

Minutes of Meeting of Mid Ulster District Council held on Thursday 22 October 2020 in the Council Offices, Circular Road, Dungannon and by virtual means

Chair Councillor Mallaghan

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

Officers in Attendance Mr McCreesh**, Director of Business and Communities
Ms Canavan, Director of Organisational Development
Ms Campbell**, Director of Leisure and Outdoor Recreation
Mr Cassells**, Director of Environment & Property
Mr Kelso**, Director of Public Health & Infrastructure
Ms Mezza**, Head of Marketing and Communications
Mr Moffett**, Head of Democratic Services
Mr JJ Tohill**, Director of Finance
Mr O'Hagan, Head of ICT
Mrs Forde, Member Support Officer

In Attendance **Representatives of Department for Infrastructure Roads**

Mr David McKinley***
Mr Neill Bratton***
Mr Gerry Hackett***

* Denotes Members present in remote attendance

** Denotes Officers present by remote means

*** Denotes others present by remote means

The meeting commenced at 7 pm

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan 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.

C191/20 Apologies

Councillor Wilson

C192/20 Declarations of Interest

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

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan changed the order of business to hear the deputation from DfI Roads prior to Chair's Business.

C193/20 Deputation – Department for Infrastructure (Roads)

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan welcomed representatives of the Department for Infrastructure (Roads), who had joined the meeting virtually. Mr McKinley drew attention to the previously circulated report and invited Members to email committees@midulstercouncil.org should there be any local issues not covered in the recent district electoral area meetings. Mr McKinley highlighted issues outlined in the report.

Councillor M Quinn left the meeting at 7.26 pm returning at 7.27 pm

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan thanked Mr McKinley for the presentation and drew on the comments of working in partnership stating that this had been the case especially in recent months in endeavouring to progress the Cookstown bypass and conversations in relation to the proposed Dungannon bypass. He also expressed appreciation for the increased communications between section engineers and local Members with regard to works in the area stating that it was key in progressing community awareness of forthcoming projects.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan invited Members questions.

Councillor Cuthbertson expressed appreciation for the report and recent investment in Dungannon and looked forward to the completion of Killyman Road. He stated that whilst he understood the priorities of 'A' class roads many housing estates had not seen investment in maybe 25 years and suggested that perhaps if one or two could be looked at each year it might help to tackle the backlog.

Councillor Colvin concurred that the relationship with DfI Roads had been good and asked if a bypass for Moneymore was on the radar as with Magherafelt in place, Cookstown in planning all traffic would grind to a halt in Moneymore.

Councillor Kerr thanked Mr McKinley for the report and drew attention to *Report Page 30* and welcomed the planned works for Coalisland Road scheduled for 2021 stating that every elected representative has been bombarded with calls due to the high volume of traffic. He sought clarification regarding the time scale of the works and requested that elected representatives were made aware in good time.

Mr McKinley in relation to housing estates advised they were fully aware of the situation but unfortunately with limited budget they don't rate as priority. He stated that they did endeavour to do a few each year but it was difficult. Mr Hackett advised that there had been some work in estates in Fivemiletown, Ballygawley and Coalisland and whilst it would have been desirable to have improved more the target in the current year was improving rural roads.

In response to queries regarding the Coalisland Road Mr Hackett stated he could give the commitment that it would be completed before the end of the financial year.

Councillor Monteith requested that Dungannon DEA Members also be notified in relation to works on Coalisland Road and suggested if possible if works adjacent to Edendork Primary School could be undertaken at the same time and indicated although it may not be possible it would be the preferred option.

Councillor Monteith raised drew attention to *Report page 61 parking enforcement*: the rationale for one hour stay had been to ensure steady turnover of traffic however due to current situation town centres have experienced a catastrophic drop in footfall. He stated that leeway on parking was required highlighting an instance where someone parked on a side street had received a parking fine. He emphasised that town traders are 'on their knees' and stated that enforcing parking at this stage was not practicable for trading.

Councillor Monteith further highlighted *Report page 63 new housing estate footpaths*: he congratulated DfI Roads on the introduction of wider footpaths at new housing estates and stated that assuming it was the new policy it would be the norm moving forward. He also referred to the issue of un-adopted footpaths and roads in housing estates, some ongoing 3 months, 10 years, 20 years and beyond stating that the term un-adopted was no recompense for residents and examples such as Mullaghconnor, Killymaddy Hill and asked if Council and DfI could work to resolve as people were paying rates and it was not unreasonable to expect street lighting and footpaths to be repaired.

Councillor Monteith concluded stating that whilst there was improved working relationship between Council and DfI Roads this was not evident in dealing with issues with the public realm scheme in Dungannon. He stated that the footpaths and roads were in urgent repair and the situation was unacceptable and whilst he would not apportion blame both Council and DfI Roads needed to come together to resolve the issues. Councillor Monteith suggested that a meeting be organised to endeavour to resolve issues as Traders are 'getting it in the ear' about the issues.

Councillor Doris welcomed forthcoming works on Coalisland Road and thanked DfI Roads for input into the public realm scheme in Coalisland stating that the scheme had introduced big differences for people with disabilities and the local community had bought into it. In relation to un-adopted estates she highlighted Newtownkelly and Sandy Row continued to be a problem. Councillor Doris thanked Councillor O'Neill for bringing the motion to council in relation to the 20mph speed limit outside primary schools and stated whilst DfI Roads had a recent introduction of same, many schools were not included highlighting Coalisland Primary School, which Sinn Féin had lobbied for a 20mph speed limit. The Councillor asked if DfI had any plans to introduce this in more areas especially on rural roads where national speed limits apply.

Councillor Gildernew drew attention to the road way to Eglisli filling station and stated whilst DfI Roads did not deem it high priority it was an accident waiting to happen as HGV lorries used the route regularly and children were walking on a sloped edge to access shops. Councillor Gildernew sought clarity on a date for works to improve footpath access.

In response to aforementioned questions Mr McKinley advised that Moneymore sits on the A29 route and he could not say where it was placed in the Regional Strategic Transportation Network plan but said in comparison a bypass around for example Newry would receive greater priority.

Mr McKinley advised that parking enforcement had also been raised in meetings with Derry City & Strabane District Council and he would put the comments to headquarters but said that the fear would be on where you draw the line on such matters.

In relation to concerns with regard to repair of the public realm scheme in Dungannon, Mr McKinley concurred that a meeting would be required to resolve issues.

Resolved A meeting to be progressed between Council and DfI Roads to progress the repair of footpaths and roadways at Dungannon Public Realm Scheme

Mr McKinley referred to Councillor Gildernew's queries regarding footpath requirements at Eglisli filling station and stated it had priority but due to required land acquisition and associated costs progress was delayed, he stressed that DfI Roads would like to deliver and if funding permitted would do so.

Councillor M Quinn drew attention to *Report page 46 realignment of Mountjoy Road*, he commented that it was talked about year on year but asked was there any plans for actual delivery.

Councillor Milne spoke of drains being cleaned but then not looked at for maybe another year which was causing flooding issues.

Councillor Burton thanked Mr McKinley for the report and welcomed the whole initiative around 20mph safer routes programme particularly in Aughnacloy and also welcomed the CCTV work in the park and ride at Ballygawley. Councillor Burton highlighted lack of resurfacing at Granville and also in relation to un-adopted streets highlighted that a 90 year old residing in Woodview Terrace was unable to leave the house due to flooding and advised that the houses were between 50-70 years old and the street had never been adopted. In relation to the request for the pathway at Eglisli Councillor Burton highlighted that the Council had met with DfI Roads and referred to earlier conversations about partnership working, she stressed there was concern in the local area on the dangers and stated that something needed to be done before someone was killed stating it was especially in instances when two lorries meet on the road.

Councillor Molloy referred to un-adopted roads in housing developments some up to 25 years old and also the ongoing problems of utilities digging up the roads. He stated that many required attention in particular the Ballynakelly Road to Tamnamore roundabout. He said there were a number of dangerous corners and there had been accidents and the road required urgent attention.

Councillor Kearney acknowledged works at St Mary's Primary School and St Comgalls and welcomed the extended footpaths stating that the schools had benefitted from the successful project.

Councillor Cuddy highlighted the A29 detailed on the regional plan and stated that Council had met with the department over a year ago with regard to bypasses and most were not even on the radar. He stated that the A29 links Mid Ulster and thus it needs to be a priority he advised he was disillusioned as regionally Dungannon did not even appear to be on the radar.

Mr McKinley responded to the matter of Mountjoy Road stating whilst he would like to give an assurance required works would be completed in the current year sometimes things can happen that intended works are not completed as resources have to be applied elsewhere.

With regard to drains and gullies being cleaned out Mr McKinley stated there was a backlog and DfI were trying to work their way through them. Mr Bratton advised that resources only allowed for one clean per year and whilst it was not sufficient if there was particularly bad ones they would endeavour to organise a responsive clean and emphasised if something wasn't working to make DfI Roads aware.

In relation to un-adopted streets Mr McKinley offered the opportunity of training in relation to private street adoptions. He advised that adopting goes back to funding and that whilst everyone is aware of the need it is difficult but that they would endeavour to fund a few per annum.

Resolved That Council afford of the opportunity regarding Training on Private Street Adoptions by DfI Roads for Members

In response to comments in relation to bypasses, in particular Dungannon and Cookstown Mr McKinley advised that at present the focus was on getting Dungannon named on the route and Cookstown to contract stage at which time delivery is assured. He stressed the priority was Cookstown then Dungannon.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan thanked the DfI Roads officials for their honesty and whilst it sometimes wasn't what Council wanted to hear it was the fact. He also expressed thanks for the recent DEA meetings which had proved particularly useful.

Representatives from DfI Roads left the meeting at 8.05pm

C194/20 Chair's Business

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan reflected on the new restrictions with regard to COVID 19 and expressed hope that they would work and improvements would soon be seen. He spoke of the difficult time traders were facing and how support mechanisms in place would keep some ticking over whilst other businesses may not survive. The Chair, spoke of the cases and deaths closer to home and encouraged Members to rise to the challenge again of doing their bit to support the community. He acknowledged the infection was in the organisation and expressed best wishes for a speedy recovery to all. The Chair highlighted the importance of providing

people where possible the opportunity to work from home. He said that people must go back to basics in ‘hands, face and space” and concluded in thanking those Members who had connected virtually stating that at this time Members must show leadership.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan commended Mr JJ Tohill, Director of Finance who after ten years hard work and determination had been successful in the courts with the VAT claim.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan expressed disappointment that the official opening of Dark Skies had to be postponed due to the current restrictions and stated that it was his hope they could progress the event in the soon, as there was a demand for people to view the project.

Councillor Oneill referred to the health and safety of users of Clonoe Community Centre due to the lack of a footpath to the centre. He requested that an urgent meeting be organised with Centre and all the elected representatives on much needed footpath outside.

Proposed by Councillor Oneill
Seconded by Councillor Doris and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that an urgent meeting be organised with Council representatives, Roads Service, Planners, Clonoe Community Centre and all the elected representatives on much needed footpath outside Clonoe Community Centre.

Councillor Kerr spoke of the recent death of Johnny Curran whose funeral had taken place earlier in the day. He reflected on his talent as a goalkeeper for both club and county and his proudest moment in 2010 winning an all-Ireland medal, followed by a senior title in 2012. He further spoke of his talent in soccer where he had also played with Coalisland Athletic and Dungannon Swifts. Councillor Kerr highlighted how the hard working young man had both set up and run a flourishing barbers business in Dungannon where he had been popular with all. He sent sincerest sympathies to Johnny’s partner Clodagh and his two young sons. Councillor Kerr thanked the Chair for permitting him to express condolences.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan concurred with the sympathies expressed.

Councillor Doris stated there were no words to express the heartbreak of the family and the community of Coalisland. She also expressed sympathy to the family of Noreen Hagan who had died in a house fire and highlighted that it is so difficult in current times when those that grieved could not be hugged. Councillor Doris concluded that tomorrow is never promised.

Councillor Quinn echoed Councillor Kerr’s comments and stated that he had gone to school with Johnny and spoke of the pain in the local community. He also expressed condolences to the family of Noreen who had died as a result of a house fire in Derrytresk.

Councillor Monteith concurred with Councillor Kerr's comments and spoke of the tremendous human being Johnny had been how he had established a successful business showcasing that town centre businesses do work. He said the town traders were heartbroken and that Johnny was a magnificent example of what hard work could achieve. He sent his condolences to Johnny's partner Clodagh and his sons.

Matters for Decision

C195/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" at the Council Meeting held on Thursday 24 September 2020

Proposed by Councillor Black
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That minute be amended at page 12 to record "*Cllr M Graham and Cllr K Black returned to the meeting*"

Councillor Kerr drew attention to *C175/20 Receive and consider minutes of matters transacted in "Open Business" Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 8 September 2020* and stated that at the September meeting of Council he had requested the policy in relation to bus shelter maintenance but to date had not received an update.

In response the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan said the policy would be forwarded within one week.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to *C171/20 Deputation – Northern Ireland Housing Executive NIHE* and stated that it was one month on from the deputation and to date Members had not received a response to questions raised which is not only disappointing but highlights that the procedure is a token gesture.

In response the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that Council would write to NIHE expressing concern and seeking feedback.

Resolved That Council to write to NIHE expressing concern regarding the time line of receiving responses to issues raised at and following the Council meeting dated 24 September 2020

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Council held on Thursday 24 September 2020 (C168/20 – C181/20 and C190/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C196/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in Open Business” at the Development Committee (Special) held on Thursday 1 October 2020

Proposed by Councillor Doris
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved *Amendment to minute: D143/10 Lough Neagh Partnership School Land’s Project Located in Derrylaughan page 3, fourth paragraph to read “within the local community with those legally extracting....”*

Councillor S McPeake drew attention to item *D144/20 North West Mountain Rescue* and advised that he had been contacted by the Mid Ulster Community Rescue Service who are based in Portglenone and would like to be included in any future discussions regarding a base for services.

Proposed by Councillor S McPeake
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That Council include Community Rescue Services based in Portglenone in conversations regarding a base for services.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

Resolved That the Minutes of the Development Committee (Special) held on Thursday 1 October 2020 (D139/20 – D146/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C197/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Planning Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 6 October 2020

Councillor Kerr drew attention to P091/20 Chair’s Business and expressed acute disappointment of the demolition of the O’Rahilly House in Dublin and proposed that Council write to Dublin City Council to express its disappointment and support the call for its reconstruction. Councillor Monteith concurred stating it was a disgrace and that council should support it given the local links to O’Rahilly.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Monteith and

Resolved That Council write to Dublin City Council and express its disappointment at the demolition of The O’Rahilly House and support the call for its reconstruction

In response to Councillor Cuthbertson’s query regarding the forthcoming planning committee the Chair, Councillor Mallaghan advised Members would receive a briefing.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
Seconded by Councillor Quinn and

Resolved That the Minutes of Planning Committee held on Tuesday 6 October 2020 (P089/20 – P093/20 and P098/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C198/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Policy and Resources Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 8 October 2020

Proposed by Councillor Gildernew
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the minutes of Policy and Resources Committee held on Thursday 8 October 2020 (PR149/20 – PR162/20 and PR176/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C199/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Environment Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Tuesday 13 October 2020

Councillor Graham drew attention to *E211/20 Dual Language Signage Requests* and to the question she had posed at the meeting that is, “*Council is tasked with the responsibility to erect dual language signs or second nameplates, adjacent to the nameplate in English*”. *The Councillor asked why this is not done and stated that she felt if it was done there would be less vandalism of signage.*” Councillor Graham reflected that Councillor McNamee had said the signs were in line with policy but the policy stated ‘adjacent to.’ Councillor Graham stated that if the Council wanted to show respect to everyone it could start with this issue. In conclusion, Councillor Graham referred to a letter submitted which the committee had then been advised by a Member it had been submitted in error by another Member. Councillor Graham asked how a letter could be sent in and signed in such a manner and stated it was an abuse of the policy and proposed that the policy be reviewed and stated that building control should check the validity of requests before money is wasted.

Councillor McNamee stated that Councillor Graham may not be familiar with the signs which had been agreed by Council and the procedure associated with same.

Councillor McNamee proposed to continue with the policy as it stands.

Councillor Kerr stated he was the Member who had submitted the letter of request as he was aware he was permitted to do so on the behalf of a constituent and concluded saying he had provided an administrative service to the constituent.

Councillor Glasgow stated he had asked the same question and said 19 letters had been sent out and not even the resident who had submitted the request had replied

back and then at committee another Member had advised that the dual language sign was already in place.

Councillor Glasgow seconded Councillor Graham's proposal.

Councillor Colvin reflected on the comment that '*Councillor Graham was not aware of the policy*' and stated that she was fully aware and like himself understood the word adjacent to mean "beside" and this was not the case with these signs.

Councillor McLean stated that Sinn Féin was using the policy as a coat trailing exercise and stated "*as a dog pees to mark out its territory so the policy was being used by Sinn Féin to mark out their area.*" He stated there appeared to be skulduggery and concurred with the vice chair.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated that whilst he held the position of Chair all would have an opportunity to speak but the comments of the previous speaker was a continuation of the disrespect shown to nationalist people and stated he would give the Councillor the opportunity to withdraw the comments.

Councillor McLean stated he had not said that Sinn Féin were dogs but had drew a comparison on the behaviour. He stated as a Council parties functioned well together but there was a lack of respect in this area. He said Sinn Féin were taking the moral high ground but in his opinion they had failed as they had the opportunity to show the unionist people respect but didn't.

Councillor Monteith stated as a point of clarity it had been said there was no damage to signs in the legacy council of Dungannon but this was not the case, although not much, there was some on Irish and Ulster Scots signs. He stated there was a section of the community who abhor the Irish culture and language and some people could not see passed their hatred of the language. Councillor Monteith stated that the policy had been revisited, it was a service provided by Council and Members should work their way through the situation and '*not throw the baby out the bathwater*'. He further said that Council should promote the service as it promotes grants and stated there was much grandstanding taking place but he would support the proposal to maintain the policy.

Councillor Quinn expressed despair that this issue was being debated again because a unionist councillor had received press coverage they were all jumping on the bandwagon. He said the Irish language is no threat to anyone and reflected that Members had sat through workshops and tweaked what had become a popular policy and certainly the signs erected in Torrent was not nationalists marking out territory. He concluded the situation was sad and that the SDLP supported the continuation of the policy highlighting that people wanted it and on occasions when they didn't they had the opportunity to say so.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he did not think the policy had been reviewed as it was only the font that changed and claimed it was being used to mark out territory. He said that a Roman Catholic lady had rang him and said she was too frightened to say that she didn't want an Irish language sign on the Ballygawley Road. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the policy needed to be reviewed, he stated there is no

budget as costs were split between departments and even upon request Members had never been provided with accurate figures.

Councillor Cuddy reflected on previous remarks and stated he had nothing against the Irish Language and had never said no to including it on street signs but that English is the main language spoken in the district and did people really think that Irish would be spoken all the time. He continued that a balance needs to be struck and that although in the legacy council of Dungannon some signs had been damaged the majority were not he was emphatic that Members needed to get together and make a way forward. Councillor Cuddy stated that no one was saying they hated Irish as it was seen some had a passion for the language but in the same token many had a passion for English that is spoken daily. Councillor Cuddy stated that Members needed to see sense and reach agreement and stated that at present territory was being marked and reflected that many people in Castlecaulfield hadn't wanted an Irish language sign and this system was not demonstrating equality.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan stated he would permit Councillor McLean and Graham to speak again.

Councillor McLean stated that for clarity he was not grandstanding as he was too old for that carry on and that he wished to put on record he did not agree with signage being damaged and condemned same.

Councillor Graham said if she was wrong about the facts of damage to signs in Dungannon she apologised but asked that the Councillor withdraw their statement that she was motivated by hate.

Councillor Monteith clarified that he had not said any Councillor was motivated by hate but those who attack the signs were motivated by hate.

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan called for a vote on the undernoted proposal.

Proposed by Councillor Graham
Seconded by Councillor Glasgow

That Council review the Dual Language Signage Policy

For	14
Against	23

The Chair, Councillor Mallaghan declared that the proposal had fallen.

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

Resolved That the Minutes of Environment Committee held on Tuesday 13 October 2020 (E192/20 – E216/20 and E231/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C200/20 Receive and Consider Minutes of matters transacted in “Open Business” Development Committee Minutes of Meeting held on Thursday 15 October 2020

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to *D152/10 Decade of Anniversaries – Commemorations 2021/22* and sought clarity as to why the community input had not been included in the report presented to Members. He also asked who made the decision on the information which was presented and asked why suggestions from the community had not been brought to the committee for consideration.

Councillor Cuthbertson drew attention to *D156/20 Tamnamore Close Play Park Lease Agreement* and stated this had been overdue he referred to a conversation he had with the Head of Parks regarding an area of ground behind the bus shelter which could have made provision for car-parking at the play area and stated that given the length of time it takes to process leases it would have been better to have incorporated the piece of ground in the initial lease.

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Molloy and

Resolved That the Minutes of Development Committee held on Thursday 15 Development 2020 (D147/20/20 – D161/20 and D167/20) transacted in Open Business having been printed and circulated, were considered and adopted.

C20120 Conferences, Seminars and Training

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.

Conferences

Conference	Date	Location	Cost	Attendance Request
Agenda NI: NI Economic Conference	<i>Thursday 3 December 2020</i>	On line	£95 + VAT	

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan
Seconded by Councillor Corry and

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

C202/20 Requests for Civic Recognition

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 at appendix A.

Councillor M Quinn welcomed the recognition for both Bardic Theatre and Kim Gildernew but stated that he felt Sean O'Neill (Craic Theatre), Jamie Lee Meneely (Bardic Theatre), Roisin Corr and Craic Theatre be upgraded to Civic Reception status also as they represented the country in the awards being nominated to the top three of the All Ireland competition.

The Head of Democratic Services stated that the aforementioned had been categorised to receive a letter but could be upgraded to civic reception status if the Council wished to do so.

Proposed by Councillor Quinn
Seconded by Councillor Kearney and

Resolved That Sean O'Neill (Craic Theatre), Jamie Lee Meneely (Bardic Theatre), Roisin Corr and Craic Theatre be upgraded to Civic Reception status

Proposed by Councillor Kerr
Seconded by Councillor Cuddy and

Resolved That approval be given to submitted requests for civic recognition as outlined in the report and be dealt with as previously resolved by April Council in that recipients receive a letter together with an award, where appropriate.

Matters for Information

C203/20 Correspondence

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

Councillor Colvin drew attention to letter from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council in relation to dog fouling which seemed to be an insurmountable issue and requested that officers act on this.

Declaration of Interest

Councillors Monteith and S McGuigan declared an interest in the undernoted consultations as representatives of School Board of Governors.

C204/20 Consultations Notified to Mid Ulster District Council

Members considered the previously circulated report.

Councillor Monteith drew attention to Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice; and Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations and stated that in the current year there had been insufficient places and made reference to the length of time it takes to progress a statement and the fact that schools were only permitted to put forward a certain amount of children to be statemented. He requested that Council make a response to the consultation.

Councillor S McGuigan concurred stating it was vital that the corporate body made a strong response which should come to committee or party leaders to finalise.

Councillor S McGuigan drew attention to Department of Health Consultation on Cross-Departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan and requested that Council make a response.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor S McGuigan and

Resolved That Council make a response to undernoted consultations:

- (i) Department of Health Consultation on Cross-Departmental Covid-19 Vulnerable Children and Young People's Plan *(as the closing date is 13 November Delegated Authority to be granted to Development Committee)*
- (ii) Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice;
- (iii) Department of Education - Consultation on Special Educational Needs (SEN) Regulations

C205/20 COVID and Service Delivery

Members noted the COVID and Service Delivery report.

Councillor Monteith commended officers on the good communication issued in relation to COVID and service delivery. Councillor Monteith spoke of a news article on the evening news in relation to care workers and the level of absenteeism due to the virus and whilst there was help in the first wave of the virus this was not forthcoming now. He drew attention to the fact that Translink had withdrew some services which were not linked to schools but had been used regularly by care workers who were travelling maybe 10-12 miles to work thus making a taxi too expensive. Councillor Monteith requested that Council contact Translink as soon as possible to express concern.

Councillor Monteith highlighted the work of staff with town centre traders and stated that many traders were beyond crisis point which was echoed by Derry City and Strabane District Council Town Centre Manager calling for a total close down on the evening news as footfall was diminished in the town. Councillor Monteith stated that whilst Council did not have all the answers the support to traders should continue and their issues fed through to decision makers regarding financial help.

Councillor Cuthbertson advised that he had been speaking to a trader in recent days who had said the town was 'dead' with no one in the shops. He stated when hospitality trade close with no financial help many of the businesses may not survive.

Proposed by Councillor Monteith
Seconded by Councillor Kerr and

Resolved That

- (i) make contact with Translink with regard to withdrawal of bus services following recent COVID restrictions which has resulted in key workers for example those employed in care homes unable to access use public transport to travel to and from work;
- (ii) Staff continue to endeavour to support traders through current difficulties.

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.

The live broad cast concluded at 9.00 pm

Proposed by Councillor Molloy
Seconded by Councillor B McGuigan and

Resolved That items C206/20 – C216/20 be taken as confidential business.

Matters for Decision

- (i) Council Confidential minutes of meeting held on 24 September 2020
- (ii) Planning Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 6 October 2020
- (iii) Policy and Resources Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 8 October 2020
- (iv) Environment Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 13 October 2020
- (v) Development Committee Confidential minutes of meeting held on 15 October 2020
- (vi) Confirmation of Banking Services Mandate
- (vii) Document for Sealing: Village Extension Programme - Roundlake, Fivemiletown, - Bell Contracts & Co Ltd
- (viii) Document for Sealing: Village Extension Programme - Maghera Leisure Centre - E Quinn Civils
- (ix) Document for Sealing: Rural Development Programme - Davagh, Washingbay & Portglenone - E Quinn Civils

Matters for Information

- (x) COVID Regulations - Regulatory Controls

C217/20 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 9.25pm

Chair _____

Date _____

Annex A - Introductory Remarks from Chairperson

Good evening and welcome to our meeting of Mid Ulster District Council in the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown whether you have joined us remotely or in the auditorium.

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 please raise your hand in the normal way and keep raised until advised to lower it
- 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.