

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 16 October 2023 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown and by Virtual Means

Members Present	Councillor McNamee, Chair Councillors Bell*, Black*, W Buchanan, Clarke*, Corry*, Gildernew*, McLernon, McQuade*, Milne*, Monteith*, Quinn*, Wilson
Officers in	Ms Linney, Assistant Director of Development (AD: Dev)** Mrs Forde, Committee and Member Services Manager Ms McCabe, Grants and Capacity Building Manager
Others in Attendance	Councillor McFlynn Agenda Item 5 – Deputation: Fivemiletown Football Club Mr Christopher McDowell Agenda Item 6 – Deputation: Robert Emmet’s GAC Slaughtneill Mr Johnny McKaigue Ms Ursula O’Loughlin Agenda Item 7 – Deputation: Stewartstown Harps GAC Mr Cathal Coyle Mr Owen Coyle Mr Emma Park

* Denotes Members 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 McNamee welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McNamee 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.

D164/23 Notice of Recording

This meeting will be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

D165/23 Apologies

Councillors F Burton and Molloy.

D166/23 Declaration of Interests

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reminded Members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

D167/23 Chair's Business

None.

D168/23 Deputation – Fivemiletown Football Club

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Mr McDowell to the meeting and invited him to make the presentation.

Mr McDowell delivered the presentation drawing attention to the project detail which plans to Improve the football and community facility; provide a FIFA standard full size 3G pitch and floodlighting; increase club capacity to deliver more sports opportunities in the area; and increase sports participation in an area that had the least sports provision in the province.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Mr McDowell for his presentation and referred to the difficulties he spoke of in relation to use of Council pitches.

In response Mr McDowell advised that the two pitches were grass, were overused and due to the inclement climate were not fit for purposes. He advised that during the clubs consultation it had been said 'that at times it is not cost effective for Council to open the pitches for one booking as officers had to travel from other areas to do so.' Mr McDowell concluded that throughout the summer Council had carried out remedial work on the pitches.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said he would not like to think users did not have access to facilities because there was issues in getting them opened due to location and requested that officers follow up.

Councillor Corry in relation to access to pitches highlighted that Council had service level agreements in many areas in order that issues such as those highlighted were overcome.

Councillor Gildernew welcomed the investment in the Clogher Valley area and concurred with fellow Members that accessibility to facilities should not be an issue just because Fivemiletown was on the periphery of the district.

Councillor Buchanan commended Mr McDowell on both the presentation and the drawing down of funding.

Mr McDowell withdrew from the meeting at 7.24 pm

Change to order of business

The Chair, Councillor McNamee said due to technical issues agenda item 7 would be heard next.

D169/23 Deputation – Stewartstown Harps GAC

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Mr Cathal Coyle, Mr Owen Coyle and Ms Emma Park to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

The representatives delivered the presentation (appendix B) giving an overview of the club and the project plans to deliver a Spectator Stand; Play park; Ball Wall 3G surface and Ball Wall concrete panels.

They highlighted achievements of the club in recent years together with the planning, securing of funding and bringing the proposals project to 'shovel ready project' to deliver.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked the representatives of Stewartstown Harps for the presentation and said it was an ambitious project that would be welcomed in the community especially the stand which would provide shelter for spectators.

Councillor McLernon commended Stewartstown Harps on the work on the project to date and said that the community looked forward to the project coming to fruition. Councillor Clarke thanked the representatives for the presentation and said that his own club had been delighted to use the facilities but had been disappointed when their ladies team beat them to win a recent title!. He said it was an excellent project and commended them on their cost effective management especially in relation to the ball wall.

Councillor Quinn commended Stewartstown Harps and spoke of the difficulty of fundraising and their endeavours to date in raising and securing funding had been exemplary. He said the club committee and members had given hours to lead the project and they were a great example to all.

The Chair, Councillor McNamee reiterated appreciation for the presentation and representatives of Stewartstown Harps withdrew from the meeting at 7.48 pm.

D170/23 Deputation – Robert Emmet's GAC Slaughtneill

The Chair, Councillor McNamee welcomed Ms O'Loughlin/Mr McKaigue to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr McKaigue and Ms O'Loughlin delivered presentation (appendix c). They spoke of the four elements to the project which included a 4G indoor hall, additional training pitch, perimeter walkway and children's playground. In relation to the drawing down of funding Ms O'Loughlin highlighted funding confirmed to date, applications pending with Sports NI and that they were waiting on the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to open and the need for the NI Executive to be reconnect in order that for example funding could be sourced from DAERA.

Johnny delivered presentation,

The Chair, Councillor McNamee thanked Ms O'Laughlin and Mr McKaigue for their presentation commending the ambitious project and said that his only fear is that if Slaughtneil continue to build on their sporting success other clubs wouldn't get a look in!

Councillor Corry stated that Slaughtneil was the envy of many clubs that boasted great activities, commended them on their excellent plan and wished them well.

Ms O'Laughlin and Mr McKaigue withdrew from the meeting at 8.12 pm

The Chair, Councillor McNamee concluded that all were promising projects and wished the three clubs all the best in bringing them to fruition.

Chair concluded all were promising projects and wished all clubs all the best.

D171/23 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7pm and concluded at 8.13 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