

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 24 August 2017 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair: Councillor Ashton

Members Present: Councillors Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, McKinney, McNamee, McPeake Milne, Molloy, Mullen, Mulligan, J O'Neill, T Quinn, M Quinn, Reid, Robinson, G Shiels, Totten and Wilson

Officers in Attendance: Mr Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure & Outdoor Recreation
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance

In Attendance: Update on Desertcreat (Agenda Item 13)

Mr S Fitzsimmons	Head of Facilities and Assets
Mr M Graham	Senior Responsible Officer
Mr D Rooney	Area Commander (Training)

The meeting commenced at 7pm

C164/17 Apologies

Councillors Burton, Gildernew, S McGuigan, McLean and Monteith

C165/17 Declarations of Interest

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

C166/17 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Ashton reminded everyone of the importance of confidential business making reference to the press coverage on a decision following the July meeting. The Chair emphasised that the Senior Management Team would make announcements on major projects.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton congratulated all students across the district on receipt of their GCSE A Level results.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that in recent months both through the Northern Ireland Local Government Association and ICBAN staff shortages were being highlighted. He stated that young people were often put under pressure to take an academic

route yet there were many jobs for example in the engineering and food industry that Council should be promoting together with the excellent courses run at South West Regional College.

Suspension of Standing Orders

Councillor Wilson requested a suspension of standing orders to raise the issue of the £70m cut in the health budget.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved That Standing Orders be suspended to discuss the £70m cut in the health budget.

C167/17 Health Cuts

Councillor Wilson expressed grave concern regarding the proposed cuts in the health budget which would see the Northern Trust budget reduced by £14m and the Southern Trust by £6.4m. He emphasised that Northern Ireland had the worst waiting times in the United Kingdom and that by reducing elective care the pressure would continue to grow. The Councillor stated that it was not only morally wrong but that the longer patients had to wait for diagnosis, treatment or care could lead to serious lasting harm. Councillor Wilson emphasised that this was 'real people' being discussed and made reference to the largest part of the health budget being spent on salaries. He made reference to the consultation period of six months and emphasised that the health service was now a postcode lottery. Councillor Wilson in acknowledging the current consultation emphasised that Council had a duty to speak to the Trusts and proposed that Council write to both the Northern and Southern Health and Social Care Trusts seeking an urgent meeting to discuss the issue.

Councillor M Quinn seconded the proposal stating that he had attended the announcement in Craigavon when reports had only been made available immediately prior to the meeting and that there was minimal detail as to how the cuts would be made. He spoke of a sense of fear at the meeting that the National Health Service would collapse, the most vulnerable would pay for it and conditions would be similar to the United States of America.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton emphasised the importance of the issue and stated that two separate meetings may be required. Councillor Reid concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn and

Resolved That Council send letters requesting meetings to discuss proposed Health Cuts to the

- (i) Northern Health and Social Care Trust; and
- (ii) Southern Health and Social Care Trust

C168/17 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council meeting held on Thursday 27 July 2017

Councillor Elattar requested an amendment to the minute at C146/17 for paragraph two and requested permission to email the amendment to Democratic Services. The Chair, Councillor Ashton agreed to the request stating that the Minute taker would audio check the proposed amendment. Paragraph two of C146/17 to be amended to read,

Councillor Elattar drew attention to D142/17 stating that she would like it noted that when Councillor Cuddy asked for a translation of an organisation listed under good relations grants, because he said he didn't understand Irish and therefore didn't understand what the group did, that she had pointed out that the name of the group shouldn't need to be translated, as it had no bearing on what the group did. The Councillor also stated that there were two other groups listed, whose names were in English and although she could read and understand English, the names of the groups still didn't explain to her what they did and that in her opinion, it would be discriminatory to only ask groups using Irish names to explain to Council Members what they do and that Irish language groups should not have to justify to anyone why they choose to use the native language.

Councillor Elattar continued stating that in a spirit of openness and mutual respect, something that hasn't been in evidence from most Unionist Councillors on this Council, towards the local Irish language community, she would like to reassure Councillor Cuddy, that the name of the group, Glór na Speríní, means 'Voice of the Sperrins', not Isis as he so disgracefully claimed at the committee meeting. Councillor Elattar said that she was sure the group would be happy for Councillor Cuddy to attend any of their events to see what they do, or to attend their Irish language classes, where they have a mixture of students, including many from the Protestant and unionist community. Councillor Elattar concluded stating that the Irish language is inclusive, for all of to share and enjoy, and that she would like to see unionist Councillors embrace it, or at least show some respect for it and those who speak it.

Councillor Cuthbertson sought an update in relation to C142/177 regarding the Town Clock at St Anne's Dungannon. In response the Chief Executive stated that as advised at the July meeting of Council, efforts were continuing and the matter would be brought back to the Development Committee in September.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 27 July 2017(C139/17 – C152/17 and C163/17), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C169/17 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 August 2017

*Councillor Cuddy declared an interest in application number LA09/2017/0655/F
Health and Beauty Salon at 48A Milltown Street, Dungannon*

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 August 2017 (P103/17 – P111/17 and P116/17) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C170/17 Conferences and Seminars

Approval was sought for the undernoted conferences for the attendance of Members and council officers outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

(i) Member Approvals

- NI Chamber of Commerce Networking Series 2017
Wednesday 23 August 2017 at North West Regional College,
Derry/Londonderry – Retrospective approval if required.
- NI Chamber of Commerce Annual Networking & Business Conference
Tuesday 12 September 2017 at St George’s Market, Belfast
- Northern Ireland Planning Conference – Planning a Sustainable NI
Tuesday 26 September 2017 at Europa Hotel, Belfast
- NILGA Broadband: Local Needs, Local Solutions
Wednesday 27 September 2017 9.30am – 1pm, Craigavon
- NILGA Sub Regional Compliance Awareness Sessions
 - *EU General Data Protection Regulations*
Thursday 21 September 2017 10.30 am – 12.30 pm at Bangor
Castle
Thursday 29 September 2017 14.30pm – 16:00 pm at Glenavon
Hotel, Cookstown
 - *Rural Proofing, The Rural Needs Act (NI)*
Wednesday 18 October 2017 10.30am – 12.30pm, Silverbirch
Hotel, Omagh
Wednesday 25 October 2017 14.30pm – 16.00pm, Lough Neagh
Discovery Centre
 - *Civil Contingencies for Elected Members – Emergency Planning*
Thursday 16 November 2017
Thursday 23 November 2017

- NI Planning Conference 2017: Shaping planning, people & place
Thursday 16 November 8.30am-1pm, Baby Grand, Belfast
- 7th Suicide Prevention Conference
Thursday 17th November, Titanic Centre, Belfast

Councillors Elattar and Reid to attend.

(ii) Officer Approval

Conference & Seminar	Date	No of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fees
ICO – GDPR Conference in NI	8 September	1	Templepatrick	yes

Councillor Wilson highlighted that there appeared to be meetings and conferences regarding broadband every month yet still the district was suffering. He asked that as a lead Council on this issue could something be done through SOLACE to promote action as opposed to conferences. In response the Chief Executive stated he would pick up with the Member and assured that there are initiatives being worked out and would be brought to committee in due course which would lead to actions and solutions

Councillor Elattar enquired if staff received suicide awareness training. In response the Chief Executive advised Democratic Services would consider options.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor Reid and

Resolved: That the attendance of Members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attending Members and officers.

C171/17 Consideration of Requests for Civic Recognition

The Chief Executive drew Members attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for civic recognition requests for those groups and individuals listed in line with Council Receptions Policy.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton advised that she had submitted Dungannon United Youth request and Councillor Anne Forde Magherafelt Sky Blues.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor M Quinn and

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

C172/17 Re-Shaping Stroke Services – A Pre Consultation

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure drew Members attention to the previously circulated report and sought approval for the response as drafted within the report. He reminded Members of the presentation on 1 August 2017 which had focused on the three main areas of care for patients who had had a stroke. The Director sought approval for the response as outlined in the report.

Councillor Wilson stated that the presentation had been interesting but stated that in relation to ambulance services he felt the response should be ‘beefed up’ highlighting the example, if an ambulance is transferring a patient to hospital that there are instances when they have to perhaps bring them to the Royal Victoria in Belfast, bypassing Craigavon Area Hospital and thus an ambulance servicing the Mid Ulster region is unavailable for a longer period. In response, the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that emergency ambulance provision across the region had been covered and agreed to place more emphasis on it.

Councillor Kearney concurred with Councillor Wilson’s comments.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That approval be granted to the response to Re-Shaping Stroke Services – A Pre Consultation response with more emphasis placed on the issue of emergency ambulance provision.

C173/17 Sperrins Future Search Conference

The Chief Executive drew attention to the previously circulated report seeking two Members to attend the Sperrins Future Search Conference scheduled to take place 27-29 September 2017 advising that it would be preferable if Members appointed could attend for the full duration of the event.

Councillor McGinley stated that it was his understanding that Council had a working group in relation to the topic and suggested Members should be appointed from it.

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That Councillors Clarke and Mallaghan represent Council at the Sperrins Future Search Conference.

Matters for Information

C174/17 Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Resolved The previously circulated paper on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council was noted.

C175/17 Correspondence

The Chair, Councillor Ashton drew attention to the email received from the Southern Trust and welcomed the response providing assurance in relation to safety of buildings.

Resolved The previously circulated paper on correspondence to Council was noted.

C176/17 Consideration of Motion

C176.1/17 Councillor Cuthbertson to move

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that antisocial behaviour in the areas mentioned in the motion, is an issue for all parties represented in the chamber. He highlighted that reports of serious events over the past two weekends connected to this ongoing problem, is a wake-up call to the Council and other statutory agencies. Councillor Cuthbertson outlined a post which had appeared on the PSNI social media site advising that, *“on three occasions in the past week young people have been found unconscious through drink in the area of The Lines and Railway Park. One male youth, who was found on Saturday 12 August, had to be transferred to an Intensive Care Unit with a blood alcohol reading of 366.”* Councillor Cuthbertson advised that to put the reading in context, the legal blood alcohol limit for driving is 80 and that the person is extremely fortunate to be alive. The Councillor highlighted that over the past weekend in separate instances, a teenage girl and another teenage boy were also found passed out and required first aid from members of the public prior to the arrival of emergency services. He stated that whilst there is no definitive evidence that any other substances had been taken by the youths concerned, that what was certain was that large quantities of alcohol had been consumed by each and this is of huge concern. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he believed that the Council has a duty to take the lead on this issue and to work with others to immediately address this problem before more tragic headlines are made. He stated that everyone would have their own opinion on how and who is responsible for tackling the issue but that he believed that the best place to discuss and begin to address the issue is at a planned meeting with all relevant agencies represented. Councillor Cuthbertson moved the motion.

“That Mid Ulster District Council act in response to the ongoing anti-social behaviour, the latest incident of which resulted in a teenager being found unconscious in Railway Park, before having to be admitted to The Royal Victoria Hospital. That a meeting is held with all relevant statutory agencies to put in place an action plan to deal with such instances in the Railway Park, Windmill Wood and Mullaghanagh Lane areas of Dungannon.”

Councillor Reid stated that it was a serious issue but that as Chair of PCSP he felt that it was business that the PCSP were dealing with right across Mid Ulster and advised that there was a special Antisocial Behaviour Sub Group. He stated that the Chair should withdraw the motion as no one person should be identified.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton stated that the motion was valid.

Councillor Mallaghan concurred with Councillor Reid's comments and stated that the motion lacked compassion, was naïve and potentially headline grabbing. He highlighted the example of issues in relation to antisocial behaviour around Halloween in his electoral area where the PCSP had sat down with people and sought solutions. Councillor Mallaghan stated that the Member should look at the terms of reference of the PCSP.

Councillor Buchanan seconded the motion

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that some may consider the PCSP a better platform but emphasised that it was a serious issue especially since Easter and that Council should not sit back and ignore what is going on and although it may not be the direct responsibility of Council the matter required sorted before there was more tragic headlines.

Councillor Reid emphasised that it was a very important issue but that Council was not the platform from which it should be dealt with and stated he would not vote against the motion but neither would he vote for it.

The Chair, Councillor Ashton called for a vote

For	5
Against	22
Abstained	7

The Chair, Councillor Ashton stated that the motion had fallen.

Councillor Cuthbertson in response to the result of the vote stated that it was very disappointing that no-one would take the initiative to get the issue sorted out.

Change of Order of Business

The Chair, Councillor Ashton proposed that the deputation from the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service be heard in open business.

Proposed by Councillor Ashton
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That the deputation from Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service be heard in to open business.

C177/17 Update from the NIFRS on Desertcreat

The Chair, Councillor Ashton welcomed representatives of the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service to the meeting.

Mr Graham, Senior Responsible Officer introduced the team and Mr Fitzsimmons and outlined the progress of the project to date following which Mr Rooney outlined the tactical firefighting facility proposals, the training support building plan and

elevation. Mr Rooney highlighted the next steps which included the commencement of construction together with a timelines leading to occupation in 2021.

The Chair Councillor Ashton thanked the representatives for the presentation and invited questions.

In response to question as to whether the impasse at Stormont would affect the project Mr Fitzsimmons advised that the budget was already in place so the project could progress.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that this was a milestone on a very long journey and he looked forward to seeing the diggers on site stating that former Cookstown Councillors would all acknowledge it was a long hard fought for project.

Councillor Wilson concurred with Councillor Mallaghan stating that it had been a long battle. He asked how many jobs the NIFRS envisaged based at the site. In response Mr Fitzsimmons stated that from a construction point of view it would be 34 full time in phase one with an additional 60 indirect labour jobs. With phase two it was anticipated that there would be approximately 400 constructions jobs with direct and indirect impact on the local economy.

Councillor Wilson stated that it would be his hope that a local firm is successful in attaining the contract.

Councillor Gillespie asked if the facility could be utilised for training for contractors who were required to do underground work in confined spaces. In response Mr Fitzsimmons stated that for the business case for funding the facility had to be for sole use by the NIFRS but perhaps in the future there may be such opportunities.

The Chair Councillor Ashton thanked the representatives for attending and they withdrew from the meeting at

Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McGinley
Seconded by Councillor J O'Neill and

Resolved: That items C178/17 – C181/17 be taken as confidential business.

- (i) Minutes taken as confidential business at the Audit Committee held on 25 July 2017
- (ii) Minutes taken as confidential business at Council Meeting held on Thursday 27 July 2017
- (iii) Minutes taken as confidential business at the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 July 2017
- (iv) Banking Services

The press left the meeting at 7.40pm

C182/17 Duration of Meeting

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

CHAIR _____

DATE _____