

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 16 December 2019 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair Councillor Kearney

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuthbertson, Elattar, Forde, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, McLean, 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

Others in Attendance **Deputation: NI Water**

Dr Stephen Blockwell, Head of Investment Management
Mr Grahame Millar, Head of Wastewater Infrastructure Delivery

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C253/19 Apologies

Councillors Bell, Black, Cuddy, Doris, Gildernew, S McGuigan, McKinney and McNamee

C254/19 Declarations of Interest

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

C255/19 Chair's Business

None

C256/19 Deputation: NI Water

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed representatives of Northern Ireland Water, Dr Stephen Blockwell and Mr Grahame Millar to the meeting. Dr Blockwell delivered presentation as detailed at appendix 1.

Councillor M Quinn left the meeting at 7.03pm and returned at 7.13 pm during presentation.

Councillor Mallaghan left the meeting at 7.12pm

At the conclusion of the presentation the Chair, Councillor Kearney referred to the 81 upgrades deferred and sought clarification as to when those in Mid Ulster would be addressed.

Councillor McPeake drew attention to funding figures required of £3.36 billion and the recommended investment of £2.54 billion and asked what the difference was.

In response, Dr Blockwell advised that the figures listed was maximum spend emphasising that to deliver such major projects took a lead in time of approximately 8-10 years and comprehensive studies needed to be in place.

In response to Councillor Glasgow, Dr Blockwell advised that PC15 would finish on 31 March 2021.

Councillor Glasgow referred to a recent presentation by the Chief Executive of NI Water to the Northern Ireland Local Government Association during which challenges in water, waste and drainage had been highlighted. He also made mention of rural areas where water pressures were being turned down due to the age of the pipes and requested that Dr Blockwell report back the need for investment in rural areas.

Dr Blockwell advised that water supply and resilience plans for the west of Northern Ireland was incorporated in the future plan but stated that water gets priority and thus wastewater investment does not receive the same attention.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that at previous meetings NI Water had advised that Belfast is the number one priority but posed the question if there was not sufficient to fund Belfast would Dungannon go up the list.

In response, Dr Blockwell stated that NI Water did not know how much money they would be granted that currently Newry was number one priority, that the Belfast proposed works would benefit five Council areas but emphasised that NI Water had to spend for best value and had only received full funding allocation for three years thus the under investment.

Councillor Burton stated it was disappointing that discussion was curtailed as Council and NI Water did not meet often but requested that the issue of the survey in Clogher Valley could be put forward and sought clarity as to how answers could be sought.

In response, Dr Blockwell requested that the Councillor forward the details to him and highlighted the Elected Member hotline.

Dr Blockwell reminded Members that the presentation referred to the whole of Northern Ireland and requested that they bring the issues back to their political parties.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked Dr Blockwell for his presentation following which he withdrew from the meeting.

Matters for Decision

C257/19 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 28 November 2019

Councillor Kerr drew attention to C238/19 Notice Motion on Health Workers and reminded Members that the Nurses strike would commence on Wednesday 18 Decembers and urged fellow Members to support pickets.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to C227/19 Chair's Business in relation to proposed meeting with Northern Ireland Housing Executive and registered his disappointment that the proposed meeting had yet again been postponed.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to C228/19 Deputation: Northern Health & Social Services Trust and Southern Health & Social Services Trust highlighting discussion on the proposed GP Hub for Dungannon. He stated at a meeting of Dungannon General Medical Services on 5 December 2019 a different message had been communicated and therefore proposed that Council seek a meeting with the Southern Health & Social Services Trust to explore this further.

Councillor Monteith highlighted that a further meeting of the aforementioned group was scheduled for 5 March and stated that perhaps the matter could be on the agenda for that but he would leave it to Council Officers discretion.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson

That Council seek a meeting with appropriate bodies regarding GP Hub Dungannon proposals.

Councillor Colvin stated that the reality was that Mid Ulster was in a pecking order, whilst Dungannon GP Hub is number two and Lisnaskea number one subject to circumstances other areas could take priority. Councillor Colvin said the Council should continue to lobby

Councillor Elattar in referring to earlier discussion regarding the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) advised that as per agreement at November Council meeting she had raised the matter of the postponed meeting with the Chief Executive of the NIHE who had advised he was unaware and would ensure the matter was addressed.

The Chief Executive referring to discussion on the GP Hub stated that the Health & Social Care Board would need to attend any meeting regarding same as they were responsible for GPs.

Councillor Monteith stated all appropriate agencies should be involved.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that either a meeting be sought or alternatively discussion be scheduled for proposed meeting 5 March 2020, as appropriate.

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with SHSST & Health Board regarding proposed GP Hub

Councillor Wilson highlighted that it was not acceptable for public funded bodies not to respond to Council and referenced a meeting with Translink in August 2019 at which Council had lobbied for improved bus services from the District to Antrim Area Hospital and highlighted that no update had been received.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that officers would seek an update.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 28 November 2019 (C225/19 – C252/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C258/19 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 2 December 2019

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to *E295/19 Chair's Business Refuse Collection Route Optimisation* and expressed concern that five weeks from the introduction of the changes there were still problems communication being a major one highlighting, that messages on social media in the evening was insufficient. He stated that people were leaving three bins out each week as they were unaware which bin would be collected. Councillor Glasgow asked why there was no communication.

The Chief Executive stated that in the absence of the Director of Environment and Property he could not provide a detailed update but he was aware that the service in question had fallen short of the usual standard. He stated that changes had previously been implemented on a larger scale with minimal impact and apologised for the difficulties experienced by residents on this occasion. The Chief Executive stated he would ensure the communication issues was investigated.

Councillor Glasgow stated he would appreciate aforementioned and outlined the area from the Drum Road, Cookstown towards Sandholes noting that it was an extensive rural area. He stated that he could take on board there would be teething problems but highlighted that communication was the core problem and that in order for Council to implement change successfully it needed to bring residents with them.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E309/19 Dual Language Signage Requests and speaking in relation to damage to dual language signage stated that such attacks were despicable and appealed to the perpetrators to contribute something useful to the District.

Councillor Burton referred to a NILGA meeting in relation to Consultation on Environment Strategy to Northern Ireland and highlighted that the strategy Council was currently working to was dated 2010.

The Chief Executive advised that Council had submitted a response to the Consultation and he would envisage tenure of the policy would have been a consideration.

Councillor McGinley referred to *E292/19 Deputation – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service GoodSam App* and asked if Restart a Heart initiative could be linked to this.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney advised 'Restart a Heart' day was in October and said it could be explored.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Monday 2 December 2019 (E292/19 – E325/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C259/19 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 3 December 2019

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 3 December 2019 (P143/19 – P156/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C260/19 Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Wednesday 4 December 2019

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Wednesday 4 December 2019 (D211/19 – D229/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C261/19 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 5 December 2019

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 December 2019 (PR213/19 – PR238/19) transacted in

Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C262/19 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

- *NILGA – Councils Driving the Local Economy*

Canal Court Hotel, Newry on 23rd January 2020

Up to eight representatives

Free Event and Travel costs only

(ii) Officer Approvals (retrospective approvals)

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/No)
Planning in Times of Change	6 Nov 2019	1	L/Derry	Yes
Changes & Trends in International VAT	11 Nov 2019	1	London	No (Flights only)

Proposed by Councillor Buchanan

Seconded by Councillor Brown 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.

C263/19 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.

Councillors requested amendments and additions as undernoted:

- Councillor McGinley's name be added to nomination for Katie Rose Lavery

Proposed by Councillor Kerr

Seconded by Councillor Hughes and

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

Matters for Information

C264/19 Correspondence

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

- Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities
- Projects Officer, Muintir Na Mointeach Ltd

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That Council accept the invitation extended by Muíntir Na Mointeach Ltd and a visit be organised for Members to view the facilities.

C265/19 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Councillor McGinley drew attention to consultation undernoted and requested that council respond.

- The Executive Office, (Northern Ireland Assembly), Draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2025.

Resolved That Council respond to Consultation by The Executive Office, (Northern Ireland Assembly), Draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2025.

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 7.54pm

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

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That items (C266/19-C272/19) be taken as confidential business

Matters for Decision

- (i) Audit Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 26 November 2019
- (ii) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 28 November 2019
- (iii) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 2 December 2019
- (iv) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 3 December 2019
- (v) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 4 December 2019

- (vi) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held
5 December 2019

C272/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 7.55 pm

Chair _____

Date _____