

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 8 February 2022 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by virtual means**

Members Present

Councillor Brown

Councillors Buchanan*, Burton, Cuthbertson*, Glasgow*,
Graham*, Kearney, N McAleer, S McAleer*,
B McGuigan*, S McGuigan*, McNamee, Milne*, O'Neill*,
Totten, Wilson

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment
Mr Fox, Principal Building Control Officer**
Mr Lowry, Head of Technical Services**
Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental
Services**
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing and Communications**
Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services**
Miss Thompson, Democratic 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 Brown welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Brown 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.

E032/22 Apologies

None.

E033/22 Declarations of Interest

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

E034/22 Chair's Business

Councillor N McAleer stated he wanted to bring to attention concerns which had been raised with him regarding access to Lough Neagh for fishing boats in the Ardboe and Moortown areas. The Councillor stated there have been complaints in

relation to a significant build up of sand and debris and this, combined with recent low water levels, is hampering access in and out of the quays. Councillor N McAleer advised that there has historically been an agreement in place to dig out the quays and assist with access but that in recent years this has not been happening. The Councillor stated that there are some barges and boats with digging capabilities which are not being utilised and that department guidelines are preventing digging from taking place. Councillor N McAleer proposed that Council write to the Department for Infrastructure and Rivers Agency asking them to clarify their position regarding digging around the quays and also asking them how they propose to resolve the issues with access to Lough Neagh.

Councillor McNamee seconded Councillor N McAleer's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to the Department for Infrastructure and Rivers Agency asking them to clarify their position regarding digging around the quays and also ask them how they propose to resolve the issues with access to Lough Neagh.

Councillor Buchanan asked for the current position of Council's Car Park Strategy which the Environment Committee approved 3-4 years ago. The Councillor stated urgent clarity was needed in relation to car parking charges in Cookstown and whether last night's rates increase proposed by Sinn Féin and SDLP included car parking charges in Cookstown and also whether last night's decision overrides the Car Park Strategy for the whole of Mid Ulster.

The Chair, Councillor Brown asked that a report on the current position of the Car Park Strategy be brought to the next meeting of the Environment Committee.

The Director of Environment agreed to bring a report to next month's meeting.

Matters for Decision

E035/22 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - A6 – Castledawson to Toome — Proposed De-Restriction Order

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to Proposed De-Restriction Order for the A6 Castledawson to Toome.

Councillor Milne asked what the De-Restriction Order was for as it was not clear.

The Chair, Councillor Brown stated it was his understanding that the De-Restriction Order related to the de-restriction of speed limits at junctions as outlined in the report.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed De-Restriction Order for the A6 Castledawson to Toome.

E036/22 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council - Proposed 40mph Dungannon Road roundabout Sandholes Road, Dungannon Road, Tullywiggan Road, Grange Road and Ardculmer Road, Cookstown

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to Proposed 40mph Dungannon Road roundabout Sandholes Road, Dungannon Road, Tullywiggan Road, Grange Road and Ardculmer Road, Cookstown.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposed 40mph Dungannon Road roundabout Sandholes Road, Dungannon Road, Tullywiggan Road, Grange Road and Ardculmer Road, Cookstown.

E037/22 Fees for Entertainment Licences

The Assistant Director of Property Services presented previously circulated report which advised of the Department of Communities consultation exercise on a review of the current Determination issued by the Department of Communities in March 2021 in relation to Fees for Entertainment Licences.

Councillor McNamee felt that if the Executive are going to continue to meet the loss of income to Council then the current arrangement of charging £1 for the renewal of an entertainment licence could continue. However, if the Executive do not continue to meet the loss of income to Council then Council should revert to charging fees at pre April 2021 levels from April 2022. The Councillor stated it is unclear whether the Executive will continue to meet the cost of renewal of entertainment licences and clarity would be needed on this.

The Chair, Councillor Brown highlighted that the letter from the Department does not give an indication of whether costs will continue to be met and asked if Council are taking a presumption that they will be.

The Assistant Director of Property Services stated that Council would currently be taking a presumption that costs will continue to be met and suggested that Council write to the Department to seek clarity on whether this is the case.

Councillor Wilson asked when the licence fees are due.

The Assistant Director of Property Services stated it depends on when a licence expires and that licence fees are due for premises on an ongoing basis throughout the year. The officer advised that the current measure of the £1 charge for a licence renewal will run to 31 March 2022.

Councillor Wilson stated that if Council do not receive a response which clarifies the position of the Department there could be a situation in which a premises whose licence expires on 31 March will be charged £1 for a renewal and another premises whose licence runs out on 1 April will be charged at the pre April 2021 rate and that this is not very fair. Councillor Wilson asked when the funding from the Department ends.

The Chair, Councillor Brown stated that on reading the letter from the Department it looks as though funding will close at the end of March and that the letter is asking Council whether it wants to continue with the £1 charge or whether it wants to revert back to pre April 2021 levels. The Chair referred to Councillor McNamee's suggestion for Council to write to the Department to ask whether they are prepared to continue to cover the loss of income to Council.

Councillor McNamee proposed that Council write to the Department to ask whether they are prepared to continue to cover the loss of income to Council in charging £1 for the renewal of an entertainment licence.

Councillor Wilson seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to write to the Department to ask whether they are prepared to continue to cover the loss of income to Council in charging £1 for the renewal of an entertainment licence.

E038/22 Plastic Promise

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services presented previously circulated report which sought approval to sign the Live Here Love Here Plastic Promise in order to make a commitment to reducing the consumption and usage of single use plastic items.

Councillor B McGuigan proposed the recommendation. The Councillor stated that everyone is aware of the problems caused by plastic especially in rivers and oceans and that it is important to start somewhere and that by signing up to the Plastic Promise Council is taking the initiative.

Councillor Kearney seconded Councillor B McGuigan's proposal.

Councillor Kearney referred to the previous agenda item and highlighted that there are some areas of hospitality that are only getting their monies now and that he felt this is a good enough reason to hold off in relation to fees for entertainment licences.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to sign the Plastic Promise as outlined within the report.

Matters for Information

E039/22 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2022

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 January 2022.

E040/22 Better Recycling Grant Scheme

Members noted previously circulated report which provided outcome of a funding application submitted to WRAP under the Better Recycling Campaign.

E041/22 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for July to September 2021

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Council's performance in relation to recycling and landfill diversion targets as outlined in the NIEA Northern Ireland Local Authority Waste Management Statistics Report for Quarter 2 of 2021/22 from July to September 2021.

E042/22 Bus Shelters Update

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

E043/22 Mid Ulster Fairtrade

Members noted previously circulated report which provided an update on Council's Fairtrade resolution to application stage for Fairtrade District Status.

E044/22 Building Control Workload

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

E045/22 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E046/22 Dual Language Signage Surveys

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

Live broadcast ended at 7.14 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer

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 E047/22 to E054/22.

Matters for Decision

E047/22 Flower Bed and Roundabout Sponsorship
E048/22 Lift Maintenance and Servicing Tender report
E049/22 Entertainment Licensing

Matters for Information

E050/22 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 11 January 2022
E051/22 Waste Management Covid19 Emergency Funding
E052/22 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
E053/22 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
E054/22 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E055/22 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.25 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 - apologies and then roll call of all other Members in attendance.