

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/C/

**Minutes of Council Meeting held on Monday 3 June 2024 at 6.00pm in
Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor P Byrne

In attendance in Chamber:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor C Bowsie
Councillor J Brennan	Councillor P Campbell
Councillor L Devlin	Councillor C Enright
Councillor K Feehan	Councillor D Finn
Councillor A Finnegan	Councillor M Gibbons
Councillor O Hanlon	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor T Howie
Councillor G Kearns	Councillor C King
Councillor M Larkin	Councillor D Lee-Surginor
Councillor A Lewis	Councillor A Mathers
Councillor D McAteer	Councillor L McEvoy
Councillor S O'Hare	Councillor K Murphy
Councillor S Murphy	Councillor A Quinn
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor G Sharvin
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor J Tinnelly
Councillor J Truesdale	Councillor H Young

Officials in attendance: Mrs M Ward, Chief Executive
Mr C Mallon, Director of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism
Mrs S Murphy, Director of Sustainability and Environment
Mr A Patterson, Director of Active and Healthy Communities
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Mrs D Starkey, Democratic Services Officer

C/100/2024 **APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Clarke, Galbraith, Howell, Jackson, Magennis, D Murphy, Rice and Ruane and Ms J Kelly, Director of Corporate Services.

The Chairperson advised that he wished to set the precedent going forward that Members should advise him of any items they wish to have raised by him under Chairpersons Remarks and he would reference those Councillors when doing so.

The Chairperson urged Members to engage and support the Care for Caolan fundraising effort to raise much needed funds for Caolan Finnegan to receive treatment.

C/101/2024 **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Chief Executive declared an interest in Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024 item AC/043/2024, Update on Kilbroney Pitches.

C/102/2024 **ACTION SHEET ARISING FROM COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024**

Read: Action sheet arising from Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Action Sheet from Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Lewis.**

C/103/2024 **COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 7 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 7 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Brennan.**

C/104/2024 **SPECIAL COUNCIL MINUTES FOR ADOPTION AND SIGNING OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2024**

Read: Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on 29 April 2024 (copy circulated).

SC/012/2024: NI Water

Councillor McAteer referred to Mr Larkin from NI Water undertaking to look at a boundary map regarding capacity issues and planning applications within the Newry area for Councillors information and enquired if this could be followed up.

Agreed: **It was agreed Democratic Services would follow on the supply of boundary map regarding capacity issues and planning applications within the Newry area with NI Water and circulate to Members.**

Agreed: **The Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held on 29 April 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Truesdale.**

COMMITTEE MINUTES FOR CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION

C/105/2024 **MINUTES OF ECONOMY, REGENERATION AND TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 13 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor Bowsie took the opportunity to highlight the 80th anniversary of D-Day and spoke of the Districts strong connections to the historic events. He asked if arrangements to the mark the anniversary could be shared publicly at the meeting.

Mrs Ward confirmed activities were taking place in the Newry and Mourne Museum and newspaper articles and social media posts were being actioned regarding material in the museum collection relating to D-Day. This included an exhibition mounting a temporary display of uniforms worn by local individuals involved e.g. Major Gerald who resided in Newry and James Quinn from Kilkeel with Education Outreach Officers also organising a lecture.

Councillor Reilly advised Chair and Vice-Chairs from other Councils throughout the UK were attending 80th anniversary events in Normandy and enquired if Council had received such notification.

Mrs Ward and Ms Taggart confirmed they were not aware of any such notification but would follow up on the matter.

Agreed: **The Minutes of Economy, Regeneration and Tourism Committee Meeting held on 13 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted on the proposal of Councillor S Murphy, seconded by Councillor Bowsie.**

C/106/2024 **MINUTES OF STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 16 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor McEvoy.**

C/107/2024 **MINUTES OF ACTIVE AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 20 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Active and Healthy Communities Committee Meeting held on 20 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Finnegan.**

C/108/2024 **MINUTES OF SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2024**

Read: Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: **The Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor K Murphy.**

C/109/2024

MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 23 MAY 2024

Read: Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Councillor Sharvin enquired if Council had received any further information on when the rest of the funds were to be released for the Enhanced Payments Scheme for flooding.

Mr Mallon advised he could provide an update to Members on the current position around the payments that had been received and processed through the enhanced scheme.

In reference to additional money, Mrs Ward said Officers did not yet have clarity as to how it would be allocated but that work continued with Department for the Economy and the priority presently was to allocate the enhanced payments to businesses. She appealed to businesses to get the information in and if there were any issues to make contact with Officers who would provide assistance to them.

The Chairperson asked that once there was clarity on the next date that it be circulated to all Members as soon as it became available.

Agreed: The Minutes of Audit Committee Meeting held on 23 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor Brennan, seconded by Councillor O'Hare.

C/110/2024

MINUTES OF SPECIAL STRATEGY POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 30 MAY 2024

Read: Minutes of Special Strategy Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 30 May 2024 (copy circulated).

Agreed: The Minutes of Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held on 16 May 2024 were agreed as an accurate record and adopted, on the proposal of Councillor McAteer, seconded by Councillor Lewis.

CONFERENCES / EVENTS

C/111/2024

SOMME ASSOCIATION

Read: Invite from Somme Association to attend services to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, France. (copy circulated)

Councillor Lewis proposed that given the Election had been called that only one Councillor attend the services to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme, France for 2024, with 3 Councillors to attend in 2025. Councillor Hanna seconded the proposal.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Lewis, seconded by Councillor Hanna that one Councillor would attend services to commemorate the 108th anniversary of the Battle of the Somme in France in 2024 with 3 Councillors to attend in 2025.

C/112/2024

APSE NI: 'ENVIRO NI' EVENT AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024

Read: Information leaflet regarding APSE NI Free Member Event 'Enviro NI' and Annual General Meeting on 6 June 2024.

Councillor Andrews encouraged as many Members as possible to attend the free event and APSE Annual General Meeting.

Mrs Ward advised that any Members attending the APSE event and AGM were to contact Democratic Services in order for a record could be taken.

Agreed: It was agreed that any Members attending the APSE NI 'Enviro NI' Event and Annual General Meeting on 6 June 2024 contact Democratic Services.

C/113/2024

CORRESPONDENCE REPORT

Read: Report dated 3 June 2024 from Mrs Ward, Chief Executive, regarding an update on correspondence received for the attention of Council.

Appendix 4: Correspondence from the Home Office in relation to C/080/2024 Notice of Motion, Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries and Seasonal Worker Visa Route.

Councillor Enright voiced concern at the Home Office suggesting that fishing in Northern Ireland was not a seasonal activity and having spoken with fishing representatives in Ardglass they made a very convincing case that fishing only occurred for a couple of months a year.

Councillor Enright proposed Council write back and challenge their response and that fisheries within this area were seasonal and that the salary threshold in the region of £32,000 per annum was unreasonable. Councillor McAteer seconded the proposal.

The Chairperson welcomed the proposal stating it was important that Council did not accept responses when they were insufficient and in that in this case Council did not agree with the Home Office's interpretation of the Seasonal Workers Visa.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor McAteer that Council write back to the Home Office and challenge the response received regarding Seasonal Workers Visa for the Fishing Industry.

Additional Item: Response from the Department for the Economy, C/088/2024 – Notice of Motion, Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's Ancient East

Mrs Ward informed Members that a response had been received from the Minister of the Economy confirming he would meet with Council to discuss the inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland's East, subject to any urgent Northern Ireland Assembly business.

Mrs Ward confirmed officers would follow up on that and Members would be advised in due course.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Sharvin, seconded by Councillor Devlin to note the correspondence report and appendices including the following:

Appendix 1: Correspondence from Derry and Strabane District Council in relation to a Notice of Motion, Autism Strategy.

Appendix 2: Correspondence from Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs in relation to SC/006/2024 following Special Council Meeting on 25 March 2024 in relation to NIEA Sharing Information Protocol.

Appendix 3: Correspondence from Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities in relation to C/078/2024 Notice of Motion, Irish Language Resource Centre Glór Uachtar Tire.

Appendix 4: Correspondence from the Home Office in relation to C/080/2024 Notice of Motion, Fisheries and Aquaculture Industries and Seasonal Worker Visa Route.

Appendix 5: Correspondence from Department of Finance in relation C/099/2024 Notice of Motion, Baby Loss.

Appendix 6: Correspondence from Department of Health in relation to C/099/2024 Notice of Motion, Baby Loss.

Appendix 7: Correspondence from the Department for Communities in relation to C/093/2024, Arts Sector Calls.

Additional Item: Correspondence from the Department for the Economy, C/088/2024 – Notice of Motion, Inclusion of Counties Armagh and Down in Ireland’s Ancient East

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.35m.

For confirmation at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 July 2024.

Signed:

Chairperson

Chief Executive