

**Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 23 June 2022 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means**

**Chair** Councillor Corry

**Members Present** Councillors Ashton\*, Bell\*, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke\*, Colvin, Cuthbertson, Doris\*, Forde\*, Gildernew\*, Glasgow, Graham, Kearney, Kerr, Martin, Mallaghan, N McAleer, S McAleer, McFlynn, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, Mullen, Oneill, Quinn, Robinson, Totten and Wilson

**Officers in Attendance** Mr McCreesh, Chief Executive  
Mr Black, Strategic Director of Communities and Place  
Ms Canavan, Strategic Director of Organisational Development Strategy & Performance (SD:ODSP)\*\*  
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health and Infrastructure (DPHI)  
Mr Moffett, Assistant Director of Organisational Development, Strategy & Performance (AD:ODSP)  
Mr Tohill, Strategic Director of Corporate Service and Finance (SD:CSF)  
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 Corry 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.*

**C115/22 Notice of Recording**

Members noted that the meeting would be webcast for live and subsequent broadcast on the Council's You Tube site.

**C116/22 Apologies**

Councillors Cuddy, Elattar and McKinney

**C117/22 Declarations of Interest**

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

## **C118/22      Chair's Business**

The Chair, Councillor Cora extended sympathy to the family and friends of Damian Casey highlighting his achievements as a hurler in scoring 14 points for his county in the recent Nicky Rackard Cup. She advised that she had opened an online book of condolence and that the Eoghan Ruadh Club had also a book of condolence at the Club. She concluded stating that together with the Chief Executive she would be attending his family home to pay respects.

Councillor Monteith said that last week Damian Casey was going to a wedding with friends and yet today the streets of Dungannon were lined as his remains came home in a coffin following his untimely death in Spain. Councillor Monteith said he could not put into words the profound impact Damian's death has had. Cllr Monteith spoke of the vigil attended by more than one thousand which had shown the icon and legend Damian was. Councillor Monteith spoke of his talent as a footballer but said hurling was his first love, how at the age of 29 he had played for Tyrone and had represented his county at 101 games, even when he had worked in England had not missed a game. He told how Damian was a true inspiration to young people and an exemplary role model. Councillor Monteith said his family and friends were in the hearts of people at this time and told how the four town clubs Eoghan Ruadh, Dungannon Clarkes, Eoghan Ruadh Ladies and Camogs, Dunagannon are grief stricken. Councillor Monteith said Damian was the best, had a unique talent but said that more importantly he was a unique individual with time and kindness for everyone. Councillor Monteith extended sympathy to the Casey family who he had known for a long time and were devastated at the loss of their son and brother. He paid tribute to the Kevin Bell Trust who had helped in making arrangements to bring the remains home. Councillor Monteith concluded that he had known Damian a lifetime and on a personal level would miss the great person he was.

Councillor Molloy concurred and said that his thoughts and prayers are with the Eoghan Ruadh Club, his family and friends and commended the town clubs in how they had come together in a positive way. He said so many had looked up to Damian and that he had been a tremendous role model.

Councillor Kerr expressed his sadness for the family and friends of Damian stating that it was heart breaking witnessing the devastation his death had caused. He said he was an inspiration, had been highly respected and was a likeable, honest decent lad who had had an infectious smile. Rest in Peace Damian.

Councillor Quinn also concurred and said that he had been a talent for Tyrone and hurling teams across the country had sent heartfelt messages. He said he had met Damian once or twice and he had been a person who looked out for his own club and his friends. He said the heartache of Damian's passing was sorely felt and on behalf of his own club Derrytresk GAC he extended sympathy to the Casey family.

Councillor S McAleer extended her sympathy on Damian's death and said she knew his father Sean and said many had contacted her regarding the grief felt in the community. She said she had made contact with Council officers and said people

should be pointed to Mid Ulster Crisis Support chart which lists places and organisations from which help could be sourced.

Councillor Kearney echoed the sympathy of fellow Councillors and said he understood the sense of loss his friends and team-mates were experiencing.

The Chair, Councillor Corry thanked members for their tributes and reflected the deep loss felt in the community and she hoped his family would find comfort in them.

Councillor Quinn drew attention to the slurry leakage into the River Torrent which spread over 9 kilometres from Newmills to Moore Bridge which had wiped out all life in the river to include fish, otters, eels and Kingfishers. He stated this was the third leakage in the last three or four months and proposed that the Council write to the DAERA to seek clarity regarding; (i) to when and how the River Torrent can be restocked following the recent slurry spill; and (ii) what measures DAERA plan to put in place to prevent such events re-occurring in the future.

Councillor Quinn reminded Members of the motion carried by Council calling for an Animal Cruelty Register. He advised that all Councils had supported the concept and the Minister for DAERA had agreed to progress but had now retracted and the register would not now be progressed. Councillor Quinn proposed that the Council write to the Minister of DAERA to plead that the register is progressed otherwise animal abusers even if convicted will continue to mistreat animals.

Councillor McNamee spoke of the pollution of River Torrent which was devastating to the fishing community. He recalled recent spills throughout the district such as Killymoon and Ballinderry he said if the current penalties were not preventing pollution river life would be wiped out completely. He seconded Councillor Quinn's proposals.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn  
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

**Resolved** That Council write a letter to Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs seeking clarity regarding:

- (i) when and how the Torrent River can be restocked following the recent slurry spill; and
- (ii) what measures DAERA plan to put in place to prevent such events re-occurring in the future.

**Resolved** That Council write to Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs requesting that the decision to halt the introduction of an Animal Cruelty Register be reconsidered.

The Chair, Councillor Corry advised that during her year of office the close off point for Chair's business would be 5pm on Monday prior to the council meeting, that any Member wishing to propose an amendment to a motion on the agenda should submit it in writing by 5pm on the day of the meeting and reminded Members to adhere to the agenda for business being raised.

Councillor Wilson extended congratulations to Councillor Kearney on his appointment of President of NILGA.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **C119/22      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Council Meeting held on 26 May 2022**

Councillor Kerr drew attention to C102/22 Environment Committee minutes and stated that he had repeatedly requested a report to environment committee.

In response the Chief Executive confirmed a report would be brought to the July Environment Committee.

Councillor Cuthbertson asked when the Department of Infrastructure (Roads) would be making a presentation to Council.

In response, the Chief Executive advised that DfI had been invited to present and they had advised they had just received detail of budget and would now likely present to Council in September.

Councillor Cuthbertson said it was disappointing as little or no work had been done in two years and now Members would not receive an update until September.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor N McAleer and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 26 May 2022 (C095 – C108/22 and C114/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated were considered and adopted.

#### **C120/22      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at Annual Council Meeting held on Monday 6 June 2022**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor S McAleer and

**Resolved**      That the Minutes of the Annual Council held on Monday 6 June 2022 (AC1/22– AC10/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing, were considered and adopted.

#### **C121/22      Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 7 June 2022**

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 6 June 2022 (P069/22 – P075/22 and P085/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C122/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 9 June 2022**

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake  
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Policy & Resources Committee held on Thursday 9 June 2022 (PR112/22 – PR120/22 and PR131/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C123/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee of Meeting held on 14 June 2022**

Councillor Kerr drew attention to E149/22 DfI Roads Proposal to MUDC – Parking and Waiting Restrictions in Coalisland and said it was a disgrace that an Elected Member had compared the town to the ‘wild west’. He stated that the comments of the Member had been offensive and a deliberate dig at the town and if roles had been reversed there would be an outcry. Councillor Kerr called on Councillor Cuthbertson to retract the statement.

Councillor Cuthbertson said if Councillor Kerr listened to the live feed of the meeting, he would hear what actually had been said which was ‘in the past the town had been described as the ‘wild west’ and everyone knew what had happened when traffic wardens had been posted to Coalisland and the police had to be called to escort them out. He said the item on agenda had been agreed and he had no issue regarding his words.

Councillor Quinn said that the incident referred to had been alleged and was emphatic that the comments were disgraceful. He said that the comments had been politically motivated and should be withdrawn.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 14 June 2022 (E144/22 – E158/22 and E167/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

**C124/22 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on Thursday 16 June 2022**

Councillor Molloy drew attention to D095/22 Consultation Response and said that as part of the resolve Council was to seek a meeting with the Trust. Cllr Molloy spoke of a recent experience in Accident and Emergency at the Craigavon Area Hospital site and had experienced a diabolical situation whereby waiting times, conditions and general operations were a disgrace. He was emphatic that the meeting be sought as soon as possible.

In response the Chair, Councillor Corry said officers would progress as requested.

Councillor Burton drew attention to D093/22 Deputation 'Into the West' and spoke the CDM Community Transport AGM at which Jackie Robinson of Department for Infrastructure had been present she emphasised the need to ensure connectivity and transport links for people in the west. She said she had been in contact with NILGA and advised Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council was pushing to have the railway extended to Armagh. She highlighted the recent consultation and said that Council needed to support and drive this forward also.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred.

The SD: Communities and Place drew attention to D099/22 Request for Support and advised that Clogher Valley Rugby Club had submitted a request for a letter of support in relation to an application to the Levelling-Up Fund submitted through Ulster Rugby for the construction of a community hub value of £250k.

Councillors S McAleer, S McGuigan, Burton and Graham stated they had issued personal letters of support.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved** That Council provide a letter of support to Clogher Valley Rugby Club in respect of a grant application to the Levelling Up Fund to construct a community hub. That Council provide a letter of support to Clogher Valley Rugby Club in respect of a grant application to the Levelling Up Fund to construct a community hub.

The Chief Executive in relation to the Levelling Up Fund said that the first round of funding was for councils and the current funding was for the community and voluntary sector. He said as a corporate body Council could issue broad based level of support and Members were entitled to offer their own letter of support.

Councillor McNamee referred to Councillor Burton's comments about rail to the west and said that at the meeting the most critical link was Armagh to Derry and at the meeting he had suggested officers from the four councils involved have a conversation as to how to progress.

The Chief Executive said that as officers they were committed to the project as was the corporate body, the community, Mid South West Growth Deal and the Economic Development Strategy. He advised that within the MSW Growth Deal, Armagh,

Banbridge and Craigavon Council were taking the lead were taking a lead but assured the officer team would utilise every opportunity.

Proposed by Councillor Wilson  
Seconded by Councillor Kerr

**Resolved** That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 16 June 2022 (D089/22 – D107/22 and D112/22) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

### **C125/22 Civic Recognition Requests**

The AD: ODSP 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.

In addition to listings on the report it was noted that

- Councillor Bell's be added to Derry U14 Ladies Football
- Councillor McFlynn, Kearney and Martin be added to Ballinderry Shamrocks GAC U15 Girls Camogie
- Councillor S McPeake be added to Derry GAA Senior Football Team

Proposed by Councillor McFlynn  
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

**Resolved** That, subject to the foregoing approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition detailed at appendix A as outlined in the report.

### **C126/22 Conference, Seminars & Training Report**

The AD: ODSP sought approval for the previously circulated report on conferences, training and seminars.

Proposed by Councillor Brown  
Seconded by Councillor Burton and

**Resolved** That approval be given to submitted requests for conferences, seminars and training as outlined in the appendix 1 to the report.

### **Matters for Information**

#### **C127/22 Correspondence Report**

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

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the motion carried by Council at its March meeting, minute reference C059/22, in relation to voluntary drivers and said that to date he was not aware of a response from the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health. He requested that Council officers pursue a response.

**Resolved** That Council seek a response to the letter sent to Permanent Secretary of the Department for Health with regards to Voluntary Drivers following the motion carried at the March meeting of Council.

Councillor Kerr expressed his disappointment regarding the response from the 26 County government in response to Council's letter about the position of the Israeli Ambassador in Ireland. He said that Israel is not the chosen people but a nation that repeatedly breaks international law, treats people like the Nazis did and had moved Palestinians from their homes.

Councillor Colvin said that he would rather live in Israel than in the countries surrounding it and said he was of the view that Israel was a tolerant nation. He said he thought the Dublin Government had provided a sensible response of which he agreed.

## **C128/22 Consultations**

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

Councillor Mallaghan noted that the Department for the Economy Consultation on Mineral Prospecting Licence Applications for KDRA2/22 & KDRA3/22 had been forwarded to planning committee for response. He said Council had done good work to date in relation to this and that a full robust response should be prepared.

Councillor Kerr asked that the message that Council is against mining in its district and other districts be reaffirmed in the response. He said he would not rehearse the issues, but all knew the consequences for communities.

The Chair, Councillor Corry concurred.

**Resolved** That Council via the Planning Committee send a robust response to DfE Consultation of Mineral Prospecting Licence Applications KDRA2/22 and KDRA3/22.

### *Declaration of Interest*

*Councillor Colvin declared an interest in Moneymore Development Association*

## **C129/22 Notice of Motion**

Councillor B McGuigan introducing the motion said, "It gives me great pleasure to bring to council this motion, that commits Council to developing a fully funded community wealth building framework with the purpose of democratising our district's

economy by empowering community organisations, non-profits, social enterprise and co-operatives to be established or expanded with the ambition to create employment and grow local economies. This motion is presented at a time of great economic disruption caused to communities across our district by Covid-19 public health emergency, periods of economic recession and Tory austerity.

The motion takes fully into consideration the current Cost of Living Crisis as well as long-standing economic problems across our district for many of our workers, families and communities, including inequality, low paid employment, poor rates of socially ineffective investment, deprivation and unsustainable levels of carbon emissions and ecological damage.

Tonight, I take this opportunity to commend the Department for Communities Minister's efforts to establish a departmental advisory group to embed and deliver Community Wealth Building which centres on:

- a more just and fair labour market;
- an inclusive economy with a focus on growing and rebuilding the local economy;
- and ensuring land and property in our communities generates wealth for the people who live there

Community Wealth Building is a powerful alternative model for economic development. It seeks to leverage existing local and regional resources to provide workers, families and communities with greater control over their own economic development. The model of Community Wealth Building has proven to be very successful in large cities, towns and rural areas in Preston in England, North Ayrshire in Scotland and in Cleveland in the United States. Dozens of towns and cities across the US and Britain have formally adopted Community Wealth Building strategies with tremendous results for their local economy and communities.

Here in the North of Ireland specifically, Tory Austerity and a denial of basic economic competencies have stifled economic development. Therefore, we need to be bold in setting out a new approach for our local economy where we ensure we retain our local resources and initiative to keep good employment, the wealth of our communities, and socially beneficial investment in our communities.

In short, Community Wealth Building has the potential to deliver lasting and progressive change to our local economy to make fairer, more sustainable, and vibrant communities.

**The five key pillars to any Community Wealth Building proposal are:**

- Make financial power work for people, local towns and communities by retaining as much of that wealth as we can through local supply chains and targeted procurement contracts.
- Work with key institutions (commercial, public and semi-state) to create local employment and set a standard for high quality, sustainable jobs.

- Utilise all land and assets in our communities to generate wealth and resources for the people who live there.
- Develop an inclusive economy with social forms of ownership like co-operatives.
- Reduce our carbon footprint by establishing shorter supply chains and greater local employment.

By adopting this motion, we will seek to advance these economic principles through Council, in co-operation with our communities, through coherent and ambitious economic strategy. Community Wealth Building is about working in partnership with communities and businesses to build a more resilient economy that works for local people, which supports fair work and uses land in the region for the benefit of people that live there. Economic strategies obsessed with growth alone have shown themselves to have limited benefits and can be environmentally unsustainable.

By contrast, if we adopt this motion, we will be planning to develop our economies in such a way that wealth is added to our communities and not extracted. Concluding my remarks, I reiterate my firmly held belief that Community Wealth Building has the potential to maximise the unleashed potential of every village, town and community across Mid-Ulster and indeed throughout Ireland. I urge you to adopt this motion!"

This Council:

- (i) Recognises the economic disruption caused to communities across the District caused by the COVID-19 public health emergency, periods of economic recession, and Tory austerity;
- (ii) Further recognises long-standing economic problems in the District, including inequality, low-paid employment, poor rates of socially ineffective investment, deprivation, and unsustainable levels of carbon emissions and ecological damage;
- (iii) Commends Minister Hargey's efforts to establish a departmental advisory group to embed and deliver Community Wealth Building which centres on: a more just and fair labour market; an inclusive economy with a focus on growing and rebuilding the local economy; and ensuring land and property in our communities generates wealth for the people who live there.

Therefore, this Council commits to developing a fully funded community wealth building framework with the purpose of democratising the economy by empowering community organisations, non-profits, social enterprise and co-operatives to be established or expanded with the ambition to create employment and grow local economies.

Councillor S McPeake seconding the motion said, "I am delighted to second the Sinn Féin proposal regarding the need to develop a Community Wealth Building framework and strategy for Mid-Ulster.

I will be concise in my contribution and my focus will be solely upon the Climate Emergency, that we face and how Community Wealth Building can assist Council meet our responsibilities in relation to this important matter.

We need to create a more integrated local supply chain encouraged by Community Wealth Building strategies which will mean less of a reliance on imports from international sources - this will bring down the emissions generated through resource inputs into the local economy, whilst also creating more stable supply for economic inputs.

- One of these key inputs, and the most important where the economy is concerned, is energy. At the moment, communities and community-owned/cooperative enterprises are exposed to fossil fuel price fluctuations which are gouging at the heart of the current 'cost of living' crisis. Community Wealth Building creates local economic incentives for community-owned energy, reducing costs for households and community enterprise whilst bringing down emissions - We only have to look at North Ayrshire Council's solar farm as an instructive example.
- Based in the heart of Mid Ulster in Ballinascreen, Workspace is a strong local example of an organisation with a firm focus on Community Wealth Building, given its real commitment and shining record when it comes to promoting social enterprise, creating well paid and fair work, while utilising local assets for the provision of much needed community services. The new Community Hub in Ballinascreen which is due to be officially opened next week is a cause for much celebration.
- Workspace is playing an important role in the development of our 'green economy' when helping to tackle the Climate Emergency and related issues. With their strong focus on retro-fitting, saving energy and assisting with the provision of Warmer Homes for many people across our district, Workspace assists many who face challenges in their lives, including disability and poverty when dealing with the added impacts of the Cost of Living Crisis.

Research points to much of the renewable energy potential, as yet unrealised, across the North of Ireland, is West of Bann, where a scarcity of well-paid and skilled work exists. With 80% renewables target by 2030 in the new Climate Act, there will be a significant scaling up on renewables projects. Community Wealth Building creates a good opportunity to get ahead of the job creation triggered by this, by planning for coops in green manufacturing, retro-fitting etc. The harvesting of wind energy locally is just one example of the opportunities I have focused on this evening. There are many more opportunities that have and are working within other jurisdictions and which we should be examining.

The motion before us tonight is most timely as over recent days we as Mid-Ulster Councillors have all received an invitation to attend a "Zero Carbon Cooperative Business Breakfast" to be delivered by Queen's University Belfast, regarding the recently announced 'levelling-up funding, which will support businesses to develop new ways of co-operative working and which will accelerate the transition to 'Net Zero' and improve sustainability in many sectors.

The Queen's University funding proposal recognized that Mid-Ulster, in particular, has regional strengths in manufacturing, agri-food and renewables and as such is very well placed to support this transition. As key stakeholders, councillors are invited to attend the Queens University event to discuss the concept of what they term as "multi-stakeholder Zero Carbon Cooperative's" and to explore how our local business strengths and needs could contribute to the success of such co-operative's.

I conclude by stating that more locally rooted community wealth, as opposed to large corporate presence (indigenous or multinational), means refocusing economic activity towards community and cooperatively owned firms. This means less wealth is extracted from the area in corporate profit, to be paid in dividends to international shareholders. This extracted value would otherwise be used to reinvest in profitable, but ecologically destructive, projects overseas - fossil fuel-based assets (or funds linked to them), for example. Instead, it stays in the community, and is recirculated in much less carbon/material intensive activity with a purpose beyond simply profit realisation for further investment. I urge all Councillors to support this motion which priorities the needs of people, place and planet."

Councillor Glasgow said that the UUP sees the everyday pressures families experience with the ongoing rise in fuel prices and cost of living. He said his party have made proposals to support people and do encourage many concepts outlined in the motion but what the motion fails to bring to light is that Sinn Féin and the SDLP voted for the highest rates, whilst the UUP had supported a Rates freeze to support business and people, and during that year Council services continued. He said Mid Ulster rates were the highest across Northern Ireland at a time when businesses needed support. He said the motion gives with one hand and the 3.9% takes it off people with the other hand.

Councillor McLean said that at face value there is nothing wrong with the motion, it sounded plausible and good but for the DUP the 'devil was in the detail'. He said his party was big enough to take the comment regarding Tory austerity and look at the bigger picture. He said the problem was in the wording re developing and asked how it would be funded and what the costs would be to deliver. He suggested that the concept be brought to the Development committee to discuss further as this was like buying something without knowing the costs.

Councillors B McGuigan said there were good examples of community wealth building across Ireland and England and closer to home. He said his proposal would involve a working group to develop the concept as for example towns and rural areas would differ. He said the concept was to look at how to do things better within communities. He said officers, communities and Members needed to work together to try and move the concept forward and see how it would benefit communities.

Councillor Wilson said he would support the comments of Councillors Glasgow and McLean as at face value the motion was fine but he would have a number of issues for example references to Tory austerity when money had been received for furlough and vaccines during the pandemic. He asked how the concept fits with Stormont and UK policy, what did it entail, how much money was required and for how long, what are the outcomes for spend? He said there was no doubt society was facing terrible times and action was needed. Councillor Wilson referred to the working group which would need a terms of reference and asked who would agree them. He

concluded that within the motion there was no call on the NI Assembly to prioritise economy and co-ordinate such initiatives.

Councillor Monteith said he would be of the opinion that any strategy that empowers people in communities was worthy of support. He said there was other similar projects such as community housing trusts whereby the community takes on derelict properties, refurbishes them for homes and set the rent on ability to pay for example a percentage of a person's income which was a fair way to deal with housing. He spoke of democracy and said council should be moving to participatory method of democracy where as local people should have a right to vote on investment within their communities. Councillor Monteith spoke of the history of economic development and peace funding over 20-30 years whereby development was done on communities not by communities. Speaking of economic prosperity Councillor Monteith was emphatic that Council needed to invest in people as opposed to empire building. He said that the motion talks all about local people but the intention of a working group immediately excludes three people. He said he would have supported the motion but could not if a working group was being formed.

Councillor Kerr said the motion has some aspirational objectives but did not go far enough to tackle the crisis Western Europe was experiencing. He said millionaires were getting richer whilst the working class was getting poorer. He said it was ridiculous people praising the Tories when they are a rogue government and highlighted the many professions and industries going on strike. Councillor Kerr said the Prime Minister Boris Johnston was limping from one crisis to the next. Councillor Kerr called for nationalisation of services, that electricity be brought back to public ownership, universal health costs, universal access to housing decent wages and stressed the needs for strong trade unions. He concluded that he also would be excluded from the working group one which he would love to serve on as he was passionate for the working class.

Councillor Graham said everyone was talking about the rising cost of living and asked where the money was coming from to fund the proposal. She asked what was meant by 'fully funded' and asked if Council was creating new jobs or asking existing staff to do more. Councillor Graham also highlighted that many trades and businesses could not get staff to fill jobs there already is.

Councillor Kearney said that the motion provides detail and reflected on the rise of the credit unions. He spoke of Workspace in Ballinascreen and how it had empowered local businesses and had a community hub. He also highlighted that the banks were closing, that there was much talk of regeneration and this was a first attempt at something positive.

Councillor Colvin said one of the reasons causing the cost-of-living crisis was the war in Ukraine caused by Russian aggression. He highlighted that it had cost £103 to fill his car with fuel yet crude oil prices were the same and said that profiteering needed to be addressed. Councillor Colvin said the Tories always get a bashing, but the Prime Minister had granted money for furlough and a sentence of appreciation may have been more apt. Councillor Colvin also highlighted the RHI scheme which had been disgracefully run and said that the DUP and Sinn Féin were doing a tango with each other and reiterated the comments of Councillor Graham who said

businesses were finding it difficult to recruit because it was more beneficial to be on benefits. He reflected that economic development was already taking place and whilst the model proposed worked sometimes, the UUP would be abstaining.

The Chair, Councillor Corry reiterated comments about Workspace and said this was a shining example of how a community had been empowered and had generated wealth.

The Chair, Councillor Corry called for a vote on the motion

For	21
Against	9
Abstained	7

The Chair, Councillor Corry declared the motion carried.

Councillor B McGuigan thanked all who had supported the motion and acknowledged that whilst there are negatives to everything there were many examples of positives some of which would work well for Council. He concluded that Members should work with staff to progress.

The Chair, Councillor Corry said going forward it would be an exciting opportunity.

*The live broadcast concluded at 8.16 pm*

**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.**

Proposed by Councillor Kerr  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved:** That items C130/22 to C136/22 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 26 May 2022
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 7 June 2022
- (iii) Policy & Resources Confidential Committee minutes of meeting held on 9 June 2022
- (iv) Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 14 June 2022
- (v) Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 16 June 2022

**Document for Sealing**

- (vi) Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and the Corporate Trustee in relation to lands situated at West Park Playing Fields, Lisnahull, Dungannon
- (vii) Document for Sealing: Lease Agreement between Mid Ulster District Council and Dungannon Enterprise Centre in relation to lands situated at Feeney's Lane, Market Square, Dungannon

**C137/22     Duration of Meeting**

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.20 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.