

Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council held on Monday 8 July 2024 in Council Offices, Burn Road, Cookstown

Members Present	Councillor McAleer, Chair Councillors J Buchanan, J Burton, Cahoon, Cuthbertson, Kelly, Groogan, McGuigan, McNamee, Milne, Robinson
Officers in Attendance	Mrs Campbell, Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) Mr Conlon, Head of Technical Services (HoTS) Mr McAdoo, Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) Mr Scullion, Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) Miss Thompson, Committee and Member Services Officer

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 by referring to Annex A to this minute.

E145/24 Notice of Recording

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

E146/24 Apologies

Councillors Johnston, Martin and Varsani.

E147/24 Declarations of Interest

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

E148/24 Chair's Business

Councillor McNamee stated that as Chair of the Regional Minority Language Working Group it has been raised a number of times about the need to have language recognition when it comes to the festive season, in line with Council policy to promote the Irish language. The Councillor stated that the only place where he is aware there are Christmas greetings in Irish is in Dungannon town and this is from the legacy Council. Councillor McNamee referred to possibility of laser projections with Christmas greetings in Irish on to civic buildings such as the Burnavon similar to when

the sports awards were taking place. Councillor McNamee proposed that officers investigate potential options and bring report back to Committee.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the lighting up of civic buildings falls under a different committee and that in relation to festive lighting there is an item on the agenda tonight to which the budget and tender has already been set.

Councillor J Burton stated that this matter was raised at a DEA meeting last week and that he had voiced concerns about festive lighting becoming political at a time when everyone in the community is being encouraged to support their local towns. The Councillor felt that the proposal outlined by Councillor McNamee would be the wrong avenue to go down.

Councillor McNamee stated that Council has an Irish Language Policy which permits the promotion of the Irish language and that the language is not political and is there to be used by everyone and highlighted that it is used by members of the Unionist community. The Councillor stated that he had made a proposal which was separate to the item to be considered later on and that he had asked officers to come back with potential options and that there is no cost attached at this stage.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) advised that a report would be brought back to the relevant committee.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council that a report detailing lighting options for Christmas greetings in Irish be brought back to the relevant Committee.

Matters for Decision

E149/24 Waste Management Plan Addendum

The Assistant Director of Environmental Services (AD: ES) presented previously circulated report which sought approval for an addendum to the existing Waste Management Plan.

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Milne and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to approve the Waste Management Plan addendum as set out at appendix to report.

E150/24 Bus Shelters Update

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

Proposed by Councillor Milne
Seconded by Councillor McNamee and

- Resolved** That it be recommended to Council that bus shelter applications listed under 3.7 of report be approved to installation this month: 2NR
- 3.7.1 – Millview Manor, Coalisland Road.
 - 3.7.2 – McErleans Villas, Ballynease Road, Bellaghy.

E151/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Tullyvar Road, Aughnacloy, 40 mph Speed Limit

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce a 40mph speed limit at Tullyvar Road, Aughnacloy.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
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 40mph speed limit at Tullyvar Road, Aughnacloy.

E152/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – Disabled Persons Parking Bay at O’Neill Park, Ballyronan

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to introduce a Disabled Persons Parking Bay at O’Neill Park, Ballyronan.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
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 O’Neill Park, Ballyronan.

E153/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – No waiting at any time restriction at Crossowen Road, Augher

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to a No waiting at any time restriction at Crossowen Road, Augher.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
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 No waiting at any time restriction at Crossowen Road, Augher.

E154/24 Dfl Roads Proposal to Mid Ulster District Council – No waiting at any time restriction at Annaghilla Road, Augher

Members considered previously circulated report which sought agreement in relation to proposal from Dfl Roads to a No waiting at any time restriction at Annaghilla Road, Augher.

Proposed by Councillor Cuthbertson
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 No waiting at any time restriction at Annaghilla Road, Augher.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that for a number of years Dfl Roads came to Committee in June to present their programme of works for the following year but that since Covid this has slipped back to September/October. The Councillor highlighted concerns that the budget starts on 1 April and that the programme of works is presented in September and that that there is always a rush in February/March to get work done before the end of the financial year. Councillor Cuthbertson asked that contact be made with Dfl to get a firm commitment from them that they will present their report in September.

The Strategic Director of Environment agreed to follow up on this.

E155/24 Street Naming and Property Numbering

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the naming of new streets within residential Housing Developments within Mid Ulster District Council.

Site off Gortgammon Road, Tullyhogue, Cookstown

Proposed by Councillor Groogan
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Gortgammon Road, Tullyhogue, Cookstown as Birchwood Grove.

Site off Glen Road, Maghera

Proposed by Councillor Groogan
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Glen Road, Maghera as Glen Green.

Site off Drumard Road, Draperstown

Councillor Groogan proposed that this item be brought back to a future Committee to allow time for other names to be considered as she did not feel either name proposed ties in with the local area and that something historical would be better.

Councillor McGuigan seconded Councillor Groogan's proposal as he felt there had been no consultation in relation to the naming of the development. The Councillor stated this is a problem he had raised before regarding developers not tying in with people in the area in terms of naming and that in this case he had contacted the developer at the outset in relation to working with them regarding the naming of the development but that no response came back from them. Councillor McGuigan agreed that there is a possibility of a more historical name within the area of the development and the proposal will allow time to consider this further.

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to go back to the developer for alternative options on the naming of the development off Drumard Road, Draperstown.

Site off Church Way, Swatragh

Proposed by Councillor Groogan
Seconded by Councillor McGuigan and

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to name development off Church Way, Swatragh as Church Drive.

E156/24 Postage Costs associated with issuing Dual Language Signage Surveys

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) presented previously circulated report which considered the additional costs associated with dual language surveys issued via recorded delivery in lieu of current method of standard delivery.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated he had not been at the Environment Committee last month when this matter was raised but that he had considered the matter and read the report before Members tonight. Councillor Cuthbertson referred to the average 27 envelopes per street and proposed that if a survey is to be undertaken in an urban area that these surveys be hand delivered similar to when leaflet drops are undertaken by refuse staff or environmental health staff and that the recorded delivery option only be used on rural roads and that to do this would not increase costs that much. The Councillor stated that his party from day one has raised concern in relation to costs and that the true cost of dual language signage is not known despite asking numerous times over the years what the budget is. Councillor Cuthbertson stated that he would ask again tonight what the budget is for dual language signage as it is difficult to judge if something is too expensive if you don't know what the budget is. Councillor Cuthbertson stated there has been a clear example of people living on a road who did not receive correspondence from Council in relation to changing the name signs under dual language signage.

Councillor McNamee proposed option 1 in the report – To continue delivering dual language survey forms via standard second-class delivery as per current method based on the current cost of £0.85/envelope.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer seconded Councillor McNamee's proposal.

Councillor Cuthbertson clarified that his proposal is to deliver dual language surveys by recorded delivery on rural roads and that if there is an urban development that these surveys could be hand delivered. Councillor Cuthbertson stated he also wanted to know what the budget is for dual language signage as everything else is costed when it comes to setting the rates apart from dual language signage.

Councillor Robinson seconded Councillor Cuthbertson's proposal and expressed thanks to the Assistant Director of Property Services for coming back with the relevant information quickly since the matter was raised at the last meeting. The Councillor stated that the request came on the back of him being contacted by a number of families on a road who advised that they did not receive a survey and that he felt if there is anything Council can do to make the process more robust then it should consider it. Councillor Robinson felt that the recorded delivery option will be of benefit to everyone and questioned what price should be put on having a secure method of delivery. The Councillor stated that if the families on this particular road had received the survey then Council could probably have saved itself at least £1000 by not having to replace signs.

Councillor Groogan stated that it was her understanding that the recorded delivery option was to keep track and have record of delivery of surveys and that she felt the hand delivery option defeated the purpose of this.

The Chair, Councillor McAleer stated there were two proposals and asked Members to vote on Councillor McNamee's proposal to continue delivering dual language survey forms via standard second-class delivery as per current method.

For – 6

Against – 5

Resolved That it be recommended to Council to continue delivering dual language survey forms via standard second-class delivery as per current method based on the current cost of £0.85/envelope.

The Strategic Director of Environment (SD: Env) stated that in relation to the budget a report was previously brought before Members which detailed what is being spent this year on signage and approval was obtained from the Committee to proceed with that. The SD: Env clarified that there is no specific budget for street signage and that the monies for such comes from the Property Services maintenance budget and that dual language is not allocated separately. The SD: Env stated that Members are made aware of the cost of signage as reports are brought to Members attention and approval is sought before proceeding.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the report the SD: Env was referring to related to additional dual language signage for Council properties and was not related to dual

language signage for roads/streets. The Councillor stated that Members are being advised the money for dual language signage is coming from the Property Services maintenance budget and questioned when does this maintenance budget run out and if something needs repairing within Council property does dual language signage have priority.

The SD: Env reassured Members that if something within the Council buildings requires maintenance then it is addressed in a timely manner.

Matters for Information

E157/24 Environment Committee minutes of meeting held on 11 June 2024

Members noted minutes of Environment Committee held on 11 June 2024.

Councillor J Burton referred to festive lighting and that Dungannon Traders Association want to meet with officers in this regard.

E158/24 WISH NI Ambassador Award

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of Council's receipt of a WISHNI Ambassador Award for 2024/25.

E159/24 Big Spring Clean 2024

Members noted previously circulated report which provided update on the Big Spring Clean 2024 activities within Mid Ulster.

E160/24 Waste Management Licensing Technical Competence Update

Members noted previously circulated report which advised of changes to the management of technical competence under the Northern Ireland Waste Management Licensing and Permitting Regime.

E161/24 Sustainability, Biodiversity and Recycling Education Update

Members noted presented previously circulated report which provided update on Sustainability, Biodiversity and Recycling Education activities.

E162/24 Building Control Workload

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

E163/24 Entertainment Licensing Applications

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

E164/24 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.

E165/24 Introduction of Dilapidation Bill to Northern Ireland Assembly

Members noted previously circulated report which advised on the future introduction of a Dilapidation Bill to the Northern Ireland Assembly following consultation in 2016.

Councillor Cuthbertson stated that the Bill is to be welcomed as Members would all have knowledge of dilapidated buildings in their area and that this legislation could potentially give Council the authority to take action. The Councillor asked what authority Council would have if the Bill came into effect and what the cost would be to Council.

The Assistant Director of Property Services (AD: PS) stated that within the Building Control function Council has responsibilities under the dangerous structures legislation and that this is enforced at the cost of the property owner at present. The AD: PS stated that if this legislation is passed the potential impact is that there would be greater officer time in terms of enforcement and the costs associated with that but that there would also be cost to the property owner in terms of making any repairs.

Live broadcast ended at 7.31 pm.

Local Government (NI) Act 2014 - Confidential Business

Proposed by Councillor McNamee
Seconded by Councillor Groogan 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 E148/24 cont'd and E166/24 to E173/24.

Matters for Decision

- E148/24 Chair's Business cont'd
- E166/24 Contract for the Collection, Treatment and Recycling of Textiles
- E167/24 Flower Bed and Roundabout Sponsorship
- E168/24 Tender report for the appointment of Vehicle Suppliers
- E169/24 Festive Lighting Replacement Tender Report

Matters for Information

- E170/24 Environment Committee Confidential Minutes of meeting held on 11 June 2024
- E171/24 Capital Framework – ICT Contracts Update

E172/24 Capital Framework – IST Contracts Update
E173/24 Energy Management Update – Display Energy Certificates
(DEC's)

E174/24 Duration of Meeting

The meeting was called for 7.00 pm and ended at 7.48 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, [Cookstown/Dungannon/Magherafelt].

I specifically welcome the public watching us through the Live Broadcast. The Live Broadcast as aforesaid, will run for the period of our Open Business but will end just before we move into Confidential Business. I will let you know before this happens.

I would 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 agenda.