

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 24 October 2019 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon

Chair Councillor Kearney

Members Present Councillors Ashton, Bell, Black, Brown, Buchanan, Burton, Clarke, Colvin, Corry, Cuddy, Cuthbertson, Doris, Elattar, Forde, Gildernew, Glasgow, Graham, Hughes, Kerr, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McKinney, McLean, McNamee, D McPeake, S McPeake, Milne, Molloy, Monteith, O'Neill, Quinn, Robinson and Wilson

Officers in Attendance Mr McCreesh, Director of Business & Communities
Dr Boomer, Planning Manager
Mr Cassells, Director of Environment & Property
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Mr Kelso, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications
Mr Moffett, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

C194/19 Apologies

Mullen and Totten

C195/19 Declarations of Interest

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

Councillor Graham declared an interest in Aughnacloy Parish Church.

C196/19 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Kearney referred to the news that thirty nine people had died in a refrigerator unit in Essex and stated that thoughts and prayers were with the families of the deceased.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney highlighted that St Mary's Primary School in Draperstown were the first school to be named a 'forest school' in the district and thus were leading the way in environmental issues.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney reminded Members of the scheduled Halloween events commencing on Saturday through until 31 October and encouraged everyone to enjoy the fireworks but to stay safe.

Councillor Doris referred to an issue highlighted in the Dungannon Herald referring to the numbers of women and children escaping domestic abuse. Councillor Doris stated she had been shocked to learn that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive did not award points for intimidation in relation to domestic abuse yet if abuse was for example racial the highest number of points could be allocated. Highlighting that there were equality issues Councillor Doris stated if someone was brave enough to speak out they should be supported and it would be her intention to bring a motion to a future meeting of Council on this issue.

Councillor Monteith thanked the Chair, Councillor Kearney for the opportunity to speak in relation to the Dalradian mining company who it has been brought to all Members attention are listed as one of the sponsors for the Mid Ulster Mail Business Excellence Awards for 2019 together with Mid Ulster Council. He stated he supported local businesses as a member of the Development Committee which its July meeting agreed to sponsor the Small Medium Enterprise award. He was however emphatic that if at that time he had been aware that Dalradian was to be a sponsor also he would have objected. He made mention of a similar situation a number of years ago and stated that it was inappropriate for Council to be associated with the aforementioned company then and it still was now. He stressed that for Council to sponsor awards alongside Dalradian Gold Mining was to condone their 'charm campaign' in the business community and like himself Council should be totally opposed.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith

That Council write to the Mid Ulster Mail to advise that Council sponsorship is dependent on the Mid Ulster Business Awards disassociating themselves from the Dalradian Company

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that the Awards were now in their ninth year and there were 14 categories, of which Council in July 2019 had approved the recommendation of the Development Committee to sponsor one such category. He highlighted that Johnston Press were the main sponsors and reminded members that the recommendation resolved at the July Council meeting was two-fold as undernoted.

- (i) approval be granted to Mid Ulster District Council sponsoring the Mid Ulster Business Awards in 2019/20 at Category Sponsorship £1,750 + Vat (SME Business of the Year Award Category); and
- (ii) a comprehensive review of Council sponsorship of the event be completed prior to the 2020/2021 event

Councillor Kerr seconded Councillor Monteith's proposal.

Councillor Kerr reiterated that Council should be doing its utmost to disassociate itself with the company. He reminded Members that Council was opposed to large scale mining and that multi-national companies were renowned for destroying small 'tight knit' communities and mentioned the impact such activity would have on Greencastle if it was permitted in that area. He pleaded to Council to fight the multi nationals and stated that he praised all those participating in what was a dignified protest.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that Council was opposed to fracking and mentioned the unanimous decision taken at the Planning Committee and stressed that the message had gone out from Council and a stand had been taken.

Councillor McGinley stated he would concur with all concerned who had raised the issue. He stated that Council had given clear direction regarding mining in the Sperrins and sought clarity on the proposal.

The proposal was clarified as undernoted

That Council write to the Mid Ulster Mail and advise them that Council sponsorship is dependent on the Mid Ulster Business Awards disassociating themselves with the Dalradian Company.

Councillor S McGuigan entered the meeting at 7.10pm

The Chair Councillor Kearney advised that there was no rescinding motion at the time of the decision and thus Council would have to carry out its decision.

Councillor Monteith stated that you only needed to rescind a motion if you were overturning the decision.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that Council had made the decision to sponsor an award.

The Director of Business and Communities stated that Councillor Monteith's proposal would change what was resolved at July Council, as aforementioned. He referred to Standing Order 24, "Rescission of a Preceding Resolution

- (1) No motion to rescind any resolution passed within the preceding six months, and no motion or amendment to the same effect as one which has been rejected within the preceding six months, shall be proposed by a member unless the notice thereof given in pursuance of Standing Order 16.1 bears the names of at least 15% of the members of the Council." The Deputy Chief Executive said that his learned view would be that the proposal would undo the resolve.

Councillor Monteith asked the Chair, Councillor Kearney if this was his ruling.

The Chair Councillor Kearney stated yes.

Councillor Monteith repeated that his proposal was not to withdraw sponsorship to the event, it was to sponsor with an added condition. He stated that the interpretation of standing order in his opinion was wrong and stated that to rescind is when you were contradicting the motion, a direct action against.

Councillor McGinley stated that it was not a Council event thus it was the event organisers responsibility.

Councillor McGinley proposed

In regard to Dalradian Category Sponsorship at the Mid Ulster Business Awards, that Council write to the event organisers, Mid Ulster Mail, highlighting the concerns of the council, the concerns and anxiety of the local community and state Council's opposition to gold mining in the Sperrins.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated he had listened carefully to the support and whilst he recognised the concern, it was his view that the event organisers and chief sponsor should reflect on the concerns expressed.

Councillor Mallaghan seconded Councillor McGinley's proposal.

Councillor Monteith stated he had no difficulty with the proposal but was emphatic that he would not have agreed had he known the other sponsors. He proposed that a letter should be sent to other sponsors to make them aware of Council's opposition to Dalradian and abuse on the natural heritage of the district.

Councillor Quinn concurred with what had been said reiterating that the event was not Council's but it was important to remember that it was for local businesses. He mentioned the emails which had been received by Members and stressed that Council had ensured that they were against the destruction of its natural heritage.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney put Councillor McGinley's proposal to the vote.

For	38
Against	0

Matters for Decision

C197/19 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 26 September 2019

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 26 September 2019 (C163/19 – C181/19 and C193/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C198/19 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday October 2019

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Brown and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on Tuesday 1 October 2019 (P116/19 – P125/19 and P130/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C199/19 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on Thursday 3 October 2019

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 3 October 2019 (PR166/19 – PR174/19 and PR185/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C200/19 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 8 October 2019

Councillor McNamee stated that at the most recent Regional Minority Languages Working Group a report had been brought to the group outlining damage to 93 dual language signs, which he said no doubt cost thousands to the ratepayer. He said that this was not only a significant cost to the ratepayer but was also damaging community relations and requested that the report detailing the costings be brought to the meeting with the PSNI scheduled prior to the Environment Committee on 12 November 2019.

Proposed by Councillor McAleer
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Environment Committee held on Tuesday 8 October 2019 (E217/19 – E241/19 and E252/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, subject to the foregoing were considered and adopted.

C201/19 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” at the Development Committee Meeting held on Thursday 10 October 2019

Councillor McNamee referred to the proposed Cookstown Bypass and a presentation made by Killymoon Golf Club to a special meeting of the Development Committee regarding their future plans and the impact the preferred route of the bypass would have. Councillor McNamee proposed that a Cookstown DEA meeting be arranged with DfI Roads in order that groups such as the golf club could plan for the future.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

Resolved That Council seek a meeting with Department for Infrastructure Roads in order to discuss proposed Cookstown Bypass with the DEA Members.

Proposed by Councillor Corry
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee held on Thursday 10 October 2019 (D159/19 – D175/19 and D181/19) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C202/19 Conferences, Seminars & Training Report

Approval was sought for the undernoted for attendance of Councillors and Council Officers as outlined in the report, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred.

(i) Member Approvals

- **NILGA – Environmental Impact Assessment Essentials – What Councillors Need to Know**

Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim – Friday 25 October 2019 (10.30am – 1.00pm)
Travel and subsistence

- **NILGA – Scrutiny and Challenge Masterclass**

Antrim Civic Centre, Antrim – Friday 1 November 2019 – 12.30 pm

- **Planning for Change: Planning in Times of Change – ICLR Annual Conference**

The Great Hall, Ulster University – Magee Campus, Derry/Londonderry
Wednesday 6th November 2019
Conference Fee: £65 (+ booking charges)
Travel and subsistence

- **Agenda NI Northern Ireland Economic Conference 2019**

Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle – Thursday 7 November 2019
Conference Fee: £165 + Vat = £198
Travel and subsistence

- **The Tackling Paramilitarism Programme's Annual Conference Shaping a Better Future Together**

Mossley Hill, Newtownabbey - Tuesday 12 November 2019
No Conference Fee
Travel and subsistence

- **Northern Ireland Planning Conference 2019**

Titanic, Belfast – Wednesday 20 November 2019
Conference Fee: £195 + Vat = £234
Travel and subsistence

(ii) Officer Approvals

Conference & Seminar	Date	No. of Attendees	Location	Attendance Fee (Yes/No)
The Power of Walking	14/11/19	1	Belfast	No
PPMA Annual Conference	05/12/19	2	SHHP	No
NI Planning Conference 2019	20/11/19	1	Belfast	Yes (£195)
Shaping a Better Future Together	12/11/19	1	Newtownabbey	No
British Trust for Ornithology	09/11/19	1	Oxford Island	Yes (£25)

Proposed by Councillor Colvin
Seconded by Councillor S McPeake and

Resolved That the attendance of Members and Officers, the payment of attendance fees and associated costs as incurred be approved, as required for attendees.

C203/19 Civic Recognition Requests

The Head of Democratic Services sought approval for the previously circulated report on civic recognition requests from Members, in line with the stated Council Policy, as detailed within the report.

Councillor Kerr requested that his name be added to letters of congratulations to Coalisland Fianna, Coalisland Credit Union and Eimear Colton.

Councillor Mallaghan requested that his name be added to letter of congratulations to Galbally Pearses;

Councillor Mallaghan also requested that a letter of congratulations also be sent to Rock St Patrick's County Tyrone Junior Championship

Councillor Clarke requested a letter to be forwarded to O'Donovan Rossa Magherafelt on winning County Derry Senior Championship for the first time since 1978.

Councillor Burton requested that her name be added to letters to Donaghmore Horticultural Society and Stewartstown Village on success in Ulster in Bloom.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Proposed by Councillor S McPeake and

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

C204/19 Chair of Mid Ulster Policing and Community Safety Partnership

The Head of Democratic Services presented previously circulated report to confirm the holding of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership position of Chair in the years from 2020 to 2023 (i.e 2021-21, 2021-2022 and 2022-23).

Resolved That the Policing & Community Safety Partnership position of Chair in the be appointed

Year 2 2020-2021	SDLP
Year 3 2021-2022	DUP
Year 4 2022-2023	Sinn Féin

Matters for Information

C205/19 Correspondence

Members noted previously circulated report providing correspondence received for the attention of Council as outlined:

- Head of Operations, The Executive Office
- Policy & Outreach Officer, Advice NI
- Permanent Secretary, Department of Health
- Commissioner, NI Commissioner for Children & Young People

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to correspondence received from the Policy & Outreach Officer of Advice NI.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council write a letter to the Northern Ireland Civil Service, Mr David Sterling supporting the extension to the Mitigations Package to Northern Ireland.

Councillor Mallaghan drew attention to correspondence received from the Commissioner, NI Commissioner for Children & Young People and stated that Council should lend its support. It was confirmed that the Chair, Councillor Kearney was organising an event to mark the anniversary.

Proposed by Councillor Mallaghan
Seconded by Councillor Bell and

Resolved That Council illuminate designated buildings as appropriate in blue to coincide with the 30th Anniversary of the Rights of the Child (20 November 2019) and highlight the occasion on Social Media outlets.

C206/19 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members noted the previously circulated report on Consultation notified to Mid Ulster District Council.

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to the consultation regarding the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation and requested that Council submit a response.

The Director of Business and Communities highlighted that the consultation response would require to be brought to Policy & Resources Committee which would require delegated powers due to the closing date.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That Council submit a response to the Maze Long Kesh Development Corporation with the consultation response to be brought to Policy & Resources Committee

Councillor Burton left the meeting at 7.30pm

Councillor B McGuigan drew attention to the consultation from DAERA (Environment Strategy for NI) public consultation and stated that giving the issues raised earlier in relation to precious metals a consultation response should be brought to the Environment Committee;

Proposed Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That a consultation response in relation to the DAERA (Environment Strategy for NI) is brought to Environment Committee.

Councillor McGinley drew attention to the undernoted consultations and stated that they too should be referred back to Environment Committee suggesting perhaps a workshop to discuss.

- (i) Department for Communities: Liquor licensing laws in Northern Ireland: Consultation response to be brought to the Environment Committee; and
- (ii) DAERA – Waste Management Plan for NI - Consultation response be brought to Environment Committee

Resolved That responses for aforementioned consultations be brought to the Environment Committee.

C207/19 Notice of Motion

Councillor Molloy moved motion as undernoted:

“That this Council carefully consider all Council organised events and where possible and practical allocate ‘quiet hours’ to facilitate visits and attendance by

children & young adults with disability requirements and special needs. Further to that, the Council further liaise and consult with local special learning centres, disability groups and the National Autistic Society in order to facilitate visits to events on both a group and individual basis”

Councillor Molloy stated that the motion related to future Council events and highlighted that as the Christmas period approached he wanted to bring the motion so that steps could be taken at the planning stage for events particularly aimed at younger residents. Councillor Molloy stated that it was well documented that many special needs children can be greatly helped by quiet hours, reduction in noise, bright lights and crowds. He highlighted that quiet hours have been rolled out by small numbers of shops, shopping centres and other facilities in recent years and have proven to be very beneficial not only for parents, children and families as a unit but also for the shops and staff themselves. Councillor Molloy stated that he fully appreciated that there may be some who were more au fait with the complexities of the wide range of various disability needs, but that he would ask that for appropriate events that officers and staff liaise with various stakeholder groups to see what can be put in place.

Councillor Doris seconded the motion and advised she had been speaking to a representative of the Autistic society who had spoken of the difficulties in bringing children for example to see ‘santa’ and highlighted that some local businesses such as the Oaks Centre had organised quiet hours and emphasised that Council must follow suite as every child deserves to be able to attend events.

Councillor Kerr fully supported the motion and stated that he too had spoken with organisations and families and that Council needed to look at a long term strategy as like in many walks of life more could be done. He also commended representatives of the National Autistic Society in Coalisland on the excellent work they carry out.

Councillor Wilson stated that the UUP would support the motion emphasising that Council events needed to be inclusive for everyone.

Councillor Quinn said the SDLP would support the motion stating that dealing with special needs could be challenging and more understanding was needed.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney spoke of a recent visit to Buddy Bear and how he had ‘got his eyes opened’ to the challenges often faced.

Councillor McLean stated that the DUP would support the motion

Councillor Molloy thanked all Members for their support and stated that much of the works is carried out by family members and the voluntary sector and thus anything Council can do to help would be hugely beneficial.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney put the motion to the vote.

FOR 37

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried.

C208/19 Notice of Motion

Councillor McAleer moved motion as undernoted:

“This Council acknowledges the Employers for Childcare 10th Annual Childcare Survey which is based on research with over 3,600 parents and childcare providers and is the most extensive study of its kind in Northern Ireland. The report reveals that the average cost of full-time childcare place in Northern Ireland is £166 per week and that half of all families are spending more than 20% of their overall household income on childcare – a figure that rises to 63% for lone parent households”.

“Council further notes that three years ago, parties in the Assembly unanimously supported an SDLP proposal to provide 20 hours free universal childcare with a plan for an increase to 30 hours. This Council supports the call for vital and urgent reform of investment in our childcare sector. This research provides a robust evidence base highlighting why childcare needs to be a key and immediate priority for any re-formed Executive. This Council resolves to write to all Political Party Leaders to ask them to support 30 hours basis free childcare provision for working parents”.

Councillor McAleer speaking on the motion stated,

“Since the first Northern Ireland Childcare Survey was reported in 2010 the average cost of a full-time childcare place has increased faster than wages when adjusted for inflation. Care comes with a cost and a cost which the providers fully deserve. My issue is not with the providers but with central Government. Childcare providers have substantial over heads and in the last year almost 73% of childcare providers reported an increase in their overall expenditure. This situation is completely unsustainable. Urgent action is required to ensure that quality childcare is affordable both for families to access and for childcare providers to deliver.

The 2019 Northern Ireland Childcare Costs Survey shows that childcare remains the highest monthly bill for working families after mortgage or rent payments. Worryingly, the survey also revealed that 41% of parents had to use savings, loans or credit cards to pay for the cost of childcare. Almost half of all parents represented in the survey experienced a change in their working hours. One in five mothers decreased their hours of work or left work altogether last year, compared to 6% of fathers. 45% of mothers attributed this change to the cost of childcare.

The provision of 30 hours free childcare for working parents similar to existing schemes elsewhere could be potentially life-changing for many working parents- relieving the financial pressures of childcare and affording parents the opportunity to return to work. A reformed childcare system will also bring benefits to our economy, including diversifying the workforce and creating jobs in the childcare sector. The importance of childcare as an economic enabler cannot be overlooked. Any restored Executive must prioritise legislation for an affordable, accessible and high-quality childcare system in its Programme for Government. We must create a fairer society whereby no family is forced into debt to cover childcare costs. I ask members here tonight to support this motion.”

Councillor McFlynn seconded the motion.

Councillor Wilson stated that the UUP was happy to support the motion and said affordable accessible childcare should be a key priority for all parties. He highlighted that childcare costs were rising annually and many Members were helping provide care within their family circle. Councillor Wilson stated that not everyone had an extended network of family and friends and the huge cost of childcare led to some parents simply not being able to afford to work. He highlighted that the issue had been previously considered by the Assembly and said it was disgraceful that a 'Childcare Strategy' was awaiting ministerial sign off but due to the stalemate at Stormont it was gathering dust like so many other decisions and as it was a devolved matter Westminster were not doing anything to progress it. Councillor Wilson stated that this was another example of how the farce at Stormont is impacting on the lives of ordinary working people. Expressing disappointment at the Department of Education cuts on the extended school programme Councillor Wilson highlighted that the money which was not a significant amount in the overall scheme of things helped run school breakfast clubs which in providing breakfast reduced child hunger, encouraged children to be in time for school and was a benefit to working parents. Thus it is not just the cost of childcare but also the reduction in alternative provision that is impacting. Councillor Wilson concluded that when Stormont was up and running the provision of childcare should be a major priority and whilst provision of 30 free hours of childcare would have cost impacts it should be seriously considered and children and parents failed by the last Executive should not be failed again.

Councillor Monteith agreed with previous speakers and commended Councillor McAleer in bringing the motion forward stating that it was important that Council send out a message of support to hard working families and emphasised that the issue had been neglected for too long.

Councillor McLean stated that the DUP had been proactive on the issue and that his party would support the motion.

Councillor Corry stated that Sinn Féin would support the motion and believed that early education is crucial to child development. She reiterated that childcare costs were more expensive per week than mortgage or rent expenses, leading people to seek payday loans or run up credit card bills. Councillor Corry said that Sinn Féin were fully in support of the Childcare for All Campaign.

In closing Councillor McAleer thanked Members for the support and stated that many in the room were helping out with childcare and with an effective system in place many would and could return to the workforce.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney called for a vote.

FOR 37

The Chair, Councillor Kearney declared the motion carried.

C209/19 Notice of Motion

Councillor Hughes speaking on the motion stated,

“The current climate crisis is the global challenge facing this generation. Global warming is happening at a much faster rate than anticipated. Failure to take action now will result in irreversible changes to our climate and weather patterns that will devastate developed and developing economies across the world. Over the last few years, millions of citizens across Europe and the world have called on governments to take action on the climate crisis. But those actions must be robust and equitable. We must ensure that clean energy is affordable energy. We cannot create a society that offers incentives to the wealthy while disproportionately penalising the poor.

The SDLP believes that protecting the environment is a moral, economic and health imperative that, if planned and implemented correctly, can benefit people, communities and businesses. Understanding and addressing the causes of the climate crisis is critical to avoiding irreversible damage to ecosystems and economies. We understand the scale of the challenge. We need to plan for a stable transition to a Green Economy from where we are now. That transition must balance our duty to preserve, protect and enhance the environment with the social and economic rights of all workers.

Every level of government must turn its urgent attention toward the current climate crisis. The SDLP has argued for higher international greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and carbon neutrality by 2050. We are committed to making changes at a local level so that Northern Ireland can play its part in addressing the causes and impacts of climate change. The SDLP believes that climate change impact should be a material consideration in all future planning decisions. The SDLP supports the divestment of NILGOSC pensions from fossil fuels. We should instead be investing in technologies that will reduce reliance on fossil fuels. We support the development of a clean air strategy, and the introduction of clean air zones in areas where people are most at risk of health complications due to higher concentrations of particulate matter. We believe councils across the North should cooperate with local authorities in Britain and Ireland on a decarbonisation agenda in homes.

Whilst acknowledging the fantastic work Mid-Ulster District Council is already doing within the area, it is felt that we can improve thus I move the motion that

“This Council acknowledges the scale of the climate crisis and the impact it will have on people and communities in Northern Ireland; resolves to establish an all-party working group on climate change resilience exploring how we can mitigate this crisis and protect our citizens from the existing and future effects of climate breakdown and; investigate measures the council can take to limit its impact on climate change”

An all-party working group on climate change resilience will help this Council to agree ways in which we can limit our impact on climate change and develop a transformation programme to a Locally Green Economy.”

Councillor Quinn seconded the motion and commended Councillor Hughes on bringing it forward. He stated that it would be vital to future generations as the Amazon was disappearing, polar bears were dying out, bees were dying out and whilst a lot of people read about the issues they were being dismissed but there is a serious impact on planet and community. Councillor Quinn stated that whilst schools were receiving green flags for the environment the post 18 age group needed to be educated to change and made mention of diet, other councils’ tree planting programmes and other initiatives that Mid Ulster should consider.

Councillor McGinley commended the motion stating that Sinn Féin played an important role in protecting the environment. He highlighted that Mid Ulster had the highest rate of recycling across the north but much more still needed to be done such as a move away from fossil fuels, ban on fracking. He stated that he hoped the motion would be supported unanimously and highlighted how everyone could play their part in developing a new energy strategy to include low carbon vehicles, accessible cycling, energy efficient buildings, trees and hedgerows and also made mention of small changes such as an alternative to plastic cups offered at the water bottle in Cookstown Council offices.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had no problem with the motion but stated that issues were already being addressed such as air quality and tree planting. He stated that there was already an all-party working group that is the Environment Committee and said a paper could be brought any month on issues in relation to climate change. Councillor Cuthbertson said that another working group was bringing more cars out on another night but perhaps the SDLP party would car share.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that the SDLP did car share.

Councillor Monteith commended Councillor Hughes on bringing forward the motion and stated it did warrant consideration highlighting that there could be better co-ordination of activities between Council departments and a move away from ‘silo’ mentality was needed. He stated however he would abstain from voting as an all-party working group excluded independents and smaller parties and thus was discriminatory on political opinion.

Councillor Graham stated that she welcomed the focus on climate change as the reality was as proven by scientific evidence the climate was changing at an accelerating pace largely driven by greenhouse gas emissions and it would be perilous to ignore. Speaking on the many problems facing society at present for example Brexit, pressures on school budgets Councillor Graham emphasised that in 50 – 100 years’ time the impact of climate change will be paramount thus the current generation has a moral obligation to protect the environment. Councillor Graham drew attention to the Northern Ireland carbon intensity indicators and it was pleasing to note that greenhouse gas emissions per capita had decreased 30% from 15.2 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per person in 1990 to 10.7 tonnes per person in 2017 yet throughout that time the population had increased by 17%. Reflecting on other statistics Councillor Graham stated whilst it

would not be right to say nothing was being done but if more had been done 30 or 40 years ago how different it would be. Councillor Graham stated that even when the NI Executive had been functioning it had sometimes failed to grasp the nettle of climate change and thus Northern Ireland was the only part of the UK without climate change legislation and even when previous Executives did try to reduce harmful emissions, they managed to botch even key energy policies such as RHI and the NIRO. Thus Councillor Graham concluded that Council along with other organisations and citizens should be taking steps to reduce the impact on climate change.

Councillor S McPeake stated that a lot had already been said which clearly highlighted that a dedicated working group was needed as the work cut across all departments for example building control, waste management, procurement and he would support the motion.

Councillor Quinn concurred with Councillor S McPeake's remarks and stated that he too would disagree with Councillor Cuthbertson and emphasised that a working group was required.

Councillor McKinney drew attention to some of the aforementioned comments and highlighted that air pollution was coming across the border and causing problems for agri food industry in County Tyrone.

In response the Chair, Councillor Kearney stated that a working group could look at such concerns.

Councillor Hughes thanked Members for their support of the motion and reiterated that an all-party working group would help address issues.

The Chair, Councillor Kearney put the motion to vote

For	35
Abstained	2

Items restricted in accordance with Section 42, Part 1 of Local Government (NI) Act 2014 – Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Colvin and

Resolved That items C210/19 – C224/19 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 26 September 2019
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 1 October 2019
- (iii) Policy & Resources Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 3 October 2019

- (iv) Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 8 October 2019
- (v) Development Committee Confidential Minutes of Meeting held on 10 October 2019
- (vi) Document for Sealing: Ballymacombs Landfill: Local Authority Deed Agreement with NIEA
- (vii) Document for Sealing: Magheraglass Landfill: Local Authority Deed Agreement with NIEA
- (viii) Document for Sealing: Tullyvar Landfill: Local Authority Deed Agreement with NIEA (jointly with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council)
- (ix) Document for Sealing: Off Street Car Parking: Agency Agreement with DfI Roads
- (x) Document for Sealing: Transfer Deed in respect of the Purchase of Lands situated at 18 The Square/Main Street, Coalisland
- (xi) Document for Sealing: 20 Year Lease in respect of Glenone Wood
- (xii) Document for Sealing: Seamus Heaney Trail Experience – Construction – FP McCann Ltd, Drumard Road, Knockloughrim
- (xiii) Document for Sealing: Connecting Pomeroy Project – ICT Award – McAdam Design, Castlereagh Business Park, Belfast

Matters for Information

- (i) Use of Delegated Authority by Chief Executive on Matters Delegated

C224/19 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7 pm and ended at 8.16 pm

Chair _____

Date _____