

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, Lisburn and remotely on Wednesday, 2nd June 2021 at 5:15 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Councillor N Anderson (Chairman)

Councillor R McLernon (Vice-Chairman)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor The Rt Hon Nicholas Trimble

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Alderman J Baird

Councillors S Eastwood, A P Ewing, A Givan, M Gregg,
S Lee, S Lowry, C McCready, T Mitchell and S Skillen

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman M Henderson MBE

Councillor A McIntyre

OTHER MEMBERS:

In Remote Location

Councillor A Swan

IN ATTENDANCE:

In Chamber:

Director of Environmental Services
IT Officer
Technician
Acting Member Services PCSP Manager
Member Services Officer (RN)

In Remote Location:

Head of Service (Building Control)
Head of Service (Environmental Health)
Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor N Anderson welcomed those present to the remote meeting of the Environmental Services Committee, which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance at the meeting was accepted and recorded on behalf of Alderman S P Porter.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following Declarations of Interest were made during the course of the meeting:-

- Alderman J Baird - Item 2 of Report of Head of Environmental Health - Drive in Church at Benson Street Off Street Car Park (Request for use by Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1) – Member of Royal Black Preceptory.
- Councillor A P Ewing - Item 2 of Report of Head of Environmental Health - Drive in Church at Benson Street Off Street Car Park (Request for use by Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1) – Member of Royal Black Preceptory.

3. Report of Director of Environmental Services

3.1 Environmental Services Quarterly Performance Report 2020/2021 - Quarter 4

The Committee had been provided with copy of the 2020/2021 Quarter 4 Performance Report for the Environmental Services Directorate.

The Director verbally advised of a presentational error in that the target for Fleet had in fact been met and should be recorded as green and not red.

3.1 Environmental Services
Quarterly Performance Report 2020/2021 - Quarter 4 (Continued)

The Director of Environmental Services and Heads of Service responded to Members' comments and queries on a number of issues including the following:-

- Absenteeism – including a report to Corporate Services Committee, comparison with other Councils and the NI average;
- Effects of Covid;
- Effects of Brexit;
- Landfill;
- Safeguarding;
- Staffing Resources;
- Presentation of information to provide for an amber category where the final performance figure is not yet known.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor R McLernon and agreed to recommend that the 2020/2021 Quarter 4 Performance Report be approved.

Councillors S Skillen, A P Ewing, C McCready and S Eastwood entered the meeting during discussion. (5.18 pm, 5.20 pm, 5.20 pm and 5.25 pm respectively.)
Alderman M Henderson joined the meeting remotely during discussion. (5.23 pm)

4. Report from Head of Service (Building Control)

4.1 Street Naming – At Governors Bridge Road, Hillsborough

The Head of Service (Building Control) reported that J W & J Porter had proposed the names Governors Gate Demesne and Governors Gate Square (1st preferences) and Governors Gate Rise and Governors Gate Crescent (2nd preferences) for a development of 82 dwellings off Governors Bridge Road, Hillsborough.

Members were provided with copy of the development layout and were advised that the request met the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy in that the names proposed are in keeping with adjoining and existing approved names in the Governors Gate development.

The Building Control Service had received no objections to the proposed names from Elected Members of the relevant District Electoral Area, nor from the Royal Mail Address Management Team. One preference for a name had been received from an Elected Member of the relevant District Electoral Area.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCready and agreed to recommend that the names Governors Gate Demesne and Governors Gate Square be approved for the development of 82 dwellings off Governors Bridge Road, Hillsborough.

4.2 Street Naming – At Glen Road, Glenavy

The Head of Service (Building Control) reported that Barnside Properties Ltd had proposed the names Veras Glen and Veras Wood for a development of three dwellings off Glen Road, Glenavy.

Members were provided with copy of the development layout and were advised that the request met the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy in that the names proposed are in keeping with an historical reference to the listed cottage adjacent to the development.

The Building Control Service had received no objections to the proposed names from Elected Members of the relevant District Electoral Area, nor from the Royal Mail Address Management Team.

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed to recommend that the name Veras Glen be approved for the development of three dwellings off Glen Road, Glenavy.

In response to comments made about the use of apostrophes in street names, the Head of Service advised that the Pointer Common Address format agreed by Land and Property Services and all councils did not use apostrophes in this context. This was to ensure consistency in application across Northern Ireland and to aid identification and wayfinding.

5. Report from Head of Service (Environmental Health)

5.1 DNA Solution for Dog Waste

Further to the meeting of Council on the 27th April 2021, Members had been provided with a report in regard to a DNA solution for dog fouling which included dog fouling statistics for the Council's area; the legal position in relation to DNA testing of dog waste; and a possible commercial enterprise in this regard.

The Head of Service had been recommending that the matter be placed on the agenda for a meeting of the Dog Advisory Group – a sub-group of EHNI dealing with Dog Control matters. However the Head of Service now verbally reported that DAERA had confirmed that DNA cannot be legally required under the present statute.

It was proposed by Councillor M Gregg, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed to recommend that:-

- based on the update from DAERA, this matter is not progressed at this time;
- the report into a DNA solution for Dog Fouling be noted and retained on file for future reference;

5.1 DNA Solution for Dog Waste (Continued)

- the following matters be investigated with a report thereon being presented to the September 2021 meeting of Committee, including:-
 - the review of the capacity of the Enforcement Officers and determination if more resource is required;
 - the option of using a private contractor to supplement the work of the Enforcement Officers;
 - the authorisation of Park Wardens so that they might assist in dog control activities;
 - an increase in the fee for a Fixed Penalty Notice;
 - an assurance that Enforcement Officers are on patrol at the most effective times of the day;
 - a comparison with other councils as to their methods to address irresponsible dog owners including the engagement of external partners;
 - the provision of street/pavement stencilling in relation to Dog Control;
 - the use of modern technology such as drones;
 - a link with an educational programme;
 - a more hard-hitting communications message.

Councillor S Skillen left and returned to the meeting during discussion at 5.54 pm and 6.00 pm respectively.

5.2 Drive in Church at Benson Street Off-Street Car Park

Alderman J Baird and Councillor A P Ewing each declared an interest in this item of business and left the Council Chamber at 6.22 pm.

Members were provided with copy of a letter received on the 13th May 2021 from the Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 seeking permission to use two Council sites, namely Benson Street Car Park and Wallace Park, for the purpose of religious services on the 22nd and 28th August 2021 respectively.

The Leisure & Community Development Committee had considered the request for the use of Wallace Park at its meeting held the previous evening.

In regard to the request for the use of the Benson Street Car Park for a religious service on the 22nd August 2021, the organisers were seeking use of the car park from 7.00 pm on the 21st August to approximately 6.00 pm on the 22nd August 2021.

In his report, the Head of Service detailed the Covid precautions which would be put in place.

5.2 Drive in Church at Benson Street Off-Street Car Park (Continued)

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy and agreed to recommend that the request from Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 for the use of Benson Street Off-Street Car Park from Saturday 21st August 2021 at 7.00 pm, until approximately 6.00 pm on Sunday 22nd August 2021 for the purpose of a religious service on Sunday 22nd August 2021 be acceded to, subject to the imposition of the following caveats that:-

- The Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 be granted exclusive use of the site and the car park, to remain closed for the duration except for Electric Vehicles that are charging at the EV chargers on site and public access from the steps out to Benson Street.
- The Council will require copies of Risk Assessments carried out for the proposed event.
- The Council will require copies of Insurance documentation, including Public Liability Insurance.
- Traffic Management and Stewards will be required to manage the event.
- The area of the site used by the Lisburn Royal Black District Chapter No 1 should be cleared of any rubbish etc after the event.
- In order to mitigate the potential for noise disturbance to local residents and to prevent a statutory nuisance, noise levels must be controlled. The service should be delivered through the car radio frequency only and no loudspeaker or public address system should be used. All patrons should remain in their vehicles with the cars and windows closed.

Alderman J Baird returned to the Council Chamber after the above item had concluded. (6.23 pm)

6. Any Other Business

As the remainder of the business before the meeting was of a confidential nature, the Chairman sought agreement to bring forward Item 7 of the agenda – Any Other Business – so that items of a non-confidential nature might be raised when the Committee was in Live Stream. This was agreed.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Duncan's Dam Lisburn – Wildlife
Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Eastwood referred to dangers posed to swans and ducks and their young associated with the weir in Duncan's Dam and asked that meshing be installed on the weir for the duration of the nesting season.

The Director advised that she would pass this request to the Head of Parks & Amenities and the Head of Service for Estates for dealing with.

7.2 Thanks to Chairman and Committee
Councillor R McLernon

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, referred to this meeting being the last one before the Annual Meeting of Council on the 7th June 2021 and he expressed his thanks and appreciation to the Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, for his Chairmanship and leadership during a very challenging year. Councillor McLernon also expressed his thanks to the Director and all officers servicing the Committee.

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, thanked Councillor McLernon for his kind words and in turn thanked him for his support in the role of Vice-Chairman. He also thanked The Right Worshipful The Mayor and Deputy Mayor, the other members of the Committee, the Chief Executive, the Director of Environmental Services and the other officers who service the Committee, the Members Services staff and the sound & vision staff for their assistance and co-operation in what had been a very challenging year for the Council.

These comments were endorsed by a number of other Members present at the meeting.

7.3 Air Quality – Lisburn
Councillor S Lee

Councillor S Lee enquired as to the monitoring of air quality in the Lisburn area.

The Head of Environmental Health advised that an air quality monitor was in place throughout the Council's area, a mix of automated and passive monitors. The Head of Service further confirmed that the Council reports annually to DAERA.

7.4 Funding bid
Councillor M Gregg

In response to comments from Councillor M Gregg about a forthcoming bid for funding, the Head of Environmental Health confirmed that such a bid would require the support of DAERA.

7.5 Graffiti – A55 Road (Outer Ring, Belfast)
Councillor N Anderson

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, referred to the proliferation of graffiti on the A55 road and an associated bridge and asked that engagement be entered into with the Departments of Infrastructure and Communities to address this. This request was noted for appropriate action.

7.6 Fly posters in Castlereagh South District Electoral Area
Councillor N Anderson

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, made reference to complaints that he had received from residents regarding political advertising in the Castlereagh South District Electoral Area, particularly in the area of Ballynahinch Road, Carryduff, and expressed the hope that the relevant political parties would remove such posters. Councillor Anderson also asked that the relevant officers from the Council would investigate the matter.

Councillors S Skillen and S Eastwood left the meeting. (6.43 pm and 6.44 pm respectively.)

8. Confidential Business

The matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with “In Committee” due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

“In Committee”

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell and agreed that the following matters be considered “in Committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The live stream was paused at this stage.

8.1 Update on Kerbside Recycling Collection Pilot,
Necessary infrastructure and processing opportunity

It was proposed by Councillor S Skillen, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to recommend that:-

- the progress report in regard to the above matter be noted;
- consultancy services be engaged to provide all necessary reports as outlined;
- a specially convened meeting of the Environmental Services Committee, at the appropriate time, be given delegated authority to review the refreshed options report and associated recommendation so as to enable progression to Outline Business Case.

Councillors S Skillen and S Eastwood returned to the Council Chamber during discussion and prior to the decisions in regard to this matter. (6.45 pm and 6.48 pm respectively.)

Councillor A Swan joined the meeting remotely during discussion and prior to the decisions in regard to this matter. (6.50 pm)

8.2 Carryduff Household Recycling Centre
Modular staff welfare and office facilities

It was proposed by Councillor M Gregg, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to recommend that two modular units for use as staff welfare and office facilities be purchased for the Carryduff HRC site as are specified and contained within the approved set of DEA projects.

9. Any Other Business - Confidential

9.1 Mullaghglass Landfill Site

The Head of Environmental Services advised that an update on the above matter would be sought from the NI Environment Agency and circulated to all Members via the Member Services Unit.

9.2 Landfill site in Castlereagh South
Councillor S Lee

In response to comments from Councillor S Lee and the Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, about concerns related to a landfill site in the Castlereagh South District Electoral Area, it was agreed that the Elected Members for that DEA would discuss this matter with the Director of Environmental Services, the Head of Services (Environmental Health) and the Planning Unit.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was agreed to come "out of Committee". Normal business and the live-stream were resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.14 pm.

Mayor/Chairman