

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 September 2018 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Chair:** Councillor McPeake

**Members Present:** Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Buchanan, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Forde, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, Mallaghan, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, Milne, Molloy, Monteith (7.10pm), Mulligan, J O'Neill, M Quinn, G Shiels, Totten and Wilson

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure & Outdoor Recreation  
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure  
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities  
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications  
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services  
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance  
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

**Others in Attendance:** Deputation – Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Comghal McQuillan, Regional Director South  
Michael Dallat, Area Manager (Mid Ulster)  
Ailbhe Hickey, Place Shaping Team  
Margaret Bradley  
Connor Smith

The meeting commenced at 7pm

**C208/18 Apologies**

Councillor Bell, Burton, Clarke, Doris, Elattar, S McGuigan, Mullen, T Quinn, Reid, Robinson, J Shiels

**C209/18 Declarations of Interest**

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

*Councillor Gildernew declared an interest in D173/18 Brantry Forest Development Proposal*

**C210/18 Chair's Business**

Councillor M Quinn spoke of the death of Vincent Currie who was a former Councillor in the legacy Dungannon Council for twenty years and had held position of Chair. He requested that Chair send a letter of sympathy to the family.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake agreed to do so.

Councillor Cuddy stated that he had received the news of Vincent's death with sadness and shared that he had done much for the Dungannon area.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake advised Members that he had been made aware of the success of Council's case in the High Court regarding the rates support grant. He acknowledged that the success would be of great financial benefit to Council and applauded senior officers in particular the Director of Finance for their work and advised that a report would be presented to Members in due course.

### **C211/18      Deputation – Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake welcomed representatives of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to the meeting and Mr McQuillan delivered a presentation.

*Councillor Milne left the meeting at 7.08 pm retuning at 7.10pm.*

*Councillor Monteith entered the meeting at 7.12pm*

The Chair, Councillor McPeake thanked Mr McQuillan for the presentation and stating that there was a hidden need in many rural areas for social housing asked if there was a better way of calculating demand.

In response, Mr McQuillan referred to the previously circulated report which referred to housing stress. He advised that rural demand can come from somewhere like the Moy to a crossroads development. He stated that the NIHE were endeavouring to become smarter in establishing statistics and highlighted that as part of the 'latent demand' scheme they had hosted events in local halls to try to encourage people to come forward to register for social housing. He also made mention of surveys conducted recently in Swatragh area and advised that if Council was aware of any areas missed in recent surveys to highlight same.

Councillor Wilson expressed his thanks to the staff in the Cookstown office for their ongoing work. In relation to identification of available lands for social housing the Councillor asked if the NIHE left this to the housing associations or if they identify lands themselves. He further enquired if there were any lands available in the Cookstown area.

Councillor Monteith referred to the report and stated that he would take exception to the reference within the Local Context section "*rented accommodation is now the accommodation of choice for many households, and especially younger households on lower incomes*" he stated that the necessity for younger couples in the area to opt for private renting as opposed to buying is because 'private sector landlords' are outbidding them and thus it is not a lifestyle choice it is because they cannot get a mortgage. He said that he would take umbrage at such a statement. He also referred to the statistics

regarding average weekly rents and stressed that if averages were being presented it should be by area, as in Dungannon you would not get private rented accommodation for £150 per week for a former NIHE home he stated the average is £600 plus rates per month. He also stated that housing crisis in urban areas had not been reflected in the report.

In response to Councillor Wilson's question Mr McQuillan advised that the NIHE did not solely rely on housing associations to identify lands and that if there are hotspots of need they carry out studies and make housing associations aware. He also advised that the NIHE had a scheme for three dwellings in Molesworth Street, Cookstown but was aware that housing stock needed to be supplemented.

In response to Councillor Monteith's remarks Mr McQuillan advised that it was a statement of fact that some people chose to private rent and said that the core business of the NIHE was social housing provision and that they endeavour to meet need where and when possible within the constraints set on them. He also stated that Dungannon housing had improved but there was more to be done and said there were 547 applicants on the waiting list for area one and 300 of those were in stress but that they only had 88 units to allocate. He referred to the 50 units at Killymeal Road site and another site on Ballygawley Road and advised that the NIHE was working with housing associations to address need. Referring to the cost of private rental Mr McQuillan stated he would not ignore 'the elephant in the room' and emphasised that robust legislation for rent and landlord control was required. He stated that there were ample houses but they were not affordable.

Councillor McFlynn asked if there was any progress regarding the travellers need situation mentioning the Traad site in particular.

In response, Mr McQuillan said that the NIHE had been asked to investigate Travellers needs in the area last year and that they had carried out a needs assessment but at that time the travellers' representatives would not engage with them. He also advised that they had become aware of travellers needing accommodation and had carried out a study of their land stock, much of which was on the edge of housing estates which were not suitable. He reminded Members that the Council had become involved and consultants had looked at sites, Traad being one of them, and stressed that no site had been selected. He confirmed that there was an ongoing site investigation study. He further advised that the second phase of a Northern Ireland wide travellers' needs assessment is taking place in the current year. Mr McQuillan concluded his remarks stating that the NIHE were aware that traveller accommodation was required, that to date there had been no decisions taken and that any proposed site would be subject to a planning application through which process the public would have opportunity to comment.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake thanked representatives of the NIHE for their contribution and withdrew from the meeting at 7.24pm.

## **Matters for Decision**

**C212/18      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council meeting held on Thursday 23 August 2018**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved:** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 23 August 2018 (C187/18 – C199/18 and C207/18) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake drew attention to C195/18 A29/31 Bypass and asked Members to recall the discussion held at the meeting. He then referred to an article published in the Tyrone Courier newspaper (issue dated 29 August 2018) which claimed there had been a row at the Council meeting and that a contribution from Councillor G Shiels had been silenced. The Chair, Councillor McPeake asked if anyone remembered the row, as he certainly did not, and stated that the article was a misrepresentation of what took place in that the Councillor had not been silenced. He advised that he had been asked for no comment on the story prior to it being published and stated that it was poor journalism. The Chair advised that the Councillor had received the ‘right of reply’ when he requested it. He advised that anyone was free to listen to the audio recording of the meeting and said that the article was scandalous as no Councillor had been silenced. The Chair, Councillor McPeake advised that he was putting his ‘disgust’ on record.

In response to Councillor G Shiels request to comment the Chair, Councillor McPeake advised he had made a statement and there would be no discussion.

**C213/18      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee meeting held on Tuesday 4 September 2018**

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor Gildernew and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 September 2018 (P112/18 – P117/18 and P126/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C214/18      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Thursday 6 September 2018**

Proposed by Councillor Molloy  
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 6 September 2018 (PR174/18 – PR182/18 and

PR195/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C215/18      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee meeting held on Tuesday 11 September 2018**

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to *E250/18 Street Naming and Dual Language Signage* and sought clarity on the number of signs being replaced, as he thought it was 26 and the figure of £2,200 did not tally.

In response, the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that it was less than 30 signs.

Councillor Glasgow referring to details provided at the committee stated if it was £160 to replace a sign and approximately £84 to erect the cost for 26 signs would be in excess of £6000. The Councillor requested that Members receive detail of the final costs of erection of the signs.

The Director of Public Health and Infrastructure agreed to provide the final costs.

Councillor Wilson asked if there was any need to change the signs if they were already in situ.

Councillor Cuddy stated that his party was by no means against the Irish language but expressed concern regarding the cost of changing the signs and stated that the minority community were not getting fair share of the resources. He stated that he was not a member of the Environment Committee but stressed that Council needed to look at it resources fully.

In response the Chair, Councillor McPeake stated that Council had adopted various policies and the aforementioned was the out workings of them.

Councillor Cuddy stated that the minority were not getting a fair share of the resources.

In response the Chair, Councillor McPeake stated that Councillor Cuddy could bring forward proposals to the Policy and Resources Committee as the matter was not for discussion at Council.

Councillor Cuthbertson expressed concern regarding the costs and proposed that Council do not proceed with the replacement signage. He stressed that detailed costs were needed and that although Council had agreed a policy this was the third template on dual language signage and that although some were ‘experts’ on the Irish language they had to come back to committee because the signs could not be read. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he had brought forward a proposal for directional signage to a local cemetery but a paper was yet to be brought to Committee.

In response the Chair, Councillor McPeake stated that the relevant Director would check out the matter of the directional signage.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake sought a proposer for the minutes.

Councillor McFlynn drew attention to *E251/18 Establishment of Mid Ulster – Travellers Working Group* and referred to the discussion at the Environment Committee and proposed that Council defer establishing a working group until the Council is in receipt of the NIHE report.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed that Council continue with establishing the Travellers Working Group as recommended at the Environment Committee as everyone was aware there had been a need for years and the travellers were being pushed from one place to another. He emphasised that the matter had been discussed and agreed on at the committee and Council should be progressing the matter.

Councillor McGinley stated if required, he would second the proposal as Council needed to 'grasp the nettle' and he was not sure what the fear was in trying to assist the NIHE. He advised he had a different stance to that of Councillor McFlynn and that the working group would provide a great opportunity. He also sought direction from the Chief Executive as he thought the formation of a working group had been previously agreed by Council.

The Chief Executive stated that he did not have a copy of the previous resolves at this time.

Councillor McGinley reiterated that the working group should be formed.

Councillor McFlynn reiterated her proposal to defer the establishment of a working group.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake asked what would be the benefit of deferring the working group given the speed of how things progress.

Councillor McFlynn stated that Council would be better waiting on the report from the NIHE.

Councillor McGinley stated that the matter had been well publicised and there were concerns within the community on the matter. He stated that 'information had grown legs' and reiterated that Council should 'grasp the nettle' and that a working group would assist as a means which would make sure constituents had their voices heard.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he was at the Environment Committee and had seconded Councillor McFlynn's proposal at that time. He said he would again second her proposal to defer the establishment of a working group.

Councillor Kearney stated that there were issues regarding the matter and that maybe the people of Traad had concerns. He emphasised that no one was saying there should not be a working group but its establishment should be deferred until the NIHE report was received.

Councillor Glasgow reflected that the NIHE representative could not provide answers during the presentation thus he could see no issue with deferring the proposed working group.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake stated that the meeting would adjourn for ten minutes.

*The meeting adjourned at 7.45pm*

*The meeting reconvened at 7.55pm*

The Chair, Councillor McPeake referred to the minutes of the environment committee item E251/18 *Establishment of Mid Ulster – Travellers Working Group*, which recommended the establishment of a working group.

The Chief Executive advised that the recommendation to establish a working group was only now coming before Council for approval and it was now for Council to decide upon the recommendation. The Chief Executive confirmed that Councillor McFlynn's proposal could be considered

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson

To defer the working group.

Councillor McGinley referred back to the Special Council meeting of July 2018 and stated that it was his understanding at that meeting that a working group would be established to discuss both interim and permanent sites. The Councillor stated he had serious concerns about the public perception of the Council, if the decision to defer proceeded and he could not understand why people were afraid of assisting in what may rectify the current situation. Councillor McGinley referring to a Christy Moore song 'On the Road Again', stated that Council may be putting a family back on the road. He advised that he lived on the Lough shore and that the issues today had been ongoing for years, he stressed that Council could put a stamp on rectifying the problem and that he was shocked by the stance being taken.

Councillor Mallaghan concurred with Councillor McGinley and referred to the earlier discussion about the sad passing of former Councillor Vincent Currie. He recalled that the name of Currie was associated with civil rights throughout Ireland and stated that the children of Gaza, the LGBT community, travellers and everyone were the same and that voting against a working group was delaying rights.

Councillor Monteith referred to the 1960s when the local council sent people out to move travellers and advised that the people of Dungannon west stood side by side with the travellers and did not permit it to happen. He further stated that if the discussion referred to any other minority group for example a disability or language group there would be no hesitation and posed the question, why is this being proposed for travellers? He stressed that was the message Council was sending out. He said that the people of the Council area 40-50 years ago knew where to stand and now the elected representatives needed to stand up to the plate.

Councillor Ashton stated that it was not appropriate to bring the name of a mourning family into the debate.

Councillor McLean referred to the comments made. He referred to Councillor McGinley's comment on not understanding why people were resisting a working group and stated that it was perhaps because people had seen the behaviour of Sinn Féin on other working groups because of their majority and this would be status quo.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake called for a vote on Councillor McFlynn's proposal.

Councillor McGinley requested a recorded vote.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson

To defer the establishing of a working group.

**For** Councillors Ashton, Buchanan, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Forde, Glasgow, Kearney, McAleer, McFlynn, McKinney, McLean, Mulligan, Quinn M, Shiels G and Wilson (15)

**Against** Councillors Bateson, Gildernew, Gillespie, Mallaghan, McEldowney, McGinley, McGuigan B, McNamee, McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, O'Neill and Totten (14)

The Chair, Councillor McPeake declared the proposal Carried

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Mulligan and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 (E236/18 – E260/18 and E271/18) transacted in "Open Business" having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

**C216/18 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 13 September 2018**

Councillor B McGuigan referred to item D164/18 *Chairs Business* and the recommendation to organise a consultation session on surveying taking place in the Sperrins in relation to mining. He asked that the recommendation be progressed quickly in order to give the public the opportunity to attain information.

Councillor Monteith concurred stating that events had taken place in Monaghan in recent days when sinkholes had appeared, resulting from mining. He said the consultation day should happen as soon as possible.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and



**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Development Committee held on Thursday 13 September 2018 (D162/18 – D177/18 and D188/18) transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

## **C217/18 Conferences, Seminars & Training**

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) Conference & Seminars – Attendance by Members**

- Borders, Boundaries & Bridges: Learning with our Neighbours  
Friday 12 October 2018, Skainos Centre, Belfast  
No conference fee, travel and subsistence
- Annual Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2018: Addressing Economic Challenges, Brexit, Low Growth, Poor Productivity  
Thursday 8 November 2018, 9am – 5pm, Armagh City Hotel  
Conference fee: £165, travel and subsistence
- Tackling Paramilitarism: Working Together to end the Harm Conference (NI Executive)  
Monday 15 October 2018, 10am – 4pm, Girdwood Community Hub, Belfast  
No conference fee, travel and subsistence
- World Health Organisation International Health Cities Conference (Belfast)  
Monday 1 October – Thursday 4 October 2018, Waterfront Hall, Belfast  
Conference fee: £200, travel and subsistence

### **(ii) Officer Approvals**

<b>Conference &amp; Seminar</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>No. of Attendees</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Attendance Fee</b>
RTPI Conference	11/09/18	4	Belfast	Yes (4 <sup>th</sup> place free)
All Ireland Smart Cities Forum Annual Conference	26/09/18	1	Dublin	Yes
Conveyancing Conference 2018	09/10/18	1	Belfast	Yes
Disability Awareness Conference	09/10/18	1	Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Craigavon	No
Playboard NI Conference 2018	16/10/18	1	Belfast	No

Proposed by Councillor McNamee

Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan 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.

#### **C218/18 Civic Recognition Requests**

The Chair, Councillor McPeake sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated council policy.

Proposed by Councillor M Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

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

#### **Matters for Information**

#### **C219/18 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council**

Members noted previously circulated report on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council since the last meeting of Council.

#### **C220/18 Correspondence to Council – September 2018**

Members noted previously circulated report on correspondence received to Mid Ulster District Council since the last meeting of Council.

Councillor Glasgow drew attention to the correspondence from BT and requested that Council write to BT to retain the telephone situated at 120 Lough Fea Road, near Ballybriest Orange Hall, Cookstown BT80 9QL. He advised he had been speaking to constituents who had expressed concern on the proposed removal noting that the payphone was five miles from the nearest village. He further stated that payphones were important for emergency use and the fact that they were not used was a good sign but if they would be needed in an emergency.

The Chair, Councillor McPeake in response to Councillor Cuthbertson's comment that if the kiosk was red, it would have a temporary listing stating that if so the matter should be referred to Planning Section.

Councillor Glasgow confirmed it was a red kiosk and that he would bring the matter to planning but emphasised that the letter should be sent to retain the payphone for emergency use.

**Resolved** That the Council responds to BT requesting that the public payphone at 120 Lough Fea Road, near Ballybriest Orange Hall, Cookstown BT80 9QL remains at the location

Councillor McAleer drew attention to the correspondence from the Department of Health in relation to the Orkambi drug and expressed disappointment at the response stressing that the matter highlighted the need to have Ministers in situ to take decisions.

## **C221/18      Notice of Motion**

Councillor Wilson referring to the motion to be moved by Councillor G Shiels requested that Council consider an amendment as undernoted.

*Further that this Council recognising the unacceptable levels of suicide in Northern Ireland –In our own Council area since 2008, 159 people have taken their own lives – writes to the Secretary of State requesting her to release the Protect Life 2 strategy which has been unacceptably left on the shelf due to the Stormont political impasse.*

The Chair, Councillor McPeake in response to Members assent advised that the amendment was accepted.

Councillor G Shiels thanked Members for accepting the amendment and moved the motion as undernoted:

*“That this Council writes to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health, requesting a meeting to explain to Council how the Department intends to deliver the promise made personally by the Prime Minister, relating to the root and branch review of the state of mental health within the workplace, the review which she commissioned.*

*That nationwide review was named “Thriving at Work” and Mrs May promised at the publication of the review that she would as a first step introduce the ground-breaking proposals contained in the review to the NHS and the Civil Service. This would benefit up to two million public sector workers.*

*The question is would that promise travel and would workers in Northern Ireland benefit. If not, why not?*

*Further that this Council recognising the unacceptable levels of suicide in Northern Ireland –In our own Council area since 2008, 159 people have taken their own lives – writes to the Secretary of State requesting her to release the Protect Life 2 strategy which has been unacceptably left on the shelf due to the Stormont political impasse.*

Councillor G Shiels read the undernoted statement,

*“Councillors will be only to aware of the unhappy existence of those living with mental ill health while still maintaining a place in the workforce. We each recognise the very great trauma and despair experience by an ever-increasing share of our workforce, individuals suffering from depression and other forms of mental ill health. We know this because the experts tell us, but we cannot really fathom the extent of the problem because those suffering do so in silence, the stigma attached to mental illness is extant in today’s society and is a very effective blanket.*

On 9<sup>th</sup> January 2017 the Prime Minister Teresa May, commissioned an independent review on, and I quote, 'how we deal with mental health problems across the country and at every stage of life, we must transform the way we think about and treat mental illness driving changes in the workplace is a vital part of that transformation.

The review was entitled 'Thriving at Work', and I have quoted Mrs May speaking on the publication of the review on 27<sup>th</sup> October 2017. I further quote her, "so earlier this year I asked Paul Farmer, chief executive of Mind and Chairman of the NHS Mental Health Taskforce, and Lord Dennis Stevenson, a long-time campaigner for greater understanding and treatment of mental illness, to carry out an independent review."

The review suggests a root and branch change to the way those living with mental ill health are perceived and treated within the workforce, and further suggests a more understanding attitude to those affected and an awareness of the stigma attached to depression, for example, which makes discussion with workmates a no no. Women usually find the support of other women as confidants as an indispensable aid to mental equilibrium. Men on the other hand, turn inwards, bottle it all up. Perhaps this is part of the problem feeding the statistic that 75% of suicides are male.

Mental Ill Health affects a very large swathe of our workforce, allegedly ranging from 1 in 6 up to 50%. Whether the figure is one in six, as I read previously in the government inspired report, or one in two, these are attention gaining statistics, just think of the consequences for the economy of Mid Ulster if even a smidgeon of these figures is accurate.

What then of the human cost, the very real dread of entering the factory gates in the morning, descending into mode, manufacturing the plastic expressionless face hoping that your mates can't see behind the façade? Am I exaggerating or miss-stating the extent of the problem? I don't think so. Many of those suffering Mental Ill Health do so alone and far from their family and loved ones being their place of sanctuary they may come out through the factory gates in the evening only to replicate the whole charade all over again at home. Keeping up the pretence, pretending all is rosy in the garden.

Translating this into hard stats Northern Ireland has had the highest incidence of suicide overt the last two to three years. Despite coming out top of the suicide league within the UK, the province also has the lowest mental health funding to attempt to address the problem, is this a coincidence?

Thriving at work makes 40 recommendations for employers, Government and regulators. It lays out six 'core standards' for all to adopt that lay the basic foundations for a better approach to workplace mental health. These include setting up mental health at work plans, awareness training for staff and making managers directly accountable for the mental wellbeing of staff. For larger organisations and the public sector the review has enhanced standards to monitor and improve employees' mental health.

*When Mrs May spoke at the publication of the report she made a promise:- “I believe that to truly demonstrate the values of compassion and progress that we as a society share we must transform the way we think about and treat mental illness.” So we will take immediate action to lead this transformation. That is why I asked the NHS and Civil Service two of the country’s largest employer’s to adopt the recommendations of this report.*

*They will introduce a set of enhance standards to provide support for anyone with a mental health condition and help them stay at work. This will give employees the knowledge, tools and confidence to look after their own mental health and to support colleagues who may need help. More than two million public sector workers will benefit from the changes, making the sector a hugely important standard bearer in the transformation of the workplace.*

*The Council, in view of Northern Ireland’s dubious distinction of being top of the UK suicide league arguably fed by the lowest level of funding to address mental ill health – this Council has the right to ask what provision, if any, the Prime Minister has made of the transformation of good mental health within the province’s workforce, in light of the findings of this review which she commissioned. If provision has been made then the Permanent Secretary should be in a position to inform this Council.”*

Councillor Wilson seconded the motion and highlighted the fact stated by Councillor G Shiels that Northern Ireland had the largest suicide rate. He appealed to anyone suffering mental illness to seek help, to contact their General Practitioner or access mental health charities highlighting the work of Niamh Louise Foundation in the area who in the first seven months of the year had 175 people through the door, had had 76 one-to-one sessions per month and had approximately nine new referrals per month.

Councillor Wilson stated that much of the legislation had been agreed by all parties and was sitting on the shelf and that the Secretary of State had the power to progress the matter and thus Council should send a letter detailing this.

Councillor Molloy referred to the Protect Life 2 strategy and advised that Michelle O’Neill MLA had brought this about to tackle suicide levels. He shared that he had watched a documentary of how the USA had adopted a zero approach to suicide which had paid great dividends but unfortunately it was only those who could afford to pay for health care had benefitted. He referred to mental health at work and today’s technology for example mobile phones which meant many had a constant connection with work and did not get a proper break away. He emphasised that such matters needed to be taken into account and Council like other employers needed to ‘switch off’.

Councillor Molloy stated that Sinn Féin would support the motion.

Councillor Kearney stated that the motion was timely referring to statistics in the Civil Service which indicated sickness was at a nine year high with one third contributed to anxiety. He reflected that many of these people could even reside in the district and reflected on the launch of the ‘Still Waiting’ report by the Children’s Commissioner and the fact that mental health was a target within the community plan, a fact which should be incorporated in any letter arising from the motion.

Councillor G Shiels stated he would be happy to include.

Councillor McLean stated that mental health had been a taboo for a long time and too little was being done too late. He also shared that the construction industry had also been looking at the matter and said his Party would support the motion.

Councillor McAleer also welcomed the motion advising that she had received an invitation from the Southern area regarding action for mental health in relation to eating disorders.

Councillor G Shiels thanked the Council for the support for advising that the Protect Life 2 strategy had revealed that the rate of mental health illness in deprived areas doubled. He advised also that presenteeism was becoming an issue with *presentees* being persons who go to work suffering from illness, mental health or otherwise, which was becoming an issue for organisations.

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

For	29
Against	0

The Chair, Councillor McPeake declared the motion carried.

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

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved:** That items C222/18 - C233/18 be taken as confidential business

*Councillors Cuthbertson, Mulligan, McKinney and McGinley left the meeting 8.30pm*

#### **Matters for Decision**

- (i) Council Meeting Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 23 August 2018
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 4 September 2018
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 6 September 2018
- (iv) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 11 September 2018
- (v) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 13 September 2018
- (vi) Audit Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 18 September 2018
- (vii) Portglenone Angling Stands/Access Paths

- (viii) Mechanism for Economic Growth
- (ix) Document for Sealing – “Treatment of Residual Waste with Regen Waste Ltd”
- (x) Document for Sealing – “Lease of Lands situated at the rear of Clogher Primary School between the Select Vestry Committee and Mid Ulster District Council (Lease and Counterpart Lease)”
- (xi) Document for Sealing – “FP McCann – Contract for repair of Maghera Leisure Centre”

**C234/18      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 8.50 pm

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_