on the road although deliveries on parts was slow but not proving detrimental to services;
 - Grounds maintenance some works being carried out;
 - Building maintenance works being carried out when buildings are closed;
 - Charges on car parks suspended;
- **Public Health & Infrastructure**
 - Building control services continuing to receive applications, site inspections suspended but the construction industry is minimal at present;

- Licensing functions continuing.
- Environmental Health - Advisory work on going concerning practises in some businesses but many was now resolved; Restricted dog control responding as and when required;
- Inspections suspended but planning consultations continuing;
- Capital Projects – the construction industry closed and working ongoing to deal with risk reduction with professional teams.
- Bus shelter work suspended;
- Bio diversity work limited.
- Leisure & Outdoor Recreation
 - Heavily affected by COVID 19 as all indoor centres, outdoor pitches, tennis courts etc closed;
 - Meadowbank still engaged as centre is being used for PPE production;
 - Mid Ulster Sports Arena being used as food distribution centre;
 - Parks majority remain open to pedestrians but closed to vehicles, caravan parks closed.
 - All 102 play areas closed;
- Planning Department
 - Development plan was out to consultations and closing date has had to be extended until public can come in and view the plan;
 - Staff engaged on guidance procedures and some redeployed to development management;
 - Planning applications still being received; it is hoped that delegated planning list will be issued in the near future.
- Corporate Functions
 - Finance functioning as normal beginning to prepare for annual accounts;
 - Procurement limited activity;
 - Marketing and communications services continuing and a lot of work due to COVID 19, some marketing postponed as venues are closed;
 - ICT very busy ensuring people have the ability to work from home;
 - Human Resources team dealing with queries and keeping all on track;
 - Council solicitor working as normal;
 - Democratic Services work as normal together with Freedom of Information, Performance Improvement reduced activity

The Chief Executive concluded paying tribute to all staff for maintaining services at this time.

Councillor Wilson paid tribute to staff especially those engaged on the front line. He stated Council got off to a shaky start with the erection of street signs deemed as essential business. He stated that the issue with cemeteries was out of Council control but hopefully could be rectified in the near future by the NI Assembly and asked how quickly Council could initiate opening.

Councillor Wilson sought clarity on number of staff off shielding and those who were off as it was impossible to carry out their duties suggesting that since Council may not be permitted to furlough staff could they perhaps be used to assist with cemetery openings.

In response the Chief Executive stated that staffing matters are confidential business.

The Chief Executive requested that the Director of Environment and Property who was in attendance virtually respond.

The Director of Environment and Property stated that cemeteries could be opened within 24 hours.

In response to Councillor McNamee's concerns regarding implementing social distancing in cemeteries the Director of Environment and Property stated that he did not think there would be any difficulty.

Councillor McNamee sought an update on opening of recycling centres highlighting news reports earlier in the week on some Councils opening of same.

In response the Chief Executive stated there had been some discussion at the Regional Strategic Waste group.

The Director of Environment and Property stated that the matter had been discussed and the outcome was awaiting Ministerial approval but this had been delayed due to a bereavement.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney expressed condolences to the Minister on the death of his father.

Councillor Kerr stated that he was being contacted by constituents regarding re-opening of recycling centres and highlighted an instance whereby black bags were left at the gate of the recycling centre in Coalisland. He also put on record his thanks to Council staff risking their lives delivering services and for their active work in the community. He sought an update regarding PPE for staff.

In response the Chief Executive stated that staffing matters would be addressed in confidential business.

Councillor Monteith concurred with comments regarding the opening of cemeteries stating that their closure had had a profound impact on mental health. He also stated that the position on recycling centres could be managed through an appointment system as to close them for 6 – 9 months was not feasible.

Councillor Monteith mentioned the social distancing issues in some of the agri food sector and stated whilst most had been sorted there was still some ongoing issues with staff who to adhere to social distancing had been put on a two day week, refused furlough and had their income reduced. Councillor Monteith spoke disparagingly of the Health and Safety Executive for refusing to do inspections, for

companies not permitting trade unions entry to carry out inspections and all the while the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for carrying out inspections in the veterinary sector of the factories. Councillor Monteith stated that things must change Council should be calling on the Health and Safety Executive to commence inspections, time and motions studies should be carried out together with trade union admission for inspections. He concluded that things must now change for the better for the worker!

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked Councillor Monteith for his points and stated they would be raised.

Councillor Burton asked in the instance of companies not collecting recycling waste how long would it take to reach full capacity if recycling centres opened. She highlighted that Council was doing its best and people should comprehend it is not the time to clear out the garage.

Councillor Burton highlighted that smaller shops had social distancing measures and had erected screens, she spoke of the volunteers sewing scrubs and stated as a whole people were trying to do their bit but stressed that it was outrageous that a few were fly tipping speaking of an instance when dead animals had been dumped with no thought for those who had to come behind them and clean up. She stated it was regrettable that one Council had opened a centre raising expectations across the board but stated that if the lockdown continues the situation would need to be managed in relation to capacity.

The Chief Executive stated that if recycling centres were to re-open it would be phased for example those in the main towns first with only waste which can be collected from the kerbside accepted highlighting that the disposal of paints, oil and rubble may be postponed for longer. With regard to, for example, white goods the Chief Executive stated they were large and capacity restrictions may not permit.

Councillor Quinn stated that fly tipping was increasing in the countryside and stressed the need to have recycling centres open as soon as practicable. He spoke of some local businesses not having correct or any PPE and behaving shamefully towards employees who objected to working without it being put on notice or told not to come back and emphasised that Council needed to highlight this behaviour and stressed that profit should not come before health. He concluded praising the local community groups for their outstanding work which included community litter picks and the Council staff for their work.

Councillor Doris referred to earlier comments regarding fly tipping and thanked Council staff for responding to issues but emphasised that the responsibility and blame was that of the flytipper highlighting that it took two men two hours to clear bags dumped at Kettle Lane. She concluded thanking Council staff for their ongoing efforts highlighting that they too had families to think of.

Councillor S McGuigan welcomed the update from the Chief Executive and Members comments. He spoke of the challenging role Members themselves were facing in trying to assist local businesses struggling with application processes for the various grants available. He highlighted that one civil servant had been most supportive in

making his email address available to get verification for applications in relation to the £10k grant. Referencing the £25k grant he stated that many companies appeared to be 'falling through the cracks' and not meeting criteria for the grant. He spoke of the Council's economic reports stating that whilst entrepreneurship had been the success of the area it had now become the 'Achilles heel.' He highlighted whilst the grant process was not Council's responsibility it had a lobbying role and should do all it could to assist. Councillor S McGuigan stated that as soon as permissible capital projects should be progressed to endeavour to inject money into the district. Concluding Councillor S McGuigan concurred with previous remarks made about the Health and Safety Executive and others and advised that it had been stated that "unless there was a fatality in the area they would not inspect at this time."

The Chair, Councillor Kearney spoke of the strength of local economic development and emphasised that resilience now was key.

Councillor Ashton emphasised that there must now be a bespoke economic recovery plan as the area would be hard hit.

Councillor Mallaghan put on record his sincere thanks to all the frontline staff. In relation to workplaces and social distancing issues he stated that this should not be happening six weeks into lockdown and stated it was totally unacceptable that people were being 'sent up the road' for putting their health first.

Councillor Mallaghan sought an update in relation to the Chief Executive's thoughts on how the planning committee would work emphasising that getting planning up and running would play a vital part in rebuilding the economy. He also expressed deep concern that in reopening cemeteries, recycling centres, forest parks etc people may interpret this as getting 'back to normal' and said that deaths had been greatly reduced as people had stayed at home and saved each other. He emphasised that people needed to continue staying at home, handwashing and social distancing for maybe another six weeks stating that health must come first and the economy second.

The Chief Executive addressing comments in relation to recommencing the planning committee stated that it would require additional thought and various processes such as webex conferencing to facilitate objectors and applicant speaking rights would be considered.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated it was 8pm and requested that the meeting rise and show its appreciation to the NHS and care staff.

All applauded

Following the display of appreciation the meeting resumed.

Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor Mallaghan's comments regarding sending out the wrong signals as corona virus had not gone away and stated medical evidence must be adhered to and on behalf of the Ulster Unionist Party appealed to people to do what they are instructed.

Councillor Wilson stated he had received calls from members of the public requesting bin caddy liners as all the shops had sold out. He also asked if the grass cutting bags could be made available. In relation to flytipping he spoke of a man who looked out the window to find someone had thrown five bin bags over his garden wall.

In response to Councillor Wilson's queries regarding the availability of bin caddy liners and grass bags the Director of Environment and Property stated he would investigate implications of making these available to the public.

Resolved That the Director of Environment & Property investigate implications of making small bin caddy liners and grass bags available to the public

C088/20 Business and Communities COVID 19 Update

The Director of Business and Communities drew Members attention to the previous circulated report which outlined the support and ongoing engagement with businesses at this time and outlined the severe pressure businesses were experiencing due to the current crisis. He drew particular attention to the fact that approximately 85% of businesses were not functioning highlighting that in hospitality sector across Northern Ireland out of 9000, 6500 were furloughed and 472 made redundant, construction was halted, retailers other than food outlets was closed. He highlighted that during an intensive engagement process across some businesses to ascertain what recovery would look like retailers in particular spoke of their horror with liquidity and cashflow issues especially if the furlough scheme did not continue beyond June. He further highlighted that within the manufacturing sector international markets were now closed highlighting that some 80-90% of the client base was in America or India. The Director concluded that the Economic Development team were capturing data of a sample base of businesses in order that they can appeal to Invest NI and government departments of the situation and possible recovery plans for Mid Ulster.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney commented that the statistics were sobering.

Councillor Monteith highlighted that local businesses so call support mechanisms had been an unmitigated disaster, the furlough scheme a disaster with no reassurances for businesses and staff. He stated that businesses were being asked to borrow money to pay workers and the government was offering guarantees for the lenders but not the local businesses who were being told to maybe put up their houses as collateral and if they didn't qualify so be it. He also stated that many people had not been paid, they had been furloughed but told by business owners they simply did not have the money to pay them thus many were left on the breadline. He stated it was an absolute disgrace the experiences some people were having and they needed to not only be heard and remembered but things must change. He said that the £10k grant had went to small industrial companies, the £25k was nonsense as companies such as crèches and childcare facilities were not entitled to apply thus again businesses in jeopardy and people on the breadline. He spoke of the self-employed many of whom were not entitled to anything as they had

not been in business long enough. Councillor Monteith stated that the measures implemented had been 'half- baked and badly thought out' and whilst he welcomed bespoke packages for businesses what was there for the worker. He stated that workers' rights must be included in the bespoke packages, zero hour contracts eliminated, sick pay scheme in line with public sector and trade union recognition they should not be supported. He stated that no longer should people be forced to make the decisions 'can I afford to take two weeks off at £95 per week?' Councillor Monteith was emphatic that any business that gets support should have to sign up for trade union recognition and that changes should be change for all.

Councillor Wilson stated he could not disagree with many of Councillor Monteith's comments but said that furlough has worked for many and for some it is an evolving situation. He referred to the £50million set aside by the Treasury for local authorities and asked what Mid Ulster Council share would be especially given the current fall in Council income with business rates frozen for three months.

Councillor Wilson proposed that Council write to the Minister for Finance to ask that rate relief in Northern Ireland be in line with the rest of the United Kingdom.

Councillor Brown supported this proposal.

Councillor Ashton sought clarity regarding the three months rates relief stating that in England the relief was just for some sectors.

Councillor Wilson stated his proposal would be rate relief extended to 12 months for all businesses.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That Council write to the Minister for Finance to request that Northern Ireland rate relief is extended to all businesses for a 12 month period

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Monteith comments in relation to workers' rights and stated that what is normal no longer exists and whilst Council could talk the talk they needed to deliver for workers.

Councillor Ashton in relation to comments about business grants and furloughing acknowledged that whilst more needed to be done the schemes should not be rejected completed.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to item 2.1.6 in the report *Update on Mid Ulster Town & Village Business Spruce Up Scheme* and sought clarity on the rationale for not issuing letters as for example a decorator could continue to work if social distancing was adhered to.

In response the Director of Business and Communities stated that the thinking was in line with the construction industry 'essential works only' but stated that hopefully in the coming weeks schemes would pick up again.

Councillor Mallaghan concurred with most points stating that times were grim for businesses, families and workers and stated he had grave concerns regarding the furlough scheme as Tory governments had told lies, the Prime Minister had missed Cobra meetings and whilst he hoped he was wrong he had deep concerns regarding the construction and manufacturing businesses and he could not trust a Tory government to do the right thing.

Councillor Doris concurred with Councillor Mallaghan's comments and drew attention to corporate events highlighting the civic awards and suggested it would be appropriate to write out to all those nominated to advise Council would not hold receptions and pass their awards on. She also referred to the planned review of the civic award process.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney acknowledged that a lot had to be placed on hold and concurred with the idea of forwarding the award with an accompanying letter.

Councillor Monteith concurred and requested that the letter include the name of the nominating councillor.

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That the Chair forward a letter to include the name of the nominating Councillor(s) together with the award to outstanding civic nominations already agreed by Council

Resolved That Council note the Business and Communities COVID 19 Update report.

Declarations of Interest

Councillor Quinn declared an interest in St Vincent de Paul

Councillor Kearney declared an interest in Bann Valley Community Group

C089/20 Business and Communities COVID 19 Community Support Response

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report which provided an update on community support response as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Councillor Kerr spoke of the need for PPE in care homes and the possibility of Council procuring Gore Tex material for community groups to avail of when sewing scrubs rather than them having to pay additional money because they couldn't bulk buy.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council investigate the most appropriate option of procuring and procure either

- (i) Gore-Tex material in bulk to make available to those in the community making PPE scrubs; or alternatively
- (ii) The procurement of PPE scrubs if more cost effective

Councillor Mallaghan stated whilst there was a lot of fair criticism with regard to handling of many aspects of the current pandemic and issues surrounding it the Department for Communities had reacted quickly and effectively especially in relation to the food parcel scheme highlighting that currently 1000 food parcels had been distributed throughout the district. He highlighted that the local community groups had been exceptional in their response from cooking dinners to sewing scrubs. He stated that it is vitally important that Council funding arrives where it can be flexible should it be small grants for delivering sports coaching on line and also stressed how important it was to have funding in place to reactivate society. He spoke highly of the pure quality of people in Mid Ulster.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Burton declared an interest in Bawn Development Association.

Councillor Burton spoke highly of community activity and the volunteers who were carrying out great work but advised that some people in the Clogher Valley had not received letters yet and many older people didn't want to accept food parcels as they thought perhaps others were worse off.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney highlighted that the Heaney HomePlace was endeavouring to set up home schooling events.

The Director of Business and Communities advised that issues in relation to GP letters and referrals would be addressed in the next report.

Councillor Ashton stated that it would be useful to have committees running again to discuss how projects could go forward and review community response. She also proposed that Council send a letter of appreciation to all community groups who had stepped up to provide services at this time.

Resolved That Council send a letter of appreciation to Community Groups for their work in response to and during the coronavirus outbreak

Resolved That Council note the Business and Communities COVID 19 Community Response report.

C090/20 Update on Mid Ulster District Council Community Support Hub

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation drew attention to the previously circulated report which provided an update on the establishment and operation of Council's community support hub to provide support to vulnerable people in the district during the COVID 19 pandemic.

The Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that Councils own staff and the network of community groups were delivering food parcels and the demand currently was at approximately 90 per day and was increasing and it was possible that in the near future demand would outstrip supply. The Director drew attention to the flow chart of distribution and highlighted that anyone requiring assisting should telephone the number listed in the report.

Councillor Wilson stated that staff was doing an excellent job but there was an issue with the Advice NI Helpline number and spoke of a couple aged 86 and 88 who were shielding and had been told they did not qualify. He said he was aware of others with serious health issues who had not received a letter.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated that she was aware some letters came from the Health and Social Care Trusts whilst others were direct from GPs but stated she was in daily contact with the helpline and the Trusts and would follow up on any issues.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillor Wilson that too many people were 'slipping through the cracks' but he praised the local community speaking of his own area where there was a progressive programme in place to support people and the work of volunteers was tremendous.

Councillor Mallaghan sought clarity in relation to the issue of letters by General Practitioners stating that there appeared to be a lot of inconsistency.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney reflected that the Southern Trust had issued twice as many as the Northern Trust.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation stated she would seek clarification.

Resolved

That Council seek clarification

- (i) From the Northern Health and Social Care Trust and Southern Health and Social Care Trust regarding the GP letters required to qualify for food parcels issued via the Community Support Hub; and
- (ii) From Advice NI regarding people in need who are not meeting specified criteria for food parcels

Councillor Mallaghan referred back to the resolve regarding Gore Tex material and posed the question would it be better to source the actual supplies.

The Director of Business and Communities stated they would identify the best option.

Councillor Monteith stated that some of the volunteers were making pyjamas also as patients on high risk wards had no access to same and the 'scrub teams' were making these also and emphasised it was all about co-ordinating help.

Resolved That Council note the Update on Mid Ulster District Council Community Support Hub report.

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 8.52pm

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

Resolved That items (C091/20-C094/20) be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 26 March 2020
- (ii) COVID 19 Financial Update (Verbal) report
- (iii) Document for sealing: '20 Year Lease for lands situated at Pomeroy Forest between DAERA/Forestry Service NI and Mid Ulster District Council'.
- (iv) Document for sealing: 'Grant of Easement in respect of lands situated at Gortgonis Road, Coalisland between Mid Ulster District Council and Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited'.

C093/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.25 pm

Chair _____

Date _____