

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 24 May 2018
in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

Chair: Councillor Ashton

Members Present: Councillors Bateson, Bell, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, J O'Neill, M Quinn, Reid, Robinson, G Shiels, J Shiels and Wilson

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Ms Anne Marie Campbell, Director of Leisure & Outdoor Rec.
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications
Mr P Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

Others in Attendance: Deputation – Invest NI
Ms Ethna McNamee

The meeting commenced at 7pm

C102/18 Apologies

Councillor Buchanan and Totten

C103/18 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Ashton extended congratulations to staff at Ballyronan Marina on the facility receiving a Green Flag award earlier in the day.

Councillor McGinley drew attention to an incident also reported through the Environment Committee in May where a member of the public had taken a heart attack at a football field in Ardboe. Two members of the public used the defibrillator which Council had provided funding for and the gentleman's life was saved.

Councillor McGinley expressed disappointment in that notices of motion submitted by Councillor M Quinn last month and himself this month both of which were concerning Gaza had been refused. He expressed further disappointment that books of condolence had not been opened in the district.

Councillor McLean proposed that Council forward a letter of congratulations to Reverend William McCrea on his peerage.

Councillor Cuthbertson seconded the proposal.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton called for a vote on the proposal

For	14
Against	22

The Chair, Councillor Ashton declared the proposal defeated.

Councillor McGinley stated that although the proposal as put to Council was defeated that Councillor Ashton as Chair of the Council had the discretion to send a letter and thus it would be her decision on whether or not to progress.

C104/18 Declarations of Interest

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

C105/18 Deputation – Invest NI

The Chair, Councillor Ashton welcomed Ms McNamee, Regional Manager Invest NI Western Office and invited her to make a presentation.

Ms McNamee delivered presentation, detailed at appendix one

The Chair, Councillor Ashton thanked Ms McNamee for the presentation and invited questions from Members.

Councillor Wilson thanked Ms McNamee for the presentation and extended his appreciation for their work in the district. Councillor Wilson asked if a large company indicated a wish to come into Mid Ulster if there was available grounds and also sought clarity as to how many inward investors had been shown around Mid Ulster in the past 12 months.

In response, Ms McNamee stated that most would be familiar with the new business park at Granville but emphasised that industrial land in the area is utilised quickly. She reminded Members that Invest NI and council were engaged in identifying available lands and some had been identified within the private sector. Ms McNamee advised that land in the Mid Ulster area was taken up much quicker than in other areas and that Invest NI had approached the Department of Finance to assist. It was further highlighted that Invest NI and Council had worked jointly in developing lands in Maghera and that it was hoped that Invest NI and Council would find a solution. With regard to the number of inward investors Ms McNamee stated she would seek clarification.

Councillor Mallaghan made reference to manufacturers concerns about Brexit and the exit of foreign nationals from the district, he asked if Invest NI had any plans as to how workforce demands could be met. In response Ms McNamee stated that Invest NI

were part of the skills forum facilitated by Council and stated that a strategic document had been collated as to what measures needed to be addressed. Ms McNamee stated that it was a long term project that the private sector was also involved in, that a collaborative network was considering all options such as automation, training, education in Schools that would play a part in addressing needs and emphasised that Mid Ulster Council was blazing a trail.

Councillor McLean posed a question regarding the private land availability that if a significant amount were to become available was it 'spade ready'. In response Ms McNamee stated made mention of the former brick yard on the Coalisland Road but emphasised that lands were being sourced across the entire district but stated that the conversation with the Department of Finance was at an early stage, that an economic appraisal had been compiled but as yet there was no sign off.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton thanked Ms McNamee for her input.

Ms McNamee left the meeting at 7.17pm

Matters for Decision

C106/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council meeting held on Thursday 26 April 2018

Councillor McLean requested an amendment to minute at C88/18 page 11 paragraph 4 second sentence amend to read "he clarified that his party leader had attended...."

Councillor Molloy drew attention to C83/18 and sought an update with regard to signage containing threatening language towards Councillors and Council staff. In response the Director of Business and Communities advised that there was no conclusive outcome but that officers had relayed Members concerns to the PSNI at a recent Bonfire working group meeting.

Councillor S McGuigan suggested that it was important for Mid Ulster Council to communicate with Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in on the proposed Health Hub as a recent report had indicated Newry had a health hub but there were no doctors to staff it.

Councillor Gildernew made reference to recent damage to signage in the Clogher Valley acknowledging that Council had provided a prompt response and sought confirmation on the costs in relation to same. In response, the Director of Environment and Property advised he did not have a full costing as it was a fluid situation but he would provide costs to the Member.

In response to Councillor Reid's question regarding the meeting in relation to Education the Chair, Councillor Ashton advised that the letter had been forwarded and dates were yet to be confirmed.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 26 April 2018 (C78/18 – C92/18 and C101/18) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C107/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1

Councillor Cuddy drew attention to LA09/2018/0124/F *Change of use from ground floor retail to amusement arcade at 21 Irish Street, Dungannon* and expressed disappointment at the application being passed referring to the legacy Council who had objected to the granting of similar planning permission in the vicinity and stated that although he was not hopeful he hoped licensing would encourage wider debate.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 May 2018 (P065/18 – P069/18 and P074/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C108/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources meeting held on Thursday 3 May 2018

Councillor Ashton requested an amendment to the minute at PR100/18 page 2 last paragraph to read, “Leisure centre staff would lock up the offices up until 10pm”

Councillor S McGuigan requested an amendment to the minute at PR108/18 seconder to be amended to read Cllr S McGuigan.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to PR097/18 Council and Committee Meeting schedule 2018-2019 and suggested that further to discussion at the Audit Committee that meetings of same be brought forward by a week to allow minutes to be ratified by Council in the same month and not a month later. He made mention of the conversation in relation to the September meeting which was held later to accommodate amendments to the accounts.

In response the Chair, Councillor Ashton stated that the rest of the schedule could be approved and the audit dates reviewed.

Councillor McGinley concurred with Councillor Monteith.

Councillor S McGuigan sought an update on GDPR and the need for Councillors to register. He advised that even following training there was contradictions on advice proffered that the deadline date was the 25 May and many Councillors did not know how to deal with it.

In response the Chief Executive advised that at officer level considerable time and effort had been spent preparing to fulfil Councils obligations under GDPR and confirmed Council was well placed. In relation to Councillors personal registration he advised that it was hoped to get further information out to Members. The Chief Executive assured Members that complete knowledge and understanding of GDPR would take time and whilst he appreciated doubts in relation to registration for Members he assured Members that officers were seeking clarity.

Councillor S McGuigan reflected that some emails received you had to 'opt in' to stay in contact whilst others you had to 'opt out' to be removed and that he was awaiting further advise to be issued.

Councillor Wilson stated he had attended the training and had flagged up at the Audit Committee on 22 May that the Council Solicitor had given an undertaking that she would issue a brief synopsis regarding the issue by the 25 May.

Councillor Wilson also sought clarity in relation to PR100/18 in that a room could only be hired in for example the Leisure Centre if the Council offices was unavailable.

In response, the Head of Democratic Services stated that yes if a room was unavailable in the main Council buildings Members could avail of a room in another Council building for example the leisure centre within their stated opening hours.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 May 2018 (PR094/18 – PR111/18 and PR120/18) transacted in "Open Business" having been printed and circulated and subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C109/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 May 2018

Drawing attention to E135/18 Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had asked in January for Tamnamore roundabout to be included in gateway maintenance as it was a strategic location for those travelling in from the East of the province and stressed the importance of the junction which had 75 businesses situated within a mile radius. He made mention of the proposed race track for Coalisland and stated that if the anticipated people arrived the roundabout was in a poor condition. The Councillor highlighted that the March report brought to committee had not mentioned Tamnamore roundabout.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McLean

That Tamnamore roundabout be included in the gateway roundabout for maintenance.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that people were complaining about the condition of Ballygawley roundabout which although not it their ownership Council should be able to look at the situation.

Councillor Burton concurred with Councillor S McGuigan regarding Ballygawley roundabout and also highlighted the Eglish roundabout had been in a horrendous condition last year and motorists' vision had been blocked. The Councillor stressed that these roundabouts leading into the Clogher Valley really needed improved prior to the Clogher Valley show.

Councillor McPeake proposed that a paper be brought to the Environment Committee regarding roundabout maintenance as he would have concerns agreeing one without considering all.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake
Seconded by Councillor McGinley

That a paper be brought to Environment Committee regarding roundabout maintenance.

Councillor McAleer asked if the sponsorship of roundabouts project scheduled to close on 29 May could be extended.

In response the Director of Environment and Property stated that the aforementioned project only included those roundabouts listed for maintenance and that Council would need to review the standards agreed in 2016.

Councillor Reid concurred with Councillor McAleer regarding the sponsorship project.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton put Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal to vote

For	8
Against	17
Abstained	12

The Chair, Councillor Ashton declared the proposal defeated.

Councillor McGinley expressed concern highlighting that he was not voting against Tamnamore being included as a gateway roundabout and emphasised that he would like to see a paper brought to committee.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton put Councillor McPeake's proposal to the vote

For	28
Against	0
Abstained	9

The Chair, Councillor Ashton stated the proposal was carried.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had requested a report in January and had thus been put off for three months and stressed that the report needed to be brought to committee as a matter of urgency not in September when grass would be knee high.

Councillor McGinley drew attention to E136/18 Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission Report – “Out of Sight, Out of Mind: Travellers Accommodation in Northern Ireland” and sought clarification if Councillor Bateson could sit on the Local Traveller Partnership being a non-Member of the Environment Committee.

Councillor Cuthbertson left the meeting at 7.40pm

In response the Chief Executive advised that the committee had made a recommendation and that it was for Council to decide if it was approved. He further advised that it was preferable if the Member sitting on an outside body whose work was linked to a particular committee was a member of it but stated it was not an absolute requirement.

Councillor Wilson drew attention to E137/18 Mid Ulster Bonfires – Draft Policy and referring to the consultation commencing 4 June asked who makes the decision on questions to be asked and the wording of same.

In response the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that Officers would compile questions which would be circulated to the bonfire working group and reaffirmed at Committee.

Councillor Wilson questioned timings giving that the Environment Committee minutes of June would not be ratified until 28 June.

In response the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated he would take direction from Council.

Councillor Cuddy referred to the Bonfire working group meeting which had taken place the previous day and mentioned the £50k allocated to clean up bonfires. The Councillor also stated that it was interesting to engage with the Fire and Rescue and the PSNI. He highlighted the strong links being developed with the agencies and the community but reflected that even though the community services team were strong they could not build relationships due to the policy and lack of resolution.

Councillor Cuthbertson returned to the meeting at 7.45pm

Councillor Cuddy emphasised that the working group was an advisory one and expressed concern that if Councillor Wilson had not highlighted the consultation this would have been pushed through.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that Council had already adopted the policy and that the consultation period and timeframe had been previously agreed. He stated that there was ample time for parties to respond back with regard to questions and the consultation period would be over 13 weeks including holidays and stated that the current discussion was a stalling technique and that the process was robust.

Councillor Wilson stated it was not the policy he was questioning, although he had voted against it, his concern was the questions and that it was his opinion that the corporate body should be making the decisions not a working group. Councillor Wilson emphasised that there was a difference between draft policy and consultation and noted that the time frame is beyond the 11th night celebrations.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy

That the consultation be postponed to allow questions to be approved by Council.

Councillor Cuddy expressed concern regarding the PSNI responses to the draft policy and said it was creating major issues. He stated that it would have been beneficial for all Members to have heard discussion at the working group.

Councillor B McGuigan sought clarity as to who had approved questions in terms of previous consultations and had they been approved by Council.

Councillor McLean also sought clarity as to the process regarding consultations.

In response the Chief Executive stated that officers usually compile the questions but that officers would be guided by Council.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McPeake

That the consultation proceed as recommended by Environment Committee.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that at the Environment Committee he had proposed that the consultation would not commence until after the July public holidays similar to what had previously taken place with the public realm consultation. He also expressed disappointment that there was not an officer engaged on the ground and that in speaking with the PSNI and the NIHE he was aware that they had not been previously consulted.

Councillor McNamee asked did Council approve the questions in relation to the car parking consultation.

Councillor McFlynn stated that she had been in attendance at the Bonfire working group at which it had been decided that officers would furnish the parties with the questions giving an opportunity for comment.

Councillor McGinley stated that the Chief Executive had clarified that questions do not generally come back to full Council and thus the matter should be progressed.

Councillor Wilson stated he agreed with the consultation process and commented that no issue had divided Council as much as the draft policy which was ruling out freedom

of gathering in public places even affecting religious groups using parks for open air services.

Councillor Wilson reiterated his proposal.

The Chair Councillor Ashton called for a vote on Councillor Wilson's proposal

For	14
Against	21
Abstained	2

The Chair, Councillor Ashton stated that the proposal was lost.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 May 2018 (E133/18 – E161/18 and E169/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C110/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee held on Thursday 10 May 2018

Councillor Burton drew attention to D093/18 Tourism Services Improvement Plan 2018-2019 and requested that the hotels within the Clogher Valley be covered and promoted as part of the plan, emphasising that sometimes Council guests stay outside of the District yet the hoteliers are members of the Tourism Forum and Council should be promoting what is within the district.

Councillor Burton also highlighted that businesses within the Clogher Valley had contacted her with regard to a ‘serge of electricity’ which had caused the ATM service to fail and it could not be fixed until 29 May. The Councillor emphasised that this was not a good service for locals or tourists to the area. She also referred to a problem with the transformer in Irish Street and problems with electricity supply in Augher. Councillor Burton requested that Council write to the NIE to seek clarity as to what is happening.

In response the Chair, Councillor Ashton stated that the Town Centre Manager would be in contact with NIE and would liaise with the Member.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved: That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 10 May 2018 (D087/18 – D110/18 and D114/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

C111/18 Conferences, Seminars & Training

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval 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

- **Northern Ireland Infrastructure Investment Conference 2018 at the Baby Grand, Belfast** – 8.30am – 1.15pm on Wednesday 13th June 2018 - Delegate fee £195£234 plus travel and subsistence
- **2018 NILGA Annual Conference, Exhibition and Gala Awards Dinner Theme Building Sustainable Communities, Delivering a Better Northern Ireland for Everyone** – Thursday 11th October 2018, Armagh City Hotel. Member council conference rate of only £75, conference & local government awards £125 plus travel and subsistence.

(ii) Officer Approvals

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee
UK & Ireland Lakes Conference 2018	22/05/18	1	SHHP	Yes
Jaipur Literature Festival	10/06/18	1	British Library London	Yes

Councillor Wilson proposed Councillor Glasgow to attend NILGA Conference

Councillor Forde proposed Councillor Burton to attend NILGA Conference

Proposed by McFlynn

Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan 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.

C112/18 Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition

The Head of Democratic Services reminded Members of the revised policy, referred Members to the previously circulated report and sought approval for requests for civic recognition from Members, in line with revised policy.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton reflected on a comment made at last month's meeting regarding civic receptions and stated that they were now fairly up to date.

In response to Councillor Wilson's query on the categorisation of Tullylagan Drum Corp the Head of Democratic Services stated it was a matter for Council to decide but the recommendation on same was provided within the spirit of the policy as the achievement listed had been attained in the previous season hence was listed for a letter rather than reception.

Councillor Mullen left the meeting at 8.00pm

Councillor Wilson stated that he appreciated that it was a late request but that the Drum Corp were 2017 World Champions.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan

That Tullylagan Drum Corp be included in the 'civic reception' category.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton called for a vote

For	35
Against	0
Abstained	1

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

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

C113/18 Draft Consultation Response to the Proposed Framework for Future Provision for Children in the Early Years with Special Educational Needs

The Head of Democratic Services drew attention to the previously circulated report to inform Elected Members of the draft consultation response developed on behalf of Mid Ulster District Council in response to the Education Authority Consultation; Proposed Framework for Future Provision for Children in the Early Years with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to remarks he had made at the previous meeting detailed at C89/18 *"that the Pathway fund regarding early years runs over a typical financial year whilst the school year runs from September to June and thus caused budgeting difficulties."* The Councillor requested that they be included in the response.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved: That subject to the foregoing being included the Council approve the draft response to Early Years Special Educational Needs consultation being undertaken by the Education Authority.

C114/18 Mid Ulster Community Plan

The Director of Business and Communities drew attention to the previously circulated report regarding the proposed Mid Ulster Community Plan – Short Term Delivery Plan and sought approval for the adoption of the Plan.

Councillor G Shiels spoke in relation to the production of the community plan stating that from the commencement Council was raising expectations, that the consultation process had been supermarkets for aspirations and that in reality that is as far as many of the suggested objectives would go. Highlighting the Health and Wellbeing section of the plan he asked if the Trusts were allocating funding or was Council to use rate payers' money. In conclusion he asked what the prognosis was for the long term community plan and reiterated earlier comments that it was raising expectations.

Councillor S McGuigan concurred with some concerns expressed by Councillor G Shiels. He further commented that the report made no mention of Brexit and mentioning the risk register sought a report in terms of what the impact of Brexit would be on the community plan and how it could be dealt with, highlighting that although Council may not have the direct power in some circumstances they could influence.

In response, the Director of Business and Communities stated that a report would be brought with regard to aforementioned.

Councillor Cuddy highlighted the Dungannon bypass feasibility study listed in the report and sought clarity with regard to time scales stating that the Dungannon DEA Councillors had not heard mention of it.

In response the Director of Business and Communities stated that it was an aspiration of the thematic working group.

Councillor Wilson asked if the short term community plan would be led by Council as a number of agencies were involved yet still the Health Trusts commitment was very poor although a meeting had been requested with them.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that the proposed plan had been brought back to the community plan meeting and had engaged in a process as to labour for across the five themes. He advised that some agencies had stepped up to take a lead. He referred to Councillor G Shiels comments but stated it was a Mid Ulster Community Plan and Council had to take ownership and hold all agencies to account.

Councillor McPeake referred to the health thematic working group and stated that he thought the Trust had emphasised that it was the aim that there would be an even spread of labour.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to previous remarks regarding the consultation process and emphasised that it had been made clear to participants that Council wanted to hear views but promises had not been made. He remarked that the community plan process was new to the island and that it would take time to get it right. With regards to those 'at the table' he stated that those brought to the table had to be decision makers.

Councillor Kearney referred to the education and skills thematic group and stated that all agencies were playing a major part and that it was a good forum.

Councillor S McGuigan stressed that it was important to know how Brexit would impact upon the community plan.

Councillor McAleer left the meeting at 8.15pm

Councillor B McGuigan spoke of the economic growth workshop and stated that the ongoing work was excellent. He stated he could appreciate Councillor S McGuigan's concerns and that he would raise the issues going forward with the thematic group.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton called for a vote

For	34
Against	0
Abstained	2

Resolved: That the Council approve the Mid Ulster Community Plan – Short Term Delivery Plan.

Matters for Information

C115/18 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

The previously circulated report providing an update on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council since the last meeting of Council was presented to the meeting.

Councillor Mallaghan expressed concern and sought clarification as to whether notification was received with regard to Flying of Airborne (helicopter) survey in the Cookstown/Moneymore area. He stated that if no notification letter had been received by Council a letter should be forwarded to the Department of Economy expressing disappointment. He also stated he would be disappointed if a notification had been received and not shared with the relevant DEA Members.

In response the Chief Executive advised he would investigate the matter.

Resolved That Council note the consultations within the Consultations Report

C116/18 Correspondence to Council – May 2018

The previously circulated report to update the Council on correspondence received from two organisations was presented to Council, from:

- Commissioner for Children and Young People
- Director of Regeneration & Planning, Omagh & Fermanagh District Council

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to the letter listed from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People requesting that Council introduce the scheme that ensures no burial or cremation costs of children are required and proposed that Council adopt the scheme.

Councillor Wilson stated that he was in support of the scheme.

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Robinson.

Councillor McGinley stated that the motion was on the agenda for discussion and that although he would not vote against introduction of the scheme he would like to avail of debate.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton stated that she had to take the proposal.

The Chief Executive asked Members to be mindful that decisions were usually taken when costings, rural proofing and equality checks had been clarified.

Councillor Monteith stated that he thought that custom and practise was that the letter was presented for information and should it be the wish of a Member they could bring it forward as a notice of motion the following month.

The Chief Executive stated that a letter is presented for information and should Members wish to open debate it was the Chair's discretion.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he was working in line with the agenda but would be happy to withdraw the proposal.

Resolved: That Council note correspondence received.

C117/18 Notice of Motion

Councillor Wilson read the motion as undernoted:

This Council recognises the introduction of Government funding in England and Wales to cover the funeral costs of children. We recognise that in the absence of a functioning government in Northern Ireland such action cannot yet be introduced regionally. Mid Ulster Council therefore resolve that until the introduction of a regional initiative council will waive all costs normally associated with the provision of a grave for children under 18 years of age.

He advised that a colleague in Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council had circulated this to all eleven councils having himself had the experience of losing a child.

Councillor McKinney seconded the motion.

Councillor McGinley stated that he would support the motion but given the earlier comments of the Chief Executive he asked if the motion should be deferred until costings and rural and equality proofing was carried out.

The Chief Executive stated that he had merely pointed out normal procedure.

Councillor McGinley stated that he would endorse the motion.

Councillor Monteith supported the motion and proposed a small amendment that Council would also liaise with other grave providers in the District to encourage them to do likewise.

Councillor Wilson accepted the amendment.

Councillor Mallaghan asked if any preparatory work had been done in regard to costs.

The Director of Environment and Property made reference to the NICCY letter which highlighted that on 2016 16 children had been buried in the district, he also advised that in 2017 within Council graveyards there had been two child burials which would have cost £145 each interment.

Councillor Reid asked if the £145 incorporated the cost of the burial ground as it was important to 'get it right' as too many families had to deal with such sad circumstances.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that the cost did not include the grave plot that it was just the interment cost.

Councillor M Quinn supported the motion

The Chair, Councillor Ashton called for a vote on the motion as undernoted

This Council recognises the introduction of Government funding in England and Wales to cover the funeral costs of children. We recognise that in the absence of a functioning government in Northern Ireland such action cannot yet be introduced regionally. Mid Ulster Council therefore resolve that until the introduction of a regional initiative council will waive all costs normally associated with the provision of a grave for children under 18 years of age.

And to liaise with other grave providers in the District and encourage them to do likewise

For	36
Against	0

The Chair, Councillor Ashton declared the motion carried.

C118/18 Notice of Motion

Councillor McPeake moved the motion:

That this Council convenes a working group to develop proposals on Broadband enhancement within the Mid Ulster area.

Speaking on the motion Councillor McPeake stated that all were aware of the importance of broadband and that having sufficient broadband speeds is an essential pre-requisite for both anyone setting up a business locally or deciding to reside in an area. He highlighted that British Telecom had recently commissioned a survey which highlighted that 63% of purchasers view broadband speeds as an important influencing factor on where to reside, thus it has become an essential service for both business and socially.

Along with other ICBAN board members he advised support had been given to the work commissioned through Dr Mike Kiely in identifying the deficits within the wider ICBAN region resulting in the 'Five to the Crossroads' report. This work further identified anomalies in how Broadband was funding and supplied into rural areas which are currently the subject of an NI Audit Office review. We are all aware of the amount of premises within the district which aren't being served with adequate Broadband speeds. Councillor McPeake highlighted that Mid Ulster district is the second worst affected area out of the 11 Council areas in the North with 31% without 30mbps only second to Fermanagh and Omagh District Council area.

Councillor McPeake emphasised that the motion is to bring a greater element of focus and application as to how Council may achieve better broadband provision for its citizens. He stressed the importance of making the right arguments to the right people especially as to how the £150m promised through the Confidence and Supply Agreement might be allocated. He stressed the importance of ensuring communities were given maximum opportunity to avail of the 'Gigabit' voucher scheme for residents and small businesses which is scheduled to run to 2021 and the 'Public Sector Anchor tenancy scheme'.

Councillor McPeake paid tribute to the work undertaken by Council and its officers to date but stressed the importance of making a robust case for Mid Ulster. He advised that Fermanagh and Omagh District Council had for some time had a broadband working group and part of their comprehensive working plan had or planned to have engagements with DCMS minister, Head of NI Civil Service, CEO BT, OFCOM and communications with the main political parties. Councillor McPeake concluded by stating that Council needed to make a strategic robust case for the district which would complement the corporate plan ensuring that Mid Ulster was the very best area to live work and play. Councillor McPeake sought support for the motion.

Councillor M Quinn supported the motion and stated that Councillor S McAleer had to leave early but she had wanted to raise the inequality of broadband speeds in her area and he also made mention of inequalities experienced in the Derrytresk and

Clonoe areas stressing that it really depended where you lived. He added that the issues needed tackled both from a residential and business perspective.

Councillor Gildernew seconded the motion.

Councillor Mallaghan supported the motion and concurred with all comments and advised that as former Chair of ICBAN he would advise that a lot of work had been carried out, he made reference to meetings with the former NI Executive Minister Simon Hamilton MLA and £150m investment earmarked for broadband. He emphasised the need that Council ensure the £150m was spent in the right places to ensure that people are getting equal broadband. He also stated that the private sector needed to support the investment. He reflected that 40 years ago a few welders had started manufacturing and that Mid Ulster was now a renowned engineering hub and that with the correct investment who knew what the potential would be.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that through ICBAN millions of pounds had come to support broad band across the region and that a working group would assist the planning and development. He also emphasised that through Planning a requirement for new builds should be a fibre connection.

Councillor McLean stated that although he was not a great supporter of working groups given that Mid Ulster had the second lowest broad band provision next to Fermanagh that he would support on this occasion. He requested an amendment to the motion to include writing to the Secretary of State to lobby for the release of the allocated funding to be spent on broadband provision especially in rural areas in Mid Ulster.

Councillor Wilson supported the motion and referenced the work of the Council's economic team in relation to the matter and made mention of the number of exchanges which needed to be upgraded.

Councillor S McGuigan asked if the proposed working group would be able to utilise the general power of competence to tackle the issue.

Councillor Robinson stated that when he first became a Councillor the broadband issue became apparent and that living and representing a rural area he listened to this all too often. He pledged his support for the motion telling how one gentleman in his area was starting a business and it was a nightmare trying to get broadband during the day and in the evening when there was more users he couldn't get it at all. He also stated that school children need broadband for homework and stressed that he hoped the working group would move the issue forward as it had been talked about for many years.

Councillor McPeake accepted the amendment to include a letter as aforementioned.

That this Council convenes a working group to develop proposals for Broadband enhancement within the Mid Ulster area; and

Writes to the Secretary of State to lobby for the release of the allocated funding to be spent on broadband provision especially in rural areas in Mid Ulster

The Chair, Councillor Ashton called for a vote on the motion

For 36

Against 0

The Chair, Councillor Ashton declared the motion carried.

Councillor Milne left the meeting at 8.45pm

C119/18 Notice of Motion

In moving the motion Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the gas works commenced by Gas to the West approximately two weeks ago. He stated that although there had been a leaflet drop to domestic houses they had not engaged with service providers such as Translink and the town bus service had to be cancelled. He advised of the major confusion regarding diversions and signage and that the works would be ongoing for six months thus all needed to be engaged around the table.

Councillor Cuthbertson moved the motion as undernoted:

That Mid Ulster District Council, requests an urgent joint meeting with Senior Department for Infrastructure Transport NI Officials and Representatives of the Gas to the West, to discuss the serious impact the road closures, as a result of the ongoing works, is having on traffic in Dungannon.

Councillor McNamee stated that there had been a similar situation in Cookstown with ongoing road works with detours of two miles for residents and hotel users. He advised that through the Department of Public Health and Infrastructure regular utility meetings had been set up with all involved and it had proved good working practise.

Councillor Molloy stated that he had been inundated with calls especially in the past few days with students sitting GCSE examinations facing long tailbacks to get to school. He made mention of the gas installation in Moy when the agencies had conversed with Council and all issues had been resolved. He stated the current traffic situation was a disaster.

Councillor Milne returned to the meeting at 8.47 pm

Councillor Wilson referred to the Cookstown situation and stated that the regular official meetings with the utilities had been very beneficial as you had the people on the ground at the table and issues could be resolved promptly.

Councillor M Quinn supported the motion stating that it was very annoying especially if like himself you tended to run late.

Councillor Reid concurred stating that it extended to rural areas as one farmer could not get to his own ground to cut grass.

Councillor Monteith supported the motion stating that he was receiving complaints day and daily. He advised he would be agreeable towards local utility meetings but thought an initial meeting as suggested was important. He stated that there was no facility to report difficulties and Councillors were getting the blame, he said that the signage was atrocious and that works on the Coalisland road attributed to the problem. He stressed that there was no mechanism to flag up problems promptly to those in charge. Referring to the recent DEA meetings with the Department of Infrastructure he said they were a 'joke' that there had only been one maintenance person present and that Councillors were being treated with contempt yet blamed when things go wrong.

Councillor Cuddy concurred stating that they had shown a map of the town then started digging further along the Killyman Road without mention. He said that all Councillors had contributed good ideas to alleviate pressures but there was no one to listen.

Councillor McGinley left the meeting at 8.55pm

The Chair, Councillor Ashton stated that Translink felt similar to Council as they were left with school runs unable to run.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he felt a utility meeting was a waste of time unless the senior officials from both Department of Infrastructure and Gas were in the room.

Councillor Wilson stated that in Cookstown senior officials had attended.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred with previous speakers in relation to the DEA meetings and emphasised that what was being asked for was information, signage highlighting he had spoken to Transport NI as there was no directional signage for the Courthouse.

For 36

Against 0

The press left the meeting at 9.00pm

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved: That items C120/18 – C128/18 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Minutes take as confidential business at the Council meeting held on Thursday 26 April 2018
- (ii) Minutes taken as confidential business at the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 May 2018
- (iii) Minutes taken as confidential business at the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 May 2018
- (iv) Minutes taken as confidential business at the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 May 2018
- (v) Minutes taken as confidential business at the Special Planning Committee held on Wednesday 9 May 2018
- (vi) Minutes taken as confidential business at the Development Committee held on Thursday 10 May 2018
- (vii) Rural Development Programme – Rural Services
- (viii) Briefing Chief Executive
- (ix) Document for Sealing: Revocation Order in relation to Planning Permissions I/2005/0118/O and I/2008/0310/RM in respect of lands 50m east and south east of number 20 Loughdoo Road, Cookstown

C129/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 9.10 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____