

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 February 2017 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair: Councillor Wilson, Chair

Members Present: Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Kearney, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, Molloy, Monteith, Mulligan, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, M Quinn, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson, G Shiels and Totten

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Mr Boomer, Planning Manager
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance

The meeting commenced at 7pm

Suspension of Standing Orders

Resolved That Standing Orders be suspended to discuss First Trust Bank Proposed Branch closures at Cookstown and Magherafelt.

C25/17 First Trust Bank Branch Closures

The Chair, Councillor Wilson advised Members that the First Trust Bank had announced branch closures across Northern Ireland and that within the district Cookstown and Magherafelt branches had been identified for closure. The Chair spoke of the blow this would be to staff employed at the branches, customers and the local economy. He acknowledged that although many people do use online banking, in an area where broadband coverage was poor this was not always possible. The Chair proposed that Council write to the First Trust Bank seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the closures. It was noted that a cross party delegation should attend the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

Resolved That Council seek an urgent meeting with the First Trust Bank to discuss proposed Branch closures.

Councillor Reid suggested that provision of Automated Teller Machines should be a point of discussion.

C26/17 Apologies

Councillors Gillespie, Mallaghan, McPeake, Mullen, J Shiels,

C27/17 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor McGinley declared an interest in agenda item 12 Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition stating he was a member of Loughshore ABC

C28/17 Chair's Business

Councillor Molloy drew attention to the special Development Committee at which the undernoted organisations had delivered presentations on their work within the district.

- (i) Business Development Programme - Cookstown Enterprise Centre;
- (ii) Tender Programme - Global Education (NI) Ltd;
- (iii) Online Programme - We are Digital;
- (iv) Social Enterprise Programme - Workspace Enterprises Ltd;

Highlighting the fantastic economic impact of the business programmes for what had been a relatively modest investment Councillor Molloy requested that Council publicise the successes.

Resolved That a press release be prepared highlighting the success of the aforementioned programmes highlighted at special Development Committee

The Chair, Councillor Wilson declared an interest in the aforementioned programmes

Matters for Decision

C29/17 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Special Council meeting held on Thursday 19 January 2017

Proposed by Councillor Cuddy
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 19 January 2017 (SC1/17 – SC7/17), transacted in "Open Business"

C30/17 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council meeting held on Thursday 26 January 2017

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 January 2017(C1/17 – C14/17 and C24/17), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C31/17 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Special Meeting of Council held on Thursday 13 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Council held on Monday 13 February 2017(SC8/17 – SC14/17 and SC16/17), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C32/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Glasgow
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 7 February 2017 (P014/17 – P020/17 and P026/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C33/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2017

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 9 February 2017 (PR019/17 – PR027/17 and PR036/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C34/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 February 2017

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to E037/17 and requested that it be recorded that the DUP oppose the decision taken with regard to Street Naming and Dual Language outlined in the minute. He emphasised that it was the belief of the party that proper consultation had not been carried out.

Councillor Burton drew attention to E035/17 Grounds Maintenance Awards Submissions 2017/18 and in particular to Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society entry to Communities in Bloom Challenge. The Councillor advised that the website for the competition indicated that the competition pays travel for the judges to attend the area and Council would only have to incur accommodation costs together with the entry fee of £825. The Councillor reminded the meeting of the success Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society had enjoyed at Britain in Bloom when they won gold and that the competition which had never been won by first time winners before. The Councillor emphasised that the Society members were all volunteers and sought clarification as to whether officers had met with members of the society as the closing date for entry to the competition was sooner than what had been reported to committee.

In response the Director of Environment and Property advised that Officers had been asked to prepare a detailed estimate, that the closing date was the 15 March but this could be extended upon request and that he was content to seek an extension in the interim of reporting back detailed cost estimates.

Councillor Burton expressed concern that Council would be seen in a negative light if it did not support the initiative at this stage and emphasised that the group was keen to participate and would seek sponsorship if need be. Councillor Burton proposed that Council pay the entry fee of £825 and the hosting costs for the judges.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that he did not envisage a problem in supporting the matter but stated that costs would be required.

Councillor Glasgow stated that the matter had been discussed at length at committee and that although a tremendous project his concern had been the £7k costs discussed, though if the competition body pays for judges' travel he would be supportive of paying the entry fee.

The Director of Environment and Property reminded Members that officers would follow the resolution of the committee which was only being ratified at the current meeting thus previously could not be acted upon.

Councillor McAleer concurred with Councillor Burton and stated that the date should not be allowed to pass and emphasised the importance of supporting the voluntary group who also shared their expertise with other villages in the district.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That Council pay the entry fee together with judges accommodation costs if required for Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society to participate in Communities in Bloom Challenge.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 February 2017 (E026/17 – E045/17 and E057/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C35/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 February 2017

Councillor Monteith advised he had not attended the Development Committee

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved: That the Minutes and recommendations of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 16 February 2017 (D021/17– D039/17 and D043/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C36/17 Conferences and Seminars

The Head of Democratic Services referred to details of the undernoted conferences and sought approval for the attendance of Members and Council officers outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

- (i) Policy Forum NI, Policy priorities for education in N Ireland: Improving attainment and reducing inequalities Tuesday 4 April 2017, Belfast
- (ii) Officer Approvals

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fees (Yes/No)
Annual Joint SOLACE NI/CCMA Seminar	2 nd March	1	Belfast	No
Conference on Planning Reform	23 rd March	1	Belfast	£210

3 Perspectives on Leaving EU	30 th March 2017	1	Belfast	£220+vat
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- Retrospective Approval

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance
Planning & Development Conference	8 th Feb 2017	1	Belfast	£113+vat

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved: That the attendance of Members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attending Members and officers.

C37/17 Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition

The Chair, Councillor Wilson drew attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for civic recognition requests for those groups and individuals listed in line with council Receptions Policy.

Councillor Reid requested a Chair's reception for the Church League Bowling Club. In response Councillor Wilson stated it would be considered but highlighted that there were a number of outstanding receptions.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Forde and

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition.

C38/17 Response to Planning Appeals Commission consultation – Draft Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans

The Planning Manager drew Members attention to the previously circulated report and draft response to the consultation by the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) on Draft Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans. The Planning Manager sought approval to forward the response to the Planning Appeals Commission.

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That Council forward the response on Draft Procedures for Independent Examination of Local Development Plans.

The Planning Manager left the meeting at 7.17pm

Matters for Information

C39/17 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council

The previously circulated paper on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council was noted.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved: That items C39/17 – C47/17 be taken as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 7.20pm

C48/17 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.20pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____