

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 3 July 2023 in Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor Cuthbertson, Chair

Councillors J Burton, J Buchanan, Cahoon, Kelly, Groogan, Mallaghan, Martin*, McAleer, McElvogue, McGuigan, Milne*, Quinn*, Robinson, Varsani

Officers in Attendance

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env)

Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)**

Mr McAdoe, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES)**

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS)

Mr Brown, ICT Support

Mrs Grogan, Committee and Member Services Officer

* Denotes members and members of the public 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 Cuthbertson welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Cuthbertson 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.

E140/23 Notice of Recording

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

E141/23 Apologies

Councillor McNamee.

E143/23 Declarations of Interest

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

E144/23 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

E145/23 Capital Projects – Contract Awards Delegated Authority Request

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) presented previously circulated report and sought approval to award delegated powers for the award of Capital Contracts for the following projects:

- Connecting Pomeroy – Arts Trail Development (IST Contract)
- Small Settlements – Moneymore (IST Contract)
- Small Settlements – Castlecaulfield (ICT Contract)
- Small Settlements – Moy (ICT Contract)
- Small Settlements – Clady/Castledawson (IST Contract)

Councillor McGuigan referred to the Small Settlement project 'Clady/Castledawson' (IST Contract) which were grouped together for some reason. The member stated that he had an issue with the Castledawson part as there was quite a substantial project going on at Riverside housing estate and currently in the process of building a bonfire at the site. The member's view would be that this was on Council land and where this project has been funded and taking place, would propose that this be put on hold until a firm agreement that no bonfire is to be built on that site. The member was aware of discussions taking place as he attended an earlier Bonfire Working Group meeting and discussions were taking place in the background with the local community in terms of going down the road of a beacon which is the right direction of travel and adhering to Council policy also. The member felt that to spend this vast amount of money on this particular project and the same to happen again next year would be unwise as there would be no guarantee that the same thing would not happen again even though the feedback is that the bonfire builders were going to go down the beacon route but until there was some firm agreement, his view would be not to proceed. He said there was still a few days left to show that the bonfire builders can go down the beacon route and if this is the case he was aware that there is an opportunity to allow this to happen, but until that Council get that guarantee, he would propose that this was put on hold to see what the outcome was and that the Clady part of the application goes ahead.

The Chair advised that the report in front of members here tonight was in relation to appointing contractors or giving delegated authority to the Chief Executive and while the Environment Committee award ICT and IST contracts, the actual details on the ground would go through either Policy & Resources or Development committees and not relevant to this committee. The Chair said that he would not be aware of things on the ground and would assume that it would not be possible to separate the scheme for Clady/Castledawson and best to move ahead in relation to what the recommendation is seeking approval for.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) advised members that the way the projects are grouped together for Clady/Castledawson was how it was going to be procured. Council have not however moved to advertise IST award yet. The SD: Env said that there were a lot of other small settlement schemes ongoing and the team have paused this group at the moment given what was happening on the ground and suggested changes. The SD: Env concurred with comment by member in relation to ongoing discussions between our community team and members of the local community in that area and would be hopeful that agreement is reached in proceeding down a beacon route possibly next year but it is still work in progress. The SD: Env advised that this was what stage the project is at, but proposals have been brought through in terms of modifications that would facilitate a beacon approach and this was the work which was ongoing at the moment.

Councillor Mallaghan advised that this was a very useful update but felt that in the interim that these two projects should be separated before they go out for advertisement and the part relating to Castledawson should be at least held until full Council to see what happens over the next few weeks. The member encouraged the SD: Env and her team to continue working with the local community and was aware that some progress was being made but would be irresponsible on our behalf and on behalf of the ratepayers to proceed to publicly funding this project if in 12 months' time a huge bonfire was going to be sited there.

Councillor Mallaghan seconded Councillor McGuigan's proposal to put on hold Castledawson part of the project.

The Chair enquired if Councillor McGuigan's proposal was to remove the Castledawson element from the delegated authority and not in relation to actual what was going to be delivered on the ground.

Councillor McGuigan agreed that the Castledawson element be removed from delegated authority to see if agreement could be reached as he did not want to see the same thing happening next year when the project has already been delivered on the ground.

The Chair advised that this was to permit delegated authority to the Chief Executive in August as there would be no meetings until September.

Councillor Robinson felt that if there was an issue it may be better holding all the projects in the interim and made this a proposal until everything was sorted out.

The SD: Env advised that some of these projects were very funding dependent and have a deadline, particularly Pomeroy Arts Trail Development which has to be delivered by December. The SD: Env cautioned against stopping all the projects as it would endanger the whole funding package that is secured for Pomeroy, and this was something that had to go ahead. The SD: Env referred to the Small Settlement Schemes and advised members that there were also deadlines up to the end of March that had to be met.

Councillor McGuigan advised that none of the other projects should be held up just because there was an issue with this particular one at Castledawson. The Member

felt that the other projects should be allowed to continue and the Castledawson element set aside until some sort of agreement was reached on a bonfire not proceeding on this particular site.

Councillor Robinson advised that he wasn't aware of the Clady/Castledawson one and surely that this was something for the Bonfire Committee to deal with. The members said that he did not realise that any meetings were taking place at the moment as it was his understanding from the last Council meeting that it was decided that no sub-committees meetings would be taking place until it was looked at. The member sought clarification on the matter.

The Chair advised that this was his understanding as well, the proposal made by Councillor McLean and seconded by Councillor Mallaghan with the exception of the Civic Awards Working Group. The Chair's recollection was it was agreed on the night that working groups would not meet until a report was reviewed and brought back to the P&R Committee for consideration.

Councillor Mallaghan confirmed that this was not the case at all and that the Civic Receptions would be put on ice and that the working groups would be reviewed at P&R Committee but not to be stopped.

The Chair stated that the working groups were to be reviewed and not to meet because there never has been a meeting yet of the working group in relation to the recycling centres.

The SD: Env advised that there were proposals brought in relation to reviewing the working groups, but it was her understanding that the working groups were still permitted to continue and the reason that there hasn't been a meeting of the Recycling Working Group as she was awaiting names to come back from the parties. The SD: Env said that she was unaware if these have been received yet but once the names have been received a meeting would be convened.

The Chair said that it was his understanding that names had been submitted in March.

The SD: Env advised that some of the members had changed because of the election and she was waiting on confirmation from committees.

The Chair assumed that the Bonfire Working Group members would have changed after the election.

The Chair advised that there were two proposals brought forward for consideration:

- 1) Proposal made by Councillor McGuigan and seconded by Councillor Mallaghan to accept the recommendation with the exception of Castledawson.
- 2) Proposal made by Councillor Robinson to hold all the projects – *not seconded*.

Councillor Robinson enquired which parties had not nominated for the working group for the recycling centres.

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) advised that he had no further update as still waiting on names to be confirmed.

The SD: Env advised that an update can be provided to members if need be.

Councillor Robinson said that he found it strange that a working group cannot be set up for recycling centres as it affects everybody, yet a Bonfire Working Group can proceed and felt that some clarity would be useful.

Councillor Mallaghan confirmed that his party had submitted names for all of the working groups of the Council.

The Chair advised that the DUP had also submitted names in March for working groups.

Councillor McGuigan's proposal was carried.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that authority is delegated to the Chief Executive during August 2023 to approve the the award of contracts for the aforementioned schemes except Castledawson. A full report to be brought back to Members in September Committee/ Council for information. It was further agreed that progression of the Castledawson project element be paused pending agreements being formalised with the local community regarding the use of a beacon in future years.

E146/23 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential housing development within Mid Ulster. Requests for the naming of streets within proposed residential development as follows:

- **Request 1 - Sites of Crannog Way, Dungannon**

The options submitted are as noted below:

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

➤ **Site 1 off Crannog Way, Dungannon (33 Dwellings)**

1. Crannog Drive
2. Crannog Grove
3. Crannog Place

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name new street within new residential development as Crannog Drive.

➤ **Site 2 off Crannog Way, Dungannon (9 Apartments)**

1. Crannog Mews
2. Crannog Court

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name new street within new residential development as Crannog Court.

- **Request 2 - Site off Sixtowns Road, Draperstown**

The options submitted are as noted below:

- Crockmore View
- Crockbrack View

Proposed by Councillor Groogan
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to new new street off Sixtowns Road, Draperstown as Crockmore View.

E147/23 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Disabled Person’s Parking Bay, Coalisland

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to seek the agreement of Members in relation to a proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce a Disabled Person’s Parking Bay at The Square, Coalisland. Proposed limit waiting in the bay to 2 hours no return in 2 hours, Monday to Saturday from 8am to 6pm.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Groogan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council approve the proposed introduction of a disabled persons’ parking bay at The Square, Coalisland. Proposed limit waiting in the bay to 2 hours no return in 2 hours, Monday to Saturday from 8am to 6pm.

Matters for Information

E148/23 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 June 2023

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 14 June 2023.

E149/23 Eco Schools Green Flag Awards 2023

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the Eco Schools Green Flag Awards Ceremony 2023.

E150/23 Bus Shelters Update

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on the current bus shelter status.

Councillor McAleer stated that there were 5 or 6 applications which were pending legal advice or feedback from the Housing Executive and enquired if there was any update and if not, could members be provided with an update this week as he has had a few queries regarding one which has been outstanding within his local area.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that he would provide an update to the member before the end of the week.

E151/23 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E152/23 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report to advise on the result of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

E153/23 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

E154/23 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

Live broadcast ended at 7.15 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved In accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 that Members of the public be asked to withdraw from the meeting whilst Members consider items E155/23 to E163/23.

Matters for Decision

- E155/23 Application for Funding to the Innovate UK Local Industrial Decarbonisation Plans (LIDP) Competition
- E156/23 Four Year Cyclical Fleet and Diverse Plant Replacement Programme (01/04/2023 – 31/03/2027)
- E157/23 Extension of 3rd Party Contracts

Matters for Information

- E158/23 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 14 June 2023
- E159/23 Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme 2023
- E160/23 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E161/23 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E162/23 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update
- E163/23 Electric Vehicle Charging Points Update

E164/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.30 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 I will ask each member to confirm whether they are for or against the proposal or abstaining
- When invited to speak please introduce yourself by name to the meeting
- For any member attending remotely, if you declare an interest in an item, please turn off your video and keep your audio on mute for the duration of the item
- If referring to a specific report please reference the report, page or slide being referred to
- Lastly, I remind the public and press that taking photographs of proceedings or using any means to enable anyone not present to see or hear proceedings, or making a simultaneous oral report of the proceedings are not permitted

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda.