

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council
held on Tuesday 8 October 2024 in Council Offices, Ballyronan Road,
Magherafelt and by virtual means**

Members Present

Councillor McAleer, Chair

Councillors J Burton, Cahoon, Cuthbertson, Kelly,
Groogan, Johnston, Martin, Milne, Mullin*, McElvogue
(7.03 pm), McGuigan, McNamee, Robinson, Varsani

**Officers in
Attendance**

Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD:
Env)

Mr Conlon, Head of Technical Services (HoTS)

Mr McAadoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services
(AD: ES)

Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD:
PS)

Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services
Officer

* Denotes members and members of the public present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

The Chair, Councillor McAleer welcomed everyone to the meeting and those watching the meeting through the Live Broadcast. Councillor McAleer in introducing the meeting detailed the operational arrangements for transacting the business of the committee in the chamber and by virtual means, by referring to Annex A to this minute.

E202/24 Notice of Recording

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

E203/24 Apologies

Councillor J Buchanan

E204/24 Declarations of Interest

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

E205/24 Chair's Business

None.

Councillor McElvogue entered the meeting at 7.03 pm.

Matters for Decision

E206/24 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Disabled Persons Parking Bay at Main Street, Ballygawley

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal to introduce a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at Main Street, Ballygawley.

Proposed by Councillor Groogan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at Main Street, Ballygawley.

E207/24 DfI Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – No waiting at any time restriction at Magherafelt Road, Draperstown

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal to introduce no waiting at any time restriction at Magherafelt Road, Draperstown.

Proposed by Councillor Groogan
Seconded by Councillor Robinson and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to endorse the proposal submitted by Department for Infrastructure Roads in relation to proposal to introduce no waiting at any time restriction at Magherafelt Road, Draperstown.

E208/24 Bus Shelters Update

The Head of Technical Services (HoTS) presented previously circulated report which provided update on current bus shelter status.

Proposed by Councillor Varsani
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that –

- Bus shelter application listed under 3.9 in report is recommended for withdrawal this month: 1NR
3.9.1 – Reenaderry Road (Opposite Falls' Shop), Coalisland

E209/24 Footpath Winter Maintenance Agreement

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report which sought approval to enter into a new winter maintenance agreement with DfI in relation to the treatment of footpaths in the main town centres within Mid Ulster.

Councillor Cuthbertson referred to agreement for Dungannon and that last year he had asked that the map be corrected to include Church Lane, as previously agreed, and that this was done but that it seems to have been omitted again this year. The Councillor asked that the map be corrected to include Church Lane again this year.

Councillor Robinson referred to maintenance of bus shelters on the A4 as some are unusable as people cannot get access due to the long grass. The Councillor asked that the grass is cut around these bus shelters and that they are tidied up.

The AD: ES advised that staff are currently working through grass cutting at bus shelters and in relation to map for Dungannon he stated this would be corrected to include Church Lane.

Councillor McNamee referred to comments raised by Councillor Kerr at the Council meeting in relation to extending the boundary and asked if DfI had come back in relation to this.

The AD: ES advised that he had received no contact from DfI and it is up to them to trigger the agreement.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that Councillor Kerr's comments at the Council meeting related to not having to wait three days for the agreement to be triggered and that if there is extreme weather forecast that it could be triggered in one or two days. The Councillor stated that sometimes Council gets the blame for not acting but that it has to wait on the request from DfI to go ahead.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer asked that Officers go back to DfI in relation to previous request raised by Councillor Kerr at Council meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the new winter maintenance agreement with DfI for town centre footpaths for a 3 year period commencing 1st November 2024.

Matters for Information

E210/24 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 10 September 2024

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 10 September 2024.

Councillor McNamee asked for an update in relation to his previous request for recognition of the Irish Language over the festive season in line with Council's Irish Language Policy.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) advised that Officers have been looking at the possibility of laser projections in town centres, specifically Ranfurly House in Dungannon, Cornmill Coalisland, Burnavon Cookstown and Bridewell Magherafelt. The AD: PS stated that Officers have sourced a provider which could project a festive greeting in English, Irish and Ulster Scots. The AD: PS advised that Officers are working with the supplier in relation to costs and site specific issues but that he would be hopeful that laser projections could be feasible this year.

In response to Councillor McNamee the AD: PS agreed to provide update to next Committee meeting.

E211/24 Tree Risk Management Plan

Members noted previously circulated report which provided updated on a Tree Risk Management Plan for the Council managed estate.

Councillor Cuthbertson welcomed this important piece of work as Council has a number of trees with houses close by at Dungannon Park and Windmill Wood and that this Management Plan gives those home owners some peace of mind.

E212/24 Fairtrade Fortnight

Members noted previously circulated report which outlined action taken to mark Fairtrade Fortnight.

E213/24 Building Control Workload

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the workload analysis for Building Control.

E214/24 Entertainment Licensing Applications

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on Entertainment Licensing Applications across the Mid Ulster District.

E215/24 Dual Language Signage Surveys

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of the result of surveys undertaken on all applicable residents on the streets/roads in response to Dual Language Signage Nameplate requests.

E216/24 Dual Language Signage Requests

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of requests for Dual Language Signage from residents on the streets/roads in question.

Live broadcast ended at 7.13 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor Groogan
Seconded by Councillor Varsani 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 E217/24 to E224/24.

Matters for Decision

- E217/24 Contract for route optimisation software/consultancy support
- E218/24 Maghera Public Realm Upgrade Works
- E219/24 Capital Projects – Small Settlement – Castledawson

Matters for Information

- E220/24 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 10 September 2024
- E221/24 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update
- E222/24 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
- E223/24 Capital improvement works at Cottagequinn Cemetery
- E224/24 Festive Lighting Replacement Update

E225/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 8.08 pm.

CHAIR _____

DATE _____

Annex A – Introductory Remarks from the Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to the Council's [Policy & Resources/Environment/Development] Committee in the Chamber, [Dungannon/Magherafelt] and virtually.

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.