

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 14 January 2020 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown**

Members Present

Councillor Buchanan, Chair

Councillors Brown, Cuthbertson, Glasgow, McAleer,
McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan,
McNamee, Milne, O'Neill, Totten, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Mr Breslin, Principal Environmental Health Officer
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services
Mr McAdoo, Head of Environmental Services
Mr Scullion, Head of Property Services
Mr Wilkinson, Head of Building Control
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

The Chair welcomed all members to the committee and wished them all a Happy New Year.

E001/20 Apologies

Councillor Burton and Graham.

E002/20 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor McAleer declared an interest in Capital Projects Update – Knockmany Forest.

E003/20 Chair's Business

The Chair advised that a number of issues were requested to be raised under Chair's Business and invited them to address the committee.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised members that the Public Health Agency had granted funding towards ongoing work around Age Friendly Communities and Network across Mid Ulster Area to promote healthy and active lifestyles for all ages.

He also advised members that an Intergenerational Event was due to take place on Thursday 16th January 2020 in the Dungannon Council Offices and is available for anyone wishing to attend.

Councillor McGinley referred to Motion passed by Council on 26th September 2019 regarding Protect Life 2 suicide prevention Strategy. He said that a delegation from Mid Ulster District Council including the Head of Environmental Health, the Chair, Councillor Kearney, Councillor Colvin and himself, (apology from Councillor Burton) had met with Dr Michael McBride which was a great meeting and the group had been very well received.

He said that after the meeting, the three Councillors which attended agreed that positive action should come out of the meeting and work towards this and felt that it should be put through the structure of the Council and suggesting a briefing paper be brought to the next Committee /Council meeting on commitment to the Public Health Agency Strategy.

He suggested that the following be investigated for Council to contribute to the Protect Life 2 Strategy:

- A regional meeting being held every quarter organised through Environmental Health Department on suicide prevention.
- Adequate training for Councillors and Council Staff on suicide prevention
- Looking at terminology on what to use and collectives of the ripple effect
- Exploring a Council Charter for Mid Ulster District Council on suicide prevention
- Looking at establishing a Directory of Services for Mid Ulster District Council that wasn't Trust area specific. He said that it would be useful to have a print and digital version available also
- Work with Public Health Agency to consider options to assist Council representation at Project Life Implementation Groups.

He said that the delegation of Councillors which attended the meeting on the day were adamant that a commitment should be made, and a high-level briefing paper drawn up for the next Council meeting.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that there could be an issue drawing up the briefing paper at such short notice due to the early submission of Council papers and staffing matters.

Councillor McGinley said that he was aware of the short timescale but that the Regional Steering Group would be meeting in early February and this needed to be brought to Council for agreement this month otherwise it wouldn't be signed off.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a briefing paper be brought to the Council meeting on matters raised.

Councillor Wilson said that over the Christmas period he was contacted by members of the public regarding issues relating to skips in Cookstown. He said that when bins are full, there is nothing in Cookstown Amenity Site to empty bins automatically, resulting in the gentleman losing his bin and unable to retrieve it. He said that he was aware of automatic bin facilities in Drumcoo and Coalisland Amenity Sites and asked if this could be investigated for Cookstown also.

The Head of Environmental Services advised that the amenity sites in Drumcoo and Coalisland had waste compactors and that he would investigate options for the same facility in Cookstown.

The Director of Environment and Property said that this could be easily solved and an asset for Cookstown.

Matters for Decision

E004/20 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed 40 MPH Speed Limit on Farlough Road and Derryvale Road, Newmills

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval in relation to proposals from DfI Roads to introduce measures to enhance the safety and development of the transport network with a range of transport proposals.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by DfI Roads for Proposed 40 MPH Speed Limit on Farlough Road and Derryvale Road, Newmills.

E005/20 DfI Roads Proposals to Mid Ulster District Council – Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report which sought approval in relation to proposals from DfI Roads to introduce measures to enhance the safety and development of the transport network with a range of transport proposals.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by DfI Roads for Proposed Amendments to Limited Waiting – Oldtown Street, Cookstown.

E006/20 Recycling Collaborative Change Capital Funding

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report to update members on the outcome of a capital funding project/application submitted by DAERA under the Recycling Collaborative Change Programme.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the delivery of a (funded) capital project to extend and refurbish Magherafelt Recycling Centre and to note the contents of the report.

The Director of Environment and Property advised members that as this scheme was going to be done in parts, there was a need for this to be carefully managed and alternative provision made.

The Chair commended Environmental Services team on their commitment to the scheme.

E007/20 Environmental Services Proposed Scale of Charges for 2020/21

The Head of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report and sought approval for a proposed scale of charges in relation to Environmental Services for the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021.

Councillor B McGuigan referred to residual waste and enquired if there had been an increase in cost per tonne.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that this was the most expensive waste to dispose off as there is more work involved to try and break it up.

Councillor B McGuigan said that the general public doesn't realise the work that the Council is doing regarding waste and felt that educating people should continue.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed scale of charges as outlined for 2020/21.

E008/20 Cemetery Administration and Management Update

The Head of Property Services presented previously circulated report and sought approval on the updated Draft Council's administration of burials in relation to Cemetery Management including Rules, Regulations and Memorial Safety.

Councillor McNamee referred to item 3.3 of the Policy and raised concern about the erection of headstones after six months.

Councillor McNamee said that families had contacted him in a distressed stage unable to erect a headstone after six months due to financial issues and drainage issues in certain areas within Cookstown cemetery. He felt that wooden crosses should be erected by the undertaker to mark the grave in the interim and extend the scheme to 12 months.

Councillor McGinley referred to item 3.1 (b) said that he agreed with "All religions and none" being included in the draft assessment.

Councillor Glasgow said the Rural Impact Assessment does not consider the needs of the rural community when interment is due to take place as there was issues with Church times and travelling to the cemetery to try and make it on time before the gates are closed at 3 pm.

The Head of Property Services said there was a need to capture those who use the cemetery and Officers would be looking at current patterns as a way to proceed as there wasn't a significant number effected.

Councillor Glasgow stated that he disputed this and said as a member of Orritor Church there was quite a number who use Cookstown cemetery and would rarely go elsewhere for interment, unless on the odd occasion Kildress is used. He said that a funeral should be a place of respect and if a cortege has to hurry down a road from Orritor in a rush to try and get to the cemetery before the gates were locked was shocking. He said that he was also disgusted that his rural Church in Orritor wasn't consulted on the matter.

The Head of Property Services advised that he would follow up the issue to see if Orritor was included.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if accommodation was made for persons of a particular religion which had certain traditions if notices were given.

The Chair felt as the funeral cortege was expected at the cemetery, it wouldn't be turned away.

Councillor McNamee said that he would be content if the six-month deadline for erection of headstone be extended to 12 months and also look at the implementation of wooden crosses as a grave mark.

Councillor Milne enquired if headstones were a requirement for the look of the cemetery.

The Head of Property Services stated that a non-perishable headstone would create a tidy environment as a wooden cross would deteriorate and become withered.

Councillor Cuthbertson agreed with the Head of Property Services and said that some rule was needed and said it was irrelevant to him whether it was for six months or 12 months.

Councillor Milne enquired why a wooden structure couldn't be considered as a permanent marker for the grave.

The Director of Environment and Property Services advised that it wasn't a solid fixture and would fall over and deteriorate.

Councillor Milne referred to someone who hadn't got anyone belonging to them and asked if this would remain as an unmarked grave.

The Director of Environment and Property Services advised that there was a high number of unmarked graves which remained the remit of the deedholder of the grave.

Councillor McNamee said that there was a need to investigate the cross being a permanent marker for the grave.

Councillor Milne suggested that it may be a worthwhile investigating the use of plastic crosses as a way of a compromise.

The Director of Environment and Property said if approved the issue of the permanency of a wooden cross could be extended to 12 months and then reviewed after this date.

Councillor B McGuigan enquired about the mapping out of people and graves.

The Director of Environment and Property advised that modern cemeteries display a map of graves but that older historical graveyards don't have the facility.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure suggested that a plaque could be installed onto a plinth which would keep the grave tidy and display a mark on the grave.

Councillor Glasgow said that he had no issue with what was being said about the wooden cross as a marker, but he felt that the Rural Needs Assessment needs looked at again as his Church in Orritor wasn't consulted. He said that he doesn't see why a rural Church should be disadvantaged in this way and deem what is a reasonable timeframe and distance.

The Director of Environment and Property said that any funeral booked for buried would not be turned away if the cortege didn't arrive as expected.

Councillor Glasgow said he wished for the previous comment by the Director of Environment and Property to be recorded.

Councillor Wilson referred to the rule brought in by Cookstown cemetery that flowers/floral wreaths and holly wreaths to be removed after six months which caused some people some distress. He said they had worked with the people and reached a compromise. He raised concern about some people taking things too far and referred to a grave which had sleepers installed which was very dangerous as people could fall over them in the dark and said there was a need to follow rules but felt that the assessment was good pending the amendments.

The Councillor McNamee said that consideration should be given to wooden crosses becoming a permanent fixture.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure said that the wooden crosses would be reviewed after 12 months with the greatest respect shown.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the contents of the draft document with the included amendments to review the timeframe for erection of headstone from six months to twelve months and then reviewed thereafter and flexibility on closing time of cemeteries to allow burials to take place.

E009/20 Council Representation on Outside Bodies – Sustainable NI All Party Working Group on Climate Change

The Director of Environment and Property declared an interest in Sustainable NI as he was a member.

The Director of Environment & Property presented previously circulated report and sought approval to appoint two nominees to the Sustainable NI *All Party Working Group on Climate Change*.

He said that this was to be progressed through Environment Committee using Council d'Hondt calculation in the order:

SF	DUP	SF	SDLP	UUP
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Councillor McNamee advised that Sinn Fein would make a nomination in due course.

Councillor Brown advised that DUP would also nominate in due course.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to appoint two Members to the Sustainable NI Working Group on Climate Change on Council d'Hondt calculation in the order as set above. Nominations to be received from Sinn Fein and DUP in due course.

E010/20 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Head of Building Control presented previously circulated report to ask for consideration regarding the naming of streets within proposed residential developments as follows:

- Site of Torrent Valley, Coalisland

The proposed following options have been submitted for consideration:

- 1) Torrent Close
- 2) Torrent Heights

Proposed by Councillor O'Neill
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with Option 1 – Torrent Close.

- Site off Larden Meadow, Donaghmore

The proposed following options have been submitted for consideration:

Street 1

- 1) Larden Lane
- 2) Larden Close

Street 2

- 1) Larden Place
- 2) Larden Grove

Street 3

- 1) Larden Gardens
- 2) Larden Walk

Street 4

- 1) Larden Vale
- 2) Larden Avenue

Street 5

- 1) Larden Court
- 2) Larden Mews

Proposed by S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to proceed with:

- i) Street 1 – Larden Lane
- ii) Street 2 – Larden Place
- iii) Street 3 – Larden Gardens
- iv) Street 4 – Larden Vale
- v) Street 5 – Larden Court

Matters for Information

E011/20 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 2 December 2019

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 2 December 2019.

E012/20 NIEA Waste Statistics and NILAS Annual Reports 2018/19

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on NIEA Waste Statistics and NILAS Annual Report 2018/19.

E013/20 Building Control Workload January 2020

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E014/20 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E015/20 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on streets/roads in the District.

E016/20 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the results of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage nameplate requests.

E017/20 Live Here Love Her, Small Grants Scheme, Information Session – Mid Ulster District Council Area

Members noted previously circulated report which updated members of the Live Here Love Her, Small Grants Scheme, Information Session – Mid Ulster District Council area on Thursday 5th March 2020, 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm in the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown.

E018/20 Food Sampling Rationale for Mid Ulster District Council

Members noted previously circulated report which informed members about the Food Sampling Rationale used to assist Officers from the Environmental Health Department when undertaking food sampling.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan

Seconded by Councillor O'Neill and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E019/20 to E024/20.

Matters for Decision

E019/20 Forthill Cemetery Burial Space Development

E020/20 Tender report for appointment of a supplier to provide HGV and Small Plant Lifts

Matters for Information

E021/20 Confidential Minute of Environment Committee held on 2 December 2019

E022/20 Disposal/Sale of Assets – Fleet and Plant

E023/20 Fleet Operator Licence Update

E024/20 Capital Projects Update

E025/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and concluded at 7.55 pm.

Chair _____

Date _____