

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 18 December 2014 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon**

**Members Present:** Councillor Mallaghan, Chair (Presiding Councillor)

Councillors Ashton, Bateson, Bell, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Dillon, Elattar, Gildernew, Gillespie, Glasgow, Kearney, McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, McPeake, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Mulligan, C O'Neill, J O'Neill, T Quinn, M Quinn, Reid, Totten and Wilson (8.15 pm)

**Officers in Attendance:** Mr A Tohill, Chief Executive  
Mr McCanny, (CDC)  
Mrs Canavan, Lead HR Officer  
Mr Glavin, Head of Leisure Services (CDC)  
Mrs Mezza, Marketing Communications Manager  
Mr Moffett, Change Management Officer  
Mr O'Hagan, ICT Manager  
Mr JJ Tohill, Lead Finance Officer  
Mrs Smith, Council Business Manager (D&STBC)

**In Attendance:**

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

**C110/14 Chair's Remarks**

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, congratulated Tyrone's Roisin Jordan on becoming the first ever female county board chairperson and welcomed this long overdue change within the GAA.

**C111/14 Apologies**

Councillors Forde, Robinson, G Shiels and J Shiels

**C112/14 Declarations of Interest**

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

**Deputation**

**C113/14 National Association of Councillors (NAC)**

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, welcomed Alderman Ronnie Ferguson and Councillor Joe Boyle who were in attendance to update members on the work of the National Association of Councillors (NAC)

With the use of a power point presentation Alderman Ferguson stated that the NAC is the only organisation directly run by Councillors. The NAC fight for Councillors interests and Alderman Ferguson gave examples of what the Association had achieved for Councillors, the services provided and the current aims and objectives. The NAC Northern Ireland is run by a 13-strong Executive Committee, is currently supported by all 26 local councils and represents all councillors. He added the Association fights for the interests of all councillors regardless of party or creed with the aim to help councillors give the best possible service to their constituents.

Alderman Ferguson asked for Mid Ulster District Council to stay within the family of the NAC Northern Ireland and stated that there would be 8 places for councillors representing Mid Ulster, similar to others.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, asked if the 13 strong Executive Committee would change after 1 April.

Alderman Ferguson stated that the Executive Committee of 13 would increase to 19 with positions being shared amongst parties on a two year cycle.

Councillor McPeake commended the NAC on its work, spoke of the good working relationship between the Association and NILGA in challenging central government to get Councils fit for purpose and would encourage the working relationship.

Councillor Mulligan asked if there was an overlap between NAC and NILGA and asked if there was a need for both organisations.

Alderman Ferguson stated that there was a need as the NAC represented councillors with NILGA representing Councils.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, thanked Alderman Ferguson and Councillor Boyle for their attendance following which they left the meeting at 7.18 pm.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **C114/14 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at Council meeting held on Thursday 27 November 2014**

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on Thursday 27 November 2014 (C91/14 – C101/14 and C109/14), transacted in “Open Business” having been printed and circulated were considered and signed as accurate and correct.

#### **C115/14 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 1 December 2014**

Item P29/14 - Transferring of Planning Accommodation and Related Costs

Councillor Reid stated that at the meeting the three UUP members on the Committee they had raised concern with regard to the £100,000 expenditure to set up the planning function as the Council had been misled by the DOE, being told that transferring functions would be cost neutral. He said staff were coming without as much as a chair to sit on. This additional expenditure comes on top of the £760,000 for ICT convergence. The Member further stated that the UUP members collectively and totally reject this expenditure.

Councillor Glasgow supported the comments made by Councillor Reid and stated that it was totally unacceptable that it was going to cost the Council £100,000 to get the planning function up and running when assurances were given that transferring functions would be cost neutral to ratepayers. The DOE need to step up to the mark and come good on assurances given.

Councillor McLean stated that every-one was of the opinion that transferring functions would be cost neutral and as the Council will be responsible for planning from April it was important that the Council makes sure that the necessary equipment is in place to enable the service to be provided. At the same time the Council has to continue to lobby the Minister and the Department on this issue.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, stated that the Council has been given an opportunity to meet the Minister on 12 January and one of the topics for discussion would be transferring functions and funding for same.

Councillor McPeake agreed with Councillor McLean's comments and stressed the importance of having a planning service fully functional by April.

Councillor Clarke stated that there was a need for a strong lobby at the meeting with the Minister on the 12 January as the understanding was that as well as staff transferring they would come with the necessary equipment.

Councillor Kearney stated that with 40 staff transferring they will need the tools to be able to do the job.

Councillor Reid stated that the general public were not aware of these issues but he was aware of the meeting on 12 January though doubted whether or not the Council would get anything out of it.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson  
Seconded by Councillor T Quinn and

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Planning Committee meeting held on Monday 1 December 2014 (P26/14 – P33/14) transacted in "Open Business", having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C116/14** **Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 2 December 2014, (PR64/14 – PR76/14 and PR79/14), transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C117/14 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2014**

Proposed by Councillor O’Neill  
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendations of the Environment Committee meeting held on Wednesday 3 December 2014, (E41/14 – E49/14 and E51/14) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

**C118/14 Receive and consider the minutes and recommendations of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014**

Item D58/14 - Consultation response to strategy for the delivery of Generalist Advice Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020

Councillor Monteith stated that what he was saying was that a mechanism was required to ensure charities providing the advice were involved in forming the policy. Amend minutes, Page 4 third paragraph, remove the words “were not then” and insert “should be”.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

**Resolved** That the Minutes and recommendation of the Development Committee meeting held on Thursday 4 December 2014, (D52/14 – D60/14 and D68/14) transacted in “Open Business”, having been printed and circulated, and subject to the foregoing amendment, were considered and adopted.

**C119/14 Conferences and Seminars**

The Change Management Officer presented details of the undernoted conferences and sought approval for the attendance of members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

**Guidance on the Code of Conduct: Elected Member Development Event**

Tuesday 16 December, Oxford Island Craigavon, 9.30am - 12.45pm  
Tuesday 13 January, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, 9.30am - 12.45pm

Wednesday 28 January, Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh, 9.30am - 12.45pm  
Limited to 6 members per session from Mid Ulster District Council  
Travel and subsistence expenses.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that he had attended session on 16 December and while the start of the seminar was similar to the presentation made to the last meeting by Mr Frawley it also dealt with examples of live cases and was a useful seminar.

**Performance Improvement – are you ready?**

Friday 30 January, Lagan Valley Island Complex, Lisburn, full day  
£99 registration fee plus travel and subsistence expenses.

**Creative Service Delivery: Elected Member Development Event**

Wednesday 14 January, La Mon Hotel & Country Club Castlereagh 10am–1pm  
Thursday 15 January, Lough Neagh Discovery Centre Craigavon 10am–1pm  
Limited to 6 members per session from Mid Ulster District Council  
Travel and subsistence expenses.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Bateson and

**Resolved** That the attendance of members and officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved and that anyone wishing to attend to contact officers.

**C120/14 Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan**

Mr McCanny presented a report updating Members on the outcome of the consultation on Mid Ulster District Council's draft Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan. The appendix listed the commentary received on aspects of the Scheme and Plan complete with a recommended response.

The Officer asked Members to reflect on commentary received from consultees and consider for adoption the Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan.

Councillor McPeake stated that when this first came to the Council in August prior to commencement of consultation he had commented that the equality scheme would be an important foundation stone going forward, as so was good relations however the primacy of equality is important and stressed that he would like to see a decoupling of good relations from the document. He further stated that assurances had been given at that meeting that the situation would be looked at and brought back as part of the final review. The Member formally asked for decoupling of good relations from the proposed scheme.

Mr McCanny stated that equality is the primary piece of legislation and Council must have due regard for good relations without prejudice to the obligations under section 75.1. He added there was a clear interdependence between Equality and Good Relations.

It was added that the Committee on the Administration of Justice, Equality Coalition and the Equality Commission were considering a good relations definition. Mr McCanny highlighted that there were no major expressions on the matter of decoupling and indicated that the point was well made but there was a counter argument. He concluded by remarking that there may be a need to go out to consultation again.

Councillor McPeake stated that presently there was no indication of new definitions and documents being signed off and there was doubt that it would be signed off in its original form. At the council meeting in August members were assured that the issue of decoupling could be revisited.

Councillor Wilson stated that to go down the decoupling route, when following consultation there was little enthusiasm to do so would be create a dangerous precedent for Council.

Councillor S McGuigan stated that when the matter first came to Council assurance had been given decoupling would be looked at when the document came back to Council following consultation.

Mr McCanny stated that Council could defer approving the document to provide officers time to discuss with the Equality Commission on how to move forward with a further report coming to Council.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan

That Equality and Good Relations is decoupled now and sent on for response from the Equality Commission.

### **Amendment**

Proposed by Councillor Wilson

To adopt the Equality Scheme and recommended responses to consultation.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, ruled that the amendment could not be taken as, direct negative.

The proposal was put to the meeting with 25 (twenty five) Members voted in favour and 11 (eleven) Members voted against.

Councillor Ashton asked in relation to item 6.2 in the appendix, people with conflict related convictions and officers views regarding employment and asked who decides if the conviction acceptable or otherwise. The Member also referred to Part 3 item 12.8 indicating that if the current website was not AAA compliant it should be dealt with immediately.

Mr McCanny stated that the website is currently in temporary form. He indicated that there would be a cost in making it AAA compliant and the RNIB and Disability Forum

understood this situation but the new site being developed, to be operative from 1 April 2015 would be compliant.

In relation to item 6.2 Mr McCanny stated that human resources will have to bear in mind a wide range of issues and there will have to be an individual call on each conviction.

Mr McCanny referred to Disability Duties and Action Plan and asked if Council was satisfied to proceed on the basis outlined.

**Resolved** That Disability Action Plan be approved.

Mr McCanny left the meeting at 7.53 pm.

### **C121/14 Committee Management System**

The Change Management Officer presented a report seeking the approval for the procurement through a competitive process for the delivery, installation and configuration of a committee management system for Mid Ulster District Council.

The Officer stated that Members at the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting had identified a need for a system for receiving, capturing and retrieval of Minutes and papers and asked that this be brought forward as soon as possible. The approximate cost of such a system would be £15k to £20k in year 1, year 2 costs approximately £7k - 10k recurring dependent on the number of users requiring access. Costs are part of the overall ICT convergence budget.

Councillor McPeake stated that this issue was raised at the last meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee meeting and that given the amount of paperwork being received it was important that Members had access to a system for receiving, storing and retrieving documents. Councillor McPeake stressed that the procurement process needed to consider quality issues as well as cost.

Councillor McLean stated that he did speak about this at the Policy and Resources Committee and that any system should meet the needs of the organisation, be easy to access and during the procurement process should be price conscious.

Proposed by Councillor McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

**Resolved** That the Council grant approval for the procurement, through a competitive process, for the delivery, installation and configuration of a committee management system for Mid Ulster District Council.

### **C122/14 Moneymore Recreation Centre and Broughderg Community Centre Capital Projects**

Mr Glavin presented a report seeking approval for match funding of £52,067 to draw down £328,933 Social Investment Fund funding for projects at Moneymore Recreation Centre and Broughderg Community Centre. He advised that in October 2013 Cookstown District Council applied to OFMDFM's Social Investment Fund for

match funding to carry out works at Moneymore Recreation Centre and Broughderg Community Centre totalling £381,000.

The extensive works at Moneymore Recreation Centre include the installation of a mezzanine floor level to allow extra rooms to be built upstairs, larger reception area, lift and stairs to mezzanine level. It also includes draft proofing and air extraction for the main hall.

The minor works at Broughderg Community Centre consist of an energy efficient, environmentally friendly heating system.

This project was included in recent Mid Ulster District Council discussions on future capital projects possibly running from 2014/15 into 2015/16 due to the length of time it has taken to progress applications. In October 2014 OFMDFM indicated that there is a possibility that the funding will be offered. However they will not progress the application unless MUDC commit to the match funding as it is unlikely that the projects will be completed before the end of this financial year.

The match funding of £52,067 is in Moneymore Recreation Centre's existing budget and it will be necessary to therefore include £52,067 match funding in Moneymore Recreation Centre's budget for 2015/16.

#### **Declaration of Interest**

Councillor Clarke declared an interest in this item but did not leave the room.

Councillor McFlynn spoke of the work carried out by Moneymore Regeneration Group and staff at the Centre, how the work has reduced anti-social behaviour in the area and the need for the facility to be upgraded was important for the area.

Councillor Bell concurred with the remarks and spoke of the high usage of the centre.

Councillor Buchanan welcomed the project.

Councillor Cuddy welcomed the fact that funding has been set aside for the project by the legacy Council and that other grant funding should be sourced and secured.

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

**Resolved** That the Council grant approval for match funding of £52,067 for both projects to be completed in 2015/16 to allow the drawing down of £328,933 from the Social Investment Fund.

Mr Glavin left the meeting at 8.04 pm.

#### **C123/14 DoE Assessment of 2015-16 Draft Budget**

The Lead Finance Officer presented a report on the issue of the NI Executive's 'Draft Budget 2015/16', the Department of the Environment (DoE) has published and consulted upon further information on the implications of the Executive's Budget



proposals on the DoE. The Officer sought Council approval to consider the information issued by the DoE and to prepare and submit an appropriate consultation response to the DoE and or the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP) by the closing date of Monday, 29 December 2014.

To deliver the required savings individual Departments will be forced to make significant savings with the DoE suggesting, inter alia, that it would make immediate and substantial reductions in key statutory grant payments to all councils and particularly to those less well-off councils, such as Mid Ulster District Council, dependent on Rates Support Grant (RSG). It has been suggested that councils in receipt of RSG could see their grants being cut by 15%. A 15% cut could equate to a reduction for Mid Ulster District Council in the region of £380,000

**Resolved** That the Council authorise the officers to consider the Draft Budget Proposal and prepare and submit an appropriate response to both the Department of Finance and Personnel and the Department of the Environment by the closing date of Monday, 29 December 2014.

### **Matters for Information**

#### **C124/14 Motion – Welfare Reform**

The Change Management Officer submitted for information letter dated 25 November 2014 from the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister advising that the letter dated 8 October conveying the terms of a motion on welfare reform adopted by the Council at its meeting on 25 September 2014 has been noted by the Ministers.

#### **C125/14 Capital Contracts**

The Chief Executive presented a report updating members on capital contracts agreed by the Council on Thursday 27 November in line with the requirement of the DoE expenditure controls which included:

- Seamus Heaney Interpretive Centre, Bellaghy: £3.8m
- Tullyvar Landfill Site: £550,031
- Railway Linear Park, Dungannon: £380,000

The report was brought into open business on the basis of a decision taken at the November Council meeting and Members were asked to note the approval of the above mentioned capital programmes to be taken forward by Magherafelt District Council and Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council

Councillor Cuddy clarified that Dungannon Council has the money set aside for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> projects listed, asked if the £3.8m for the Seamus Heaney Interpretive Centre included fitting out and that it was very disappointing that Magherafelt District Council had not sourced any funding. The Member stated that the project should be held until all funding avenues have been exhausted.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, stated that the £3.8m was the total cost of the project. The Member also stated that he had been invited by Magherafelt Council to

attend a meeting with the Minister for Culture, Arts and Leisure to discuss funding opportunities.

Councillor Dillon stated that since the decision was taken to approve the project Magherafelt District Council has been trying to source funding.

Councillor McEldowney stated that the project was approved by Magherafelt District Council in 2009, a business plan was prepared and is with the Minister's office awaiting a response to a funding request. Magherafelt District Council is continuing to explore other funding opportunities.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan, stated that the report was for information as the matter had been dealt with at the last meeting.

## **Notices of Motion**

### **C126/14 Councillor Cuthbertson to move**

In proposing the undernoted notice of motion Councillor Cuthbertson stated that recently the Northern Ireland Assembly voted unanimously to pass Lord Morrow's Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill. This is a truly significant moment in the fight against human trafficking and exploitation in Northern Ireland and also puts pressure on the rest of the regions in the UK where Bills are being considered at present which fall short of the strong provisions in Lord Morrow's Bill.

Northern Ireland is the first legislature in the United Kingdom to pass into law a comprehensive piece of legislation to tackle human trafficking and modern day slavery. It is widely recognised that the Bill goes much further than the Modern Slavery Bill currently going through Westminster, particularly in terms of support for victims of trafficking.

Important provisions in the bill include - Child guardian for separated children and an exit strategy for those who want to leave prostitution. At the heart of this bill is support for those who are being exploited. We do know that the 3 main drivers for trafficking are sexual exploitation, forced labour and domestic servitude. This bill seeks to tackle all three including forced marriage.

Councillor Cuthbertson particularly commended Lord Morrow for his work in bringing forward the Bill. He added that Lord Morrow has spent over two and a half years working on the piece of legislation and he was rightly congratulated by members in the Northern Ireland Assembly for the work.

He acknowledged that Lord Morrow's Bill is one of the most significant Private Members Bills ever to be passed by the Northern Ireland Assembly and it is to Lord Morrow's credit that he persevered through the long process.

The Human Trafficking and Exploitation Act will make a real difference to the lives of some of the most vulnerable people who ever come to Northern Ireland. Passing a law is a significant achievement, but the implementation of the Act is of central

importance. If it is not implemented properly, then it will not prove effective in improving the lives of those it was designed to help.

*'Mid-Ulster Council congratulates Lord Morrow MLA for Fermanagh -South Tyrone, on successfully steering his Private Members Human Trafficking and Exploitation (Criminal Justice and Support for Victims) Bill through the Legislative Assembly. Recognises the cross party support his Bill received and following Royal Assent expects the PSNI to enforce the new offences and the Departments of Health and Justice to roll out the provisions in the Bill to tackle the scourge of Human Trafficking and Exploitation in Northern Ireland.'*

Councillor Buchanan seconded the motion and congratulated Lord Morrow on achieving approval of this important piece of legislation.

Councillor S McGuigan, on behalf of Sinn Féin acknowledged the motion and stated that when the issue first came to Dungannon Council his party had a number of concerns and had requested that all parties, members, individuals and bodies with wide ranging expertise, skills and knowledge be given an opportunity to input with the outcome being that almost 70 amendment had been agreed. He added that in its out working his party has one or two concerns particularly in relation to clause 4 but has accepted the Bill.

Councillor McFlynn stated that we all know the horribleness of human trafficking, acknowledged that Lord Morrow fought long and hard and that the SDLP supported the motion.

Councillor Wilson stated that the UUP supported the Bill and congratulated all those involved in bringing the motion.

Councillor Monteith spoke in support of the Bill and Maurice Morrow's efforts in bringing it forward.

The Motion was put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Lord Morrow and that letters are sent to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and Department of Justice to roll out the legislation and to the Chief Constable asking that following royal assent to enforce the new offences.

#### **C127/14 Councillor Mulligan to move**

In proposing the undernoted notice of motion Councillor Mulligan stated that he takes no pleasure in bringing this matter forward. As the oldest member of this council I have experienced more of the problems besetting this province and in my judgement many of those problems were initiated and orchestrated by the provisional IRA. I have had a number of my peers murdered and maimed over the period by that organisation and in spite of that I have endeavoured to live and work for the mutual benefit of the whole community. I recognise that many of those from the Roman Catholic community hold vastly different views to mine as to the governance of Northern Ireland however there is a well-recognised path to bring about change if

that is the will of the people and it is not by the bomb and the bullet but by the ballot box.

Much has been achieved collectively and all that depended on the good faith of all the principal players. Sadly what has now proven to be a façade has been blown apart by Gerry Adams with his statement in Enniskillen. Given that Gerry Adams is no novice in the cut and thrust of political debate I have to conclude that the view he expressed was a true reflection of his innermost being. As to his reference to the Trojan horse, he has confirmed his absolute lack of trustworthiness. The other issue of concern was the speed with which party members showed their solidarity with their leader, a man who holds and espouses a view that I find despicable.

*'That this council notes with concern the comments of Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams on 24th Nov.in Enniskillen, where he cast aspersions on the parentage of unionists, and further blatantly declared the issue of Equality would be used as a tool 'trojan horse like' to break the 'B\*\*\*\*\*s'.*

*It further notes that this council endorses the principle of a mutually respectful, shared future.'*

Councillor Wilson seconded the motion and stated that he would wind up debate on the motion.

Councillor McGinley expressed his disappointment at this motion. He stated that it is inaccurate and taken out of context. It was acknowledged that the language used was inappropriate immediately through a number of different platforms and clearly clarified that it was not directed at unionists. I would encourage Councillor Mulligan to look these statements up and read them in full.

I would like to know why Councillor Mulligan has not noted with concern statements which in my understanding have yet to be retracted, such as the one made in 2011 by Tom Elliott, while he was UUP leader, referring to Sinn Féin as “scum”. I would also like to hear opinions on the shameful comments of Gregory Campbell in relation to the Irish Language, comments that are treated with disgust by the majority of people, yet he still remains unashamedly proud of. In relation to comments on equality, again, Councillor Mulligan has taken something out of context and presented it to this chamber as something else.

I support the thrust of what Gerry Adams articulated that night which was not directed at unionists. Speaking as an Irish Republican, Councillor Mulligan can be assured that I endorse the principle of a mutually respectful, shared future. Sinn Fein endorses this principle as does Gerry Adams.

There are some people that should fear equality. These people are bigots, misogynists, homophobes and racist should be afraid, as equality makes their way of life cease. Society is waking up to injustices being inflicted by a minority of people and it is right that equality brings it to an end. If Councillor Mulligan is serious about endorsing the principle of a mutually respectful, shared future, then I assume he endorses this principle of equality also. Before bringing a motion to council again, I would encourage the Member to ensure that it is in context, and accurate.

Councillor McLean stated that the motion was well articulated by Councillor Mulligan and set out a very clear line of definition which was well within context and added that if something is in the well will come up in the bucket, the guard has been dropped and what was stated was clearly in the well.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the mask has truly slipped again and talking about my community and I like this was nothing short of a hate crime. The Member also stated that the MP for the area should think on what her part was in this and offer the unionist population in Fermanagh & South Tyrone an apology. The Member further stated that Mr Adams, if he wants to talk about issues in Northern Ireland, would be better suited coming forward to the PSNI and telling us and them what he knows about the past and what he, friends and colleagues were involved in.

Councillor Wilson read the quote from Gerry Adams;

*“What’s the point. The point is actually to break the bxxxxxxs, that’s the point and what is going to break them is equality. That is what’s going to break them equality, who can be afraid of equality who can be afraid of treating someone the way you want to be treated. That’s what we need to keep the focus on. That’s the Trojan horse of the entire republican strategy.”*

Councillor Wilson stated that that is what was said and the motion has not been taken out of context.

Councillor Wilson stated that Gerry Adam’s comments about breaking the bxxxxxxs declares the bitterness that he has against the greater number of people in Northern Ireland and more important is the comment about using equality as a Trojan horse. For years Sinn Féin has spoken about equality and we heard about it tonight again. Equality is a universal concept and a human right. I want to make it clear that the Ulster Unionist Party has no fear what so ever of equality, believes in equal citizenship, respecting different identities and a shared future. The equality of all our citizens is in the context of the constitutional reality reflecting the consent principle. Northern Ireland is an integral part of the United Kingdom and it is said under the Belfast Agreement under section 1 the present wish of the majority of the people of Northern Ireland freely exercised and legitimate is to maintain the union and accordingly the Northern Ireland status as part of the United Kingdom reflects and relies on that wish. This is what Sinn Féin signed up to. I reject Sinn Féin’s interpretation of equality and their offensive Trojan horse strategy and I appeal to all parties to support the motion and to work towards building a shared society in Mid Ulster, Northern Ireland and in the United Kingdom.

Councillor Mulligan stated that he was somewhat disappointed that there has not been a different attitude displayed by members around the room, not of unionist persuasion. He further stated that he felt severely aggrieved and particularly at the aspect in relation to the challenge to his birth right and fact that there was no retraction of that by the Sinn Féin Leader or by members around the room.

The proposal was put to the meeting 11 (eleven) Members voted in favour and 19 (nineteen) Members voted against.

The Chair declared the Motion defeated.

## **C128/14 Councillor McPeake to move**

In proposing the undernoted notice of motion Councillor McPeake explained that motor neurone disease (MND) is a rare condition where parts of the nervous system become progressively damaged. The disease begins when motor neurons stop functioning, meaning signals fail to reach their intended muscles. This causes the muscles to waste and die leading to complete immobility, senses such as sight, hearing and touch remains unaffected. This terminal disease can affect any adult at any age. There is no known cure. The average prognosis is two to five years from diagnosis. There are only about 400 people on the island of Ireland who live with the condition at any one time.

Living with motor neurone disease can be frustrating, challenging and sometimes a terrifying possibility, but it's not necessarily as bleak as many people imagine. With strong community and specialist support, many people lead a relatively independent lifestyle and enjoy a quality of life they may not have imagined was possible at the time of their diagnosis.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association is the only charity in the north of Ireland, England and Wales dedicated to improving care and support for those affected by MND, to funding and promoting research, and to raising awareness so that the needs of people with MND are addressed. More resources are needed in order to have earlier diagnosis and treatment. The phenomenal success of the recent Ice Bucket challenge throughout the world has certainly just done that and throughout Britain and the south of Ireland raised a staggering £8.5m and highlighted the disease.

The Member referred to other fund raising events and in particular spoke of event in Kellys Inn on 28 December and branch chairman Steven Thompson asked that all Councillors are invited to this event.

The Motor Neurone Support groups are calling on everyone to step up and sign the MND on-line Charter to ensure everyone is working towards their vision of highlighting the impacts of this illness. The charter recognises the rights and priorities of people living with MND and their carers.

So please support the work of the MNDA in whatever way you can in its aims and objectives so that the lives of those contacting the disease are improved and that earlier diagnosis can take place leading to a better chance of managing the illness.

*'That this Council supports the work of the Motor Neurone Disease Association dedicated at improving the care and support of those affected by MND to funding and promoting research and to raising awareness so that the needs of those suffering from the disease are addressed and further calls on Mid Ulster Councillors to sign the on-line charter of the MNDA.*

*<http://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/campaigning-influencing/the-motor-neurone-disease-mnd-charter/MNDCharter>*

Councillor Bell in seconding the motion stated that Councillor McPeake has provided good information on this extremely life changing disease and requested all members to sign the petition to increase awareness.

Councillor McAleer spoke in support of the motion and stated that as one working in the health field was involved in providing care to people with all types of illnesses including MND. The Member commended the good work of the Association in providing equipment, financial and emotional support to those suffering with the disease and to their carers. She gave details of her involvement with a particular patient who due to the generosity of the Association was able to get out and about.

Councillor Ashton spoke in support of the motion and as previous speakers already said MND has not been well highlighted in the past and credit has to be given to the Association who through its ICE bucket challenge over the summer months has highlighted MND and has raised a large amount of money for the charity. It is important that we continue to raise awareness of MND in Northern Ireland.

Councillor Monteith spoke in support of the motion and give details of his involvement with a family who lost their mother to this disease and stated that anything that we can do to raise awareness and support for those with the disease should be encouraged.

Councillor McPeake thanked the Members for their support and stated that he has copies of the charter which he would leave at the back of the room if members wished to sign.

The motion was put to the meeting and unanimously carried.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan thanked the Councillor for raising the motion as he had personal experience of this debilitating disease.

## **IN COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Councillor McNamee  
Seconded by Councillor Gillespie and

**Resolved** That items C102/14 to C108/14 be taken in committee.

*The public and press left the meeting at 8.40 pm.*

*Councillor Reid left the meeting at 8.40 pm*

*Councillor McPeake left the meeting at 8.40 pm*

## **C137/14 Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 9.25 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_