

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, and remotely, on Tuesday 29 November, 2022 at 6:04 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor S Carson

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, O Gawith and J Tinsley

Councillors R T Beckett, D J Craig, A Gowan, C McCready, U Mackin and A Swan

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Guy

Aldermen D Drysdale, A G Ewart MBE, A Grehan and S Martin

Councillors F Cole, A P Ewing, A Givan, M Gregg, J Lavery BEM, S Lee, S Lowry, J McCarthy, G McCleave, A McIntyre, S Mulholland, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer, S Skillen and Hon. N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Member Services Officer (CH)
Member Services Officer (EW)
IT Officer

Department for Infrastructure – Roads (Eastern Division)

Des McFarlane - Divisions Roads Manager (remote)
Graeme Salmon - Network Traffic and Lighting Manager (remote)
Joe Torney - Acting Section Engineer (remote)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, welcomed those present to the Special Meeting of Council. For the purpose of the livestream the Member Services Officer read out the names of those Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Order 8.5.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor asked that mobile phones be turned off or put on silent for the duration of the meeting. The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies (00:02:00)

Councillor A Ewing joined the meeting remotely at 6.05 pm.

Apologies for non-attendance at the special meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Aldermen J Baird and S P Porter, Councillors J Gallen and H Legge.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:03:06)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Deputations (00:03:06)

3.1 Department for Infrastructure, Roads (Eastern Division) – Autumn Report 2022 (00:04:08)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, extended a welcome to representatives of Department for Infrastructure, Roads (Eastern Division): Des McFarlane (Divisions Roads Manager), Graeme Salmon (Network Traffic and Lighting Manager) and Joe Torney (Acting Section Engineer) who were in attendance to present the Autumn Report 2022, copies of which had previously been circulated. A copy of responses to pre-submitted Members' questions had also been circulated.

Alderman A Grehan and Councillor J McCarthy joined the meeting remotely during this item of business (6.17 pm).

Mr McFarlane provided a comprehensive overview of the principal aspects of the 2022 Autumn Report.

Question and Answer Session

The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor S Carson thanked the departmental officials for their presentation and invited Members to submit questions. A summary of the information provided and queries answered by Mr McFarlane and his officials is set out below:

Councillor D J Craig

- In response to a query in regards to why resurfacing works at Milltown Avenue, Milltown Gardens and Milltown Park would not be carried out this financial year, Mr Torney advised that his understanding was that those works had been included in the Department's draft three-year resurfacing plan and not scheduled to be completed this year. He undertook to check the detail and provide an update to the Member.

Councillor U Mackin

Councillor S Lee joined the meeting remotely at 6.23 pm.

Councillor F Cole joined the meeting remotely at 6.26 pm.

- Regarding the standard of uncompleted work at Legacurry Road, the Department confirmed that quality checks were carried out on all completed works. Officials undertook to investigate as to why the works at Legacurry Road had not been completed and agreed to provide an update to the Member.

Councillor S Mulholland

- In respect of surface water flooding onto the A26 from the Crewe Road, officials confirmed that work had commenced and was anticipated to be completed in December, 2022.
- It was confirmed that the Department was aware of surface water issues at Old Road, Maghaberry, and had written to the land owners in the area with a number of options currently under consideration.
- In regards to the query in relation to Glen Road improvements, officials undertook to re-examine the site to see if a further road assessment could be undertaken.
- It was noted that traffic calming measures at Aghalee would be completed as soon as possible, subject to the satisfactory completion of the legislative process.

Councillor A Givan

The Deputy Mayor Councillor M Guy left the meeting remotely at 6.40 pm and re-joined at 7.03 pm.

- The Department agreed that officials would keep traffic management at the new Health Centre, Hillsborough Road, under review.

Councillor A Gowan

- Regarding signage for Royal Hillsborough, it was advised that signage on the main trunk roads would be addressed initially by overlaying the existing text on the larger signs to reflect the text of Royal Hillsborough, with plans to replace the other signs as they reach the end of their serviceable lives. It was reported that planning in relation to the signage overlays had recently commenced and therefore no timeline for completion was currently available.
- It was confirmed that the Department was engaging with the Council on the Public Realm Environmental Improvement Scheme for Annahilt to provide pedestrian facilities and improvements around the location of the school.
- It was advised that a package of road marking and signage improvements had been proposed for Ballykeel within the current financial year.

Councillor A Gowan Cont'd

- Regarding the traffic speed assessment for Glebe Road, Mr Salmon acknowledged that this work was on the Department's programme of works and would be carried out when resources permitted.
- Mr Torney undertook to update the Member in regards to ongoing flooding issues on the Cluntagh Road.
- In respect of the Roads' Recovery Fund, it was indicated by Mr Torney that the Department hoped to continue with a number of schemes this year, subject to funding.

Councillor N Trimble

- The Department confirmed that it was aware of traffic issues at the main crossroads of Laganbank Road/Governor's Road. It was confirmed that options were currently under consideration.

Councillor M Gregg

- In regards to a query raised in relation to the Communications statistics outlined in the autumn report, Mr McFarlane undertook to provide further information to the Member.
- In response to a query in regards to flooding issues identified at two sites on the A20 Newtownards Road at Dunlady Rd and Carrowreagh Road Junctions, it was confirmed that work was currently ongoing to address the issues.
- Responding to a question on what the Departments top three traffic calming schemes were currently, officials undertook to find out this information and update the Member. It was reported that due to limited resources no traffic calming schemes had taken place in the present financial year.
- In respect of the opening of the spine road between Millmount Village and Coopers Mill, Mr Salmon agreed to clarify why the road remained unopened and update the Member.
- In relation to the request to move the Comber Road speed limit sign further down the road towards Billyneal Playing Fields, Mr Salmon indicated that there were no current plans at this time to move the signage.

Alderman A Ewart

- With regard to a query relating to road signage arrows at the Moira roundabout towards the airport, Mr Salmon acknowledged that the Station Road is extremely busy and reported that a feasibility study had been carried out and options are under consideration.

Councillor S Skillen

- In respect of further comments made regarding the delayed opening of the spine road between Millmount Village and Coopers Mill and the ongoing traffic issues in Dundonald, officials noted the points made by the Member.

Alderman J Dillon

- Regarding a query in relation to road conditions on Megarrystown Road close to the Ballyknock junction, Mr Torney undertook to investigate the issue and arrange to meet with the Member at the site.

Councillor S Lee

- It was confirmed that the speed limit at the junction of the Saintfield Road beside the Lets Go Hydro resort was currently under review.

Councillor Jenny Palmer

- In response to a question on access/egress within the grounds of Lagan Valley Hospital, Mr Salmon indicated that a survey had been completed on the existing pelican crossing, with the view to moving it to a more suitable location towards Warren Park, with options currently under consideration. He advised that in respect of larger schemes with signalisation, the onus would remain with the hospital to address the matter, as more than likely, additional road space would be required.
- It was confirmed that the speed limit along the Brookerstown Road was currently under review.
- In response to a query as to when double yellow lines would be painted at Warren Park, Mr Salmon confirmed that work was due to be completed by the Christmas period.
- With regard to a question on when work on a specific 200 metre section of the A3 Moira Rd would be rescheduled, Mr Torney agreed to update the Member.

Councillor C McCready

Councillor S Skillen left the meeting remotely at 7.25 pm.

- With regard to a question on when accident damage would be fixed to the parapet railing on the A1 Bridge at Hillsborough, officials indicated that they would investigate and provide an update.
- In relation to the query on the speed of traffic at the Tromery Crossroads, officials advised that signage had been placed at the junction and improved road markings had been completed. It was reported that the minor works section had completed a feasibility study, but no works were planned in the immediate future. Mr Salmon agreed to refer the issue to the PSNI for additional speed enforcement and would also refer the matter back to the minor works section outlining the Members concerns.

Councillor C McCreedy Cont'd

- It was confirmed that the bus stop at Trummery Crossroads would be scheduled for cleaning.
- It was confirmed that the broken light at the Moira welcome sign would be fixed. Mr McFarlane reminded Members that street lighting issues can be reported online.
- With regard to a question on resurfacing Lany Road, Mr Torney indicated that he would investigate and update the Member.
- In response to a question on timeframe for resurfacing works required in Rawdon Place, Moira, Mr Torney undertook to update the Member.
- In relation to a query in regards to a narrowed footpath at Maystown leading to Lizzy Drake's pub, officials agreed to investigate and schedule any required works.

Deputy Mayor Councillor M Guy

Councillor A McIntyre left the meeting remotely at 7.29 pm.

Councillor N Trimble left the meeting remotely at 7.30 pm.

Alderman J Dillon left the meeting at 7.32 pm.

- In relation to a question in regards to a Glider service being provided in Carryduff, officials undertook to update the Member.
- It was reported that additional signage for Forestside Shopping Centre had been ordered and was due to be erected at the Saintfield Road after Christmas.
- In regards to the timescale for works completion on the signal upgrade at Hillsborough Road, Mr Salmon indicated that works were due to be completed in the coming week and anticipated that the puffin crossing would be fully operational after Christmas.
- With regards to a question in relation to using other methods of communication (other than press releases) to residents, officials agreed to refer the query to their comms team/press office for consideration.

Councillor A Swan

- It was confirmed that the suggestion of a mechanical footpath cleaner would be referred to DfI operation maintenance team to scope out.
- In relation to a query on the street lighting policy, Mr McFarlane advised that the policy was required to be applied consistently. It was agreed that officials would chase up a previous correspondence which the Member had written to the DfI Minister outlining his concerns in relation to the existing lighting policy.
- It was reported that a feasibility study had been completed and works had been agreed for the improvement of the following three junctions, that being, Ballymacbrennan Crossroads, Crossan's Crossroads and Lisnastrean Crossroads, subject to available funding.

Councillor A Ewing

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 7.45 pm.

- In regards to a question in relation to the speed limit on the Causeway End Road, officials advised that it had recently been reduced to 30mph and signage had also been erected.

Alderman J Tinsley

Councillor A Swan left the meeting at 7.48 pm.

Councillor S Lowry left the meeting remotely at 7.54 pm.

- It was agreed that Mr Torney would convey the Council's appreciation to former Dfl employee John Rooney for his hard work and dedication to the Council area.
- Responding to a concern raised with utilities work, in particular that carried out by a named contractor, officials indicated that all utilities work would continue to be monitored and should gullies have been disturbed issues would be resolved.
- In relation to a question raised as to when required repairs to Ballymacward Road would take place, Mr Torney undertook to liaise with colleagues and provide an update to the Member.
- In relation to when the Causeway End Road would reopen, Mr Torney agreed to follow up with the developers and provide an update.
- Mr Salmon provided an update to the Maghaberry Crossing works advising that NIE power supply had been ordered and BT works were in progress.
- Mr McFarlane provided clarity on the detail provided in the autumn report on pothole repairs, advising that potholes greater than 50mm on low trafficked roads and greater than 20mm on high trafficked roads would be repaired.

Alderman O Gawith

Councillor A Ewing left the meeting remotely at 7.59 pm.

- With regard to a question raised in relation to a large pothole on Clarehill Road, Mr Torney undertook to investigate the status of the repair and update the Member.
- In relation to a question on maintenance of the Kilmore Road and M1 roundabout in Moira, Mr Torney confirmed that he will investigate the matter and update the Member accordingly.
- In regards to a question raised in relation to badly overgrown hedging and vegetation on the non-pavement side of the Clarehill Road, Mr Torney advised that he would be in contact with the Member to provide an update.
- In response to a request for double yellow lines at Moira Primary School, Mr Salmon advised that double yellow lines are relatively ineffective at Primary Schools and that they have no plans to place double yellow lines at either Moira or Rowandale Primary School.

Alderman O Gawith Cont'd

- In relation to a question on Dfls plan to mitigate daily tailbacks in Moira village, officials indicated that there are no immediate plans in place.
- In response to a request for lighting to the station on Moira Main Street, Mr McFarlane reported that in line with policy the request could not be brought forward.
- With regard to a request for a Zebra Crossing towards the top of Main Street in Moira, Mr Salmon indicated that he would review previous survey results and would be in touch to update the Member.
- In response to a request for the remodelling of the roundabout at Moira Main Street, Mr Torney advised that he would refer the request to the minor works scheme to scope further.

Councillor F Cole

- Responding to a request for further information on plans regarding Dfls 10% budget allocation within the Climate Act dedicated to active travel, officials reported that Dfl are the lead body in relation to the climate action plan in regards to transportation and agreed to seek guidance from headquarters and provide an update to the Member.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson

Councillors Jenny and John Palmer left the meeting remotely at 8.20 pm.

- Regarding a question in relation to what impact claims had on Division budgets, it was reported that Dfl had a central claims fund and individual Division budgets were not negatively impacted because of claims made.
- Responding to a question raised in regards to a subsided section of the verge at Ivy Hill, Mr Torney agreed to investigate and update the Member.
- In respect of a query raised on a blocked gully on the Belfast Rd, Lisburn from the roundabout at Wallace Park, Mr Torney advised that the matter would be investigated.
- Responding to comments made on the McKinstry/Cutts/Derriaghy road scheme, Mr Salmon reported that there was a sizable difference in this scheme and the scheme of works that had taken place at the roundabout at the bottom of the Stewardstown Road. An update was provided on the background work ongoing for the proposed McKinstry Road scheme.
- An update was provided on the works currently ongoing on Prince William Road. An explanation was provided on why the road was closed on a Saturday which was not advertised to residents until a few hours prior to the closure. Officials acknowledged that the signage should have been updated and advised that this had been raised with the contractor to ensure it did not happen again.
- In response to a question raised on the impact traffic was having to residents on James Craig Way, Mr McFarlane indicated that the road would be monitored on the completion of works and a yellow box would be implemented if deemed necessary.

At the conclusion of the question and answer session the Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor S Carson thanked the Dfl representatives for their contribution.

There being no other business for consideration the meeting concluded at 8.23 pm.

Mayor/Chairperson