

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 January 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor Kearney
<b>Members Present</b>	Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, O'Neill, Quinn, Robinson and Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	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
<b>Others in Attendance</b>	<b>Deputation:</b> <b>Northern Regional College</b> Craig Fairless, Head of Marketing Deborah Kerr, Head of Performance and Planning <b>South West College</b> Michel McAlister, Chief Executive Jill Cush, Deputy Chief Executive John Moss, Head of Faculty Ciaran McManus, Assistant Chief Executive Shirley Patterson, STEM Centre Co-ordinator <b>Education Authority</b> Averil Morrow, Head of Learning & Technology Paul Crowe, School Improvement Team - South West Locality

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

**C001/20 Apologies**

Councillors Burton, McKinney and Totten

**C002/20 Declarations of Interest**

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

**C003/20 Chair's Business**

Councillor McLean requested that Council congratulate all those residents who had been named on the recent Queen's Honours List.

**Resolved** That the Chair send a letter of congratulations to residents recently named on the recent Queen's Honours List

*Councillors Elattar and Corry entered the meeting at 7.03pm*

Councillor Kerr referred to the national and local media reports concerning Shannon Whitehouse who having been recently diagnosed with an incurable cancer decided to use the life left to her to raise funds for the Boom Foundation.

He advised that money raised by Boom is split between practical help and vital research with 50% remaining in the North to be used Boom for the benefit of sarcoma patients whilst the remaining 50% is sent to Sarcoma UK to try to achieve the best possible standard of treatment and care for patients with sarcoma.

Councillor Kerr requested that an invitation be extended to the Whitehouse family and friends to meet with the Members prior to a meeting of the Development Committee and that the Boom Foundation be invited to make a presentation to the Committee.

Councillor Doris concurred stating Sinn Féin had worked closely with the family to secure licensing for the charitable event and commended the PSNI and the community who went the extra mile to ensure its success. Councillor Doris shared that her thoughts were with Shannon and her family.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

**Resolved** That an invitation be extended to the Whitehouse family and friends to meet with the Members prior to a meeting of the Development Committee and invite the Boom Foundation to make a presentation to the Committee.

Councillor McGinley stated that he was standing down as a Sinn Féin Councillor and spoke of the honour it had been to represent his community on Council and lead the Sinn Féin team. He advised that Councillor Mallaghan would take the post of Party Leader and thanked all Members for working in partnership for the district. He

reflected that a lot had been achieved and acknowledged the work of the Chief Executive, Directors and Officers and commended them on the passion they displayed for their work which was evident in the success of the district. In closing, he wished the Council continuing success urging it to remain innovative, forward thinking remaining at the heart of the community.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney congratulated Councillor McGinley and wished him success in his new role.

Councillor Mallaghan on behalf of Sinn Féin thanked Councillor McGinley for his service stating that he 'had been thrown in at the deep end' as group leader, led the team through the transition and displayed excellent qualities such as the ability to compromise and promote good working relations especially with the senior management team. He stated he would be a loss to the Council but wished him all the best in his future role.

Councillor Quinn extended best wishes to Councillor McGinley for the future and stated he had enjoyed working with him for the good of the Torrent area.

Councillor Quinn also concurred with Councillor Kerr's comments and proposal in relation to the Whitehouse family and stated that the event held had been an example of how Coalisland rally around their own.

Councillor Wilson wished Councillor McGinley every success in his new role whatever it may be.

Councillor McLean wished Councillor McGinley all the best stating that whilst they had had their differences, clashes and run-ins they had always been mature about it.

Councillor Monteith on behalf of himself and Councillor Kerr also extended best wishes stating while they hadn't always agreed the arguments had been well put.

Councillor McPeake thanked the Chair Councillor Kearney for the opportunity to speak and highlighted the non-participation of the Southern Health and Social Services Trust in the Mid Ulster Support Hub. He advised that it had been raised at the Policing and Community Safety Partnership the previous evening where it had been agreed to write to express concern to the Minister for the Department for Health and the Health Care Board and proposed that Council do likewise. He highlighted that Support Hubs were designed to help vulnerable people get access to the right support, at the right time, from the right organisation in their local area.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved** That Council to write to Minister for Health and also the Health & Social Care Board to express concern of the non-participation of SHSCT in the Mid Ulster Support Hub

*Councillor Mallaghan left the meeting at 7.12pm*

*Declaration of Interest: Councillor Glasgow declared an interest in D006/20  
Community Development Report – Rolling Grants Awards re Montober RBP 598*

**C004/20      Deputation: South West Regional College, Northern Regional  
College and Education Authority**

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed representatives of South West Regional College, Northern Regional College and Education Authority

Mr McAlister, Chief Executive introduced the South West Regional College Team following which Mr Moss, Miss Patterson and Mr McManus delivered presentation detailed at appendix one.

*Councillor Mallaghan returned to the meeting at 7.13pm  
Councillor McGinley left the meeting at 7.13pm returning at 7.20pm*

The Chair Councillor Kearney thanked the South West College team for their presentation.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney invited Ms Kerr and Mr Fairless to deliver their presentation following which he called on Members for questions.

Councillor Molloy focusing on South West College wished them every success with regard to the welding academy and commented on the application numbers and the expansion of input from local companies. He sought an update on the proposed 'centre of excellence' with regard to engineering and also asked if there was any potential to expand the childcare facility.

In response Ms Cush advised that the college remained committed to the proposed 'centre of excellence' which was an evolving story commenting that the regional growth deal was a change in path that provided opportunities to do something on a larger scale. She highlighted that it was imperative to work collaboratively to shape the proposition and whilst there were plans across the North for such a centre it was their belief it needed to be in Tyrone. In relation to the childcare facility Ms Cush acknowledged that it was essential for students but there were no current plans to expansion plans but it would be kept under review.

Councillor Kerr thanked representatives for the presentation stating that it was great to see recruitment to the welding academy.

Councillor B McGuigan speaking in relation to Northern Regional College acknowledged the number of schools in the area and that often a college was second choice to university but asked if they were encouraging and promoting apprenticeships where students could train close to home and attain a job. He further stated that often people went to university attained a degree but couldn't secure a job.

In response Mr Fairless stated that the college needed to signpost people to courses. He stated that the college foothold in Mid Ulster was small and concurred with comments regarding the schools but emphasised that it was for everyone to

encourage young people to explore options at college as university was not for everyone. He stated that often schools were reluctant to allow FE Colleges to speak to students especially sixth formers. He assured that the college engaged with employers in order to endeavour to address skills gaps.

Ms Kerr advised that the college struggled to get access to fourth and fifth year students but advised that they were also speaking to primary schools to get the message out that they are not second best. She highlighted that the message needed to be delivered that college was not second best, that courses were unique and the lecturers had actually worked in industry. In closing Ms Kerr stated that the college was working with employers to attain more placements and were endeavouring to change the dynamic to increase provision with the introduction of new programmes in the proposed three year plan.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked representatives of both colleges for their input.

*Councillor Wilson left the meeting at 7.54 pm*

The Chair, Councillor Kearney welcomed representatives of the Education Authority. Ms Morrow delivered presentation at appendix three.

Ms Morrow drew particular attention to the need to reinforce the options available at Regional Colleges together with relevant careers advice and drew Members attention to school leavers' data for the district.

*Councillor Wilson retuned to the meeting at 8.05pm*

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked Ms Morrow for the presentation and reflected on the leavers' data.

Councillor McLean reflected on experiences whereby the child had not chosen the wrong career path but rather the parents had chosen the wrong path for the child as often parents felt if the child should go to university. He emphasised that there was fantastic opportunities for young people in the regional colleges which offered courses which allowed them to fulfil their potential.

Ms Morrow stated that the Education Authority can't 'make' schools do things but rather work with them and offer direction. She concurred with Councillor McLean's comments and gave an example of parents being devastated at their child not going to university but following a college course but a year or two down the line realising that it had been for the best. Ms Morrow also advised that in relation to STEM often girls were not engaged in courses as 'daddy' didn't want them pursuing that path. Ms Morrow stressed that everyone did need to go to university as the Regional Colleges offered fantastic opportunities and the school environment did not suit everyone.

Councillor McGinley concurred with Ms Morrow that schools could be more proactive inviting businesses in stating that there is a general trend in schools from day one to

promote academia and emphasised that school principals needed to strike a balance.

Ms Morrow said teachers had come through the academic route thus they were comfortable with it and were not risk takers and stressed that the culture needed to change.

Councillor Colvin concurred that parents had a huge influence and often they were unaware of the new opportunities thus the remit should include educating the parents together with improved career advice as the more people knew about options the better.

Ms Morrow stated that currently the Education Authority had embarked on a massive project part of which was taking principals to five locations across Europe to look at how other Education systems worked highlighting in particular the German education system were for example there was utmost respect for engineers.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked everyone for their input and concluded that one of the first things he was told in his teaching career was teachers accounted for 3% of a child's education whilst the parent accounted for 97%.

*The representatives withdrew from the meeting at 8.20pm*

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **C005/20      Council Minutes of Meeting held on Monday 16 December 2019**

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved**    That the Minutes of the Council held on Monday 16 December 2019 (C253/19 – C272/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

#### **C006/20      Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 7 January 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

**Resolved**    That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 January 2020 (P001/20 – P012/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

#### **C007/20      Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 9 January 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 January 2020 (PR001/20 – PR025/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C008/20 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14 January 2020**

Councillor McGinley drew attention to *E003/20 Chair's Business Protect Life 2 Strategy* and drew attention to the comments made at the meeting and also the letter received from Dr McBride listed in the correspondence report. He reported that at the meeting with Dr McBride on the 8<sup>th</sup> January a number of opportunities had been discussed and that whilst at the committee it had been proposed to bring a paper to the Council meeting time restraints had not permitted same. Councillor McGinley drew attention to the invitation in the letter for Council to present on planned suicide prevention work to highlight Councils actions via the Mid Ulster Community Plan, at the meeting of Protect Life 2 Steering Group scheduled for Wednesday 26 February 2020. He also highlighted a number of other actions Council agreed to consider.

- Staff made aware of and encouraged to do Towards Zero Suicide online training through the e-learning platform <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training/> and where appropriate further training to develop knowledge and skills for example Safetalk or Mental Health First Aid;
- PHA could engage Samaritans to deliver a media training session to Councillors;
- Explore Council Charter on Suicide Prevention;
- Work with PHA in developing a Directory of Services for Mid Ulster that was not Trust area Specific; and
- Work with PHA to consider options to assist Council representation at Protect Life Implementation Groups.

Councillor McGinley stressed that it was not for Council to take on the role of other statutory agencies but to create hope and opportunity referring to aforementioned charter as a means of how suicide prevention could be a consideration in all decision making. He concluded in that it was not enough to display a passion to do the aforementioned but Council needed to hold itself to account to do something.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that passion was a good way to describe the meeting and complimented Councillor McGinley on driving the initiative. The Chair also referred to the invitation for Council to make a presentation to the Protect Life 2 Steering Group.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure acknowledged that the issue was a sensitive subject and referred to the Mid Ulster Community Plan mental health objective which Council was engaged in. The Director suggested that a working group or one off meeting be arranged to drive forward the initiatives raised at an early date in order that Council may prepare for the presentation aforementioned.

Councillor McGinley suggested that a working group/one of meeting be held and a paper brought to the Environment Committee who would need to have delegated authority to approve as the presentation date was prior to the February Council meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley  
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

**Resolved**                  That

- (i) an all Member Meeting be arranged to prepare paper for presentation to Protect Life 2 Steering Group scheduled for Wednesday 26 February 2020; and
- (ii) Environment Committee scheduled for 11 February 2020 granted delegated authority to approve the paper

The Chair, Councillor Kearney acknowledged the opportunity to present to the Protect Life Strategy Working Group advising that there was only one elected member sitting on the group.

Councillor Quinn highlighted that during recent engagement with mental health groups throughout Mid Ulster a problem was that the groups whilst striving for one goal did not communicate nor work collaboratively. He acknowledged that the Health Trusts had agreed that a forum should be arranged for organisations to work collaboratively in establishing what is required and stressed that all desperately needed to work towards this goal. The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that as aforementioned a working group would meet to summarise way forward.

Councillor McGinley concurred with the Chair emphasising that ideas should be discussed with the Public Health Agency to prevent duplication of work.

Kearney we will collate an agenda agreed working group summarise ideas

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to the *E008/20 Cemetery Administration and Management Update* and stated that he had still not received clarification as to whether Orritor Presbyterian Church had been consulted with regard to changes. He stated that the matter was a sensitive one and highlighted that rural areas do not have the infrastructure of other areas.

In response the Director of Environment and Property stated that the matter was a work in progress and he would report back to the Councillor when he had the relevant feedback.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**                  That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 (E001/20 – E025/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C009/20      Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 16 January 2020**

Councillor Quinn drew attention to D013/20 and requested that it be noted the exceptional work of the Project Officers in relation to both the Halloween and Christmas events in Coalisland.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved**    That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 16 January 2020 (D001/20 – D023/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C010/20      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

- *National Association of Councillors*

24-26 January 2020 – The Ripon Spa Best Western Hotel, Ripon  
Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan County, Unitary Borough & District Councils plus travel and subsistence

- *31<sup>st</sup> Colmcille Winter School 2020*

28 and 29 February 2020 – Colmcille Heritage Centre, Co Donegal  
€130 per delegate plus travel, accommodation and subsistence

(ii)      Officer Approvals (retrospective approval)

<b>Conference &amp; Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance Fee (Yes/No)</b>
Celtic Connections	22 January 2020	1	Glasgow	£315

<b>Conference &amp; Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance Fee (Yes/No)</b>
American Conference for Irish Studies in Houston	4 April 2020	1	Houston, Texas	No
Nilga Conference, Exhibit and Gala Awards Dinner	20 February 2020	2	Crown Plaza Belfast	Yes

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Buchanan 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.

#### **C011/20 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 Wilson requested that Cookstown Hockey Club 2<sup>nd</sup> XL to be upgraded to 'civic reception' as the team was a different one to that honoured previously.

Councillor S McPeake requested that Erin's Own GAC Lavey Minor Football Team to be upgraded to 'civic reception' as similar to aforementioned this was a different team playing in a different league.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That undernoted be upgraded to civic reception status.

- Erin's Own GAC Lavey Minor Football Team upgraded to 'civic reception'
- Cookstown Hockey Club 2<sup>nd</sup> XL upgraded to 'civic reception'

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

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

#### **C012/20 Northern Ireland Assembly Ministerial Engagement**

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which sought approval for a series of engagements with the newly appointed Ministers of the Northern Ireland Assembly. He drew attention to previous delegations which had been led by the Council Chair and accompanied by the Party Leader of the four main parties or their nominee. In addition he sought approval to invite the First Minister and the Deputy First Minister to Mid Ulster to hear directly from Members the priorities of the Council. He drew attention to the appendix of the report and Members responded with the undernoted comments to be included:

Councillor S McPeake said that partnership work with Policing and Community Safety Partnership to tackle the scourge of antisocial behaviour should be listed.

Councillor Ashton commented that it was good to see Ministers in post who were accountable and requested that the rates support grant be added to the list of both the Department for Communities and the Department for Finance and commented that Ministers would be inundated with requests for meeting and suggested a joint meeting may be appropriate for this matter.

In response the Chief Executive stated that Members would recall prior to the period of recess a cross council delegation had met with previous Ministers in relation to the rates support grant. He stated it was his understanding that Derry and Strabane had written to reconvene the cross delegation now that the Assembly had resumed.

Councillor Mallaghan welcomed the report and proposed that as well as inviting the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to the district that a list of accommodation be forwarded to highlight Councils facilities to hold NI Assembly Committee meetings. He also added that budgets for Good Relations programme and TBUC (Together Building a United Community) which had provided funding for the Decade of Anniversaries programme.

Councillor Elattar requested that a sustainable budget for repair of rural roads be included as although major roads were included in strategic projects many people who resided in rural communities had to use the roads to access for example hospitals.

Councillor Doris requested that extra protection for Neighbourhood Renewal project be requested highlighting the excellent projects delivered through Coalisland and Dungannon Neighbourhood Renewal project such as Brackaville GAA pitch, Indoor Activity centre at Coalisland Fianna GFC, Community sports hub at Dungannon United Youth, Men's Shed in both towns and Gortgonis Play Park.

Councillor B McGuigan stated that whilst housing matters such as homelessness and affordable housing was included so too should sheltered housing accommodation.

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and requested that how the department was going to tackle the impact of Brexit should be included especially in relation to compensation and hardship grants. In relation to the Department for the Economy he highlighted Project Stratum and stated that it was a once in a lifetime opportunity and to date he found the response to Mid Ulster unsatisfactory.

Councillor Corry requested that Environmental licensing in relation for example to Gold Mining needed to be included.

Councillor Bell requested that Capital Sports Programmes needed to be included within the Department for Communities.

Councillor Clarke highlighted the importance of rural tourism within DAERA and also concurred with comments regarding project Stratum. He also stated that the Sperrin's had been listed as an Area of Natural Beauty for some 50 years but did not receive the same financial support as example the Mourne's.

Councillor McFlynn requested that Keep Children Safe Campaign should be added to the list for the Department for Infrastructure highlighting the need for 20mph signs at schools.

Councillor McGinley requested that with the exit from the European Union Lough Neagh and its industries such as fishing and sand dredging needed to be a point for discussion.

Councillor Quinn requested that arts funding in Mid Ulster was significantly disadvantaged and should be included on the list for the Department for Communities and also that an Animal Cruelty Register should be included on the list for both DEARA and the Department for Justice.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that issues had been raised and at this stage officials should proceed and prior to each meeting a pre meeting be held to finalise issues to be raised.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That Council

- (i) write to all Ministers of the Assembly and ask that they receive a delegation from Mid Ulster District Council on the matters listed in the appendix to the report and any other strategic issues the Council agrees to add and that Council invites the First Minister and Deputy First Minister to Mid Ulster to head directly from Members on the priorities of the Council;
- (ii) write to the Executive Office advising of Council facilities suitable for them to hold their committee meetings; and
- (iii) Write to the Chairpersons of Stormont Committees inviting them to hold one of their meetings in Mid Ulster.

*Councillor S McPeake left the meeting at 8.55 pm*

#### **Matters for Information**

#### **C013/20 Correspondence**

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

- Chief Executive, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Permanent Secretary, Department of Health

- Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities and the Head of the Appeals Service, Department for Communities
- Northern Area Manager, Ulsterbus, Translink
- Chief Executive, NILGA
- General Counsel and Company Secretary, Northern Ireland Water
- Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health
- President, Mary Peters Trust

Councillor Monteith drew attention to the response received from Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities and the Head of the Appeals Service, Department for Communities and stated that it was disappointing their reference to 'rented facilities offer a less formal environment' when the appeals were to be informal. He stated that Council should not only discuss the use of Council facilities but also seek a meeting with Appeal Service to discuss venues for Informal Appeals especially in relation to issues such as car-parking at Dungannon Court house a site that is used regularly.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That Council request a meeting with Appeal Service to discuss venues for Informal Appeals

In response to Councillor Molloy's query the Head of Democratic Services stated that the letter had been included in the correspondence report but to date no formal response had been sent. It was noted that the Council Offices at Magherafelt was on occasion used by the Appeals Service.

*Councillor McAleer left the meeting at 8.59 pm*

Councillor Wilson drew attention to the response from Northern Area Manager, Translink regarding Service 212 Cookstown to Antrim Area Hospital and expressed concern regarding the proposals and how the changes would impact service users and they would be communicated. He suggested that clarification of same should be sought.

Councillor Milne concurred with Councillor Wilson and proposed that a further meeting be sought with a representative of Antrim Area Hospital present, he expressed concern that the proposals did not go far enough in addressing the issue. He also stated that appointment letters being sent out needed to include the bus timetable.

Proposed by Councillor Milne  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That Council write to request a meeting with Translink/Ulsterbus representative and Antrim Area Hospital Representative to discuss Cookstown to Antrim Area Hospital Service pilot scheme.

*Councillor Doris left the meeting at 9pm*

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to the request from Newry Mourne and Down District Council to support the notice of motion moved regarding the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service budget. He stressed that it was important for Council to support the motion and send letters as requested.

*Councillor McAleer returned to the meeting at 9.02pm*

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council to write to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health regarding budgeting for the NI Fire & Rescue Service.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council note the correspondence report.

#### **C014/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council**

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on consultations notified to Mid Ulster Council for comment.

The Head of Democratic Services advised Members that Council would be preparing a response to the Department for Communities : Gambling Regulation in Northern Ireland and that whilst an extension date for the response was being sought it may be appropriate to grant delegated authority to the Environment Committee should an extension not be granted. It was further suggested that should it be deemed necessary a meeting be held to collate Members views for the response.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

**Resolved** That Council

- (i) seek an extension for the response, and in the event of it not granted then delegated Power be granted to the Environment committee on 11 February to approve response; and
- (ii) Should it be deemed necessary, a meeting be held to collate Member views on same
- (iii)

Councillor Molloy drew attention to SEUPB Peace Plus Programme - European Territorial Cooperation 2021-2027 and highlighting past successes stated that Council should be making a response and given the closing date if an extension should be sought and if not granted delegated authority should be granted to the Development committee.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That Council seek an extension for their response, and in the event of it not granted then delegated Power be granted to the Development committee on 13 February to approve response;

*Councillor Doris returned to the meeting at 9.08pm*

**C015/20 Notice of Motion**

Councillor Brown moved motion as undernoted -

That Mid Ulster Council resolves:

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- to write to the UK Government urging them to introduce legislation to limit the maximum noise level of fireworks to 90dB for those sold to the public for private displays
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for future firework displays.

Speaking on the motion Councillor Brown stated that

“According to the NHS Information Centre (2012), more than 1 in 100,000 people in the UK are Autistic. A common symptom of Autism is extreme noise sensitivity, which can lead children and vulnerable adults to develop avoidance reactions, such as leaving noisy places to find quieter ones. This may lead them to miss out on social opportunities at festivals that involve loud fireworks. Additionally, the noise from fireworks may induce panic in Autistic children and adults, leading them to leave their home, get lost, or even suffer a serious accident.

*A parent of a vulnerable adult who live in Mid Ulster has said, “We never took our son near fireworks. He was ok with the visual when looking out the window; the really loud ones were the worse. He didn’t like the noise!”*

Every year it is reported that thousands of pets will suffer as a result of fireworks being let off. Animal hospitals and vets across the country see a marked rise in pets requiring medication during such stressful times, and many pets are brought into rehoming centres having run away from home.

RSPCA reports that a recent poll confirmed around 62 percent of dogs show signs of distress during fireworks. This alone means thousands of animals are affected by unplanned and random fireworks each year.

Results also saw other animals showing distress during fireworks: 54 percent of cats and 55 percent of horses. Since 2014 the RSPCA alone has received 2,285 calls about fireworks, with 411 of these calls being in 2018, figures for 2019 are not completed. Many owners do not report stress caused to their dogs and pets others seek help from their local vet.

*A local dog owner has also said to me, “Our dogs have varied with their reactions but one of them was terrified and had to get a sedative from the vet.”*

Sadly, it's not just household pets that are affected by fireworks. Farm animals are easily frightened by loud noises and sudden flashes of bright light, which can startle and cause them to injure themselves on fencing and farm equipment. Fireworks are also highly disturbing to some birds and have caused abandonment of nests or even whole colonies.

It's difficult to explain to a dog or indeed any other animal why usually quiet and peaceful night times have become noisy and bright suddenly. Pets are often scared of the bangs and flashes and vets and animal charities have produced firework survival guides to help owners and their dogs through the season and major events like Halloween and New Year's Eve.

Noise level studies have indicated that by reducing the maximum permitted noise level of fireworks for public sale to 90 decibels this is likely to minimise distress to animals. The current allowed level, 120 decibels, is equivalent to a jet aircraft taking off. Fireworks above 90 decibels should only be used at licensed public displays.

Let us not ignore the problem. We have an opportunity to make Mid Ulster a “vulnerable people and animal firework friendly council.”

By implementing the simple steps set out in my motion, we can help reduce the stress caused to vulnerable people, their carers and to our animals and their owners.”

Councillor Black seconded the motion.

*Councillor Graham and Milne left the meeting*

Councillor Molloy spoke of a motion carried by Council in October 2019 regarding incorporating ‘quiet hours’ into events for people with example autism and said that Council should take cognisance of quieter firework. He stated that Sinn Féin would support the motion.

*Councillor Graham and Milne returned to the meeting*

Councillor Cuddy stated that the motion was interesting and perhaps Council should look towards light displays instead of fireworks. He stated that the UUP would support the motion especially as it would support many vulnerable people.

Councillor Brown thanked parties for their support for the motion.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney put the motion to vote.

For	32
Against	0
Abstained	2

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried

*The press and public withdrew from the meeting at 9.13 pm*

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

Proposed by Councillor Clarke  
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

**Resolved** That items (C016/20 –C022/20) be taken as confidential business

**Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 16 December 2019
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 7 January 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 9 January 2020
- (iv) Special Planning Committee (Development Plan) Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 13 January 2020
- (v) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 14 January 2020
- (vi) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held 16 January 2020
- (vii) Document for Sealing: "Lease of Lands at Lime Kiln Lane to Women's Aid"

**C023/20 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.16pm

**Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date** \_\_\_\_\_