

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 23 November 2016 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair: Councillor Wilson, Chair

Members Present: Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Clarke, Cuthbertson, Doris (7.10pm), Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan (7.21pm), McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McNamee, McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, M Quinn, T Quinn, Reid and Robinson

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Culture and Leisure
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 McNally, Solicitor
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan Head of ICT
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance

The meeting commenced at 7pm

C238/16 Apologies

Councillors Bell, Cuddy, McLean, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, G Shiels, J Shiels and Totten

It was noted that Councillor Burton would be late as she was carrying out a PCSP duty at 7pm.

C239/16 Declarations of Interest

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

C240/16 Chair's Business

None

C241/16 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council meeting held on Thursday 27 October 2016

Councillor Cuthbertson sought an update in relation to item C225.2/16 asking had there been a response to the letter forwarded on 28 October 2016 and stated if not a

reminder should be forwarded. The Councillor also asked if representatives for the Department for Infrastructure extended an apology at the meeting with Members and Officers on 16 November. It was noted that no clarification had been received but Officials at meeting on 16th had been instructed to investigate.

Proposed by Councillor Reid
Seconded by Councillor McNamee

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 27 October 2016 (C213/16 – C225/16 and C237/16), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C242/16 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 October 2016

Councillor Clarke requested that there be an amendment to the minute for I/2014/0399/F Single Wind Turbine at Beltonanean Mountain, Cookstown for Mr Graham Bell. The minute to be amended to read Mr Ross instead of Mr Bell.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 October 2016 (P170/16 and P179/16 and P185/16) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C243/16 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 3 November 2016

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 3 November 2016, (PR194/16 – PR206/16 and PR218/16), transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C244/16 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 November 2016

In response to Councillor McGinley’s enquiry in relation to progress with regard to a meeting with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive to discuss travellers needs the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that a meeting had taken place and a report would be provided at the December Environment Committee.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 November 2016 (E272/16 – E288/16 and E295/16), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

C245/16 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 November 2016

The Director of Culture and Leisure advised that there had been a typographical error in the report entitled Support to Schools/Sports Clubs for the Provision of Sports Facilities for Community Use considered at D243/16 and requested that the following be included in the minute that, “It was noted that the report at Eligibility bullet point six should read within the current financial year.”

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes and recommendations of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 10 November 2016, (D237/16 – D254/16 and D261/16) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C246/16 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. The Officer advised that the fees in association with University of Ulster Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning could be spread over two financial years.

- (i) Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum – energy policy, Renewable futures, Brexit and Sellafield
 - Friday 25 November 2016, Dublin City Hall Council Chamber
- (ii) Digital Government 2016 – transforming the delivery of public services
 - Thursday 8 December 2016 at Titanic Belfast, 8am – 4pm
- (iii) Transformation the Future Agenda (LGSC & LGTG)
 - Thursday 8th and Friday 9th December 2016, La Mon Hotel and Country Club, 41 Gransha Road, Castlereagh, Belfast
- (iv) University of Ulster Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning
 - March 2017 until July 2018

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson 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 or officers

C247/16 Tender for Chamber Discussion System

The Chair, Councillor Wilson stated that agenda item 10 would be considered under confidential business.

C248/16 Response to Proposals on Parliamentary Constituents

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report regarding the draft response to the Boundary Commission's Provisional Proposals report on the 2018 review of Parliamentary constituencies. In particular the Officer drew attention to the fact that the proposed boundary changes would see the Mid Ulster Area split across four constituencies. Approval was sought for the response presented within the report.

Councillor Doris entered the meeting at 7.10pm

The Chief Executive stated that individual parties would most likely submit their own responses and emphasised that the response presented was on behalf of the corporate body. He reiterated the fact that the Mid Ulster constituency would be split in four and expressed concern that the Council area's representation at the Northern Ireland Assembly may suffer as a result. The Chief Executive acknowledged the good work achieved in Mid Ulster and the new district Council area and emphasised that the corporate brand may be lost if the district was 'carved up.'

Councillor Monteith acknowledged that he appreciated the difficulty in getting agreement across all parties but highlighted that it is best exemplified by the carving up of Dungannon town as it would be split into three constituencies and thus three Members of Parliament would be representing one small area and the people would not be well served. He stated that the response should state that the Boundary Commission should retain towns, villages, settlements and hamlets in one area.

Councillor McPeake concurred with Councillor Monteith's remarks and stated that with these included the corporate body response was a good recommendation.

Councillor Cuthberston emphasised that the main concern for his area was the dividing up of Dungannon Town and highlighted Dungannon Regeneration Partnership would be dealing with two MPs and that Dungannon town should be within one constituency.

Councillor M Quinn concurred with previous comments and stating that some of the proposals for constituencies were ridiculous posing the question what did Portadown and Coalisland have in common. The Councillor supported the proposed response.

Councillor Molloy stated that other than in the broader language of Westminster the proposed boundaries would not be successful.

The Chair, Councillor Wilson congratulated the Head of Democratic on the preparation of the response and acknowledged that as Dungannon town was a major concern that Councillor Monteith's comments should be included in the response and as it was the response from Mid Ulster Council, Dungannon town should be mentioned by name.

All Members concurred.

Proposed by Councillor M Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Monteith

Resolved That approval be granted for the response to the Boundary Commission Provisional Proposals Report with the additional comment that towns, villages, hamlets should not be split into different constituencies using the example of Dungannon Town which would have a two way split thus two MP's representing one town.

Matters for Information

C249/16 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District 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

C250/16 Correspondence to Council

The previously circulated paper on correspondence to Council was noted.

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

C251/16 Consideration of Motions

C251.1/16 Councillor McGinley to move

Councillor McGinley made reference to a similar motion moved in March 2015 but since then the Taoiseach had taken the decision not to hold a referendum. The Councillor emphasised that people from the North had looked forward to being allowed to vote in the Presidential elections and read the undernoted motion and requested that Council should write to the Taoiseach to make the point clear;

"This Council supports the call to implement the recommendation by the Constitutional Convention to extend the franchise to include all Irish citizens, regardless of their place of residency, to vote in the next & all future Presidential elections"

Councillor McGinley further stated that when moving the previous motion that Councillor Kearney had requested that President Higgins be invited to the District and stated that regardless of outcome the invitation should be extended once again.

Councillor Wilson stated that the motion should be considered and that the issue of invitation to President Higgins would be followed up separately.

Councillor Mallaghan entered the meeting at 7.21pm

Councillor Molloy seconded the motion emphasising that all should have the right to vote across the Island of Ireland.

Councillor Kearney stated that the SDLP support the call for this especially in the 2018 election. He stated that many families had Members who had to go abroad to work and that one of the fundamental principles of the 'Good Friday Agreement' was that people could be Irish, British or Northern Irish and stated that other nations make it possible for their diaspora to vote. The Councillor reminder Members that former Presidents who had brought transformation had come from Ulster mentioning in particular Mary McAleese whose husband Martin had done much work in softening attitudes. He concluded by stating it was an opportunity to demonstrate that Irish citizens have a President.

Councillor Cuthbertson declared that the DUP would not be supporting the motion. He stated that yet again a 'grand stand' motion had been brought before the Council which had no benefit to the people of Mid Ulster, he emphasised that a letter from Council would have no sway in such a decision and asked what would be debated next month perhaps a 'rerun of the American presidential election.'

Councillor Monteith stated that he welcomed the motion and that people of Mid Ulster had their expectations raised through the convention and that going back to 1998 this is what people had voted for and they should, if they wish to do so, have the opportunity to vote for their President. He stated that Bulgarian people living in the district had had the opportunity to go to Armagh to cast their vote for the President and no objections had been raised. The Councillor reiterated that people may choose not to vote but the decision should be theirs. He concluded by stating he looked forward to the opportunity to vote and emphasised that Council should offer facilities to accommodate the elections which would be a great day for the people.

Councillor Wilson called for a vote on the motion.

For	21
Against	9

The Chair declared the motion moved.

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Gillespie
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That items C252/16- C257/16 be taken as confidential business.

The press left the meeting at 7.30pm

C258/16 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.45pm

CHAIR _____

DATE _____