

**Minutes of Annual Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 6 June 2022 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means**

<b>Chair</b>	Councillor McLean (Outgoing) Councillor Corry (Incoming)
<b>Members Present</b>	Councillors Ashton, Bell*, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde, Gildernew*, Glasgow, Graham, Kearney, S McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McNamee*, D McPeake*, S McPeake, Mallaghan, Martin, Milne*, Molloy, Monteith*, Oneill*, Quinn, Robinson, Totten* and Wilson
<b>Officers in Attendance</b>	Mr A McCreesh, Chief Executive Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities & Place Dr Boomer, Service Director, Planning Ms Campbell, Deputy Chief Executive & Strategic Director of Environment (SDE)** Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy & Performance (SD:ODSP)** Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure (DPHI) Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (AD:ODSP) Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service & Finance (SD:CSF) Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

\* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

\*\* Denotes Officers present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

*The Chair, Councillor McLean 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.*

**AC1/22 Notice of Recording**

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

## **AC2/22 Apologies**

Councillors Kerr, N McAleer and Mullen

## **AC3/22 Declarations of Interest**

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

## **AC4/22 Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor McLean invited the outgoing Deputy Chair, Councillor McFlynn to speak.

The outgoing Deputy Chair, Councillor McFlynn said,

“Fellow members when I took up the role of councillor in 2009 it was to be a representative that helped everyone in need. I have thoroughly enjoyed this year as deputy chair and I have met some amazing people along the way.

One of my first duties along with the Chair, Councillor Paul McLean was to open the Ballyronan Marina play facilities and what a gem it has turned out to be. As the year progressed and Covid started to disappear our residents started to socialise more, they started attending events and enjoying life. Mid Ulster has had a brilliant year with many successes in sport with Ulster titles and All Ireland titles being won both by our schools and many of our clubs. We in Council should be very proud and our residents should be proud of all their achievements. Our agri food industry, engineering and construction are doing very well but the Council needs to keep pushing on our success and hopefully we will see the Cookstown bypass delivered very soon. Our industries need good infrastructure to be able to deliver good service. We cannot hold back on the need for bypasses around our towns including Dungannon and Moneymore and the need for Invest NI to invest more in Mid Ulster.

Mid Ulster is a very welcoming Council and as our facilities improve we will see more visitors coming and staying. This year saw our first Mid Ulster Pride day, everyone should be celebrated and treated equally there is space for everyone.

I want to say a huge thanks to all our staff across every department. We have seen a few retirements and new faces in the senior management team I thank them for their hard work this year and wish them well.

Our emergency services and health teams work tirelessly in Mid Ulster to keep people safe and they deserve huge gratitude.

To our outgoing Chair Councillor Paul McLean what can I say; Paul is a very sociable, chatty man with a sharp wit, he has worked in all areas of our district and with all communities and that's how it should be. I have enjoyed working alongside him, even when he cracks a joke! I wish him well and hope he enjoys some family time and I extend best wishes to his wife Christine.

The chairs office could not operate without good administration so thank you Jennifer, Louise and also the communication team.

Mid Ulster has had great success in recent weeks and I couldn't let tonight go without congratulating the Derry senior team on winning their first Ulster title in 24 years. I wish them well in their campaign in the future games. We also had great sadness when a disgusting video was circulated about the murder of Micheala McAreavey, it hasn't gone unnoticed and I hope it is dealt with accordingly.

I thank my colleagues for allowing me to be deputy chair this year. I wish the incoming chair and deputy best wishes for the busy year ahead. Family is everything as we all know none of us could do our jobs without good support. I am blessed to have a great family who support me every day I count my blessings every day and I love them very much."

The outgoing Chair, Councillor McLean thanked the outgoing deputy Chair for her warm comments and speaking on his year in office said,

"When I took office back in June of last year my first primary responsibility as Chair of this Council was that of pastoral care, to you the councillors, our staff and the wider community of Mid Ulster.

I may not always have succeeded in all of my endeavours, but I don't believe it was not for the want of trying. It was an honour to be a servant of the people of this district. During my year as Council Chair I've had the amazing privilege of meeting some of the more wonderful people from all walks of life as I've attended many engagements.

I want to begin with our staff – as you all know I took the opportunity with Anne Marie Campbell and visited all our amenity sites and offices, speaking personally to the staff, conveying to them our appreciation. I have visited churches, business, schools, colleges, sports clubs, charity groups, arts centres musical events and the voluntary sector who carry out an important role in our district for which we are the richer. I endeavoured to connect with everyone and on occasions went out of my comfort zone to ensure that I represented all of our constituents regardless of background. In doing so I can honestly say it didn't make me any less a Unionist and I don't believe that in so doing I compromised my Christian or unionist principles. I must also pay tribute as to the manner in which I was accepted and received by the entire community and I believe that all my efforts were reciprocated fully.

My favourite statement – "*we in Mid Ulster punch well above our weight in so many fronts*" is not an exaggeration but a fact - a fact based upon the statistics and outcomes. The entrepreneurship, resilience and innovation of local businesses, colleges and schools all working collaboratively ably supported by our economic department is a flagship for many to follow and envy of many other regions across this province. Our tourism sector stands out on its own as it promotes great opportunities for stay-vacations within our District brought as a result of the pandemic. Like previous chairs I have lost count of the number of announcements about our investment in tourism, leisure, outdoor recreation and parks projects when council and the departments worked together for the investment and the enhancement of our facilities.

Facilitates such as the Round Lake, Ballyronan Marina, further investment OM Dark Sky Park and Observatory, the promotion of the Hill of the O'Neil and Ranfurly House, Seamus Heaney HomePlace and the wider experience that all goes with it.

With so many memorable events over the year - it's difficult to choose the highlight but for me I suppose the ones that stood out the most was the royal visit to Mid Ulster especially on this Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and the Hymn sings and I thank everyone for their support. All three charities received £2000.

In conclusion I would thank the Communications team for their assistance, Jennifer, Paula and Louise for keeping the diary, (and keeping me in check) the Chief Executive Adrian McCreesh and the Deputy Chief Executive, Anne Marie Campbell and the entire senior management team for their sterling commitment and dedication to this organisation. Whilst also welcoming Ryan Black to the senior management team of the council who I look forward to working with. It is when you work closely with them you see the extent of their dedication.

I would like to thank, Philip, Eileen, Martina, and Leanne for managing the meetings their labours don't go unnoticed. To the ICT team, they play a significant role and I extend my thanks to them.

I would especially thank my wife Christine, my employer, Henry Brothers and my party colleagues for giving me the honour of being the First Citizen and the opportunity of seeing what goes on in this fantastic district of Mid Ulster. To all Members can I convey my thanks to you for your input, courtesy, your respectful but healthy debate not forgetting thanks our deputy chair Councillor McFlynn for helping me in my role.

It simply remains for me to wish the new Chair and Deputy Chair every success for the year ahead."

Councillor Ashton thanked the outgoing chair for his representation and firm but fair approach to everyone. She commended him on how he had represented and reached out to the entire district. Councillor Ashton expressed thanks also to Christine for the support she had been to her husband through his year in office. To the outgoing deputy Chair, Councillor McFlynn, Councillor Ashton again expressed her thanks and stated that the both the Chair and deputy had made a great team and had demonstrated how things should be done.

Councillor Mallaghan extended thanks to the outgoing Chair commending him on a fantastic year in office. He said he had been very generous in time and in including others when appropriate to do so. He spoke of the barriers that had been broken down and the new friendships which had formed. Councillor Mallaghan said that Councillor McLean had raised the bar which had been clearly demonstrated in that the Sam Maguire Cup and Prince Charles had received the same level of respect. He concluded that he had been glad to be part of the hymn singing events and in extending his thanks on behalf of Sinn Féin said he would take the opportunity to dispel the rumour that he had joined the DUP!

Councillor Quinn on behalf of the SDLP said his two best memories of the Chair's year in office had been the tour of Coalisland and the tour of CRAIC theatre. Speaking of the deputy Chair Councillor Quinn said Councillor McFlynn had redefined the role of deputy chair and she too had done a fantastic job. He concluded that both had done a great job and had broken down barriers and given the success GAA success enjoyed over the past year they would be sad to see them go.

Councillor Cuddy on behalf of the UUP thanked both you led council through difficulty year both done a great job - your speech covered everything. Well done to both and good luck going forward.

The outgoing Deputy Chair, Councillor McFlynn commended the work of the Democratic Services team.

The Chief Executive commended the outgoing Chair and Deputy Chair on the seamless transition from Covid restrictions to active engagement in what had been a challenging year. He extended thanks on behalf of all staff on how leadership had been provided with professionalism, courtesy and respect. He said it had been a great experience to work with them and both had been wonderful ambassadors for the district.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **AC5/22 Nominations of Councillors to hold Positions of responsibility for 2021-22 as confirmed at the AGM of May 2019**

The outgoing Chair Councillor McLean referred members to the meeting pack containing the previously agreed Positions of Responsibility for period 2019-2023, filled using the d'Hondt method.

	<b>Year 1 2019/2020</b>	<b>Year 2 2020/2021</b>	<b>Year 3 2021/2022</b>	<b>Year 4 2022/2023</b>
<b>Council</b>				
Chair	SDLP	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	UUP	SDLP	DUP
<b>Audit Committee</b>				
Chair	SF	SF	UUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	UUP	SF	SF	SF
<b>Development Committee</b>				
Chair	UUP	SF	SF	SF
Deputy-Chair	IND (Monteith)	DUP	IND (Kerr)	DUP
<b>Environment Committee</b>				

Chair	DUP	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	SF	SDLP	SF	UUP
<b>Planning Committee</b>				
Chair	SF	SF	DUP	SF
Deputy-Chair	DUP	UUP	SF	DUP
<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>				
Chair	SF	SDLP	UUP	SDLP
Deputy-Chair	SDLP	UUP	SDLP	DUP
<b>Housing Council for NI</b>				
1 Representative	SF	SF	SF	SF
<b>Partnership Panel for NI</b>				
1 Representative 4 year term	SDLP			
<b>Reserve Forces &amp; Cadets Association for NI</b>				
1 Representative	UUP	DUP	DUP	UUP
<b>Policing &amp; Community Safety Partnership - Mid Ulster (Note 3)</b>				
10 Representatives 4 year term	SF		DUP	
	SF		DUP	
	SF		DUP	
	SF		SDLP	
	SF		UUP	

The outgoing Chair, Councillor McLean sought nomination from Sinn Féin.

Councillor Mallaghan nominated Councillor Corry.

<b>Positions of Responsibility</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Councillor</b>
Council Chair	SF	Councillor Corry
Council, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Burton
Audit Committee, Chair	SF	Councillor B McGuigan
Audit Committee, Deputy Chair	SF	Councillor N McAleer
Development, Chair	SF	Councillor Clarke
Development, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Black

Environment Committee, Chair	SF	Councillor S McGuigan
Environment Committee Deputy Chair	UUP	Councillor Graham
Planning Committee, Chair	SF	Councillor Mallaghan
Planning Committee, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Brown
Policy & Resources, Chair	SDLP	Councillor S McAleer
Policy & Resources, Deputy Chair	DUP	Councillor Buchanan
Housing Council for NI	SF	Councillor Elattar
Partnership Panel for NI <b>(term of Council)</b>	SDLP	Councillor Martin
Reserve & Cadets Association for NI	UUP	Councillor Glasgow
Policing & Community Safety Partnership <b>(term of Council)</b> Chair Councillor Molloy	SF	Councillor Mallaghan
	SF	Councillor B McGuigan
	SF	Councillor McNamee
	SF	Councillor S McPeake
	SF	Councillor Molloy
	DUP	Councillor Burton
	DUP	Councillor Cuthbertson
	DUP	Councillor Forde
	SDLP	Councillor McFlynn
	UUP	Councillor Colvin

The newly appointed Chair, Councillor Corry took the position at 7.25pm.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said, “Go raibh mile maith agaibh to my colleagues in the Sinn Fein team for nominating me to the position of chair, I am privileged, humbled and honoured to have been nominated. I would also like to again thank the people of Carntogher for trusting me with their vote in the 2019 council election and I will continue to work hard for you every day. Thank you also to my family, friends and colleagues for the support and encouragement you have given me over the years. Finally I would like to acknowledge the fantastic job Paul and Christine did last year as Chair and Deputy Chair, and hopefully I can continue to run council meeting as efficiently as you have and attend as many events. I am a proud Ballinascreen, Derry and Mid Ulster woman and over the next year I want to continue to showcase the wonderful people and beauty of our area. I want to reflect the open, welcoming, diverse and inclusive area that Mid Ulster is and to be a Chair for all.

The past couple of years have been extremely difficult for people as we have faced a global pandemic and I want to acknowledge the role the many groups, organisations, councillors and the whole council team have played to help people through this difficult time. We are now facing a cost of living crisis and again we must step up to the challenge and work together to do all that we can to help workers and families and those who need it most in anyway we can as a council. The toll of both the pandemic and the cost of living crisis on people’s mental health has been immense and in the time ahead I would like to work with council and some of the many local

groups who do sterling work to tackle mental health, and to just say it's ok to not be ok.

Even with the challenges we have faced, Mid Ulster is a growing area, we are recognised a hardworking people with a much sought after agri food, construction manufacturing and engineering industry. We have seen a growth in tourism which allows us to show our local talent, hospitality, heritage and the beauty of the Sperrin's and surrounding areas. Together I want us to build on this work and to bring quality, well paid jobs to the area, to regenerate our towns and villages, to increase the housing supply of social and affordable homes in our area, to continue to bring to the table and to complete some of the many wonderful capital projects in the pipeline and to do all we can to improve the lives of all our residents. I look forward to the time ahead and working with you all."

The Chair, Councillor Corry invited the DUP to nominate a deputy Chair, Councillor McLean nominated Councillor Burton.

Councillor Burton thanked her party for the nomination and spoke of how in 2005 she had been humbled by the number of people who had voted for her electing her to serve them as a representative in the Clogher Valley an area dear to her heart. She said she looked forward to the year ahead and said that each Councillor works hard in their role and each one represents a family, for herself, a supportive husband, four children and three grandchildren. Councillor Burton thanks her friends, community groups and Council staff who go way beyond the call of duty. She spoke of the pandemic and the businesses which had closed down, families who are now struggling and stated that people now needed to put their trust in the Council who with God's help would move ahead. Councillor Burton reflected on a radio programme earlier in the day highlighting the happenings at Muckamore and said it was imperative that everyone helps and supports vulnerable people. She highlighted in particular The Firs, in Ballygawley and said it was imperative that Council go the extra mile to ensure those who reside there receive a commitment regarding their future. Councillor Burton said like others she had met with residents and families and the situation was heart breaking and that she hoped Council and its members would do all in its power to assist them. In conclusion Councillor Burton said she would endeavour to fulfil her role to the utmost in the coming year.

## **AC6/22      Appoint of Councillors to Committees**

The Chair, Councillor Corry invited Nominating Officers from parties to nominate Members to allocate Members to serve on committees. Nominations and changes made as notified by Nominating Officers.

<b>Audit Committee</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Membership 2022-2023</b>
1. Chair	SF	Cllr B McGuigan
2. Deputy-Chair	SF	Cllr N McAleer
3. Member	SF	Cllr Mallaghan



4. Member	DUP	Cllr Ashton
5. Member	SDLP	Cllr McFlynn
6. Member	UUP	Cllr Colvin
7. Member	IND	Cllr Dan Kerr
8. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

<b>Development Committee</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Membership 2022 – 2023</b>
1. Chair	SF	Cllr Clarke
2. Deputy-Chair	DUP	Cllr Black
3. Member	SF	Cllr Corry
4. Member	SF	Cllr Doris
5. Member	SF	Cllr Elattar
6. Member	SF	Cllr McNamee
7. Member	SF	Cllr Milne
8. Member	SF	Cllr Molloy
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Ashton
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Burton
11. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr Quinn
13. Member	UUP	Cllr Cuddy
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Wilson
15. Member	IND	Cllr Dan Kerr
16. Member	IND	Cllr Barry Monteith

<b>Environment Committee</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Membership 2022- 2023</b>
1. Chair	SF	Cllr S McGuigan
2. Deputy-Chair	UUP	Cllr Graham
3. Member	SF	Cllr N McAleer
4. Member	SF	Cllr B McGuigan
5. Member	SF	Cllr S McGuigan
6. Member	SF	Cllr Milne
7. Member	SF	Cllr Oneil
8. Member	SF	Cllr Totten
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Brown
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Buchanan
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Burton

12. Member	DUP	Cllr Cuthbertson
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Kearney
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr McAleer
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Glasgow
16. Member	UUP	Cllr Wilson

<b>Planning Committee</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>2023-2023 Membership</b>
1. Chair	SF	Cllr Mallaghan
2. Deputy-Chair	DUP	Cllr Brown
3. Member	SF	Cllr Bell
4. Member	SF	Cllr Clarke
5. Member	SF	Cllr Corry
6. Member	SF	Cllr D McPeake
7. Member	SF	Cllr S McPeake
8. Member	DUP	Cllr Black
9. Member	DUP	Cllr Cuthbertson
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Robinson
11. Member	SDLP	Cllr Martin
12. Member	SDLP	Cllr McFlynn
13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Quinn
14. Member	UUP	Cllr Colvin
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Glasgow
16. Member	UUP	Cllr McKinney

<b>Policy &amp; Resources Committee</b>		
<b>Position</b>	<b>Party</b>	<b>Membership 2022-2023</b>
1. Chair	SDLP	Cllr McAleer
2. Deputy-Chair	DUP	Cllr Buchanan
3. Member	SF	Cllr Doris
4. Member	SF	Cllr Elattar
5. Member	SF	Cllr Gildernew
6. Member	SF	Cllr S McGuigan
7. Member	SF	Cllr S McPeake
8. Member	SF	Cllr Molloy
9. Member	SF	Cllr Totten
10. Member	DUP	Cllr Ashton
11. Member	DUP	Cllr Forde
12. Member	DUP	Cllr McLean

13. Member	SDLP	Cllr Kearney	
14. Member	SDLP	Cllr Quinn	
15. Member	UUP	Cllr Cuddy	
16. Member	UUP	Cllr McKinney	

**AC7/22 Chair of Mid Ulster Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)**

The Chair, Councillor Corry invited the nominating officer for the DUP to nominate the Chair of the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for year 2022-2023.

Councillor Mallaghan nominated Councillor Molloy.

**AC8/22 Nominations for representation on Outside Bodies**

The Chair, Councillor Corry drawing attention to the previously circulated report and given no amendments to the membership notified by Party Nominating Officers, the report was noted.

**Matters for Information**

**AC9/22 Council and Committee Meeting Schedule 2022-2023**

The Chair, Councillor McLean drew attention to the previously circulated 2022-23 Schedule of Meetings for Council and Committee meetings.

**AC10/22 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7pm and ended at 7.40 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## **Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson**

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Chamber, Dungannon whether you have joined us remotely or in the Chamber.

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