

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 January 2022 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor McLean

Members Present Councillors Ashton*, Bell*, Black*, Brown*, Buchanan*, Burton, Clarke*, Colvin*, Corry, Cuthbertson, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Glasgow*, Graham, Hughes*, Kearney*, Kerr, Mallaghan*, N McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney*, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne*, Molloy, Monteith*, Mullen*, Oneill*, Quinn, Robinson*, Totten* and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy & Performance (SDODSP)**
Ms Campbell, Deputy Chief Executive & Strategic Director of Environment (SDE)**
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure (DPHI)**
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (ADODSP)
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service & Finance (SDCSF)**
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Mrs Mezza, Head of Communications

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

The Chair, Councillor McLean welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. The Chair in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the meeting in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

C001/22 Apologies

Councillors Cuddy and S McAleer

C002/22 Declarations of Interest

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

C003/22 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor McLean made reference to the Council's recent successes such as the £1.8m Investment Plans for Outdoor Recreation, the Fuel stamp savings scheme has hit the £3m stamps mark, the IEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Annual Report for 2020/21 shows that Mid Ulster is punching well above its weight when it comes to recycling. It recorded an increase and again achieved (for the sixth year running) the highest household recycling rate of all eleven Councils for the year, recycling 58.9 per cent of our household waste. Our residents truly are recycling heroes.

The Chair, Councillor McLean asked Councillor S McPeake to speak on an issue.

Councillor S McPeake said he wished to raise the issue of the upcoming changes being made in April by HMRC to the usage of Red Diesel in any vehicles other than what are described as 'vehicles being used for agricultural purposes only'. He explained that the practise means for example that farmers using their tractors primarily for agricultural use on the farm but who maybe do an occasional bit of contracting or work for a neighbour will no longer be able to do that with any trace of red diesel within the tank. He continued to explain that if a farmer wished to use a tractor to help a neighbour do anything other than what is seen as strictly an agricultural activity with any trace of red diesel within the fuel system unless he washed the tank out and replaced all with clear diesel. Councillor S McPeake said that it was totally unworkable, impracticable and the implications haven't clearly been thought through. He said that even charitable events such as tractor runs which take place throughout the district will be unable to participate unless they run on clear diesel which will undoubtedly deprive charities of much needed funds.

Councillor S McPeake said whilst many of the changes of usage of red diesel will impact the agricultural sector, it will also have significant negative impacts on construction, quarrying and manufacturing sectors within the district. He said it would hit businesses hard at a time when they are already enduring increasing costs of materials and soaring energy prices which would in turn lead to increased costs of production and will inevitably lead to costs being passed to consumers.

Councillor S McPeake stated that it could not be argued that the changes being introduced were an action to tackle climate change as the change of entitlements in relation to red diesel would not reduce emissions. He emphasised that it would only serve to increase revenue for the Treasury and was a draconian and unworkable proposal. Councillor S McPeake stressed the local economy was reliant upon agriculture, construction, quarrying and manufacturing and as such Council should voice strong opposition to measures which would so negatively impact the economy.

Councillor S McPeake proposed that Council write to the British Exchequer and NI Executive to: (i) seek a pause to proposed legislative changes by HMRC regarding on Red diesel; and (ii) investigate ways to move away from fossil fuels and put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions.

Councillor Cuthbertson said this was an important issue for Northern Ireland and the United Kingdom as a whole, with an estimated cost of £20 to £25m. He thanked the Carla Lockhart MP for securing a debate on 19th January in Westminster and said it

was a shame that the MPs for the district and their colleagues did not join the debate. In conclusion Councillor Cuthbertson said he would second the proposal.

Councillor B McGuigan welcomed the proposal and said he would have seconded it also.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said he had no issues with the proposal and asked for any dissenters.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That Council write to the British Exchequer and NI Executive to: (i) seek a pause to proposed legislative changes by HMRC regarding on Red diesel; and (ii) investigate ways to move away from fossil fuels and put in place measures and policies that will have a meaningful impact on reducing emissions.

The Chair, Councillor McLean drew attention to the Department for Committees consultation on Local Government's Ability to hold Remote/Hybrid Meetings to support the bringing forward of legislation to permit virtual meetings in the future.

The Chief Executive advised this was merely asking Members to consider the options moving forward to have legislation in place to permit Remote/Hybrid Meetings. He said if legislation was in place there would be an option going forward to use the technology to permit remote/hybrid meetings.

The Chair, Councillor McLean invited comments from each of the Parties and independents in attendance.

Councillor Mallaghan said Council had come a long way in delivering hybrid meetings since the early days in the Burnavon, Cookstown. He said whilst it was good for everyone to be in the room, having legislation in place would allow better work life balance and time management as people would not have to journey across the district to attend what could be a short meeting. He concluded that Sinn Féin were supportive.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said the DUP would have no issue as it made good sense to have the legislation in place.

Councillor Quinn concurred and said the SDLP would support the legislation and although there had been difficulties in the early days issues had been resolved

Councillor Glasgow concurred and said whilst it was good to get back to the chamber the option of hybrid should be kept in place.

Councillors Monteith, Kerr and Mullen said they too would support legislation in place.

Councillor Wilson extended a thank you to the Head of ICT and his team for moving the Council forward and commended them.

Resolved That Council respond to the Department for Committees consultation on Local Government's Ability to hold Remote/Hybrid Meetings to support the bringing forward of legislation to permit virtual meetings in the future.

Matters for Decision

C004/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on 16 December 2021

Councillor Ashton drew attention to C257/21 Deputation Northern & Southern Health & Social Care Trust and proposed that Council write to the Trusts to formally seek a response to the questions posed.

The Chair, Councillor McLean supported the proposal.

Councillor Monteith supported the proposal specifically in relation to The Firs, Ballygawley and expressed concern in relation to the lack of answers regarding the issues.

Resolved That Council write to the SHSCT & NHSCT to formally seek answers to queries raised by Members at the meeting of Thursday 16 December 2021

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on 16 December 2021 (C254/21 – C268/21 and C281/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

C005/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on 10 January 2022

Councillor McKinney said he would be happy to propose the minutes with the exception of P006/22 Receive Report on Planning Performance.

The Chair, Councillor McLean sought clarity regarding P006/22 as to what amendments were being sought.

Councillor McKinney said he felt he would like the item audio checked as statements had been made which were not reflected.

The Chief Executive stated that the matter was not a planning decision and suggested that the minutes be adopted with item P006/22 referred back to the planning committee for accuracy.

Councillor S McPeake asked what amendment was being sought and said he had no issue with the minute as he had chaired the meeting, as the Chair Councillor Black had been unable to be present in person.

The Chair, Councillor McLean stated that the item would be referred back to the planning committee for discussion.

Councillor Glasgow supported Councillor McKinney and said it was well known what had been said as the meeting had been streamed on You Tube. He referred in particular to advice given from a legal point of view and he likewise would not support the item being adopted.

Councillor Wilson asked how long the planning committee could hold an application whilst waiting on a response from statutory agencies as a number of people had approached him in regard to applications being held up. He also sought clarity as to whether planning adhere to defined timelines if they did exist.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said that the Director of Planning would respond directly.

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on 10 January 2022 (P001/22 – P005/22 and P012/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted. P006/22 deferred to planning committee for further discussion.

C006/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee Meeting held on 11 January 2022

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E004/22 Recycling on the Go and stated that as referenced earlier in the meeting, Mid Ulster residents are recycling heroes and stated that biodegradable bags were not available at Coalisland recycling centre and asked if this could be rectified. He also asked if Council would embark on a further recycling social media campaign to encourage the use of biodegradable bags.

Councillor Burton asked if dog waste bags could be made available at recreational facilities as sometimes people genuinely forget to bring a bag. It was also suggested that holders for the bags be placed on for example display boards at recreational facilities. The Chair, Councillor McLean agreed that the requests would be followed up by officers.

Councillor McFlynn drew attention to E030/22 Capital Projects and in particular Iniscarn Project and stated that a resident had raised the lack of toilet facilities at the

site highlighting that the closest facilities are in Moneymore. Councillor McFlynn proposed that Council investigate the possibility of including/planning toilet facilities at Iniscarn Forest.

The Chair, Councillor McLean agreed that the request would be investigated by officers.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on 11 January 2022 (E001/22 – E017/22 and E031/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C007/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2022

Proposed by Councillor McKinney
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on 2 December 2021 (PR001/22 – PR008/22 and PR022/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C008/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on 13 January 2022

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on 13 January 2022 (D001/22 – D014/22 and D019/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C009/22 Conferences, Seminars & Training

The AD: ODSP sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, training and seminars.

Proposed by Councillor Burton
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined in the appendix to the report.

C010/22 Civic Recognition Nominations

The AD: ODSP sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, and as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

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

Matters for Information

C011/22 Correspondence to Council

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to the letter received from Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and said his motion later on the agenda would refer to same.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to the response received from the Minister of the Department for Infrastructure and requested that Council write to the Minister and Regional Divisional Manager to seek more detail on the proposed works within the current financial year. He stated that there appeared to be money set aside and that people in housing estates and developments were crying out to have roads repaired/resurfaced.

The Chief Executive said it would be apt to seek clarity from the Regional officers.

Councillor Wilson said that Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership had written to Council in November and it was now the end of January and the letter had not been included in the correspondence report. He asked how many people had been prosecuted by Council for drinking in public places as the PSNI did not keep a record of the number of referrals.

In response the Chief Executive said that the letter had been issued to himself and referred to various requests including consideration of drinking zones. He apologised for the delay and said that it would be referred to relevant committee.

Resolved That Council in response to DfI response on Budget Allocation for Investment in Mid Ulster roads write to the Minister and Regional Division Director/ Manager to seek more detail on the proposed works within the current financial year.

C012/22 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered previously circulated report on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to the DfI: Consultation Inconsiderate Pavement Parking - An Options Paper be referred to the Environment Committee for response and said that Members get complaints about obstructions on footpaths regularly and he proposed Council send a response. He said there was sufficient time as the consultation did not close until 18 March 2021 which would allow an options paper to be prepared and brought through the Environment Committee.

Resolved That Council respond to DfI: Consultation Inconsiderate Pavement Parking- An Options Paper be referred to the Environment Committee for response.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to the DfC Draft Housing Supply Strategy 2022-2037 and proposed that it be referred to the Mid Ulster Housing Forum for preparation for response. He highlighted that an extension for response should be requested for the closing date which is scheduled for 9 February 2022. He concluded that he had spoken to the secretary of the MUDC Housing Forum and advised that much work had been done in relation to housing across the Council such as communities and planning departments.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

Resolved That the DfC Draft Housing Supply Strategy 2022-2037 be referred to the Mid Ulster Housing Forum for preparation for response. An extension be requested for the closing date which is scheduled for 9 February 2022.

Councillor McNamee referred to the consultation document from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council and proposed that Council send them a copy of its Dual Language Street Sign Policy. He said that the policy being consulted on was very restrictive as more than two thirds had to be in favour and even to establish a petition it had to be one third. He also made reference that if a sign was refused it could not be brought back for consideration for three years and only three signs would be completed per month. He said that Mid Ulster policy worked well and there was protection for everyone.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That Council forward a copy of Mid Ulster DC Dual Language Signage Policy to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in response to their Draft Dual Language Street Sign Policy Consultation.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest as he was a farmer.

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to DAERA: Consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for NI and said that usually there is a twelve week consultation

period but in this instance it was only eight weeks and the closing date was 15 February 2022. He said he had a number of concerns such as the status of an active farmer and that the proposal is to move from 3 hectares to 10 hectares would rule many with small holdings out of the single farm payment. He said there appeared to be a great focus on removing small farmers and that many people would be impacted with regards to planning permission. Councillor Mallaghan said there were many issues, another being the fixed penalty notices. He proposed that Council seek an extension to the closing date and prepare a response.

Councillor Cuthbertson seconded the proposal and also made reference to the Climate Bill going through the Assembly which the SDLP had supported and the fact that Mid Ulster Farmers Union had highlighted that there is a risk of reducing agricultural herds by up 50% and a response would be needed on it also.

Councillor Gildernew supported the proposal and said it is more serious than it looks and could ultimately have an impact on securing planning permission in rural areas.

Councillor Clarke supported the proposal and said he had particular concerns on the impact on small farmers as if a survey was conducted many active farms in Mid Ulster were under 10 hectares.

Councillor Kearney concurred with the proposal and clarified that the SDLP were considering the Climate Change Bill and had not at this stage supported it.

Councillor McKinney said that Council should host a workshop for Members together with the Farmers Union and Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association (Cookstown). He stressed the urgency in preparation of the response as the closing date of 15 February was fast approaching.

Councillor Glasgow said that at a recent meeting NILGA had a deputation from the Farmers Union which had been very supportive of the concerns raised.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said that the points had been well made and that a workshop should be held.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved DAERA: Consultation on Future Agricultural Policy Proposals for NI:
That Council

- (i) seek an extension to the closing date; and
- (ii) prepare a response and in doing so host a workshop with Members, Farmers Union and Northern Ireland Agricultural Producers Association (Cookstown) to inform a response.
(closing date 15 February 2022)

Councillor Kearney drew attention to the Public Consultation on the Draft Special Education Strategy Area Plan 2022-2027; and Public Consultation on the Draft

Strategic Area Plan 2022-2027; and requested that Council respond and seek a consultation event for Members

Resolved That Council respond to Education Authority Public Consultation on the Draft Special Education Strategy Area Plan 2022-2027; and Public Consultation on the Draft Strategic Area Plan 2022-2027; and seek a consultation event for Mid Ulster District Council Members

C013/22 Notice of Motion

Councillor Kerr on a point of clarity asked if it was necessary to declare an interest in NILGOSC as it was the Council's pension scheme. In response the Chief Executive said there was no direct interest and thus entitled to discuss.

Councillor Kerr moved the motion -

“This Council calls on NILGOSC to divest the Local Government pension scheme from any fossil fuel companies within 2 years. This will give NILGOSC ample time to exit the market at the best time ensuring no adverse impact on the pension fund.”

Councillor Kerr said that the motion items was self-explanatory and he would ask parties to support it and advised that other Councils such as Newry, Mourne & Down, Fermanagh & Omagh and Belfast had supported the motion and that ABC Council was receiving a presentation on same. He said that Dr Seamus Campbell had outlined earlier in the week if the motion was supported Council would be joining a global movement for divestment from fossil fuels. He said that the Local Government pension scheme is investing millions of pounds in the fossil fuel industry and thus fuelling climate change through those investments. Furthermore he said it was putting pensions at risk as fossil fuel investments now pose an unacceptable long term financial risk to investors listing that climate change is having many negative effects on humanity including death and damaging the health of millions of people globally; fossil fuel industry is largely responsible for the climate change, 100 fossil fuel companies are responsible for 70% of the world's greenhouse emissions since 1988; this is leading to warmer climates increasing temperatures by 1.5 to 2°C; extreme weather patterns, heat waves, declining global food stocks, loss of ecosystems and biodiversity and life threatening sea level rises. Thus the fossil fuel industries is putting humanity in grave danger.

Councillor Kerr stated that divestment was the opposite of investment and that the motion together with the wider campaign is asking local authorities and similar institutions to move their direct and indirect investments out of the fossil fuel companies/industries as soon as possible or over a period of 3-5 years. He said that funds could be invested in a wide range of other companies and investment vehicles including green energy schemes. Globally over the world thousands of organisations and individuals have committed to the divest campaign. Continuing Councillor Kerr said that divestment is important to protect people, investors from financial risk posed by fossil fuel investments but is also playing a crucial role in addressing climate change, would reduce the social acceptability of the companies and erode political power. He said that many local authorities throughout the world have supported the campaign and local government pension schemes have also supported it.

Councillor Kerr said that local government pension schemes have a legal responsibility to invest in the best interest of fund members but that by investing in fossil fuels those pensions are being put at financial risk. He shared that some leading senior barristers show that pension fund trustees who fail to consider climate risk could be exposing themselves to legal challenge. The Governor of a very reputable bank Mark Carney has warned that fossil fuel companies face potentially huge losses from climate change actions. In relation to communities by divesting Council are sending a clear message for a positive green future. NILGOSC has hundreds of millions of pounds invested in Shell, BP and Centrica which is poor practise and should be challenged. Councillor Kerr concluded calling for support for the motion.

Councillor Monteith seconded the motion saying that there are many initiatives that can be taken but this motion is a real action which should be taken and stated that others should be encouraged to do likewise.

Councillor Wilson stated he was not against the motion but thought it may be an idea to invite NILGOSC to make a presentation to a committee at which time Council could make its points.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said that if you look at NILGOSC website they are very much in line with the motion and have a process in place that all of those who they are investing in have to set out they are striving to do this, thus Council is asking them to continue with this.

The Chair, Councillor McLean declared the motion carried.

C014/22 Notice of Motion

Councillor Cuthbertson speaking on the motion said, on her twenty-first birthday, in a speech broadcast on the radio from Cape Town, The Queen (then Princess Elizabeth) dedicated her life to the service of the Commonwealth: 'I declare before you all, that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service.' This year Her Majesty The Queen becomes the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old. The Queen has ruled for longer than any other Monarch in British history, becoming a much loved and respected figure across the globe. Her extraordinary reign has seen her travel more widely than any other monarch, undertaking many historic overseas visits. She is known for her sense of duty and her devotion to a life of service, she has been an important figurehead for the UK and the Commonwealth.

Her Majesty continues to carry out a full programme of engagements, from visits to charities and schools, to hosting visiting Heads of State, to leading the nation in Remembrance and celebratory events - all supported by other members of the Royal Family. The Queen sees public and voluntary service as one of the most important elements of her work. The Queen has links - as Royal Patron or President - with over 600 charities, military associations, professional bodies and public service

organisations. These vary from well-established international charities to smaller bodies working in a specialist area or on a local basis only.

Chairman, it is only right that this Council along with every other local authority across the UK and the Commonwealth worldwide recognises this remarkable service.

As outlined in the letter from the Right Honorable Michael Gove MP received earlier on the agenda there are many ways for local authorities to participate such as beacon lighting, encouraging communities to host street parties, hosting concerts and special talks, use of the official Platinum Jubilee on website and social media channels, large screen events, we have an event space at the top of Market square and are always looking of ways to bring the public into the town, what better way to support the wonderful hospitality businesses in our town in middle of summer large screen events in town publicised for all.

Councillor Cuthbertson moved the motion,

"This year, 2022, Her Majesty The Queen will become the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, seventy years of service, having acceded to the throne on 6th February 1952 when Her Majesty was 25 years old. To mark this remarkable achievement, Mid Ulster District Council will write a letter of congratulations and best wishes to Her Majesty and also organise a programme of meaningful and respectful events to commemorate this significant occasion."

Councillor Buchanan seconded the motion and said that a big part of what makes the country great is Her Majesty The Queen's service and thus it is only natural that people want to celebrate. Councillor Buchanan concluded that Her Majesty The Queen had bridged communities and brought together many nationalities and it give him great pleasure to second the motion.

Councillor McKinney concurred with Councillor Buchanan and said he would support the motion.

Councillor Mallaghan said he did not want to deter from the motion completely but asked how the events would be dealt with. He said in Mid Ulster District area the community host such events on Council's behalf and avail of funding opportunities made available by Council. He highlighted examples of events for instance commemoration events regarding 1916 commemorations for which the community organised events and availed of funding from community festival and good relations grants. Councillor Mallaghan said he felt the same should apply to the Platinum Jubilee, that it was the Chair's discretion to write a letter but when there was an understanding in place on dealing with such events Sinn Féin would not support the motion.

Councillor Quinn concurred with regard to the letter and reiterated that there were funding streams in place for such events and thus the SDLP would not support the motion.

Councillor Monteith concurred and said whilst he understood the British Monarchy meant a lot to some people he too felt there should be no corporate events but that interested groups should seek out funding. He said he could not see how Council could support this when they had not done so for other events.

Councillor Glasgow said he fully supported the motion to mark the occasion of the Platinum Jubilee which was a remarkable achievement for which celebrations should be rolled out across the district. He said Her Majesty the Queen was a remarkable woman who had done great work for charity, was a true servant of the Lord and that the UUP would fully support the motion.

Councillor Kerr concurred with the comments of Councillor Monteith and stated he would not support the motion.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that almost ten to twelve years ago local authorities moved into a period to commemorate events through the 'Decade of Anniversaries' which was now complete and he appreciated there is funding for community festivals but said that his motion did not ask for funding but talks about encouraging through grants. He referred to the letter in correspondence received from government which highlighted ways in which local authorities could mark the occasion which would not involve great expense for example lighting a beacon, which would be a small token for unionist people in the district. He referred to £16k set aside to facilitate talks about a pipe dream to tell people how much worse off they would be financially if they were in the Republic of Ireland, yet to light beacons across the main towns would not be asking for such a pot of money. He said that right across the community the Platinum Jubilee would be a cause for celebrations including the foreign national community as indeed the events would be recognised across the world.

Councillor Ashton in response to the understanding highlighted by Cllr Mallaghan with regard to council led functions she said she was sure workshops could be held but there had been no previous arrangements it was simply that nationalist would not support unionist.

Councillor Colvin said it would be remiss of him not to speak of his late mother who was a great admirer of Her Majesty The Queen but did not enjoy the same good health. He said that Queen Elizabeth had demonstrated forgiveness and endeavoured to build bridges and thus people would want to celebrate such a magnificent lady. Councillor Colvin spoke of her visit to Dublin, a clear demonstration of her desire to build relationships. He said it was disappointing that Council would not take the step to celebrate this world wide recognised figure and said that he hoped Members across the chamber would find it in their hearts to do so.

The Chair, Councillor McLean called for a vote on the motion.

For	14
Against	24

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

Councillor Cuthbertson said whilst he was not surprised he was disappointed as many respected and admired Her Majesty the Queen and that the yesterday's men in the chamber were out of touch of the world stage. He spoke of the huge contribution made by Her Majesty The Queen and how she had reached across communities even though the IRA had butchered her cousin along with many other men and women. He said there was no support for the centenary of Northern Ireland and that good relations did not exist in Mid Ulster where thousands was spent on 'Irishism'. He concluded that they only wanted a fair share and posed the question as to why any unionist household in Mid Ulster would consider an increase in the rates when they receive zero from Council.

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. The public will be asked to withdraw from the meeting at this point.

The live broadcast concluded at 8.15 pm

Resolved That items C015/22 to C019/22 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 December 2021
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 10 January 2022
- (iii) Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2022
- (iv) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 12 January 2022
- (v) Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 January 2022

C020/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at Meeting ended at 8.20 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I let you know before this happens.

Just some housekeeping before we commence. Can I remind you:-

- If you have joined the meeting remotely please keep your audio on mute unless invited to speak and then turn it off when finished speaking
- Keep your video on at all times, unless you have bandwidth or internet connection issues, where you are advised to try turning your video off
- If you wish to speak please raise your hand in the meeting or on screen and keep raised until observed by an Officer or myself
- Should we need to take a vote this evening I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda – apologies and then a roll call of members in attendance.