

Minutes of Meeting of Policy and Resources Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 3 December 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by Virtual Means

Members Present

Councillor Quinn, Chair

Councillors Ashton (7.05 pm), Buchanan*, Cuddy*, Doris*, Elattar*, Forde*, Gildernew*, Hughes*, McFlynn*, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean*, S McPeake*, Molloy, Totten*

Officers in Attendance

Mr McCreesh, Acting Chief Executive
Mrs Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mrs Canavan**, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment and Property
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mrs McNally**, Council Solicitor
Mr Moffett**, Head of Democratic Services
Mr O'Hagan, Head of IT
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

* 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 Quinn welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor Quinn 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.

PR201/20 Apologies

None.

PR202/20 Declarations of Interest

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

PR203/20 Chair's Business

None.

Matters for Decision

PR204/20 Policy on Room Hire

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report and asked for further consideration on the application and review of the Council's current general policy on Room Hire, with specific reference to Section 5.3 of existing arrangements – exclusions to hire.

Councillor Molloy referred to five points which were included to be considered and discussions around party leads stated that his party would be happy to take this away and include the five reference points into a new updated policy.

Councillor McLean felt there was enough information tabled and was a start to bring something together and would be happy to progress on that basis.

Councillor Cuddy stated that during discussions with his group on this issue, it was felt that when the original was previously presented they were content with that. He said that his party's position would be that they would be happy to progress on with the existing policy as it was fit for purpose moving forward

Councillor McFlynn said that the report was quite detailed and a good starting point with the five bullets points being very good and concurred with previous comments and proposed to progress ahead.

Councillor McKinney concurred with Councillor Cuddy and stated that banners, posters and paraphilia wouldn't be something that he would encourage behind closed doors and not something that should be encouraged within Council buildings. He felt that whatever domination or party a person adheres to, those sort of activities are not for Council property.

Councillor McLean advised that his party looked at this on the point of view based on the party which proposed the change that if it come to the full Council that there would be a very strong possibility that it would be approved. He said that his party looked at it on the point of view that whilst they were happy with the existing policy and if there was going to be a change, then they would like to be part of the influence in that change, so therefore on that basis he said what he did. He felt that it was inevitable based on the previous comments and those made tonight, that there was going to be some change and stated that his party would be reasonable happy with what was set out but would wait to see the final paper when it was brought forward.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to revise the Policy on Room Hire to incorporate issues referred to 3.3 of the officers report and be brought back to the next available Policy and Resources Committee meeting for final consideration.

PR205/20 Members Services

No issues.

Matters for Information

PR206/20 Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 5 November 2020

Members noted Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on 5 November 2020.

PR207/20 Rural Community Network Membership Subscription

Members noted report on Rural Community Network Membership Subscription which provided members with an opportunity to consider if Mid Ulster District Council would nominate a Member to join RCN's Board.

PR208/20 General Duty to Improve Update - Guidance from Department of Communities and NI Audit Office

Members noted update on Council's General Duty to Improve in the context of Covid-19 and guidance received from the Department of Communities and Northern Ireland Audit Office.

Live broadcast ended at 7.10 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor McKinney and

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 Member consider items PR209/20 to PR222/20.

Matters for Decision

- PR209/20 Village Extension Programme – Maghera Leisure Centre
- PR210/20 Staffing Matters for Decision
- PR211/20 Technical Services Staff Restructuring
- PR212/20 Off Street Car Parking: Debt Write Off
- PR213/20 Development of Ann Street – Update re Shared Access Agreement and Request for Phasing
- PR214/20 2021/22 Rate Estimates
- PR215/20 Proposed Council response to NIAO consultation in relation to the draft Code of Audit Practice
- PR216/20 Maghera Sports Pitch
- PR217/20 Coalisland Public Realm
- PR218/20 SEUPB Projects

Matters for Information

PR219/20 Confidential Minutes of Policy & Resources Committee
Meeting held on 5 November 2020
PR220/20 Staff Matters for Information
PR221/20 Financial report for 7 months ended 31 October 2020
PR222/20 Contracts and DAC

PR223/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7 pm and concluded at 9.40 pm

Chair _____

Date _____