

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 September 2021 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor McLean

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

Officers in Attendance Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive
Ms Canavan**, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer
Ms Ursula Mezza**, Head of Marketing & Communications

In Attendance **Agenda Item 4 - Deputation: Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

Grainia Long	Chief Executive
Paul Isherwood	Director
John McCartan	Regional Manager
Sharon Crooks	Area Manager
Ailbhe Hickey	Regional Place Shaper
Bernie Duffin	Housing Analytics

* 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.

C170/21 Suspension of Standing Order 30.2 Amendment to Standing Orders

The Chair, Councillor McLean sought approval for suspension of Standing order 30.2 - Amendment to Standing Orders.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That Council Suspend Standing Order 30.2 – Amendment to Standing Orders

C171/21 Adoption of Interim Standing Orders on Remote Access to Meetings

The Chief Executive presented previously circulated report which considered an amendment to the Standing Orders of Council following the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (Northern Ireland) 2021 coming into operation on 27th August 2021. This legislates remote meetings until 25 March 2022

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved To approve the amendment to the Standing Orders with specific reference to the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Act (NI) 2021 on remote meetings and that the meeting proceed under the Council Standing Orders

C172/21 Apologies

Councillors Colvin, Forde, Mullen & Robinson

C173/21 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Monteith declared an interest in agenda item 28 *Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Thomas Clarke Gaelic Football Club* in respect of lands known as West Park Playing Fields, Lisnahull, Dungannon

C174/21 Chair's Business

The Chair Councillor McLean stated that his punch line is Council pushes well above weight and drew attention to some of Council activities over the past month. He said that Council continues to maximise connections to full fibre broadband for the benefit of residents. Under the Full Fibre NI project, the Council has been awarded £3.4m to move 80 Council facilities (including all Council offices, all Leisure centres, arts and

cultural and tourism facilities) to full fibre broadband, saving the Council in the region of £2m on broadband charges over the next 20 years. The installation is 75% complete and the project will be completed by December of this year. He advised that Council continues to support local business through the pandemic and play a key role in the revitalisation of town and village centres. Figures received from the Economic Development service indicate that just over £1.3M of Covid-19 Business Grants have been delivered to 587 businesses across the district in the past twelve months.

The Chair, Councillor McLean drew attention to the achievements of Environmental Services and advised that Officers have been successful in obtaining ISO 45001 accreditation for Drumcoo Waste Transfer Station and Recycling Centre. ISO 45001 is the world's first International Standard for occupational health and safety (OH&S). It provides a framework to increase safety, reduce workplace risks and enhance health and well-being at work, enabling an organization to proactively improve its OH&S performance. He further advised that the Council's Bin smART campaign has been shortlisted for a prestigious National Recycling Award in the Small Campaign of the Year category.

More than 500 primary school aged children across the district entered the Bin smART competition, which ran from the end of January to 10 March 2021. The aim of the competition was to make children more aware of the items that can be recycled through the blue bin and enhance their understanding of the importance of recycling and re-using our waste.

In the area of Arts and Culture the Chair, Councillor McLean said that after an 18 month closure to theatres, live performances were once again being programmed. While venues adapted superbly to the pandemic by staging some amazing virtual events, there's no substitute for the experience of being physically present in a performance space. He said all looked forward to welcoming audiences back to Seamus Heaney HomePlace, Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House, and the Burnavon in the weeks ahead.

The Chair, Councillor McLean referred to Property improvement works with a value of over £300K scheduled to take place at two local cemeteries managed by the Council. Forthill Cemetery in Cookstown and Polepatrick Cemetery in Magherafelt are both to benefit from new lighting, the construction of new and refurbished pathways, tree planting and in the case of Polepatrick, an extension to the existing car park.

The Chair advised that in July, together with Minister Edwin Poots MLA he had revealed a significant £1M refurbishment to the Round Lake Camping and Recreation site, just outside Fivemiletown. Included within the revamp was the complete refurbishment of the existing Lake House visitor building to include improved common spaces, shower facilities, and a new Changing Places facility. The changes to the Lake House are complemented by the upgrade of the children's play area on site to an all-ability play area.

Other work on site has included the addition of a new performance space and amphitheatre, extension of caravan and camping pitches, improvements to trails, landscaping and entrance/pedestrian footpaths.

The Chair also highlighted the recent industry achievements of Henry Brothers, Magherafelt in receiving two prestigious awards, the Platinum standard in the Deloitte Best Managed Company Awards 2021, awarded by Deloitte Ireland in association with Bank of Ireland and in receiving the Business in the Community Awards Northern Ireland Responsible Company of the Year 2021 and stated he would be sending letter of congratulations to them.

Resolved That the Chair forward a letter to Henry Brothers to commend them on receiving prestigious awards

- the Platinum standard in the Deloitte Best Managed Company Awards 2021, awarded by Deloitte Ireland in association with Bank of Ireland; and
- Business in the Community Awards Northern Ireland Responsible Company of the Year 2021

In relation to Council Meetings the Chair said that COVID is still present and there may be a desire for a return to full in person meetings but on checking with Officers the 2 metre social distancing health guidance is still in place. As the reduction in August from 2 metre to 1 metre only applied to the hospitality industry Councils was bound to continue but would be kept abreast of changes.

Councillor Mallaghan said that one of the last things he had done as Chair of the Council was host a civic reception for Micky Harte which had been an opportunity to close the chapter on what was a golden era for Gaelic games in Tyrone. However, he stated that just a few months later tens of thousands of Mid Ulster citizens were able to watch the Tyrone senior football team lift the Sam Maguire cup in Croke Park in what he hoped will be the beginning of another wonderful chapter for the county. He also highlighted that the 2021 all Ireland final was the most watched on record on TV and I know from speaking to people from both sides that they enjoyed the match.

Councillor Mallaghan said he wished to pay tribute to Brian Dooher and Fergal Logan who like their predecessor Micky Harte won their first All Ireland in their first year of management. They had inherited a special group players who showed all of Ireland the unquenchable hunger of the underdog. He also took the opportunity to be very parochial for a moment highlighting his fellow Pomeroy Plunkett player Kieran McGeary, Tyrone's vice captain who has had an absolutely brilliant year picking up numerous man of the match awards, made the team of the year and on course for player of the year. Councillor Mallaghan acknowledged the community in their support of this team and how right across the county the white and red was visible in every town, village and small settlements. The fans were acknowledged by the players as bringing so much to the game and the occasion. He said that 2021 had seen both Derry in the minors and Tyrone in the seniors claim the biggest prize and Councils contribution towards that cannot be underestimated as Mid Ulster council

has a proud reputation of supporting Gaelic games across the counties and in the clubs and that investment by the local authority ensures clubs and counties can play at the top level. In conclusion Councillor Mallaghan proposed a civic reception to be held for the Tyrone Team at the earliest convenience and within the rules of course public health advice.

Councillor Wilson sought clarification on a point emphasising that his query was in no way aimed at the sports teams who had excelled. He asked what policy the civic reception was being taken under referring to Tullylagan pipe band who in 2019 had won the World competition but only 5 had been invited.

In response the Head of Democratic Services clarified that the band referred to were Grade 3b and because in the piping world there are higher attainable grades ranging from Grade 1 to 4B it went through as a civic reception and thus 5 recipients had been able to attend. He concluded that Councillor Mallaghan was proposing a civic honour as the team could not achieve higher than the All Ireland title which they has achieved.

Resolved That the Chair That Chair host a civic honours reception to Tyrone Team (seniors) on winning the 2021 All Ireland GAA Championship played in September 2021 in line with the Council policy and procedures.

Councillor McFlynn drew attention to the situation in Afghanistan and the refugees now coming to our shores. She paid tribute to groups who are currently gathering up clothing together with other essentials and asked if there is anything council can be doing either alone or with others. Councillor McFlynn stated she was aware it was not Council's remit and sought advice from the Chief Executive.

In response the Chief Executive stated it was a pertinent question and advised Council had engaged with Stormont officials and the NIHE and were awaiting strategic direction. In conclusion he said an update would be provided when relevant information was received.

Councillor Wilson said he was speaking in relation to Cookstown DEA whereby Council had been very supportive in moving gas to all major towns and had helped, where possible. He said that now gas pipes had been put in place a number of people had applied to get gas connected but could not get a response from the company and there appeared to be a reluctance to talk to customers. He said that if one was being cynical was the company holding off until prices rise as people have no opportunity to go to elsewhere.

Resolved That Council to write to SGN Natural Gas Limited to seek an urgent meeting with regard to the difficulty proposed customers are experiencing in communicating with the company to initiate gas connections.

The Chair Councillor McLean said that a further item of Chair's Business would be heard in Confidential business.

C175/21 Deputation: Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The Chair, Councillor McLean welcomed representatives from Northern Ireland Housing Executive to the meeting and invited them to present the Mid Ulster Housing Investment Plan Annual Update.

Ms Long the Chief Executive introduced the NIHE team and delivered a presentation and made reference to the previously circulated report.

Ms Long drew particular attention to the revitalisation of the NIHE and the announcement by the Minister for Communities in November 2020 which permitted the NIHE to borrow to fund sustainable investment in existing stock.

The Chair, Councillor McLean sought Members' questions.

Councillor Molloy thanked Ms Long for the presentation and said he was aware of the definition of affordable housing from the Department for Communities and NIHE but stressed that housing needed to be affordable for all. He said that in Dungannon affordable housing for those on housing benefit is simply not there as people cannot afford to find the difference in the housing benefit and the actual cost of the rent. He said that the gap is widening especially in relation to private rental and social housing emphasising that the matter needs addressed as a matter of urgency.

In response Ms Long stated she would not disagree and that the NIHE are very conscious that the gap between demand and supply is widening. She said that the shaping plan would take a more local approach and said that they direct housing associations towards areas of high need. She stressed that the critical issue is bringing sites forward and working closely with councils to ensure good local planning. Ms Long also referred to a longer term issue in that they have not been able to build houses for some time and this was what was required for a long term solution. She said that place shaping would help but unfortunately there was no easy solutions.

Councillor Milne thanked Ms Long for the presentation and stated that poor workmanship by contractors had been brought to his attention whereby it was taking up to 4 weeks to install a kitchen and that communications between contractor and clients was poor. Councillor Milne highlighted that families had been left without cooking facilities. He also referred to a scheme to spruce up the outside of houses when workmen had not been allowed to access the roof due to insurance issues.

In response Ms Long said the NIHE would follow up with Councillor Milne regarding specific issues in relation to the standard of workmanship as they had a team of inspectors to ensure that work is carried out to the required standard.

Mr Isherwood said that there is a major labour shortage in NI and that the NIHE were endeavouring to work with contractors particularly around signing off work for example kitchens. He stressed that whilst some jobs may be taking longer there was clear procedures in place that at the end of each night people should be reconnected to all utilities. He said that they were aware of general issues across the region and would most certainly raise the issue of communication.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Milne regarding communication around maintenance which he said was shocking and the worst he had seen in 20 years. He said that maintenance in the community was virtually non-existent for example railings and that the presentation did not reflect the facts on the ground. Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Molloy stating that rental housing in Dungannon was a disgrace and that young people cannot live in the community they grew up in and could not buy a house in Dungannon town. He drew attention to page 30 of the report and said that year on year the request is made to present the graph on rental prices per settlement. He quoted rental prices from a Dungannon estate agent, £600 per month for a mid terrace former NIHE home, £750 per month for an end of terrace former NIHE home and stated that these examples highlight that the figures in the report do not reflect what is happening in Dungannon. He said that people living in poverty had no hope of securing housing where they grew up and stated that in wider settlements social new build was £150 per week. He concluded that social housing fails to make it reasonable for people to afford to live in Dungannon.

Ms Long said she heard loud and clear what was being said. In relation to the poor communication between contractors and clients she said this was taken very seriously and would be followed up. Referring to the private sector rents placed on former NIHE homes, Ms Long said this highlights how the selling of NIHE stock has not had the desired effect and when public homes are sold society loses out and the lesson should be taken from this. Ms Long reiterated earlier comments that the NIHE had not been able to build new stock and thus have to work in partnership with social housing providers. She concluded that they do recognise the gap and how stark it is becoming between demand and supply but it was hoped as the NIHE are given additional powers this will improve.

Ms Hickey added that an additional pressure on the rental market is the lack of turnover in social stock, she highlighted that policy issues were being updated and assured that the NIHE were constantly working to bring forward sites for social housing. Ms Hickey said that it was hoped to have DEA meetings recommencing in November when issues as aforementioned can be addressed.

Councillor Burton sought clarity on emergency housing sharing a recent example when a person had been living in fear due to a threat to their life yet at every avenue hands seem to be tied. She sought clarity as to whether the policy regarding emergency housing was fit for purpose and was there any hope to have it reviewed.

In response Ms Long said they take such requests very seriously and would contact the Member directly regarding the matter.

In relation to the policy Mr McCartan said that he could not comment on specifics but said if there was safety and security issues alternative accommodation is offered in the interim of reports being received. He said there is a highly experienced housing solution team well versed in the legislation who are very approachable that deal with such requests. He emphasised that when a person is under threat in their home it is a very serious matter.

The Chair, Councillor McLean stated the Member would pass on the details.

Councillor Mallaghan referred to an ongoing issue over a few years in Pomeroy in relation to maintenance to properties. He spoke of the draughts coming in to homes especially when there was issues with fuel poverty and the request for replacement doors which he had been assured would be met. He referred to comments regarding procurement, contractors and Covid but that when he had ultimately took the matter to the press within a few days he had received an email to say the works would take place in November. He said in such circumstances people were being bluffed as he had been told that the doors were procured at the prices in 2018 and he finds it difficult to accept that for two years the matter drifted but once the press was involved it was sorted. He said that NIHE tenants deserve much better. He concluded commending them on recent works in relation to gardens and in bloom schemes.

The Chair, Councillor McLean stated that the aforementioned was worthy of note and asked that the NIHE contact Councillor Mallaghan directly with a response to his question.

In response, Ms Long gave a personal assurance that this would be done.

Mr Isherwood stated that his staff had been in communication with Councillor Mallaghan.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said the issue had been pending for two years and the Councillor deserved a response as to why.

Councillor Kerr concurred with Councillors Monteith and Molloy with regard to housing association housing not serving to meet the need especially in areas of deprivation. He stated that there were many issues in Coalisland where families were on low incomes and could not meet the rent. He spoke of the communication problems between contractors and tenants and stated that the resident is living with the ongoing problem, he said that housing was a basic human right and people deserved to be treated better. In conclusion he stated that it may be worthwhile where residents were living with poor housing that the environmental health team become involved.

The Chair, Councillor McLean requested the NIHE team to make contact with Councillor Kerr directly.

Councillor Cuthbertson spoke of substandard work in relation to repairs. He paid tribute to the local NIHE manager who endeavoured to do her best in difficult circumstances. He raised the issue of cavity wall insulation leading to mould.

Ms Long stated that she would follow up on Councillors queries in relation to repairs, quality and communication and reiterated that there was no alternative other than housing associations at present. She said that in Coalisland the projection is 132 units but there were 192 families in housing stress.

Mr Isherwood stated that Council had responded to the consultation on cavity wall insulations and advised there is a significant cost to repairs which would have to compete with other projects. He said the final report would be presented to the board in October following which it was hoped to bring forward a pilot scheme to deal with the problems and a methodology for same.

Mr Isherwood stated he could make a presentation to Council regarding the issue.

Resolved That NIHE to be invited to present to the Environment Committee in relation to Cavity Wall Insulation Scheme

In conclusion, the Chair thanked the NIHE team for their attendance and said that issues to be addressed could be taken up with the individual Members.

The Chief Executive took the opportunity of welcoming Ms Long to the post and welcomed the willingness to work with Members who would look forward to progressing issues at the forthcoming DEA meetings. He paid tribute to the previous Director, Siobhan McCauley and her contribution to the community plan. He concluded by saying that Council would continue to work in partnership with them to address the housing shortage in Mid Ulster.

Matters for Decision

C176/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 22 July 2021

Councillor Kerr drew attention to C148/21 Chair’s Business in relation to Covid and stated that he had been contacted by teachers who were also in trade unions with regard to the Public Health Agency taking charge of contact tracing in schools. It was highlighted that local school staff and trade unions had highlighted issues in relation to the lack of protection the methodology applied offered to children and staff alike together with the additional administrative burden it was placing on staff.

The Chair, Councillor McLean stated that he thought many of these issues had been resolved but stated that the comments could be passed onto the Public Health Agency.

Resolved That Council write to the Public Health Agency expressing concerns in relation to Contact Tracing arrangements with respect schools

Councillor Monteith drew attention to C157.21 and the proposed meeting with the BMA and Royal College of General Practitioners and requested that an item be added to the agenda to discuss the withdrawal of 'GP Out of Hours Services' in Dungannon and seek clarity on when it would return. He stated that the GP provision in the area was on its knees and requested that Council also write to the SHSCT to ask when the service would be returned.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson and

Resolved That

- (i) at the scheduled meeting with the BMA and Royal College of General Practitioners an item be added to the agenda to discuss the withdrawal of 'GP Out of Hours Services' in Dungannon and seek clarity on when it return;
- (ii) Council write to the Southern Health and Social Care Trust to seek clarity as to when the 'GP Out of Hours Services' will be reconvened emphasising the need for expediency.

The Chief Executive advised that a letter requesting a meeting had been forwarded on the 6 August and it was hoped to have a date confirmed in the near future.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to C149.21 Deputation Department for Infrastructure and the references to the suspension of tenders for resurfacing. He advised that he had seen on their website that works were taking place in Gilford, County Down and requested that council send a letter seeking an update on the situation in Mid Ulster.

Resolved That Council write to the Minister for Infrastructure to seek an update as to when the scheduled resurfacing works are expected to re-commence in Mid Ulster district.

Councillor Doris drew attention to C154/21 Development Committee Minutes and the reference to a report outlining the current provision in leisure centres for those with additional needs and said whilst she knew it would take time to prepare a thorough report the item needed to be kept on the agenda.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 22 July 2021 (C146/21 – C158/21 and C169/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C177/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 3 August 2021

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 3 August 2021 (P100/21 – P105/21 and P111/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C178/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Special Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 2 September 2021

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Special Development Committee held on Thursday 2 September 2021 (D128/21 – D134/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C179/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 7 September 2021

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 7 September 2021 (P117/21 – P122/21 and P129/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C180/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 9 September 2021

Councillor Kerr drew attention to PR165/21 Provisional Recommendations on Local Government Boundaries Review and spoke of the impact the proposed changes would make in Coalisland which would could potentially move some electors out of the Neighbourhood Renewal area and thus any associated support programmes. Councillor Kerr requested that Council write to the Boundary Commission to express concern regarding the proposed changes and how they could lead to people being disadvantaged.

Councillor Brown advised that Members had been notified that the opportunity for comments had now closed. In response the Chair, Councillor McLean suggested that Councillor Kerr personally forward his comments to the Local Government Boundary Commission.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 September 2021 (PR157/21 – PR168/21 and PR175/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C181/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 14 September 2021

In response to Councillor Kerr’s query regarding the withdrawal of an application for a bus shelter referred to in E200/21 Bus Shelter Update report the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that once the decision was ratified at Council, applicants would be contacted.

Councillor Corry referred to E201/21 regarding Defibrillators and advised that she had been contacted regarding the cost of servicing the devices as community groups were finding this expensive. She requested that consideration be given to some sort of grant for replacement of pads and other items which were ‘one-of’ use as it was distressing if the devices were not operational due to lack of replacement equipment.

In response the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure advised that an options paper would be brought to a future committee for consideration.

Resolved That a report be brought to the Environment Committee outlining the options with regards to servicing/restocking of defibrillators at community orientated sites

Proposed by Councillor Oneill
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 September 2021 (E187/21 – E210/21 and E221/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C182/21 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 16 September 2021

Councillor Clarke drew attention to D155/21 Sperrin Partnership Project and the approval for an onsite meeting regarding concerns around possible irreparable damage to archaeological sites around Davagh and asked how soon the meeting could be convened.

In response the Chief Executive advised that the Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation would follow up with the Member. Councillor Clarke stressed the meeting should be as soon as possible to prevent further damage.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to D154/21 Forest Recreation Development Programme and said at the meeting an undertaking had been given that he would receive an update as to when the Washingbay Walkway would be painted and to date he had not received same.

Councillor Burton referred to the issue raised by Councillor Kerr and concurred with the need for a meeting as soon as possible of the Tourism Group of which she is Chair.

Councillor Burton referred to D151/21 Chair's Business - Birthing Pool at Craigavon Hospital and again stressed the importance of the request for its reinstallation for low risk mums to be. She stated that she had been inundated with requests as every other midwifery led unit had at least one in operation. Councillor Burton said that some were opting for their babies to be delivered in baths and the situation was not ideal for either the expectant mother, the father or staff in attendance. In conclusion Councillor Burton said that she had also raised the matter at NILGA and neighbouring Councils would be writing to the Trust regarding the matter and the local MP was also involved.

Councillor S McAleer concurred with Councillor Burton and stressed the importance of the facility being reinstated.

Proposed by Councillor Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 September 2021 (D149/21 – D165/21 and D170/21) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C183/21 Conference Report

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, training and seminars.

Councillor S McAleer to be added to Centre for Cross Border studies.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined in the appendix to the report.

C184/21 Civic Recognition Nominations

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, and as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Councillor Doris requested her name be added to letter for Stewartstown Harps Ladies Team.

It was noted that Mark Doherty, Electric Ireland All Star and Laclan Murray, Electric Ireland All Star be added to the civic reception list.

Councillor Wilson drew attention to the recommendation for Ellie McMenemy and requested that it be realigned to civic reception status as although previously included in an award the competition won was a higher category.

In response the Head of Democratic Services stated he would review the request and upload accordingly, if deemed.

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report together with the following:

- (i) Mark Doherty, Electric Ireland All Star
- (ii) Laclan Murray, Electric Ireland All Star
- (iii) Add Cllr Doris name to letter for Stewartstown Harps Club;
- (iv) Ellie McMenemy to be reconsidered by Head of Democratic Services to realign to civic reception status in line with Cllr Wilson's request

Matters for Information

C185/21 Correspondence

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

In response to Councillor Kerr's query regarding the decision last month to bring a report to the Environment Committee regarding the concept of "Rights of Nature" the Head of Democratic Services stated that he would have the matter checked and brought to a future Environment Committee meeting and confirm in due course.

C186/21 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered previously circulated report on consultations notified to Mid Ulster District Council for comment.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to the Department of Health: Cancer Strategy for NI 2021-2023 and proposed that Council make a response and should also do all within its power to raise the profile on various charities.

The Chair said he had engaged in promotions for various charities to raise their profile and that a workshop for the community should be advertised on social media platforms.

Councillor Corry drew attention to the consultation Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT) how we propose to purchase domiciliary care provided by non-statutory providers. She spoke of the distress and immense pressure individuals and families are coming under due to cutbacks in care packages.

The Chair, Councillor McLean said that Councillors should feed into the consultations responses to ensure they are both positive and constructive.

Resolved That an all Member workshop be arranged to prepare a response to consultation from Northern Health & Social Care Trust with regards to how we propose to purchase domiciliary care provided by non-statutory providers

Councillor Burton supported the consultation regarding domiciliary care stating that often beds in hospitals cannot be freed up as care packages are not in place highlighting that should a family bring the person home without the care package they then go to the back of the queue. With regard to the Cancer Strategy consultation she said that she had heard from district nurses that due to covid restrictions many people are not getting access to the care required and Council needs to link into cancer care providers to attain information for the response.

The Chair, Councillor McLean stated that a firm approach was required from Members and this Council, and Members should support officers by engaging in the process.

Councillor Elattar concurred and said that a zoom session should be publicised that groups can link into.

Attention was drawn to the closing date of the Cancer Consultation and it was agreed that that the Environment Committee have delegated authority to agree the response which is due on 20 Oct 2021, should an extension for responses not be offered by the Department.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That

- (i) a workshop with Members and Community be arranged to prepare a response to Department for Health Cancer Strategy for NI 2021-2031 and that the Environment Committee have delegated authority to agree the response which is due on 20 Oct 2021, if an extension for responses is not offered by the Department;
- (ii) that the department workshops be promoted on various platforms to ensure maximum participation

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 broadcast concluded at 8.50 pm

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That items C187/21 to C199/21 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 22 July 2021
- (ii) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 3 August 2021
- (iii) Special Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 September 2021
- (iv) Planning Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 September 2021
- (v) Policy and Resources Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 9 September 2021
- (vi) Environment Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 September 2021
- (vii) Development Committee confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 September 2021
- (viii) Magherafelt Depot
- (ix) Document for Sealing: Deed of Grant of Gas Pipe Easements at Lands East of Moneyhaw Road, Moneymore, between Mid Ulster District Council and SGN Natural Gas Limited
- (x) Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement between Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Mid Ulster District Council in respect of lands situated at Henderson Park, Stewartstown
- (xi) Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Thomas Clarke Gaelic Football Club in

- respect of lands known as West Park Playing Fields, Lisnahull, Dungannon
- (xii) Document for Sealing: Deed of Transfer in respect of lands situated at Park View, Castledawson, from Northern Ireland Housing Executive to Mid Ulster District Council
 - (xiii) Document for Sealing: Deed of Transfer in respect of lands situated at Roan Park, Eglish, from Clanmil Housing Association Limited to Mid Ulster District Council

C200/21 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.10 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

Thank you and we will now move to the first item on the agenda – apologies and then a roll call of members in attendance.

Date _____