

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 24 September 2020 in the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan

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

Officers in Attendance Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Dr Boomer, Planning Manager **
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 Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

In Attendance **Representatives of Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

Director of Regional Services	Siobhan McCauley
Head of Place Shaping (Southern Region)	Ailbhe Hickey
Regional Manager (South)	Jonathan Blease
Area Manager	Sharon Crooks

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan 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.

C168/20 Apologies

Councillor Oneill

C169/20 Declarations of Interest

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

C170/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to COVID 19 stating that it appeared to be spiralling, that the numbers for Mid Ulster district were concerning highlighting in particular those in Cookstown. He said that all were aware of the current difficulties society was facing in relation to social encounters and that as a large organisation Council must be united in spreading the message of adherence to guidelines. He spoke of the tighter restrictions being brought into Donegal and emphasised the important role Council had to play. He spoke on the scepticism flooding social media especially in relation to the good work being carried out by health professionals and stressed the need to listen to the facts and trust the science. He acknowledged Council had a duty to ensure that as much information be provided as possible through marketing and communications, officers and Members and that whilst it was hard to comprehend why some things were ok whilst others were not each person should do their best.

Councillor Gildernew sought an update on the A5 Cross Border Group as to whether there was a date to reconvene meetings. In response the Head of Democratic Services stated he had contacted Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and they had confirmed the group had not met from March and were still awaiting a date to meet with the Minister of Department of Infrastructure.

Councillor Gildernew requested that further contact be made as such a lapse in progress was not conducive to the project.

Resolved That Council make contact with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council as lead organisation for A5 Cross Border Group to reconvene the Group to progress matters in relation to A5 project

Councillor Monteith brought to the attention of the meeting the Dungannon Clarkes GAC, who for many years had been the underdogs in the sport but the previous weekend had won and brought home to Dungannon the County Tyrone O'Neill Cup. He further commended Edendork GAC who had won the Intermediate County Championship and Moy GAC Ladies for winning the Junior County Championship. He stated it was great that the competitions had been able to conclude and the hard work on the field had paid off. He commended all the clubs on their work in providing community support to the vulnerable during the height of the lockdown and extended congratulations to them on their achievements.

Councillor Molloy echoed Councillor Monteith's remarks and requested Chair, Councillor Mallaghan to recognise the aforementioned teams who in normal circumstances would have progressed to Ulster Championships but could not be afforded the privilege in current circumstances. He reflected particularly on Dungannon Thomas Clarke's who had 'come to the very wire' but had won.

Councillor Molloy reflected on begrudging comments made in the past weeks about the GAA in general. He spoke of his home club of Clonmore Robert Emmets GFC named after a former President and highlighted the facilities it provides to the local community and its work during the height of the pandemic providing essential community support. He further highlighted that the club had always had cross community membership reflecting that during the troubles one member had been convicted of UVF activity. He stated he would refuse to apologise for his Club.

Councillor Kerr echoed Councillor Molloy's remarks and congratulated in particular Dugannon Clarke's on their historic win. He further congratulated Edendork, and Moy ladies highlighting that it had Coalisland ladies who had lost out to Moy. He concluded wishing Coalisland GAA best wishes for matches in the coming week.

Councillor Quinn seconded Councillor Molloy's proposal for recognition and echoed the comments of previous speakers stating to describe the Dugannon Thomas Clarke's match as 'nail biting' did not do it justice. He spoke of those who had jumped on the back of such fantastic achievements to bring the club down and described it as 'sad' especially when they had done so much for the wider community during lockdown.

Councillor Cuthbertson said that whilst in a normal society Members should be congratulating a sporting achievement for Dugannon, any significance of the win, had been lost to the disgraceful, reckless scenes witnessed on Sunday past when blatant disregard had been shown to Social Distancing and Covid-19 regulations, which are in place to protect all. Councillor Cuthbertson said he had been contacted by many in the brave health service in utter despair to what took place and if that was not serious enough, there were quite a number of social media videos circulating clearly showing clips of singing & chanting by groups of men, wearing Dugannon GAA shirts, some waving the trophy cup aloft and others in licensed premises. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the words to the song were much too vulgar to be repeated at the meeting describing them as misogynistic, derogatory, offensive, sectarian and Pro IRA.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he would be expecting both the Ulster GAA and Dugannon GAA to come out to condemn and distance themselves from the disgusting behaviour and he would also expect every Member in the room to out rightly condemn these actions. He stated that the PSNI were investigating the matters and until complete and the outcome known as to whether condemnation would be forthcoming the Council should suspend all funding to the GAA in Mid Ulster. Councillor Cuthbertson stressed that Mid Ulster Council should not be associated through its financial support of any form of misogynistic, derogatory, disgusting terms against women.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McLean

That pending the outcome of investigations aforementioned Council suspend all grants to the GAA across Mid Ulster district.

Councillor Cuddy congratulated the massive win for the Dungannon club and its supporters and spoke of when Dungannon Rugby Club had won the All Ireland in 2000 and the jubilancy that followed. He stated however on this occasion for supporters to come onto the pitch was wrong and hoped that there would be no serious consequences. In respect of the issue of media clips chanting songs in support of an illegal organisation he said that anyone wearing a club jersey should not have displayed such behaviour as sport should be open to all. He spoke of how Dungannon Swifts had once been viewed as 'loyalist' it had developed to ensure it was all inclusive and like Dungannon Rugby Club welcomed anyone who was a good player. He concluded that Dungannon was a sporting town and he would challenge the Dungannon Clarke's to continue to build on the good work they had done.

Councillor McNamee stated as a 'Rocks' man he would congratulate the Dungannon Clarke's who had provided great entertainment throughout the championship. He stated that emotions were alive and how he had known the former school principal who had sadly passed away Tony Devlin, whose son was playing in the number four shirt on the day. He commented how the player's uncle had spoken of just how proud the player's father would have been of him participating in such a game.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan as a Pomeroy Plunkett man told how he had watched his team play in the competition a few years ago and how they just hadn't made it, adding that across Mid Ulster there was a sense of joy that was phenomenal on the Clarke's win. He welcomed Councillor Cuddy's congratulations and also the encouraging comments from both Dungannon Rugby Club and Dungannon Swifts and commented on the healthy relationships that existed between the three clubs which highlighted how successful sport was in uniting people. The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reflected on the proposal of Councillor Molloy and stated he would investigate how best Council could recognise the clubs in this unique situation with no Ulster Championship.

Resolved That the Chair Councillor Mallaghan investigate how to recognise in a fair and appropriate manner, in the current circumstances, the undernoted Sports Club successes:

- (i) Dungannon Clarkes winning the County Tyrone Senior Football Championship;
- (ii) Edendork winning the County Tyrone Intermediate Football Championship;
- (iii) Moy GAA ladies winning the County Tyrone Junior Football Championship; and

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to his opening remarks at the beginning of the meeting and reflected how in recent days Sammy Wilson MLA had travelled on a London tube with no face covering, there had been reports in relation to golf, gaelic games and there was no point trying to split blame. He stated Dungannon Thomas Clarke's would deal with their issues, highlighted that the Ulster Council had spoken out about the pitch invasion and concluded reflecting on a press article by Cathal O'Kane as to whether sport was ready to come back given the great emotion that drives it.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan highlighted that there was a proposal and using a quote of Councillor McLean's 'it was using a sledge hammer to crack a nut' called for a vote on Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal.

For 14
Against 23

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan confirmed the proposal fell.

Councillor McFlynn as Chair of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership she together with the local Chief Inspector of the PSNI had met had met with a group of officials visiting from Lithuania. Councillor McFlynn advised that during the meeting anti social behaviour taking place at The Junction and Tesco's in Beech Valley, Dungannon had been discussed. She reported that although it was an issue for the PSCP it was not scheduled to meet until 14 October but she felt action from Council would be appropriate to look at perhaps erecting a fence and consider issues in relation to lighting.

Councillor Monteith concurred that Council should act reflecting that when Councillor Dillion had chaired the Council, officers and Members had participated in a site visit and it had been agreed that undergrowth would be removed, lighting would be improved and there had been similar initiatives under each subsequent Chair but no action. He stated that the Council refuses to take simple action to considerably improve the safety of the area and Members had been told it would not be done until all the 'all singing and dancing' major capital projects are completed. Councillor Monteith was emphatic that it was not acceptable and there was no reason why the area should have to wait for undergrowth to be pulled out and whilst the action may not solve everything it would alleviate some issues and make people feel safer. He concluded stating it was 2020 and that the town should not have to wait for a capital project to be completed before minor works as aforementioned could be carried out.

Councillor Cuddy concurred that there had been a series of meetings with the PSNI together with Dungannon DEA Members, highlighted that the issues are frustrating and all Councillors needed to support the peace in this area. He stated that with the issue of public safety everyone needed to work together as there was social issues across the town and this particular area boasted a lovely walk. He said that Council could improve lighting and cut back hedges but everyone needed to work together to alleviate anti social behaviour. Councillor Cuddy stressed that all agencies needed to get the young people involved to assist in regeneration and nurture in them a sense of ownership to make the town a better place to live, work and belong to. He appealed for all to work with the PSNI and statutory agencies to work with the new generation to encourage them to become good citizens.

Councillor McKinney said as former Chair of the PCSP this report was nothing new. He stated there had been a decision to cut back undergrowth and there had been discussions in relation to employing a warden for which all bodies would contribute. He further stated that it was not just local children that many travelled to participate in anti social behaviour in the area commenting that if a warden could be employed to keep an eye out in the area, engage with the young people and endeavour to instil

in them the concept that it is not acceptable to destroy other people's property it would be money well spent.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that unfortunately this was not new but a historic issue and reflected that he had brought a motion early in the first term of Mid Ulster Council and it had been rejected without a hearing but he welcomed the fact that now others were willing to do something about it. He also referred to a report to the Environment Committee earlier in the month regarding invasive species at Railway Park an issue which he had followed up with the Director following the meeting. He stated that some undergrowth may not be able to be cut back, as to do so would mean it would grow back thicker and more detail was needed as to how severe the issue was as it could hold up works in the area.

Councillor Molloy echoed the comments of previous speakers concurring that it had been discussed on many occasions. He reflected that a large pane of glass had had to be replaced at one of the buildings and advised that a gas pipeline had been brought through the area in question. Councillor Molloy spoke of the anti social behaviour and also illegal dumping. With regard to the youths he suggested that instead of labelling them criminals there was a lack of activities for them and Council should engage with schools and youth services to see what could be done.

Councillor Ashton stated that the situation had been ongoing for years and was long past reports and DEA meetings it was action that was required. Councillor Ashton proposed that a report be presented to the Development Committee on 15 October 2020 detailing a strategy, action plan and time line for work and actions to be carried out to endeavour to alleviate antisocial behaviour in the area of the Junction at Beach Valley and across the Railway Park area of Dungannon.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan sought agreement.

Resolved That a report be presented to the Development Committee on XX October 2020 detailing a strategy, action plan and time line for work and actions to be carried out to endeavour to alleviate antisocial behaviour in the area of the Junction at Beach Valley and across the Railway Park area of Dungannon.

Councillor Colvin reflected that such behaviour was happening in other areas and in supporting Councillor Ashton's initiative he stated the learning should be used across the district.

Councillor Burton spoke of complaints made to her from people trying to get into petrol station at Tesco's who had been hindered as someone had blocked the entrance with a traffic cone. She reflected that the PCSP had endeavoured to engage with the youth and there had been a frustration in the community that the community building was not open for community activities for them.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he wanted to bring to the Council's attention, although many would already be aware of the poster erected on the Newell Road, Dungannon which targeted the PSNI and other security services. He stated that the

poster was disgusting and an act of hatred to those from the community of Dungannon and Mid Ulster whose job role was to protect the entire community.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Black and

Resolved That Council condemn the aforementioned poster on Newell Road, Dungannon

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 7.44 pm

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan adjourned the meeting to allow ICT to eliminate connectivity problems.

Councillor Burton returned to the meeting at 7.46pm

The meeting resumed at 7.52 pm

C171/20 Deputation – Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan acknowledged the difficulties with connectivity and thanked representatives from Northern Ireland Housing Executive team for waiting and invited them to make their presentation.

The Director of Regional Services Siobhan McCauley stated technology was difficult for all and introduced the team all of who had joined the meeting remotely.

Ms McCauley presented the power point presentation following which the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan sought Members questions.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked

- (i) In relation to aspirations of homes to be built the report highlighted it as 202 but the need is 336, so there appears to be a major gap between provision and need, how does the NIHE propose to address?
- (ii) New build social housing rents charged are in excess of housing benefit allowed, thus it is impossible for many to access affordable social housing, how can this be addressed?
- (iii) In relation to COVID 19 and contractors provision of maintenance work. Reports are being received that the NIHE, from 1st October may be going to penalise contractors if targets are not reached which is concerning given in the current crisis when it is difficult to access materials, labour etc.

In response to question one Ms McCauley stated that there was always difficulties in financial provision and also during the height of the pandemic construction workers were not on site thus this laid to delay in delivery. With regard to housing benefit in line with social rents charged Ms McCauley acknowledged the difference in levels

and stated that they worked hard to achieve levels that permitted rents to be affordable.

Ms Hickey requested that questions be repeated as she was struggling to pick them up. The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan repeated question one and Ms Hickey advised that it had been anticipated that more social housing would be delivered and referred to page 57 of the development plan advising that in the last financial year some had been held up in the planning process but it was hoped to bring some forward. The Chair again reflected that the need was 336 and the programmed units was 202.

Ms McCauley stated that the NIHE were still endeavouring to secure lands to plan for further housing units.

Mr Blase referred to question (iii) and stated that the NIHE had met with contractors and acknowledged the difficult circumstances stating that during the height of the pandemic they had got emergency jobs done but were now dealing with a backlog of routine jobs. He acknowledged that they had been flexible with contractors over the past 7 months and continued to be aware of difficulties but stated they were a public body and had to deliver services. He stated that the NIHE had to challenge contractors on costs and time for jobs as they had to deliver a first class service.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that contractors needed flexibility at this time.

The team from NIHE continued to experience sound difficulties and the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan requested that Members forward questions to the Head of Democratic Services which would then be forwarded to the NIHE team to respond on.

The NIHE team left the meeting.

Councillor McKinney stated he had said this more than once but the ICT system is bad in the room and worse at home and yet again it was a poor show.

Councillor Monteith stated he had issues which he would forward to the Head of Democratic Services. He referred to page 8 of the NIHE report and proposed that Council engage with Department for Communities to discuss the private rental sector. He also stated he would love to know where houses could be got to rent for £120 per week in Dungannon.

Councillor Monteith also stated that Council needed to look at stand alone meetings for statutory agencies as tonight's proceedings was conducive to no one.

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal for a meeting with DfC.

Councillor Colvin concurred with Councillor Monteith and stated that Council also needed to put pressure on NI Water as the current infrastructure would not sustain future housing.

Councillor Milne proposed that DEA meetings should be arranged to discuss a way forward in relation to housing.

Councillor Elattar seconded the proposal.

Resolved That

- (i) DEA specific meetings be scheduled with NIHE representatives;
- (ii) Council seek a meeting with Department for Communities to discuss issues around private rental sector; and
- (iii) Due to technical difficulties in communication technology that Councillors emails questions in relation to the NIHE presentation to Democratic Services, to be forwarded and addressed by NIHE representatives following the meeting.

In response to Councillor Cuthbertson's suggestion that Dfl attend the environment committee it was acknowledged that the wider Membership may wish to attend and under current COVID regulations there would be too many in the room.

Matters for Decision

C172/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 27 August 2020

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to C155/20 Chair's Business to the issue in relation to cemeteries and sought an update stating that he had received several complaints during the week and felt that the answer to the problem would be to close access gates from the road from dusk to dawn.

In response the Director of Environment and Property stated that Officers had been assessing the issue and an update would be provided at the Environment Committee in October.

Councillor Corry highlighted the issue of COVID 19 and local restrictions emphasising the need for guidance to be regularly updated and available on media platforms. She also sought assurance that Environmental Health would keep businesses up to date.

In response the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated there was ongoing conversations regarding the matter, a memorandum of understanding was in place with the PSNI and further information would be provided at the Environment Committee.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 27 August 2020 (C153/20 – C162/20 and C167/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C173/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 1 September 2020

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 September 2020 (P073/20 – P080/20 and P088/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C174/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 3 September 2020

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 September 2020 (PR126/20 – PR133/20 and PR148/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C175/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2020

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E170/20 COVID 19 Collective Response* and concurred with the recommendation stating that pressure should be applied to ensure testing facilities was easily accessible to residents.

Councillor Kerr expressed concern regarding the dumping of animal carcasses and suggested that a meeting should be held with Environment Agency to endeavour to nip the fly tipping in Kettle Lane in the bud.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *E172/20 Bus Shelter Update*- stating that some bus shelters were an ‘eyesore’ and requested that regular inspections perhaps every 6-12 months be introduced.

Councillor Kerr also sought an update on the recycling centre in Coalisland.

Councillor Corry left the meeting at 8.30 pm

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that he thought there was an inspection routine in relation to bus shelters. The Director of Environment and Property

confirmed that there was and advised he would report back in relation to frequency of same. He further advised that an update report in relation to Recycling Centre at Coalisland would be brought to the October Environment Committee.

Councillor Colvin brought it to the attention of the meeting that Councillor Glasgow who was connecting to the meeting virtually could view proceedings but could not hear.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention E165/20 – Waste Collection Service Policy Public Consultation and advised that schools were under enormous pressure in dealing with additional waste due to COVID 19 procedures and asked if Council could assist with disposal of same.

In response the Director of Environment and Property stated he would investigate what could be done to assist schools.

Councillor Burton referred to discussion on bus shelters and concurred that an inspection across all bus shelters was required as she was aware of some at which access was overgrown with weeds.

Councillor Black left the meeting at 8.32pm

Councillor Corry returned to the meeting at 8.32 pm

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that updates would be presented to the Environment Committee on the undernoted:

- (i) Bus shelters frequency of inspections;
- (ii) Coalisland Recycling Centre; and
- (iii) Director to investigate how Council could help schools with additional waste generated due to COVID-19

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 September 2020 (E158/20 – E184/20 and E191/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C176/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 10 September 2020

Councillor Wilson drew attention to D118/20 social housing working group & Pilot Shaping Plan and expressed concern that phase 2 land was being utilised in Dungannon prior to phase 1 lands and this was not permitted in Cookstown which was a growing town.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

Seconded by Chair, Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That a Cookstown DEA meeting be scheduled with the Planning Manager to discuss issues on Phase one and Phase two Lands

It was again brought to the attention of the meeting that those connecting remotely could not hear proceedings.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that ICT were endeavouring to eliminate the problem and if Members could bear with this.

Councillor Graham left the meeting at 8.35 pm

Councillor Colvin stated that if it was a planning meeting taking place the meeting would have to be adjourned and expressed concern with regard to the sound quality and the fact that Members connecting remotely could not hear proceedings. He was emphatic that the meeting should be postponed.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated he understood frustrations but would prefer to continue with the meeting, he stated Mid Ulster was one of the few Councils hosting hybrid meetings and in relation to comments with regard to the planning committee he stated most issues before Council had had prior debate at committee. He stated whilst it would be his desire that all should be able to fully participate the meeting should move on.

Councillor McKinney stated when Council had amended standing orders to permit this type of meeting he had expressed concern regarding Members connecting remotely losing contact. He stated Members were elected to represent people and should be able to do so and if the meeting takes longer due to technology hitches so be it.

In response to Councillor McKinney's question 'was the meeting moving on as it was a Ulster Unionist Member experiencing sound difficulties', the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan expressed disappointment in the remark and highlighted that four Nationalist Members was also impacted.

Councillor McLean expressed concern with regard to debate or a vote being restricted with some Members not being able to participate.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised that Councillor Glasgow had already participated in a vote. He further highlighted that Members had been made aware if they could not attend due to example shielding a separate room in a Council facility could be made available. The Chair sought an explanation as to whether problems being experienced were due to poor connectivity of Councillor Glasgow's location or a fault in the overall system.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to D113/20 Chair's Business COVID 19 Business Support Scheme (Tranche 1) and asked if Council could support businesses who for example wished to put an awning outside and had to apply for planning permission/building control approval thus Council was attaining fees.

In response the Director of Business and Communities advised that Council had already provided match funding for rural development and asked if businesses experiencing difficulties could make contact with Council officers.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked if statutory fees could be waived in the current circumstances. In response the Director of Business and Communities said Council should not set such a precedent especially given the number of support schemes in place.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan concurred with the Director stating that waiving such fees would also impact budgets.

Councillor Wilson drew attention to standing orders and again stated that Councillor Glasgow could not participate in the meeting as he could not hear proceedings.

In response the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan highlighted it was at his discretion should the meeting be adjourned.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to *page 42 of standing orders* “A Member who disconnects and re-connects to the meeting due to technological issues is still “present throughout” as long as any matters discussed during their absence are repeated.”

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan adjourned the meeting at 8.45 pm for a period of 5 minutes.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan resumed the meeting.

Councillor McFlynn drew attention to *D114/20 Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme* and requested that in the interim, until the implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme, picnic benches be installed at Iniscarn Forest leading towards Slieve Gallion.

In response the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation advised that this would be feasible.

Resolved That in the interim, until the implementation of the Outdoor Recreation Master Plan Programme, picnic benches be installed at Iniscarn Forest leading towards Slieve Gallion.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 10 September 2020 (D111/20 – D129/20 and D138/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C177/20 Requests for Civic Recognition

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

In response to Councillor Quinn's request the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan agreed to consider Noamh Colm Cille for some form of recognition together with Edendork and Dungannon Clarkes following the recent County title wins.

Resolved That Naomh Colum Cille, Derrytresk winning the County Tyrone Junior Hurling title be added to the list that the Chair, would endeavour to recognise.

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report and be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate.

C178/20 Conferences, Seminars and Training

Approval was sought 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.

Conferences

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs
Next Steps for Skills and Apprenticeships	8 October 2020	E Conference	Yes
RTPI NI Conference – Connected Neighbourhoods	15 September 2020	Webinar	No
RTPI NI Conference – Integrated approach to future development through Development Plan	16 September 2020	Webinar	No

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor McLean and

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

Matters for Information

C179/20 Correspondence

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

Councillor McKinney referred to the letter emailed to Members earlier in the day received from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs dated 23 September 2020 and stated that for the second time the Minister had failed to answer the specific point in relation to suckler farmers.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan asked if Councillor McKinney wished Council to write yet again to the Minister.

Councillor McLean stated that business should move on as no answer would satisfy the said Member.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to the response dated 23 September 2020 received from the Department for the Economy in relation to Coach Industry and requested that Council write to the Minister of Department for Infrastructure in relation to the matter.

Councillor McKinney referred to Councillor McLean's previous comments and declared them to be 'out of order' and suggested that the Member read the response and enlighten the Council.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan called the meeting to order.

C180/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered the previously circulated report.

C181/20 Notion of Motion

Councillor Corry spoke on the motion stated the following,

"As part of the ongoing review of hate crimes in the North of Ireland due to be released this year, many individuals, women's groups, LGBT groups, representatives from trade unions, voluntary and community groups, as part of the raise your voice project, have urged that misogyny should be recognised as a form of hate crime. The Law Society have also opened a consultation on this just yesterday.

A report this week on women MLAs revealed 70% had sexist remarks made to their face, 75% had experienced sexism on social media and 26% had been sexually harassed during their political career. This is shocking but it's only a snippet from MLAs alone, as throughout society women face this but as most of it goes unreported it is difficult to get accurate figures. In areas where Misogyny is recognised as a hate crime, victims felt more confident to report, felt they were taken seriously and encouraged other victims to report an example being Nottinghamshire.

Misogyny can have a major impact on the lives of young girls and women. Incidents of harassment and assault changes their behaviours and life choices from that moment and the impact is carried throughout their lives. Some say that misogyny is

a way of maintaining the hierarchy and status quo in society. The MeToo movement highlighted these issues across the world.”

Councillor Corry moved the motion as undernoted:

Raise Your Voice – Against Sexual Harassment

“This Council recognises the impact of misogyny and trans misogyny on those affected by it, as well as the role these attitudes play in a variety of crimes, including harassment, assault, sexual assault and hate crimes, and on the career choices and personal lives of women, girls and non-binary people.

The Council supports the inclusion of misogyny as a standalone offence and as a category of hate crime, recognising crimes targeted at women including trans women as hate crimes based on misogyny, and will write a letter to that effect to Judge Desmond Marrinan, as part of his ongoing review of hate crime legislation in Northern Ireland.

The Council supports also the Raise Your Voice Project, which tackles sexual harassment and sexual violence across Northern Ireland, by placing posters in all Council properties to raise awareness of the project.”

“The Council will invite representatives of the Raise Your Voice project to deliver training for Members on the realities facing victims of sexual harassment and violence and how we can best equip ourselves to assist them in our role as Elected Members.”

Councillor Doris seconded the motion stating

“Go raibh mile maith agat Chair

Firstly, there is no doubt that life and women’s rights have vastly improved over the few decades. However, there is further to go to create a cultural shift to stop sexual harassment, sexual violence and misogyny against women and indeed in many cases young girls. This motion is certainly a continued step in the right direction towards a fairer and safer society. If misogyny is to be a stand alone criminal act as outlined in this motion I truly believe that women would have a much higher representation within public life and therefore more of a say in legalization and policy change that will have a direct impact on society. Personally I am not surprised by the statistics that Councillor Corry has outlined as I have personally been on the receiving end of many sexist remarks and harassment during my time as a councillor.

I am sure every female in this room and particularly the female elected representatives have been casually called a “bitch” whether to their face or online, and if I am completely honest with you that is not a name that has caused me great offence or upset. And the reason why it hasn’t caused me upset or offence is because in my first job I worked in retail at the age of 15 and it was something we working in the customer service industry were just taught to ignore or casually laugh

off. The 'customer is always right' is what they would say. It isn't a big deal, just keep it quiet.

Misogyny does not just impact on us women who I quote "choose to put ourselves in this position" by God forbid participating in public life but it happens every hour of the day to many young girls in our society as they develop into women and this can have devastating impacts on their self-esteem, self-worth, confidence and their life decisions thereafter. This is not a motion to attack men or pretend that there are not very obvious differences between men and women but it is about challenging the culture that lends itself to the lessening of the serious implications that misogyny can have on society as a whole. This motion is not about denying difference but about embracing equality. I therefore am happy to second Councillor Corry's motion. "

Councillor Hughes stated that the SDLP would also support the motion recognising the inequalities across society and would also support the need for better child care facilities. She stated that the party opposed discrimination against women and non binary people and concurred that a job of work needed to be done across the island of Ireland to eradicate misogyny and the SDLP would continue to work towards this.

Councillor Ashton stated that the DUP would propose an amendment to the motion, copies of the amendment was distributed.

Councillor Ashton moved the amendment stating,

"Mr Chairman, the reason for our amendment is firstly that my understanding is that Judge Desmond Marrinan's Hate Crime review consultation in Northern Ireland closed on 30 April 2020. It was open for 16 weeks and received over 1,000 responses. This is why we are asking instead to write to the PSNI for information. Our amendment draws on the fact that we as a council need better understanding of the data under the six headings identified in our amendment. This will enable us to address the issues factually, promptly and effectively. We should get the local facts and work with the PSNI and other organisations such as Women's Aid to address this ongoing problem.

Mr Chairman, while Raise Your Voice project identifies some very important and serious issues, none more so that the way sexual assaults, domestic abuse and domestic homicide are often reported. Our amendment focuses on the broader issues of hate crime and we oppose all forms of harassment, sexual assault and hate crimes – against anyone as we believe every single person in Mid Ulster Council area should be able to live free from sexual harassment and hate crime."

Councillor Ashton proposed the amendment

"This Council opposes all forms of misogyny and accepts its impact upon all victims.

Furthermore this Council opposes all forms of hate crime and will write to the PSNI to request the most recent 12 month breakdown of hate incidents in Mid Ulster District Council under the six strands of hate motivation that are

monitored; race, sexual orientation, sectarianism, faith, disability and transphobia.

This Council supports also the Raise Your Voice Project, which tackles sexual harassment and sexual violence across Northern Ireland by placing posters in all Council properties to raise awareness of the project.”

Councillor McLean seconded the amendment.

Councillor Colvin supporting the amendment stated that misogyny is wrong and stressed that there was a lot of local groups for example First Steps Women’s Centre in Dungannon together with many others who work on transforming women’s lives and suggested that Council engage with local groups to support such measures. He further stated that ‘the cart was being put before the horse” and suggested Council should have had a presentation from the group prior to the motion.

Councillor Mullen stated that she had been a victim of threatening behaviour and harassment and stressed that there was no help out there for victims.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan ensured all had read the amendment and upon agreement called for a vote.

For	19
Against	17

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the amendment was carried and had now become the substantive motion.

Councillor Corry expressed grave disappointment especially regarding hate crime when women are getting abused regularly, she stated she had been aware that the consultation had closed in April but that she was aware others had wrote post the close date.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared the motion as undernoted carried.

“This Council opposes all forms of misogyny and accepts its impact upon all victims.

Furthermore this Council opposes all forms of hate crime and will write to the PSNI to request the most recent 12 month breakdown of hate incidents in Mid Ulster District Council under the six strands of hate motivation that are monitored; race, sexual orientation, sectarianism, faith, disability and transphobia.

This Council supports also the Raise Your Voice Project, which tackles sexual harassment and sexual violence across Northern Ireland by placing posters in all Council properties to raise awareness of the project.”

Members of the public left the meeting at 9.20pm

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 broad cast concluded at 9.21 pm

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That items C182/20 – C189/20 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 27 August 2020
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 1 September 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 3 September 2020
- (iv) Environment Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 8 September 2020
- (v) Development Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 10 September 2020
- (vi) Audit Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 15 September 2020
- (vii) Planning System Procurement September 2020
- (viii) Document for Sealing: Lease of lands situated at Limekiln Lane, Cookstown between Mid Ulster District Council and Mid Ulster Women's Aid

C190/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.37 pm

Chair _____

Date _____