

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Wednesday 5 December 2018 in the Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present

Councillor McNamee, Chair

Councillors Burton (7.10 pm) Cuddy, Doris, Elattar, Forde (7.09 pm), McAleer, McEldowney, McFlynn (7.01 pm) Milne, Molloy, Monteith, G Shiels (7.09 pm), Wilson

Officers in Attendance

Ms Campbell, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr McCreesh, Director of Business and Communities
Mr Browne, Head of Tourism
Mr Hill, Head of Parks
Ms Linney, Head of Community Development
Mr McCance, Head of Culture and Arts
Mr McShane, Acting Head of Leisure
Ms Grogan, Democratic Services Officer

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm.

D226/18 Apologies

Councillor Clarke

D227/18 Declaration of Interests

The Chair drew members attention to Agenda Item 5 - Community Development Report, particularly Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant awards and Sports Small Grant.

Councillor Molloy declared an interest in Square Wheelers Moy.

D228/18 Chair's Business

The Chair, reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declarations of interest and advised any declarations could be taken throughout the meeting.

The Chair offered the condolences of the Committee to Councillor George Shiels on the recent death of his mother.

The Chair welcomed Councillor Ian Milne to the Committee and advised that he would be replacing his daughter Councillor Niamh Milne. He said that he wanted to pass on good wishes to her for the future.

Councillor McFlynn entered the meeting at 7.01 pm.

Matters for Decision

D229/18 Economic Development Report

The Director of Business and Communities presented previously circulated report to provide members with an update on key activities as detailed below:

- 1) Local Full Fibre Networks (LFFN) Challenge Fund
- 2) Magherafelt Revitalisation Project
- 3) Cookstown Revitalisation Project

Councillor Wilson referred to the last Town Centre Forum meeting where it was stated that the Cookstown Chamber of Commerce would longer exist and felt that it would be worthwhile investigating the option of keeping it alive as it is a worthwhile initiative.

The Director of Business and Communities said that there are two representatives from the Chamber of Commerce on the Town Centre Forum and from a governance point of view would follow the issue up.

Councillor Wilson said that it would be detrimental if the group were stood down.

- 4) Village Renewal Project
- 5) Coalisland Public Realm
- 6) Heathrow Supply Chain Opportunity Group (SCOG)

Councillor Monteith advised that there was a meeting this morning with representatives from Northern Ireland Water and Department for Infrastructure regarding Sewage Waste Treatment Works and the word coming from that meeting was not good. He said that checks are being carried out on the sewers in Dungannon area and the word coming back is that it's going to be a major issue over the years to come. It was stated that the water treatment works are up to scratch but the sewers are not and that they would be putting objections to any new developments requiring sewers. He said that there is plans in place for major projects but no capital projects for sewers in the interim and may not be considered until 2020-22. He stated that there was a need to make representation to the Permanent Secretary for Department for Infrastructure and ask that a meeting be arranged with Councillors to discuss concerns regarding funding initiatives. He advised that it was up to the Council to address this serious matter.

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to noting the progress on the above schemes.

Councillor A Forde entered the meeting at 7.08 pm.

Councillor G Shiels entered the meeting at 7.08 pm.

Councillor Burton entered the meeting at 7.09 pm

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to write to the Permanent Secretary for Department for Infrastructure and ask that a meeting be arranged with Council representatives to discuss concerns regarding funding initiatives regarding Water and Sewerage.

Councillor Cuddy agreed with concerns raised and felt that the Regulator had a lot to do with this and if the Council could liaise with the people responsible, that it may prove helpful. He said that a large chunk of the funding would remain in Belfast in and around the Cathedral Quarters and University areas due to high rise buildings and felt that we need to address issues so that the West is not left out again. He stated that we were not going to meet our objectives if water treatment issues were not sorted.

Councillor Monteith felt that the issue in Town Centres were getting worse by the week as a number of retail units were closing in Dungannon and some in Cookstown. He said that the issue of Rates and the economic model for retail on the High Street was no longer sustainable and there was a need to write to the Permanent Secretary for Finance and ask if there is any intention to bring in Rates relief for town centre businesses, similar to the model to England, Scotland and Wales. He said that the way things are going there will be no town centres left.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to write to the Permanent Secretary for Finance and ask if there is any intention to bring in Rates relief for town centre businesses, similar to the model in England, Scotland and Wales, recently announced by the Chancellor.

D230/18 Community Development

The Head of Community Development presented previously circulated report to seek approval for:

1. Seek Committee approval for Good Relations and Community Festivals rolling grant award recommendations

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Grant Award recommendations under the Community Local Festivals Grant and Good Relations Grant as per Appendix 1 £1,825 and £2,344.

2. Seek Committee approval for the Sports Small Grant recommendations

Proposed by Councillor Forde
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Council Sports Small Grant recommendations as per Appendix 2 £20,859 and that underspend from the Capital Sports Grants be transferred to the Sports Small Grant budget.

3. Note the Community Development Update report

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to note the contents of the Community Development Update report.

D231/18 Sports Representative Grants

The Acting Head of Leisure presented previously circulated report to present to members the proposed Community Grants Allocations for the range of Sports Representative Grant – Team and Individuals.

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council to approve the Sports Grant Allocations.

Councillor Cuddy referred to a young sportsperson in the Dungannon area reaching a very high level within his field and said at the time it was requested that a picture of the person would be hung at the Leisure Centre, but it was never done. He enquired why it was taking so long to put the photo up as this was requested some time ago.

The Acting Head of Leisure advised that he had liaised with the Leisure Centre Manager and the issue is currently be addressed and the photograph will be hung very shortly.

D232/18 Ardboe Play Area

The Head of Parks presented previously circulated report to ask for consideration regarding a request to Council for the relocation of Play Park facilities at Ardboe GAA Grounds (Rossa GFC).

The Chair advised that Councillor McGinley had been in contact with him regarding the issue of Ardboe Play Area and stated that he did not request to seek a relocation and neither did the Gaelic Club. He said that Councillor McGinley advised that although he wasn't totally against the proposal he had asked that consultations take place with the club before consulting with the rest of the community and stakeholders.

Councillor McFlynn agreed with Councillor McGinley's sentiments and felt that the local people be liaised with before proceeding.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that approval be given to seeking consultation with the local GAA club in relation to suitable alternative safe location within the Club Grounds in the first instance. Thereafter an alternative site of the Club Grounds could be investigated through community consultation.

Matters for Information

D233/18 Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 15 November 2018

Members noted Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 15 November 2018.

The Chair advised members that correspondence had been received from Department for Infrastructure regarding legislation around Town Centre Car Parking indicating that legislation would be in place by 21 December 2018 in all towns.

Councillor Monteith enquired about the situation around the 1 hour waiting restriction in Dungannon town are the Department taking a one size fits all approach?.

The Director for Business and Communities said that he would investigate the matter.

Councillor Monteith said that he would like to see a report to the January meeting detailing the policy framework supporting the decision to support the delivery of the Dungannon Youth Project and outlining how other sport/community groups will be supported with future requests.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor McAleer and

Resolved That it be recommended to the Council that a report be brought to the next Development Committee on break down used on criteria for Sports/Community Groups receiving specialist assistance.

D234/18 Corporate Halloween Events

Members noted previously circulated report, which provided an update on the recent Halloween Events within the District.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Burton

Seconded by Councillor Molloy 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 Members consider items D235/18 to D238/18.

Matters for Decision

- D235/18 Tender Report for the Mid Ulster Generalist Advice Contract
- D236/18 Lands at Newferry Public Path and Angling Stands
- D237/18 Seamus Heaney HomePlace Trails Projects Funding Application

Matters for Information

- D238/18 Confidential Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 15 November 2018

D239/18 Duration of Meeting

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and concluded at 19.55 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____