

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on 29 May 2018 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor T Morrow

Deputy Mayor
Councillor H Legge

Aldermen, W J Dillon MBE, A G Ewart MBE,
T Jeffers, W A Leathem, S P Porter and
J Tinsley

Councillors J Baird, R T Beckett, B Bloomfield MBE,
S Carson, J Craig, A P Ewing, O Gawith, A Givan,
J Gray MBE, A Grehan, B Hanvey, V Kamble, J McCarthy,
A McIntyre, U Mackin, B Mallon, J Palmer and R Walker

ATTENDANCE

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Environmental Services
Members Services Officer
Attendance Clerk

Transport NI

Kevin Monaghan
Graeme Salmon
David Williams

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed those present and thanked Members for their attendance, and also asked that all mobile phones be switched off or put on silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

The Director of Environmental Services outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Purpose of Meeting**

The special meeting of Council had been convened in order to receive presentations from the Department for Infrastructure, Roads (Eastern Division).

2. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the special meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Aldermen D Drysdale, M Henderson MBE and S Martin, and Councillors J Gallen, C Robb, S Skillen and M Tolerton.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, invited Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided at the meeting.

There were no conflicts of interest declared at the meeting.

4. Department for Infrastructure, Roads (Eastern Division) – Spring Report 2018

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, extended a welcome to representatives of Roads (Eastern Division), Mr Kevin Monaghan, Divisional Roads Manager, Mr Greame Salmon, Traffic Management, and Mr David Williams, Deputy Section Engineer (Network Maintenance) who were in attendance to present the Spring Report a copy of which had been provided to Members in advance of the meeting.

A copy of the pre-submitted questions and responses by DfI Roads also had been circulated to Members.

Mr Monaghan thanked the Council for the opportunity to address the meeting and proceeded to outline the salient points of the Spring Report which dealt with works completed in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area during the year 2017/2018 and set out the programme of schemes being undertaken in the year 2018/2-19. Mr Monaghan mentioned in particular the new budget allocation of £15 million for Roads Recovery Fund for the repair of roads throughout the Council area.

Mr Monaghan reported that the McKinstry Road/The Cutts Scheme was not listed in the report as no funding had been available to deliver this project this year. Work was taking place on the procurement of land and designs for this Scheme which would be included in the Autumn Report to Council.

Mr Monaghan drew Members attention to the following programmes:

- Bridges Programme – refurbishment of footbridge in Glenavy as part of the resurfacing work on the Gobrana Road, Glenavy.
- M1/A1 Link at Sprucefield - unfortunately due to insufficient funding this project was on hold until funding comes through.
- M1 Hard Shoulder Bus Lane – extension back to Junction 8 at Blaris, Lisburn. Mr Monaghan was pleased to report that the award of contract was about to be

made for this project.

- A1 Junctions Phase 2 at Listullycurran Road The Draft Vesting and Direction Orders were programmed in the summer of 2018. Meanwhile incremental strategy developed whereby a central median safety barrier was erected as and when funding became available.
- Collision Remedial Schemes – Crossan Crossroads, Ballymacbrennan/ Lisnastrean Junction
- Traffic Sign Schemes - Macraconluce Junction – amendment of ‘give way’ signs to ‘stop’ signs currently in progress
- Hillsborough Weight Limit – received a large number of objections
- LED Street light Programmes – number of projects completed and significant number programmed
- Transportation Measures – Sprucefield Park and Ride – Inspectors report now published on website.
- Belfast Rapid Transit – Upper Newtownards Road up to Dundonald – carriageway widening – due for completion by the end of the summer 2018. Mr Monaghan thanked everyone for their patience during this work.
- Carriageway Resurfacing – during 2017/2018 approximately 18 km of carriageway had been resurfaced in the Lisburn & Castlereagh area. One scheme not listed was the resurfacing of the A24 Carryduff Road (from Temple Roundabout to Corr Road) which had just been completed.
- Adoptions – the team continued to work hard in getting developments approved and through the network.
- Brokerstown LD1 – this project was not mentioned in the Spring Report. Mr Monaghan acknowledged that the Council had registered its concerns regarding this long running problem and welcomed the fact that the Department Officials were working closely with Elected Members and Council officials through the Chief Executive’s Office.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked the deputation for presenting on their Spring Report and asked Members if they were happy to go through the written questions in order first.

Pre-Submitted Questions

Mr Monaghan referred Members to the list of pre-submitted questions which he stated was welcomed and meaningful and invited Members to make comment or ask further questions around the responses provided by the Department.

At this juncture Alderman W A Leathem expressed thanks and appreciation to Mr Eamon McMahon, Section Engineer for Lisburn & Castlereagh area, for all the work he had carried out in the past, having retired recently after 43 years of service.

Further responses were provided to Members as follows:

Alderman W A Leathem - Questions on the repair of potholes and the ongoing difficulties with the new online Public Information Portal (PIP).

Alderman Leathem stated that information was not being updated on the system which made it difficult for Members to report back to constituents on outstanding issues. Mr Monaghan welcomed the feedback on the PIP system which had 600-700 queries every month which were handled by a team of 16 people. He advised that lack of resources continued to be the main problem and that a review was taking place with a view to making the system more efficient.

Alderman Leathem - Request for an update on the provision of Controlled Crossing Facility at Linen Green which was at design stage for a considerable time. Mr Salmon stated that this project took longer than expected but should be completed by the end of the summer/September 2018.

Alderman A G Ewart - Potholes issue. On 27 January two members of the public who had claimed for damage to vehicles due to potholes on Glen Road, Maghaberry had been advised by DfI Roads that they were not entitled to claim. Requested Mr Monaghan to look again at these genuine claims. Mr Monaghan advised the claimants to challenge the decisions with Public Liability Claims Unit.

Councillor J Craig – Question re Willow Gardens/Seymour Hill which had been left in poor state of repair and which would be effected due to another construction site opening up, namely the MUGA site that the Council was progressing. Councillor Craig enquired if any money could be recovered from the private developer by DfI Roads. Mr Monaghan undertook to arrange for a further inspection of Willow Gardens site.

Councillor J Craig - Further question regarding the Ballybog Road – health and safety issue regarding children running out of play park. Councillor Craig enquired if the existing speed ramps could be moved 10-15 ft which would help slow traffic down. Mr Monaghan undertook to arrange for an inspection of the Ballybog Road issue.

Councillor B Bloomfield - above-mentioned health and safety issue on the Ballybog Road and also the number of potholes on the Ballybog Road – especially at the vicinity of the mock tudor cottages were not easily seen.

Alderman J Tinsley left the meeting at 6.35 pm and returned at 6.36 pm.

Alderman T Jeffers - Raised concerns regarding the new super gliders (Belfast Rapid Transit) coming into being and the difficulties likely to be experienced by traffic travelling down Upper Newtownards Road to Hollywood Road, and also the difficulty accessing the Park and Ride facility with only one lane heading up and one lane heading down – for 12 hours each day.

Alderman T Jeffers - raised concern around the congestion and the junctions in and around Dundonald Village.

Mr Monaghan advised that all planning modelling designs have been completed and that the demand was there and to use the glider service. To mitigate feeder services had been developed down to the main line. There was also improved access to cycling facilities and making available more Belfast Bikes.

Councillor U Mackin - Reported that he along with Edwin Poots MLA had met with Officials from DfI Roads that morning – very positive meeting. Councillor Mackin welcomed the initial improvements in the short term, but stated that longer term solutions were needed. Potholes continued to be a major issue in light of a major cycling event in two weeks' time in the Annahilt area. Councillor Mackin requested DfI Roads to attend to a number of potholes identified on the cycle route – Ballynahinch Road out of Hillsborough and Glebe Road onto Upper Ballynahinch Road, Comber Road, to Hillsborough. Mr Monaghan agreed to investigate.

Councillor U Mackin - referred to potholes that had been repaired and sunk again within 48 hours – one on Cabra Road and one close to Dromara Primary School on the Hillsborough Road. A water issue here possibly a leaking pipe. Asked that these issues be followed up. Mr Monaghan agreed to get his team to look into this again.

Councillor A Givan - Question re North Lisburn Feeder Road – Councillor Givan welcomed the fact that this new road phase 3 should be completed by autumn 2020. Councillor Givan stated that he had concerns regarding the plans for a further 180 houses at Lady Wallace development. Concerned this new development would not impact on completion of the North Lisburn Feeder road project. Mr Monaghan undertook to look into the specific location of the proposed 180 new homes at Lady Wallace.

Councillor J Baird - Crossan Crossroads - welcomed the fact that something was being done but stated that something longer term was required. Councillor Baird pointed out that Lisnastrean Road was barely coping with traffic levels at the moment and that any plans to divert traffic onto Lisnastrean would create more problems.

Councillor J Baird - welcomed the new road surface at Annahilt and requested if consideration could be given to the 'rumble strips' at entrance to village being replaced and also introducing 'rumble strips' at the entrance to the primary school. Mr Williams stated that he would arrange for traffic calming to be replaced.

Councillor S Carson - Enquired when figures for vehicle claims for the previous financial year would be available and asked if this information could be provided to him.

Mr Monaghan advised that the amount of claims settled included claims originating the previous year. It was noted that the budget allocation for repairs to potholes

had been reduced greatly last year and the number of claims received increased significantly.

Councillor S Carson - enquired about the repair to the broken manhole on Prince William Road. He had witnessed a temporary fix with tar which had been damaged again two hours later due to heavy traffic.

Alderman A G Ewart left the meeting at 6.51 pm.

Additional Questions from Members

At this point Alderman J Tinsley wished to also put on record the Council's good wishes to Mr Eamonn McMahon on his recent retirement from DfI Roads. Alderman Tinsley acknowledged that Mr McMahon had been an excellent officer and always been very obliging when working with the Council in the past.

Alderman J Tinsley also conveyed appreciation to Mr David Williams who was also doing an excellent job.

Further questions were raised at the meeting as follows:

Illegal Signs in Glenavy

Alderman J Tinsley requested clarification and direction from DfI Roads in relation to a number of illegal signs in Glenavy, which were warning children to slow down, and which were depicted in the English language and also the Gaelic language, as well as displaying the Sinn Fein All Ireland symbol. Mr Monaghan agreed to look into this matter immediately.

Clarehill Road, Moira

Councillor O Gawith enquired about the Clarehill Road which had been programmed for work during 2017/2018. The area from Meeting Street at top of the hill down to the integrated school was in very poor state and due for full resurfacing. Mr Monaghan confirmed this was programmed for work in August 2018.

Myrtledene Road, Belfast

Councillor B Hanvey – welcomed the work programmed for Myrtledene Road, Road, Glenview and hoped that the necessary funding was ringfenced. A junction box was to be removed which meant the closure of a country-bound lane part time. Councillor Hanvey requested that this work be completed as quickly as possible and that Elected Members be kept informed. Also asked that the necessary notices be put up in advance in order that people know what is happening. Mr Monaghan said unfortunately lane closures necessary but officials were working to minimise disruption with out of hours and weekend working.

Councillor A McIntyre left the meeting at 7.01 pm.

Alderman A G Ewart returned to the meeting at 7.03 pm.

LED Lighting – Manse Road, Carryduff

Councillor B Hanvey welcomed the new LED Street lighting on Manse Road, Carryduff and enquired if the wooden ‘telegraph’ poles would be discontinued for the new LED lighting?

Blocked Drains – Thorndale North

Councillor Hanvey welcomed the fact that DfI Roads had accepted responsibility to residents in Thorndale north re blocked drains and the fact that this work had been programmed. He enquired about a start date for this work.

Potholes – Ballyknock Road, Moira

Alderman W J Dillon reiterated the issue of resources being spent on temporary repairs to potholes, and was of the opinion that money would be better spent on proper materials. He reported that approximately 20 potholes on the Ballyknock Road, some having been repaired for the third time. Alderman Dillon enquired about what was being done to supervise the management of this issue, in particular the ordering of materials.

Mr Monaghan welcomed the feedback and encouraged Members to report incidents of poor workmanship.

Lagan Towpath Walkway/Blaris Cycle Path

Councillor J Palmer welcomed the news about the Lagan Towpath walkway was being progressed from Sprucefield to the Park and Ride and enquired if there were plans to extend right out to Balmoral park side. Was the reason a shortage of cash?

Mr Monaghan advised that the Lagan Towpath walkway project was well advanced, known as the Blaris Cycle path, and would be completed within weeks. Mr Monaghan mentioned the development proposals for the Maze site and the possibility of road network improvements arising from those proposals.

Potholes – Brooklands Park

Alderman T Jeffers – welcomed speed limit to be introduced at Comber Road and Millmount Road. Also reported two massive potholes at Brooklands Park which were filled with loose stones – lady in wheelchair had great difficulty getting out of her car at that location.

Work at Grahamsbridge Road

Alderman Jeffers raised concern regarding work on the Grahamsbridge Road along the Greenway. DfI Roads had extinguished right of way. This was a set of steps which had been previously the walkway down to the railway station at

Dundonald dating back to the 1800s. Expressed disappointment at there being no consultation for this project.

In response Mr Monaghan suggested that this work may have been necessary to provide access for all, and agreed to pass Alderman Jeffers' comments to the design team.

Saintfield Road to Carryduff

Councillor B Mallon requested an update in relation to the surveys of the Saintfield Road out to Carryduff.

Mr Salmon reported that he had meet with Carryduff Regeneration Group in October past on this matter and also with the PSNI re the traffic surveys and that the report was now to hand. Councillor B Mallon requested that the Councillors for this District Electoral Area be kept informed regarding this work.

Councillor B Hanvey emphasised that a programme of work had been set out and agreed following the meeting with the Council, DfI, and the Permanent Secretary about 6-7 months ago.

Councillor B Mallon acknowledged that an action plan had been agreed previously by the Council and DfI Roads but had heard nothing back since. Lives were being lost on this road.

Mr Monaghan welcomed the input from the Council, Department for Communities, PSNI and Translink on this issue. He stated that the issue of speed surveys was being progressed through the Council's Director of Service Transformation who had written to DfI Roads recently regarding these matters and seeking a second update report for the Council.

Allocation of Roads Recovery Funds to LCCC

Councillor J Baird requested information in regard to the criteria of allocating DfI Roads funding to the various Council areas, £15 million allocated to NI and £1 m allocated to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. Councillor Baird was of the opinion that this Council should be getting a higher share as 60% of the population lived within 20 mile radius of Belfast. Mr Monaghan agreed to follow up on this matter and report back to the Council.

Meeting in Tonagh with Local Residents re Yellow Lines

Councillor A Grehan thanked Mr Salmon for attending the meeting in Tonagh Primary School with residents, and welcomed the fact that the yellow lines were in place within a few weeks. This seemed to have helped the situation for the residents. Councillor Grehan thanked DfI Roads for attending to this matter.

Letter of Best Wishes to Mr Eamonn McMahon

At the request of Alderman S P Porter it was agreed that a letter from the Mayor's Office be sent to Mr Eamonn McMahon, conveying the Council's thanks and appreciation for his efforts over many years and extending best wishes to Mr McMahon in his retirement.

Agreement re 'Frost Free' City Centre during Adverse Weather

Alderman S P Porter raised the issue of gritting the City Centre and maintaining the City Centre frost free and open for business during periods of adverse weather. The Council had led the way during his term of office as Mayor in this

Agreement re 'Frost Free' City Centre during Adverse Weather (Cont'd)

matter. Alderman Porter expressed concern that this initiative did not appear to be operating. In response the Director of Environmental Services advised that she had brought this agreement to the Environmental Services Committee and the Leisure & Community Development Committee for consideration. The agreement had been updated. It was noted that this agreement would be triggered at the Department's request and subject to having personnel to implement the necessary works. The Director stated that there was also a duty of care to the Council's own staff during adverse weather. Alderman Porter stated that the initiative was documented but if not being used it was not a working document.

Councillor A Grehan left the meeting at 7.23 pm.

Glebe Road

Councillor A P Ewing welcomed the major work to the Glebe Road and stated that it was a job well done. Councillor Ewing enquired how much this project cost. Mr Monaghan advised that the total cost for the programme of works on the Glebe Road had been £185,000.

Signal Phasing Issues

Councillor A Grehan returned to the meeting at 7.26 pm.

Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge raised the issue of signal phasing between the exit of the Park and Ride facility at Dundonald at Dunlady Road at the main Upper Newtownards Road junction. The Deputy Mayor stated there had been long tail backs in this area, having sat through three changes of signals earlier that evening due to the signals not having been synchronised. Mr Monaghan agreed to pass this matter to the relevant Control Centre for investigation.

Public Information Portal (PIP)

Alderman W A Leathem referred to the problems with the PIP system again and enquired if the system had been evaluated. He acknowledged that it was the system that was at fault – not the staff. The Elected representatives were the 'middle men' who were not being fed back the information.

Mr Monaghan advised that the PIP system was being reviewed and agreed to forward Members comments to the relevant staff.

Brokerstown LD1

Alderman W A Leathem welcomed the positive comments about LD1 and looked forward to the design stage being reported to the Council in the autumn.

Alderman Leathem expressed a preference for a roundabout at the Ballinderry/Knockmore Road junction - not signalisation, but was hopeful in the

Brokerstown LD1 (Cont'd)

longer term a link road would be in place. Mr Monaghan agreed to pass the comments on the roundabout as an option to the design team.

At the conclusion of the question session the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow thanked Mr Monaghan, Mr Salmon and Mr Williams for their contribution.

There being no further business for consideration the Special Meeting of Council was terminated at 7.32 pm.

Mayor/Chairman