

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 14 June 2023 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road, Magherafelt and by virtual means

Members Present

Councillor Cuthbertson, Chair

Councillors J Burton, J Buchanan, Cahoon, Kelly, Groogan, Mallaghan*, Martin, McAleer, McElvogue, McGuigan, McNamee, 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.

E115/23 Notice of Recording

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

E116/23 Apologies

None.

E117/23 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Quinn declared an interest agenda item 12 – Entertainment Licensing Applications – Derrytresk GAC.

E118/23 Chair's Business

The Chair stated that in the past previous Chairs insisted that they were allocated 3 days' notice if a member wished to raise an issue at this Committee, he wished to advise members that this would not be a rule that he would be endorsing. The Chair felt if a member had a genuine and common-sense issue which arose in recent days that they could contact himself or the Director of Environmental Services (SD: Env) and that they would be happy to consider the matter as he intended to be flexible and not stand in anyone's way.

Matters for Decision

E119/23 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:

- **Street 1 - Site off Mullaghmore, Maghera**

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

The options submitted are as noted below:

1. Mullaghbeg
2. Mullagh Crescent
3. Mullagh Way

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name new street within the housing development as Mullaghbeg.

- **Street 2 - Unnamed Existing Street off Garden Street, Magherafelt**

The options submitted are as noted below:

1. Post Office Lane
2. Postmans Drive
3. Postmans Alley

Resolved: That it be recommended to Council to name existing street of Garden Street, Magherafelt as Postmans Alley.

E120/23 Review of Local Authority Property Certificate Fees 2023

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report to seek approval of the proposed fees changes for Local Authority property certificates.

Proposed by Councillor McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the content of the report and approve the increase in fees for Local Authority property certificates as detailed in section 3.4 of the report.

E121/23 Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report to update members on a successful application to the Chewing Gum Grant Scheme.

The Chair advised that this was a very worthwhile project as all our towns are polluted with chewing gum. He felt that this was a win-win situation and would be foolish not to proceed with it.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the content of this report and approve the acceptance of the £25,000 funding offered from the Chewing Gum Task Force Grant Scheme (phase two).

E122/23 Consultation on Climate Change Reporting

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report to seek approval for a proposed response to a consultation on Climate Change Reporting by Public Bodies.

Councillor Varsani said she wished to raise a small point within a very comprehensive report. She referred to page 46, section 8, final box ticked 'other' and goes on to say "*if your chose 'other' please describe what you think the criteria should be*". The member advised that the box was actually empty and just a small technical issue.

The AD: ES thanked the member and advised that this issue would be addressed.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor Martin and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the proposed consultation response as detailed within the report.

Councillor Varsani left the meeting at 7.17 pm.

E123/23 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services (HoTS) presented previously circulated report which provided update on current bus shelter status.

Councillor McAleer left the meeting at 7.18 pm and returned at 7.20 pm.

Councillor Robinson referred to table 3, item 7 - Fardross-Slatmore Road, Clogher and item 10 - Primrose Hill, Clogher and enquired if there was any update.

The HoTS advised that he would investigate and revert back to the member in the morning to provide an update.

Councillor McNamee referred to table 4, item 3 – Church Street, Cookstown and enquired where the location was exactly at in Church Street.

The HoTS advised that he would investigate and come back to the member with an update.

Councillor Quinn referred to table 7, Coole Road and asked if more details could be provided on this application.

The HoTS advised that he would investigate and provide an update to the member in the morning.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to note the contents of the report on progress made on bus shelters within the district. Those listed under 3.5 be recommended to proceed with a view to getting approval.

Matters for Information

E124/23 Minutes of Environment Committee held on 3 April 2023

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 3 April 2023.

Councillor Groogan left the meeting at 7.21 pm.

E125/23 Building Control Workload

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

E126/23 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E127/23 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.

Councillor Groogan returned to the meeting at 7.24 pm.

Councillor McNamee referred to report which was brought to 5 December 2022 Environment Committee on Dual Language Signage Requests. The member advised that within that report Rathmore, Cookstown was referred to and enquired if there was any update as it seemed to be lost in the system somewhere.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised the member that this would be followed up.

E128/23 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.

The Chair referred to pages 126-127 (appendix 8 and 9) Rossmore Road, Dungannon and Mullaghmarget Road, Dungannon and said that in his opinion these two letters had the same identical handwriting. He enquired what the situation here would be and would the Officer responsible be confident in confirming the identity of these residents.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) said that officers were content in so far as the details be checked off against the electoral register. The AD: PS advised that this process is checked the same as every other application against the electoral register.

The Chair said that this seemed to be further evidence of the same campaign going around and getting people to sign for it.

E129/23 Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean 2023

Members noted previously circulated report to update members on the Mid Ulster Big Spring Clean Campaign 2023.

Councillor McGuigan said that this was a good news story in terms of various groupings getting involved in the Spring Clean, including a lot of GAA clubs, schools and community groups. The member advised that there were always issues with litter and continues to be a battle for people out lifting rubbish other people has left

behind. The member advised that this was something the Council has supported over the years and hoped that this would continue.

The Chair agreed that this was a very worthwhile project as the vast majority of people living in rural areas, possibly a mile outside the town were seeing their areas polluted with fast food wrappers and chip papers being dumped out continuously. The Chair commended Council staff on all their good work in their efforts of cleaning up the areas.

Councillor Robinson concurred with Councillor McGuigan's comments and said that it was good to see these organisations taking this on board. The member advised that he was involved in a litter pick with Ballysaggart Church of Ireland which covered an area of 4–5 mile radius and would like to congratulate the members from the Church who organised the litter pick and Council for their help in providing the litter pickers and the bags. The member stated that there was no doubt that litter was a blight on our society and was unsure that we can change the mindset of these offenders who just seem to open their windows and throw it out which was completely horrifying. The member said that worst he had witnessed was the A4 from Ballygawley roundabout to Dungannon which was horrendous with litter and felt that it give a very bad impression of the area.

The Chair advised that the matter of litter at the A4 was previously raised and enquired if this could be action upon.

The Assistant Director, Environmental Services (AD: ES) advised that unfortunately this could be not be carried out due to health and safety concerns on that stretch of dangerous road.

Councillor Cahoon wished to echo the words in which have been previously said, she especially commended the Cookstown 100 clean up and the clean up by Orritor Primary School in that rural area as it was a few miles out of the town but was clear to see the build up of litter and good to see all these ages getting involved in the community effort.

E130/23 Tullyvar Joint Committee Update

Members noted previously circulated report to provide members with an update on the business of the Tullyvar Joint Committee.

E131/23 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management (LACMW) Report for October to December 2022

Members noted previously circulated to update members on the 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 3 of 2022/23 from October to December.

Live broadcast ended at 7.27 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor
Seconded by Councillor

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 E132/23 to E138/23.

Matters for Decision

E132/23 Flower bed and Roundabout Sponsorship

E133/23 ICT Award – MUSA Capital Project

Matters for Information

E134/23 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 3 April 2023

E135/23 Capital Projects – Scoping Contracts Update

E136/23 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update

E137/23 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update

E138/23 IST Award – Burnavon Theatre Improvements

E139/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.41 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