

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 24 September 2015 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Members Present: Councillor Dillon, Chair

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Ellatar, Forde, Gildernew, Gillespie, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McElDowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, McPeake, Molloy (7.05pm), Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, M Quinn, T Quinn, Robinson, J Shiels, G Shiels, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance: Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Culture & Leisure
Ms Canavan, Lead HR Officer
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mrs Mezza, Head of Marketing Communications
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

C164/15 Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of Councillors Glasgow and Reid,

C165/15 Chairs Business

Acknowledging that to date there is no policy Councillor B McGuigan requested that once in place a civic reception be hosted for European Champion tug of war team from Ballnascreen. Outlining recent successes Councillor B McGuigan made reference to the team's success in United Kingdom Championships whereby they maintained their gold title and now the European Championship. The Chair Councillor Dillon stated that the request would be added to the reception list for consideration and in the meantime that a letter would be forwarded congratulating the team on their achievements.

Councillor Burton requested that a letter of congratulations be forwarded to Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society and also that a civic reception be hosted to acknowledge their achievement in attaining first place in Ulster in Bloom in the small village category. Stating that the group formed in 2005 and had grown from strength to strength Councillor Burton commended their ongoing successes in both the annual Flower Show and continuing success in the Ulster in Bloom competition. Making reference to the outstanding floral displays throughout the village of Castlecaulfield the Councillor commended the leadership of Mr Armstrong and Mrs McKenna and the team work of the whole society.

Councillor Molloy entered the meeting at 7.05pm

The Chair Councillor Dillon stated that once the reception policy criteria was determined that if the request did not meet it she would host a Chair's reception for both Castlecaulfield Horticultural Society and neighbouring Donaghmore Horticultural Society and in the meantime a letter of congratulations would be sent.

Councillor McLean requested that once the reception criteria was approved that both Marcus and Matthew Wenlock be considered for a civic reception for their achievements in drumming championships.

Resolved That the aforementioned be recognised at forthcoming civic reception and letters as requested be forwarded by the Chair.

C166/15 Declarations of Interest

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

Matters for Decision

C167/15 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at Council meeting held on Thursday 27 August 2015

Councillor Clarke requested that item C157.1/15 the support for his motion be amended to undernoted:

Supporting the motion Councillor Clarke stated that in the North of Ireland in 1993 milk production was 1439 million litres, from 4596 holdings whilst in 2013 it was 1979 million litres from 2684 holdings. This represented a 38% increase in production from a region which had been an exporter of from 75% to 85% of its dairy product over that period. Councillor Clarke added that supply and demand makes an impact on producer returns.

Continuing Councillor Clarke stated that the Minister for Agriculture had endeavoured to raise the issues and that there should be a joint approach throughout the Island of Ireland to the common problems experienced in the farming industry where over 50% of milk produced was purchased by companies in both parts of Ireland. Calling for a proactive approach to the difficulties for all sectors of farming throughout Ireland Councillor Clarke emphasised that the structure of farming families at the heart of rural communities would disappear for ever if all producers did not receive a sustainable return.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Clarke

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 27 August 2015 (C148/15 – C157/15 and C163/15), transacted in "Open

Business” having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C168/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee (Development Management) held on Tuesday 1 September 2015.

Proposed by Councillor Robinson
Seconded by Councillor Bell

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee (Development Management) meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2015 (P97/15 – P105/15 and P107/15) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C169/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 September 2015

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 September 2015 (PR121/15 – PR126/15 and PR132/15), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C170/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2015

Councillor Mulligan requested that the date at E144/15 be amended from 7 October until 14 October 2015.

Proposed by Councillor J O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on Thursday 8 September 2015, (E135/15 – E158/15 and E167/15), transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C171/15 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Special Council meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2015

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor J Shiels and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 10 September 2015 (SC6/16 –SC9/15), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C172/15 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2015

Councillor Wilson requested that D150/15 Councillor G Reid be amended to Councillor G Shiels.

D153/15 Councillor Dillon requested that her comment be amended to read: Councillor Dillon requested a paper on 2016 centenary events across the Council area to include Coalisland because of the direct link Coalisland has to the Easter Rising and Dungannon because of its connection to Thomas Clarke.

D155/15 Councillor Dillon advised that there was a playpark in Brackaville and that paragraph four should be amended to read: Councillors Dillon and Reid agreed that a playpark is still badly needed in Brocagh and this should be investigated.

Proposed by Councillor T Quinn
Seconded by Councillor C O'Neill

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2015, (D149/15 – D169/15 and D177/15) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C173/15 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, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

- (i) CIPFA Conference, Northern Ireland
Thursday 8 October, Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick
- (ii) Shaping Place Lives – Place making Symposium for Councils,
Thursday 22 October, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey (invitation extended to Planning Committee Chair and Committee Members)
- (iii) The New General power of Competence, NILGA
Wednesday 28 October, Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown
Thursday 29 October, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon

Councillor S McGuigan to attend event at Cookstown

- (iv) Association of Irish Festival's Events Annual Conference 2015

Friday 6 November and Saturday 7 November, Ballinasloe, Co Galway.

- (v) RICS Planning and Development Conference, NI
Tuesday 3 November, Belfast
- (vi) Infrastructure in Northern Ireland, policy Forum for Northern Ireland
Seminar
Thursday 4 February 2016, Central Belfast

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Gillespie and

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

Matters for Information

C174/15 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council

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

Resolved That the consultations contained within the previously circulated report be noted

C175/15 Consideration of Motions

C175.1/15 Councillor McPeake to move

Councillor McPeake drew attention to the motion undernoted that this Council agrees to:

Review and where appropriate, remedy its provision of defibrillators across its entire public estate to ensure no gaps exist in adequate service provision. This needs to include our leisure facilities, Council offices, Community centres and areas of high public footfall;

Undertake a programme of training for staff who have daily contact with the public in the use of Defibrillators and CPR; and

The Council Chairperson in her civic role being requested to bring together charities and campaign groups working in this field along with local Chamber of Commerce Reps and other key stakeholders to shape an action plan for adequate provision of PAD's (Publically Accessed Defibrillators) in town centre locations alongside provision in shopping centres and highly populated areas.

In moving the motion, Councillor McPeake advised that each year within the North of Ireland 1,400 people suffer an out of hospital cardiac arrest and that the current survival rate for out of hospital cardiac arrest is 7.5% and stated that

research has shown that using a defibrillator in conjunction with administering CPR can increase survival rate to over 70% whilst allowing time for paramedics to arrive on the scene;

In May 2015, all parties in the Assembly supported a motion calling on the Minister for DCAL to conduct a feasibility study to look at the potential for an interactive map based register of defibrillators across all departments, including arms lengths bodies and also called on the Executive to devise a strategy that will see an increase in provision of defibrillators in public buildings and to ensure compatibility with the systems deployed by the Ambulance Service.

Councillor McPeake then described Defibrillators (AED Automated External Defibrillator), their use and highlighted that although training is available a person did not have to be specifically trained to use it.

Acknowledging that Mid-Ulster Council currently deploys AED's in its premises in Cookstown Leisure Centre, Dungannon Leisure Centre, Mid-Ulster Sports Arena, Meadowbank Sports Arena, Moneymore Recreation Centre and Ballyronan Marina Councillor McPeake stated there was still quite a number of sites without them and requested that the deficits be speedily addressed. Councillor McPeake continued stating that whilst the Council AED's were intended for use by Council employees who have been trained and who hold current certification in both the use of AED's and CPR there should however be no prohibitions, in the absence of a trained operator, or any person willing to use the AED in an emergency (this is in accordance with Resuscitation Council Guidelines (UK) Provision of Council owned AED's comes with it responsibilities in order to maintain the safe use of these devices. Councillor McPeake further stated that an up-to-date record of all certified AED responders based at each location and regular checking and maintenance of the devices themselves needed to be maintained together with refresher training.

In addition to the request seeking AED provision and cover within the Council owned estate Councillor McPeake advised that the motion also sought to examine facilitation of AED's in other public areas within the district especially those areas of high footfall. To this end Councillor McPeake requested that Council Officers carry out a scoping exercise on the most advantageous and appropriate places for their location.

Councillor McPeake continued commending the great work being carried out locally within Community and Voluntary organisations, the GAA and further advised that some local businesses provide AED access within their areas of responsibilities. Speaking in regard to the GAA community Councillor McPeake stated that GAA clubs have all got their own AED's and trained up responders and related an instance when he witnessed one in use which assisted in saving the life of a young man. Advising that the Tyrone based Cormac Mc Anallen Trust was created after the sudden death in 2004 of the Tyrone Minor Football Captain and now provides advice and assistance for communities and groups wishing to create responder units themselves Councillor McPeake stated that such responder units had been created in rural areas such as Broughderg, Blackwater and Slaughtneil and when suspected cardiac arrest situations occur locally the volunteers respond to local 999 calls and can almost always appear on the scene and begin administering

resuscitation before the Ambulance arrives. Councillor McPeake commended their work and that of other organisations who are in the process of creating similar responder units.

Concluding Councillor McPeake stated that he was seeking Council through the leadership of the Chairs office to engage with all relevant stakeholders together with local and regional groups to maximise the amount of defibrillators accessible to constituents. Councillor Peake further requested that Council does what it can to increase the provision of defibrillators within its estate and on the streets of the district and this would lead to a safer and better place to live.

Councillor Cuthbertson supported the motion and advised that the local Free Presbyterian Church had obtained a defibrillator through Craigavon Cardiac Care, 18 people had been trained in its use and stated that if the motion was successful Council should also facilitate training for the use of such community based defibrillators.

Councillor Kearney expressed his support for the motion also stating that all buildings which were not private homes had to have a fire extinguisher yet more people die of cardiac arrest and thus a change in legislation should be sought to ensure defibrillators were in buildings also. Councillor Kearney stated that as good practise a register be drawn up of all defibrillators in the district and held within the Councils Emergency Plan.

Councillor Clarke seconded the motion stating that he was a member of a responder group which was formed five years ago, that three defibrillators covered a 40 square mile radius and there were nine trained users. Councillor Clarke emphasised the importance of training, and maintenance especially to ensure batteries were kept charged. Emphasising the importance of a scoping study to establish existing defibrillators and trained users and then ensuring provision where gaps occur could lead to many lives being saved as a minute or even five could make such a difference.

Councillor G Shiels expressed his support relating a story told on a regional radio show which highlighted if an ambulance crew had to choose between two emergencies involving cardiac arrests the one with the defibrillator would be given priority.

Councillor Burton supporting the motion suggested that Council investigate purchasing defibrillators in bulk and in turn selling them at cost to community groups endeavouring to raise money in order to have a defibrillator in the local community.

Councillor Bell left the meeting at 7.30pm

The Chief Executive stated that Officers would investigate this issue as part of the scoping study and bring a report back to Council. The Chief Executive advised that Council defibrillators had been used twice in recent months once in Cookstown Leisure Centre and once in Magherafelt on the Main Street so already Council staff were playing a vital role.

Councillor Bell returned to the meeting at 7.32pm

Responding to comments Councillor McPeake stated that he was heartened by the support the motion had received and whilst it was appropriate for a report to come to Council in ways to help the community it was essential that Council identify and fill the existing gaps across the Council estate. Concluding Councillor McPeake stated that it was a major piece of work but there was no limit to how Council can help provision of defibrillators throughout the District.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor J Shiels
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That items C176/15 to C182/15 be taken as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 7.35pm

C183/15 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.47 pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____