

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 26 March 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Chair** Councillor Kearney

**Members Present** Councillors Black, Buchanan, Corry, Cuthbertson, Graham, Kerr, Mallaghan, N McAleer, D McPeake, S McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Quinn and Wilson

**Officers in Attendance** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

**Remote Attendance** Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation  
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development  
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure  
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications  
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

**C054/20 Apologies – due to COVID 19 Social Distancing Requirements**

Councillors Ashton, Bell, Brown, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Hughes, S McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, Milne, Mullen, O'Neill, Robinson and Totten

**C055/20 Declarations of Interest**

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

*Declaration of Interest:* Councillor Mallaghan declared an interest in C073/20 Connecting Pomeroy

**C056/20 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Kearney thanked Members for attending the meeting and extended best wishes to Councillor McFlynn who was endeavouring to return from Australia as she had been visiting family.

He stated that Mid Ulster was part of the global community facing an unprecedented and fundamental challenge to how we live our daily lives, including how we do our work. He emphasised that the focus had to be on not only delivering essential services but the safety of Council staff, the community and Members themselves. The Chair spoke of the briefings and how he was overwhelmed with the local community in their endeavour to help one another and reach out offering services. He referred to advice on the Council website as to how to contact both counselling

services and food banks. The Chair extended his appreciation for the community spirit being displayed in these challenging times and how people were reaching out putting themselves at risk when the advice was to stay home wherever possible.

The Chair concluded that at 8pm the meeting would express its appreciation for all those in the caring profession.

**C057/020 Council Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 27 February 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 27 February 2020 (C024/20 – C053/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C058/20 Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 3 March 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 3 March 2020 (P026/20 – P039/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C059/20 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 5 March 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

**Resolved** That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 5 March (PR053 – PR076/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C060/20 Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2020**

Proposed by Councillor N McAleer  
Seconded by Councillor Graham and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 10 March 2020 (E063/20 - E100/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C061/20 Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 12 March 2020**

Proposed by Councillor Corry

Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 12 March 2020 (D045/20 – D068/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

## **C062/20 Conferences, Seminars & Training Report**

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

### (i) Member Approvals

- *Agenda NI – Northern Ireland Infrastructure Investment Conference 2020*

Thursday 28 May 2020 – La Mon Hotel, Belfast  
£225 plus travel and subsistence

- *Agenda NI – Engaging the NI Assembly 2020*

Thursday 30 April 2020 – Stormont Hotel, Belfast  
£275 + Vat

### ***Cancellations/Postponements notified due to COVID-19 Outbreak***

- *The Computer says No: “How ‘Welfare’ Algorithms Punish the Poor”*

Wednesday 25 March 2020 at 5.30 pm  
Conor Lecture Theatre, Belfast Campus, Ulster University, Belfast  
Free travel and subsistence  
Councillor Molloy

- *NILGA – Caring Councils: A Local Government Response to Poverty, Addiction and Improving Mental Health*

Friday 27 March 2020 – Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast  
Travel 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</b>
Planning for a Resilient Future Conference	6 March 2020	1	UU, Belfast	Yes
Manufacturing NI Visit to Manchester & Sheffield	Date TBC	1	Manchester & Sheffield	

<b>Conference &amp; Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance Fee</b>
Sports Safety Conference 20	27 March 2020	2 x PHI	Portstewart	No
Women's Leadership Seminar	15 May 2020	1	Dundalk	No

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.

#### **C063/20 Council's Governance Arrangements re COVID 19 including the Scheme of Delegation for Planning**

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report and sought approval to suspend Committees until further notice as part of the Council's response to Covid-19.

He advised that as events had moved on since the report had been compiled he was of the view that delegated authority with regard planning matters would no longer be required.

Councillor Monteith stated that it was a wise decision to suspend committees and whilst he accepted that requests on the Planning function had become limited due to Covid-19 outbreak, it was nonetheless concerning. He also reflected on the monthly Council meeting and suggested that perhaps the Council like others operate a summer type recess when Members would receive updates with authority delegated to the Chief Executive. Councillor Monteith said it was not possible to function as normal highlighting that as meeting reports were prepared and issued they quickly become out of date. He stressed that Council needed to use imagination to move forward at this time.

Councillor Cuthbertson concurred that a different approach was needed and stated with regard to the Council meeting the Group Leaders could review the situation in three weeks' time and decide on a way forward.

Councillor Monteith strongly objected stating that, together with Councillors Mullen and Kerr they would be excluded from this process.

Councillor Mallaghan stated that in terms of the planning function, Council must be cautious at this time but highlighted that it would provide the opportunity to boost the economy when the Covid-19 crisis passed. He highlighted that Council through its own projects would have the opportunity to boost the economy. He also said that in terms of authority being delegated he said these arrangements were already in place and if the Chief Executive had to make a decision he had the authority to do so.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith  
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

**Resolved** To suspend Committees of the Council until further notice.

## **Matters for Information**

### **C064/20 Correspondence**

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

- Northern Ireland Assembly Committees – Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs and Finance Committees
- Minister of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs, NI Executive
- Deputy Secretary Work & Health, Department for Communities
- Minister for Infrastructure, NI Executive
- Chairperson, ICBAN
- Minister of Justice, NI Executive
- Minister for Health, NI Executive
- Chief Executive Volunteer Now

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

### **C065/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster Council District Council**

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

**Resolved** That Council note report on Consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

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

The press and public withdrew from the meeting at 7.15 pm

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Black and

**Resolved** That items (C066/20-C080/20) be taken as confidential business.

## **Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 27 February 2020
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 3 March 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 5 March 2020
- (iv) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 10 March 2020
- (v) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 12 March 2020
- (vi) Village Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme – IST Davagh(s), Washingbay and Portglenone
- (vii) Village Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme IST Ballyronan
- (viii) Connecting Pomeroy
- (ix) Village Extension Programme/Rural Development Programme, Maghera
- (x) Tackling Rural Poverty Programme – IST Work Package 5 – Davagh MBT & Moydamlaght
- (xi) Maghera Sports Pitch
- (xii) Villages Extension Programme – IST Roundlake, Fivemiletown
- (xiii) Document for Sealing: Transfer Deed relating to the Sale of Lands Situated at Railway Park, Newell Road, Dungannon
- (xiv) Document for Sealing: Novation Agreement dated 28 February 2020 regarding Waste Related Consultancy Services

**C081/20      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.30 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_