

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 27 August 2020 in the Burnavon Arts and Cultural Centre, Cookstown and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan

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

Officers in Attendance Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive
Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza** Head of Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
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 Mallaghan 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.

C153/20 Apologies

Councillors Forde and Mullen

C154/20 Declarations of Interest

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

C155/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan referred to the email received tendering the resignation of the Chief Executive. He spoke of the initial shock as it was his hope that the Chief Executive would have remained longer in Local Government. The

Chair spoke of the achievements of Council under the direction of the Chief Executive over the past six years, the ambitious plans and projects led under his stewardship and his excellent management. He stated that the private sector company was gaining a huge asset and on behalf of all the Members and the Sinn Féin party wished him well. The Chair concluded that across the north councils' look upon Mid Ulster as the trend setters and this was due to the leadership of the Chief Executive and of course the fantastic work of the Councillors!

Councillor Elattar left the meeting at 7.04pm

Councillor McLean concurred with the remarks and stated that it was no surprise that a man of the Chief Executive's calibre had been head hunted. On behalf of the DUP Councillor McLean extended best wishes to the Chief Executive. He stated that he had said at the outset of the three council merger that the proof of the pudding would be in the eating and that proof had been delivered. Councillor McLean stated that the Chief Executive had been firm but fair and wished him continuing success.

Councillor Wilson reiterated previous comments and on behalf of the UUP thanked the Chief Executive for leading the Council through the transition and highlighted that it was unfortunate that he would not see it through the growth deal but that a good foundation had been led. Councillor Wilson extended best wishes to the Chief Executive stating that they may not always have agreed but that he had been fair and honest.

Councillor Monteith concurred with previous comments and stated that the Chief Executive had come to the job with energy and commitment and had steered the Council well. He stated that he may not always have agreed with the decisions made but thanked the Chief Executive for his hard work and wished him well in the future.

Councillor Kearney on behalf of the SDLP wished the Chief Executive well as he embarked on the next chapter of his career. He stated that the Chief Executive had served Mid Ulster with distinction establishing good policies and led a strong team. Reflecting on the Chief Executive's sporting past he stated that he 'had a safe pair of hands and was a good Carntogher man!'

In response the Chief Executive said he had often sat at meetings feeling uncomfortable but no more so than tonight whereby he was humbled by the kind words and good wishes of all. He stated that it had been a privilege to have served Mid Ulster where he was just another worker, a member of the team which included Elected Members. He reflected that the success enjoyed by Mid Ulster was due to the hard work of the Elected Members and all Council officers who had all geared Mid Ulster up as it was where they were from and all had strived to make it a better place for all. He concluded by saying that it had been an honour to have worked with the Council and a time that he would look back on with pride and fondness and reminded Members he would still be working local and be a rate payer in the district.

Councillor S McAleer entered the meeting at 7.10pm

Members concluded with a round of applause.

Councillor Elattar returned to the meeting at 7.11 pm

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to the Business Support Grants issued in response to COVID19 highlighting that there had been six assessment panels, excessive applications and that letters of offer were now scheduled to be issued. The Chair commended what was an excellent piece of work that Mid Ulster again was the first council to deliver.

Councillor Kerr spoke of the grant for rural businesses stating that unfortunately it was a drop in the ocean and suggested that Council lobby for further intervention for rural businesses.

In response the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised there would be grants in the future and an update would be provided at the September development committee.

Councillor S McAleer spoke of businesses that had applied FOR the Village Spruce Up scheme and were on a reserved list and stated that it would be beneficial if more funding could be put into the scheme.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to requests received to 'light up' civic buildings in support of the family of Noah Donohoe and their quest for information into his death. It was noted that the policy for Illumination of Buildings was currently under review. The Chair proposed that Council support the request.

Councillor Monteith seconded the proposal and advised it had been raised with him by citizens who had contacted the Council to be told the request had been passed to the relevant officer. He stated that people should have been told more in relation to the request. Councillor Monteith commended local groups who had already committed to the request and stated that Council needed to show solidarity with the family.

Resolved That Council light up Ranfurly House & Visitor Centre, Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre and Bridewell blue during the weekend commencing 28 August 2020 in response to the request from the family of Noah Donohoe in the quest for more information regarding his death.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan provided an update on recent Ministerial visits advising that the Minister of Department for the Economy, had launched a programme to support businesses in Ballygawley earlier in the day and the Minister for the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs had visited the Davagh project earlier in the month. The Chair also advised that the Growth Deal would be launched on the 9th September 2020.

Councillor Quinn spoke of the passing of John Hume who had left his mark around the world especially in his beloved home city of Derry. He spoke of him winning the Nobel Peace Prize in 1998 and how he had improved the lives of so many people through his endeavours for peace and his role in the European Parliament.

Councillor Quinn spoke of the positives he left such as credit unions, thousands of jobs, his quest for justice and how he summed up his political philosophy that he was not a leader but a helper of people. He concluded that society owed a debt of gratitude to John Hume for the peace enjoyed today.

Councillor S McPeake concurred with previous remarks stating that John Hume had never been afraid to put himself on the line and had played a tremendous part in the peace process had often not been popular but his endeavours led to the Good Friday Agreement. He stated that a great debt was owed to John Hume and it was essential that all continued to keep working towards the justice he signed up and campaigned for. On behalf of the Sinn Féin party Councillor S McPeake extended sympathy to the family.

Councillor McLean stated that regardless of differences John Hume had dedicated his whole life to peace and was a fitting role model for all generations. He extended sympathy to the Hume family.

Councillor Cuddy concurred with previous speakers stating that the Good Friday agreement had been the pinnacle of John Hume's career and his endeavours together with David Trimble had brought great change. Councillor Cuddy extended sympathy to the Hume family.

Councillor Wilson stated that it was with regret that people have experienced the desecration of local cemeteries in Cookstown and stated that he thought society was past such actions when ornaments were being taken off graves. He stated that the situation had been ongoing for approximately three months, had been raised with the police and senior officers of council but it was very difficult to catch people in the act. He stated that he could not comprehend the pleasure people would get in carrying out such actions and appealed to the wider community if they had information to report it to the police.

Councillor McNamee concurred with Councillor Wilson stating that Francie Molloy MP and himself had met with the PSNI and had also raised the issue of the fire at Holy Trinity church. He too appealed to anyone with information to bring it to police.

Councillor Buchanan stated that the behaviour was shocking and that he had been in contact with Council officers and the police who were working to resolve the issue.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that at Cottage Quinn cemetery in Dungannon there was issues with cars doing 'donuts' in the cemetery carpark.

Councillor N McAleer drew attention to posters which had been erected in Dungannon that were of a sectarian nature against the GAA. He condemned the posters and called for them to be removed and was emphatic that Council should send out a message that this type of behaviour would not be tolerated and was in stark contrast to the behaviour of the GAA who had been at the forefront of the community led response, helping everyone irrespective of community throughout the COVID 19 pandemic.

Councillor Monteith stated he was a member of the Dungannon Clarkes and also spoke of other GAA clubs in the town and across the county who had done sterling work and were at the forefront helping all of the communities throughout the pandemic. He suggested that Council send a letter to the County Board acknowledging this work. He highlighted that many GAA members and clubs had received messages of support from the unionist community in recent days and had acknowledged that they were aware the posters were the actions of a minority. He further highlighted that during Tyrone's winning years many of the unionist community attended Croke Park to support the team. He stated that all right thinking people would call for the sign to be removed.

Councillor Kerr concurred with preceding comments and stated as a member of the GAA it was disturbing and that the GAA was open to people from all walks of life irrespective of religion or background.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he had no trouble speaking about the poster in question as he believed it was wrong but stressed that the GAA governing body need to both look and weed out the sectarian elements involved in their sport. He spoke of competitions name after terrorists, sectarian singing on the bus in Aughnacloy, the use of terrorist names on club badges and stated that a terrorist was a terrorist should it be in recent troubles or 100 years ago.

Councillor Cuthbertson also made reference to posters displayed 365 days a year on both Newell and Donaghmore Road and further referred to anti internment celebrations in Dungannon and Republican white line protests on Saturday afternoons which were damaging local businesses. He described them as sectarian and also anti semitic and made reference to an incident where a young pizza delivery driver was hit on the side of the head with a block and highlighted racist attacks and smashing of business windows in the area. Councillor Cuthbertson concluded stating that if the meeting was going to speak of posters it should speak of all posters and incidents.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that whilst some of the previous remarks were ridiculous he agreed that Council should sit down and discuss the issue of posters, effigies and other signs of hate as they are wrong and as local representatives all Members should sit down and endeavour to defeat hate within the community.

Resolved All Member meeting to be called to progress discussion in relation to the elimination of the display of offensive posters, effigies, etc throughout the district

Councillor Quinn concurred with the Chair and stated that the poster in relation to the GAA was disgusting, that he was the secretary in his local GAA club and like every GAA club across the district they had worked with everyone to help the local community during the recent pandemic and highlighted that the GAA had delivered to many unionist homes in the Torrent area. He stated that the signs were put up by loyalists to advise locals against working with the GAA community and were aimed at controlling unionist people. He concluded stating that the GAA were there for everyone.

Councillor Cuddy concurred with the Chair stating that his suggestion was a good step forward, that the world had moved on and Members needed to understand and show leadership. He emphasised that everyone needed to 'give and take' to allow progress but underlying issues needed to be addressed.

Councillor McLean said he would be happy to participate in discussion and urged caution on what is said in the public arena, what is supported on facebook and other social media platforms. He said although he did not use social media a lot everyone needed to be careful as it was easy to make a political statement but may be more difficult to follow it through. Councillor McLean concluded that the DUP would participate in the discussions.

Councillor Corry raised the issue of parents with special needs children coming under pressure in relation to schools re-opening. She spoke of the lack of guidance available for people dealing with vulnerable children and how 'blanket' guidance does not fit every circumstance. Councillor Corry requested that Council write to the Minister for the Department for Health seeking guidance for parents of vulnerable children in relation to school attendance during the COVID 19 pandemic.

Resolved That Council write to the Minister for the Department for Health seeking guidance for parents of vulnerable children in relation to school attendance during the COVID 19 pandemic

Councillor Corry asked what guidance if any was in place if the situation of a local lockdown arose within the Mid Ulster district.

In response the Director of Public Health and Infrastructure stated that currently there was no indication of this however there was ongoing conversations with the Chief Medical Officer and that the NI Executive Office would be producing guidance going forward.

Councillor Kerr spoke of local lady Sharon Cassidy who for two consecutive weekends had engaged in 'sleep outs' to both help raise money for and highlight the plight of the homeless. He stated that Sharon hoped to make this an annual event and requested that she be afforded the opportunity to present to Council about her quest.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that Sharon had engaged in charity work for many years and was indeed worthy of the praise given.

Resolved That Sharon Cassidy be invited to make a presentation to relevant department regarding her quest in highlighting and helping the plight of homelessness

Matters for Decision

C156/20 **Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 23 July 2020**

Councillor Kerr drew attention to C135/20 and the references to black lives matter highlighting that the incident that Jacob Blake had been shot in the back seven times and there was no justification for such actions. He referred also to the white militia who had shot two protestors and the attitude to the two different incidents was disgusting.

Councillor McLean stated he was not disagreeing or commenting about either instance but it was not the business of the meeting at this time. He stated that Councillor Kerr had got his way making political statements using this platform the business at present was the minutes to be agreed not an opportunity for making political statements.

Proposed by B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 23 July 2020 (C132/20 – C152/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C157/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 4 August 2020

Councillor S McPeake requested an amendment to Minute at page 6 *P065/20 Planning Applications for determination: LA09/2019/1035/F to read Seconded by Councillor D McPeake*

Proposed by Councillor Kearney
Seconded by Councillor D McPeake

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 4 August 2020 (P063/20 – P072/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C158/20 Requests for Civic Recognition

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, as detailed within the report at appendix A.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Milne

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report and be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate.

C159/20 Conferences, Seminars and Training

Approval was sought for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

Conferences

Provider/Course	Date & Time	Location	Costs
NI Housing Conference	<i>Tuesday, 1 September 2020</i>	Virtual	£95 plus VAT
Centre for Cross Border Studies' 21st Annual Conference "Reassessing and Reconfiguring North-South and East-West relations in a changing landscape"	Friday 25th September	Virtual	NIL
<i>Policy Forum for Northern Ireland</i> Priorities for infrastructure - key projects, investment and delivery	<i>Wednesday, 21st October 2020</i>	Virtual	£190 plus VAT
Agenda NI Northern Ireland Infrastructure Investment Conference 2020	<i>Thursday 5 November 2020</i>	Virtual	£185 + VAT @ 20% = £222
Policy Forum NI The Future of Northern Ireland Energy Policy	<i>Wednesday, 18th November 2020</i>	Virtual	£190 + vat Alternatively for non attendees £95 + VAT

It was noted there were no officer approvals,

Councillor S McPeake made reference to the charges associated with some of the conferences listed stating that £190 was a ridiculous cost for virtual conferences.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan made reference to a review by ICBAN who would welcome all comments.

Councillor Glasgow concurred that the costs for online conferences were bizarre especially when many areas still had poor broadband.

Councillors Kearney and S McPeake requested that they be booked on the Cross Border conference listed.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That the attendance of Members, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees. Councillors Kearney and S McPeake attend the Cross Border conference.

Matters for Information

C160/20 Correspondence

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

Councillor Monteith drew attention to correspondence received from Derry & Strabane District Council and stated that Council should support the motion carried on domiciliary care provision and the National Health Service and proposed that the All Ireland Health Campaign group be invited to make a presentation. He spoke against the privatisation of health care and the disaster it had been which was highlighted in particular when the COVID 19 crisis arrived at which time care homes and domiciliary care had been abandoned in areas such as personal protection equipment.

Resolved That Council invite representatives from the All Ireland health service campaign to make a presentation to Council.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to correspondence from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and proposed that Council should support the motion as if local lockdowns occurred although he hoped they would not, it would be helpful to have a dedicated hotline for Elected Members highlighting that it worked well in other areas such as flooding.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the level of information was alarming and concurred.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That Council supports the motion moved by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and calls on the Department of Health and Public Health Agency to provide DEA specific information or to provide a helpline for councillors in relation to localised outbreaks of COVID cases.

Councillor Kerr drew attention to the letter from Donegal County Council and requested that Council support the request as improved rail and motorway infrastructure would bring great benefits to all along the A5 route.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that a lot of work had been undertaken in relation to the A5 and ICBAN also endeavoured to support the project.

Resolved That Council support the resolution passed at Donegal County Council and writes to the Government to commit to funding the A5 as a priority.

Declaration of Interest

Councillor Colvin declared an interest in the Local Commissioning Group

Councillor Colvin referred back to correspondence from Derry City and Strabane District Council and comments made by Councillor Monteith in relation to the care homes and stated that he knew of excellent care homes in the private sector and cautioned against the support of All Ireland health care service.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that the group was being invited to make a presentation.

Councillor Ashton drew attention to the Business Support Grant Scheme and requested that Council write to both the Department for Communities and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to express thanks for the support received.

Resolved That Council to write a letter of thanks to DAERA and Department for Communities in respect of receipt of the Business Support Grants.

Councillor Gildernew referred back to the correspondence received from the Donegal County Council in relation to the A5 and spoke of the A5 cross county committee which had been driven by Fermanagh & Omagh District Council and asked when the meetings would recommence.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that work was ongoing and officers would ascertain when the group would reconvene.

Councillor Monteith referred back to the correspondence from Derry City and Strabane District Council and Councillor Colvin's subsequent comments and clarified that he had not said individual care homes were a disaster but that privatisation of them had been. He made mention of minimum wage, zero hour contracts and the likes which was creeping into the health service. He stated whilst care provided in private care homes and by private domiciliary care providers may be good privatisation of services was not.

Councillor McKinney referred to the response received from Minister for Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to letter sent from Council to do with suckler farmers. He highlighted that the response did not address the queries raised and emphasised that farm businesses were under pressure, were still awaiting funding from tranche two of tier two of the Farm Investment Programme and spoke further of a statement made by the Minister at a recent Farmers Union annual general meeting. Councillor McKinney proposed that Council respond to the letter seeking answers to the questions previously raised.

Councillor Glasgow concurred that the letter did not answer the questions raised and spoke of farmers experiencing difficulties communicating with the department as

many staff were working from home. Councillor Glasgow highlighted that farming was a major industry in the district and they needed support.

The Chair Councillor Mallaghan advised that there had been an indication that funding should be distributed within three weeks

Resolved That Council to write to DAERA and seek a response in relation to the Lack of support for farmers of suckler herds who have been severely impacted from the impacts of COVID-19; which was not addressed in the response received 24 August 2020. Difficulties experienced by farmers endeavouring to make contact with the department also to be highlighted

Councillor Kearney drew attention to correspondence received from Department of Education and stated that Council should salute teachers and parents and wish all schools well as they return to the classroom. He further highlighted the £11.25m set aside for the Engage Programme and stated that he hoped Mid Ulster would benefit from the programme.

C161/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered the previously circulated report.

Councillor Burton requested that Council submit a response to consultation from *Department for Communities Draft Disability Action Plan 2020-2024*. The Councillor spoke of people living in rural areas who use motorised scooters and referred to the nightmare of water, debris and large vehicles that both they and wheel chair users experience. Councillor Burton spoke of one man who had to drive the scooter up the middle of the road to be able to get out and about. Councillor Burton asked that a robust response be submitted highlighting example issues as aforementioned.

Councillor Colvin concurred stating that 'joint up thinking' was required and shared that one mother who had a progressive disability had no mechanism to bring her young child to school but qualified for no help for same. He concluded there was a lot of people with disabilities and the consultation was significant as it would impact a lot of people and Council needed to submit a robust response.

Resolved That Council submit response to consultation: *Department for Communities Draft Disability Action Plan 2020 – 2024*

C162/20 Notion of Motion

Councillor Oneill moving the motion stated:

“Our council has provided a great walk along the Coalisland Canal however there are three very dangerous excess points that lead onto the walk, myself and Councillor Niamh Doris held a number of meetings with Department for Infrastructure (Roads) to address this problem at all locations, the department were happy with the speed limit on all roads, which in my opinion is total madness, not only is these excess points on dangerous bends with very limited signage not one crossing point is within a 30 mph

speed limit, so we as a Council can't sit back and do nothing about this as people are using the walk daily and crossing over these dangerous roads and it simply is not good enough this Council needs to address this problem immediately so I move the undernoted motion.”

“I call on the Mid Ulster Council to explore with DFI Roads a safer crossing at the 3 busy roads, Moor Road, Washingbay Road, and the Gortgonis Road that leads onto the canal walk in Coalisland that is clearly a very dangerous situation for everyone that uses the walk daily”

Councillor Doris seconded the motion stating that it was a frustrating situation at the access routes to the canal walk, especially when in recent months there was increased usage. She stated as a Councillor she was contacted regularly regarding the matter as the roadways to the access points were not safe. Councillor Doris called on Members to support the motion to improve the access points before a life is lost.

Councillor Kerr supported the motion and stated that Council should be trying to organise meetings with DFI Roads for electoral areas and asked for such meetings to be facilitated in the future.

In response the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that DFI Roads would be presenting their report to Council in October and such meetings usually took place prior to that.

Councillor McKinney stated that Members should not have to wait to October to progress the aforementioned meetings.

Councillor Quinn supported the motion stating he was a regular user of the road and that whilst he understood there was meetings scheduled for October he would support the proposal for a meeting with the Torrent electoral area prior to this.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared the motion as undernoted carried

“I call on the Mid Ulster Council to explore with DFI Roads a safer crossing at the 3 busy roads, Moor Road, Washingbay Road, and the Gortgonis Road that leads onto the canal walk in Coalisland that is clearly a very dangerous situation for everyone that uses the walk daily”

Resolved That a meeting with Torrent Councillors is convened with DFI to discuss road issues in Coalisland.

Councillor Cuddy left the meeting at 8.10 pm

Members of the public left the meeting.

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 broad cast concluded at 8.10 pm

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Quinn

Resolved That items C163/20 – C166/20 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 23 July 2020
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 4 August 2020
- (iii) Rural Development Village Extension Programme
- (iv) Document for Sealing: Grant of Easement between Mid Ulster District Council and Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Limited in respect of lands at Maghera Leisure Centre

C167/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.29 pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown whether you have joined us remotely or in the auditorium.

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 please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- 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.