

**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 20 October 2022 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means**

**Members Present**

Councillor Clarke, Chair

Councillors Black\*, Burton (7.37 pm), Corry\*, Doris\*, Elattar\*, Kerr\*, Milne\*, Molloy\*, Quinn\*

**Officers in Attendance**

Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place  
Ms Linney\*\*, Assistant Director of Development  
Ms McKeown\*\*, Assistant Director of Economic Development, Tourism and Strategic Programmes  
Mr McGuckin, Head of Strategic Services and Engagement  
Mr Kennedy\*\*, ICT Support  
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

**Others in Attendance**

Councillor N McAleer

**Deputations**

CLG & CC Naomh Colum Cille  
Clonoe Rural Development Agency  
Dungannon Swifts  
Moortown St Malachy's GAC

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

\*\*\* Denotes Others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

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

**D166/22 Apologies**

Councillors Ashton, Cuddy and Wilson.

**D167/22 Declarations of Interest**

The Chair Councillor Clarke reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

**D168/22 Chair's Business**

The Chair advised that questions would be taken after each completed presentation.

## **D169/22      CLG & CC Naomh Colum Cille**

The Chair welcomed to the committee representatives from CLG & CC Naomh Colum Cille and invited them to address the committee (appendix 1).

Mr O'Neill thanked the committee for allowing them to make their presentation tonight which updated members on the Rise of Youth Membership, Development Plan and Financing.

He referred to the Development Plan and said that Phase 1 and 2 were complete and now were looking forward to the next Phases of 3,4,5 & 6 which included:

- Phase 3 -      (Target £150,000)  
Hurling Wall  
NCC next Development Phase  
Huge Benefits:
  - Sharpens Speed, agility & reactions
  - All weather & all Year
  - Improves hand eye co-ordination
  
- Phase 4 -      (Target £150,000)  
Rural Community Focal Point:
  - Exercise
  - Shared Family TimeAttracts new NCC Members
  
- Phase 5 -      (Target £300,000)  
Indoor Fall Facilities
  
- Phase 6 -      (Target £120,000)  
Access Lane  
Parking & Floodlight upgrade

The Chair thanked the group for their presentation and said that it provided an update on what the Club has done to date and want their intentions were moving forward.

Councillor Kerr commended the group on their impressive presentation which indicated the ambitious plans they have and wanted to wish the club well on their endeavors over the next few years. He said that it was great to see hurling being recognised as usually it takes second seat to Gaelic football which took into the different areas like Coalisland, Clonoe, Derrylaughan, Loughshore, Brackaville and the wider area and was also great to see the provision of hurling strengthening in the area. He reiterated his best wishes for the group in their future intentions and wished to pass on his best of luck to Naomh Colum Cille this Saturday and hoped they take the championship home and make some history which would be great for

the Gaelic scene in East Tyrone. He also hoped they would be County Champions next week.

Councillor Molloy congratulated the group on their fantastic presentation and said that he was in the Chair last year when the Club had made their presentation similarly and at that time it was said that it would be great to see the Club progressing to be in a County final and winning the Benburb cup and bringing it back to the Loughshore and the area. Now 12 months on the team were in a final and only one game away from achieving that and wished the players, management and committee every success in that. In referring to the project, he said that it was great to see the ongoing development to date which was magnificent and also great to see the whole community getting behind not only the hurling and sports activities, but indeed the wider community coming together through the facilities of a walking track, which kept people safe from walking on the roads and also the social enterprise and social inclusion that this brings for the wider community. He wished that group well for the future and anything that members were help to help in any way they could.

Councillor Doris praised the club on their impressive presentation and video which was sharp and straight to the point. She concurred with previous member's comments and said that she also recalled the group coming into Council last year where it was stated that the Girls camogie was just starting out and was great that it was a good successful year for the Club. She said that she had visited the club and agreed what was stated within the presentation about the facilities being way behind, which was an understatement, as she witnessed the work which has been done but also needed to be done. She said that the club was much more than a sporting facility and was vitally important for all age groups as it provided different events including health & wellbeing courses and Irish language courses etc. She wished to reconfirm that any commitment that the Council can provide, then they would definitely try their best to help. She wished the Club the very best of luck for this coming Saturday in their championship.

Councillor Quinn concurred with previous members on an excellent presentation. He said that he had a great cup of tea down at the club at the weekend and for someone like himself who used to walk past that field and to see what it was now turned into was astonishing. He referred the quality of the Club was adding to hurling, not just within the Clonoe or Coalisland parish catchment area, but within the county in general and the buzz that it has now created which was excellent to see. He said that he had his Naomh Colum Cille flag flying outside his home at present and added that any help that was needed, he would be more than happy to try and provide for the club as it was a fantastic facility and looked forward to watching the team in the final next week. He wished the Club the very best of luck for next Saturday.

The Chair said that he recognised the commitment that the Club have put in and that the Council would be there to provide any help in any way they can. He wished the team the very best of luck in the Country Final on Saturday and if they successful it would be a great win for the area.

The representatives from CLG & CC Naomh Colum Cille left the meeting at 7.14 pm.

## **D170/22      Clonoe Rural Development Agency**

The Chair welcomed to the committee representatives from Clonoe Rural Development Agency (CRDA) and invited them to address the committee (appendix 2).

Mr O'Neill updated members on the need identified, the lack of infrastructure within the community, nowhere for the younger and more senior members of the Clonoe community to congregate and socialise whilst these segments of this community population.

He said that CRDA had met over recent years to devise and plan for extensive infrastructure to be developed over the coming years which included:

- 1.5 km floodlit perimeter walkway around the development
- Community Hub meeting Rooms
- Outdoor Coffee Shop
- Large Outdoor Playground areas
- Wall-Ball Area
- Spectator Terrace and Cover Stand – fully accessible for wheelchair users
- 2 X New Training Football Fields

He concluded by saying that Clonoe Rural Development Agency believed that they were well placed to deliver Phase 1 of their overall Project to qualify for the Capital Discretionary Grant.

The Chair said that it was useful for the Council to see what the work which was being done and asked for members' comments.

Councillor Kerr thanked the club for their fantastic presentation and said it was great to see the members of Clonoe Rural Development Agency in attendance tonight. He said that it was great to see the ambitious plans which the club has for the long term and it was now the time and imperative that Clonoe was recognised as a village due to the rise in population through new housing developments. He said that more investment and infrastructure was needed and that there was no better place in Clonoe to provide it than the local Club as they provide a lot of resources to the community and for all ages, male and female. He wanted to pass on his best of luck to Clonoe Ladies in their forthcoming championship and wished the group well. He asked if the Club needed any help in any way, then do not hesitate to make contact. He hoped that within the next 8 to 10 years that the project will be a reality and that the Ulster Council and himself would help in every step of the way.

Councillor Quinn commended the group on an excellent presentation and said that it was great to see the 5k walkway which was obviously a fantastic facility. He hoped that help and support can be provided by the Council if need be as Clonoe was one of the fastest growing communities within our district and this project would not just be the local area but for everyone. He said that any help in which may be required that members would be happy to help in any way they can.

Councillor Molloy thanked the group for their excellent presentation and said that he was aware the Clonoe fell into a two DEA catchment areas, and he had a vested interest as a DEA Councillor for the area. He concurred with previous comments and said that everything which was being proposed was a great asset for the local and wider community area as it just didn't involve football but also included provision for walkers, young people, older people, social inclusion and safety aspect so people will not feel the need to be walking on the roads. He wished that group well and said that the Council will try and help in any way they can.

Councillor Doris commended the great presentation and added bonus of the video clip as it was great to see what the project would look like virtually in the future. She said that this was a community which kept growing including businesses and there was a need to have more facilities in that area due to the growing population. She referred to young mothers and said that she was glad to hear this being referred to as this was something that she received regular feedback on as they were a fairly socially isolated group. There is a lot of young families within Clonoe and the need was just going to grow a lot more. She said that it was impressive that the group had yet again included disability friendly aspects within the project as Clonoe had always gone above and beyond when thinking of other people's disabilities and how they could be involved in the Club within the community. She stated that this was a great project and shovel ready and Sinn Féin would continue to support in any way they possibly can.

The Chair said that it was easy to see what Clonoe group had delivered and how they progressed over the years as it was evident to see what they needed. He advised the group that the Council were here to help in any they could and wished them well for the future.

The representatives from CLG & CC Naomh Colum Cille left the meeting at 7.34 pm.

## **D171/22      Dungannon Swifts**

The Chair welcomed to the committee representatives of Dungannon Swifts FC and invited them to address the committee (appendix 3).

Mr Grant advised that Dungannon Swifts was a long established club which was formed in 1949. The club is a constituted sporting and community-based organisation and a NIFL Premiership Club (top tier NI football pyramid)

*Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.37 pm.*

The club's vision is to establish Dungannon Swifts Football Club as a leading Football Club in Northern Ireland through providing an environment in which young people can realise their full potential as Footballers. The Club also aim to make Dungannon Swifts a model of best practice in Football development.

The project will enable the Club to offer:

- Improved facilities for Dungannon Swifts FC teams at all levels

- Enabling other soccer clubs and sports clubs to use the facilities for their specific activities to help meet their needs e.g. Newmills FC, Mid Ulster Ladies
- Facility to host UEFA, International Representative and domestic show piece games (visitors to the area)
- Enhancement of community and sporting facilities in Dungannon and the wider region
- Potential for school usage and schools programme development
- Local charities and community groups offered space for activities
- A venue to host local, regional and international events
- Revenue created (not for profit) to be invested in volunteers, community programmes and the sustainability of facilities at Stangmore Park.

The Chair thanked the group for their impressive presentation and said that it was very helpful to clarify to committee what Club were doing and proposing to do and asked for members comments

Councillor Molloy thanked the group for their presentation which was excellent as always. He said that this was a broad spectrum of the residents of the wider Dungannon area and it was evident the good work in which the Swifts carry out and as the feeder club with Dungannon United Youth. He felt that it was great to help local talent as this was a top level team playing within the area and was also good to see where Clubs own their own facilities and now they were asking for a little bit of help, but not coming looking everything handed to them. It was good to see investment and reinvestment by the Club when they have some money collected that they reinvest this again. He wished the club all the very best with the project and future development of it.

Councillor Quinn thanked the group for their presentation and commended them on what they were doing. He said that he was a supporter of the Club and great to see local talent which has come out of the Club over the years like Conor Bradley and Darren Robinson. He said that this was an excellent Club which was cross community and we need a place like Swifts for young people to play on the big stage in which everyone is proud of. He wished the group all the best for the future and asked that any help that is required, not to be afraid to come forward.

Councillor Burton apologised to committee for being late as she was at another event. She said that it would be remiss of her not to acknowledge the efforts put in by Swifts Football Club in trying to progress and push ahead with their project. She stated that she was a former Minterburn's mummy when Swifts came to work with the children in that rural area years ago, which was a huge thing to them and now some of them have moved on to bigger and better things and sadly the school is now closed but will always remember the dedication the club had shown in helping these school children. She commended the work that the Club did within rural areas in that time and as a Clogher Valley Councillor which feeds in the area, and as someone else alluded to previously, the opportunities given both to girls and boys in terms of some of the work in which the Club is involved in is second to none. She thanked the group for coming along to provide their presentation tonight as it was good to see what the Club was involved in and trying to keep going and as a Council we will do our best to provide support in any way we possibly can.

The Chair thanked the group for their good presentation and the great comments from the Councillors and said that even though he lived quite a bit from Dungannon he was very aware of who the Club were and the great work they have carried out and are planning to carry out. He wished the Club the very best and that the Council would support and help them in any way they can.

The representatives from Dungannon Swifts FC left the meeting at 7.50 pm.

## **D172/22      Moortown St. Malachy's GAC**

The Chair welcomed to the committee representatives of Moortown St. Malachy's GAC and invited them to address the committee (appendix 4).

Mr Monaghan provided members with the history associated with Moortown St. Malachy's GAC from when it was established 99 years ago. Update was provided on the development of the Community Hub (Croí na Mona – Heart of Moortown), income sources, Club Moortown, Proposed Project, Business Plan, Need, Funding for Changing Rooms and Community Gym, Match Funding and Contingency Plan.

In the overall development of the Moortown St Malachy's Sports and Community Complex, this project represents the final essential phase. It will provide users of the site, both sports people and community people, with an up-to-date, fit for purpose facility which will be used on a daily basis throughout the year.

The Chair thanked the group for their presentation and asked for members comments.

Councillor Molloy said that it was an excellent presentation and impressive to see the fallback within the contingency plan in the event that some of the funding not going ahead. He said that being involved with Gaelic himself, that changing rooms were essential especially for the growth of involvement of young girls in football, it is essential that additional changing rooms is available which may be a challenge for a number of Clubs across the country going forward, but it was a necessity. He wished that Club all the very best for the future.

Councillor Quinn commended the group on their very good presentation and said that it was good to see the potential for good health being involved within the community. He said that he remembers playing against Moortown at the old field and to compare the two fields from then to now was hardly possible to believe. He said that Moortown was similar to Clonoe as it was a huge growing community with lots of activities taking place and lots of young people emerging. He referred to the growth of the ladies games around the Loughshore which was massive to be built in around Moortown especially. He was happy to provide any support in which the group required and looked forward to seeing continuous growth within the community.

Councillor Kerr congratulated the group on the great presentation and wished them well in this project in the long term. He concurred with previous comments and said that Moortown Seniors had a good year and wanted to pass on his best of luck to the

team and fair play to the Ladies and hoped like Clonoe that they get to the semi-final of Ulster and wished them every success in the long term.

Councillor Doris commended the great presentation and said that it was essential that females using the Club facilities have access to adequate changing facilities, where they feel safe. She said that she would be supportive of the project and anything that Sinn Féin can do they would be happy to help.

Councillor N McAleer thanked the group for their excellent presentation. He said that being local to the area he has witnessed the transformation Moortown has gone through over the past 10 years which has been spectacular. He referred to the Club, committee, volunteers and all those who have raised funds in the past and commended them on their very hard work. He said that he also would be very supportive of the application and wished the group the very best for the future.

The Chair thanked everyone which contributed to the meeting tonight and commended them in carrying out the good work already achieved on their projects and advised that the Council would make sure to assist them along the way where possible. He said that it was good to see such great work being done across Mid Ulster in the four different communities by four different independent organisations, over a period of time and still continuing to do it for the good of their communities.

Councillor Molloy commended all the excellent presentations brought to committee tonight and felt that their communities should be proud of the self-funding and facilities in which they provide, which showed the standard that was provided right across Mid Ulster.

## **D173/22      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 8.11 pm.

Chair \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_



## **Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson**

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

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 please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- 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.