

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 22 February, 2022 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman S Martin

Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell

Alderman J Baird, W J Dillon MBE, A Grehan and
J Tinsley

Councillors D Craig, A P Ewing, A Gowan, D Honeyford,
J Laverty BEM, H Legge, U Mackin, C McCready,
Jenny Palmer, John Palmer, A Swan and N Trimble

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION

Aldermen D Drysdale, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith and
S P Porter

Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson,
S Eastwood, J Gallen, A Givan, M Gregg, M Guy, S Hughes,
S Lee, S Lowry, J McCarthy, G McCleave, A McIntyre,
R McLernon, S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Member Services Officer
Member Services Administrative Assistant
Technician
IT Officer

IN ATTENDANCE IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Environmental Services
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation

Reverend Cheryl Meban

Commencement of the Meeting

At the outset the Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, welcomed those present to the February meeting of Council, which was being live-streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

The Member Services Administrative Assistant read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, expressed condolences in relation to the following bereavements:

- Mr Sam Wallace – father of Samuel Gibson who worked in the Parks & Amenities Unit of the Leisure Services and Community Wellbeing Directorate
- Mrs May King – mother of Hazel King, Portfolio Manager in the Service Transformation Directorate
- Mrs Sadie Henderson - mother of Alderman Michael Henderson MBE
- the sudden passing of Christopher Stalford, DUP Member of the Legislative Assembly

Tributes to Christopher Stalford MLA

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, stated that it was his solemn duty to report that this Council sends its deepest condolences to the family of Christopher Stalford, a DUP Member of the Legislative Assembly, who had passed away suddenly the previous weekend. Christopher Stalford had represented South Belfast which covered a proportion of this Council area. The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that Christopher had been a good and long standing friend and colleague of many in this Council Chamber and accordingly he wished to ensure that sufficient space and time be allocated to the meeting that evening to pay tribute to and to remember Christopher Stalford. The Right Worshipful the Mayor invited Members to pay tribute to Christopher.

Councillor A Gowan

Councillor A Gowan led the tributes to Christopher Stalford.

Councillor R McLernon joined the meeting during Councillor Gowan's contribution (7.06 pm)

At the outset Councillor Gowan said he felt wholly incapable of making a tribute that would be suitably fitting that encapsulates the man that was Christopher Stalford. During his tribute Councillor Gowan recounted the time when he first met Christopher 20 years ago when they were both studying at Queen's University. He talked about his first impression of Christopher which had been determined by his style of dress with his pin-striped suits and his tweed jackets. Councillor Gowan said despite their differences, him being a country boy from West Fermanagh, they had become friends and after graduating they later had become best of friends.

Councillor Gowan spoke of Christopher's abilities, much of which he stated had already been said in recent days, and all of it true. He spoke of Christopher's eloquence and good humour, and also the fact that he was a supreme orator. Christopher reached his

Councillor A Gowan (Cont'd)

goal when he was elected to Belfast City Hall and thereafter to the Northern Ireland Assembly. He had been a working class boy from South Belfast and had made his family so proud. Councillor Gowan remembered the fun they both had had when he had helped him on his election campaign. He described Christopher as the 'ultimate warrior' and the one thing that stood out was his competitiveness. Councillor Gowan said the Assembly Chamber was a much richer place for him having been there and that Northern Ireland is a lesser place for his passing. He also said the DUP will forever miss someone who was DUP to the core.

Councillor Gowan spoke about Christopher being a family man and that our hearts break for his wife Laura and their four wonderful children and also for the wider family circle. He was a proud dad wishing the best for all his children. He said we must all keep this family in our thoughts and prayers in the days that lie ahead. Councillor Gowan concluded by saying he would miss his friend so much.

Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter commenced his tribute by acknowledging that all that had been said about Christopher Stalford in recent days had been true. Alderman Porter spoke of his disbelief on hearing the sad news of Christopher's passing. Alderman Porter spoke at length about his fond memories of Christopher over the years and recalled how proud Christopher was when he was first elected to Stormont in 2016 and how he had been determined to have his constituency office in Sandy Row. Christopher delivered for his community along with his team with which he was so involved. He was so proud that he could give back something to his community and also his political party. Alderman Porter said that Christopher was even more proud when he was elected to the role as Principal Deputy Speaker in the Assembly. He loved South Belfast. He loved this wee country. He loved his political party but above all he loved his family. He loved being out and about with his family. Alderman Porter concluded by saying his thoughts were with his wife Laura, and his children Trinity, Oliver, Cameron and Abigail. Alderman Porter thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor for having allowed time to pay tribute to Christopher Stalford and to reflect on a life well lived.

Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson stated that there was only one Christopher Stalford and there is only ever going to be one man like him and described Christopher as a paradox, some who was gregarious yet shy; and someone who had friends across the house, someone who had a wicked sense of humour yet was also sensitive.

Councillor Anderson recalled how Christopher had been a political activist from a very young age and although he was DUP he had huge sympathy for the Tories. He also recalled how Christopher was a big fan of Ian Paisley and that he also had admired Roger Scruton and Margaret Thatcher. Councillor Anderson also spoke about how Christopher Stalford never forgot his working class roots and how he had worked in South Belfast all his life. As an elected representative Christopher had worked closely with community groups and a number of his current projects crossed both Belfast City Council area and Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area. Councillor Anderson stated

Councillor N Anderson (Cont'd)

that this Council will be indebted to ensure that these projects are completed in his memory.

Councillor Anderson also talked about Christopher's many interests. Procedures and order were very important to him and his knowledge of both ensured his elevation to the position of Principal Deputy Speaker in the Assembly, a role in which he excelled and thrived.

Councillor Anderson spoke about his fond memories from the time he had worked for Christopher in his constituency office. He said Christopher had been more than a boss. He was his friend. Even when he left the DUP they remained friends.

He also said he could not describe the pain and void he feels on Christopher's passing, neither could he imagine the loss that Christopher's wife, Laura and their four children, and the entire family circle, must be feeling at this time. This tragedy not only effects the family but also the community in which he served and the DUP has lost one of its star performers. Many of us have lost a friend. Councillor Anderson expressed deepest sympathy to the family and prayed that God's comfort would carry them all with his love at this time. Councillor Anderson concluded by saying farewell to Christopher. Christopher did not fear death and Councillor Anderson knew he would see his friend again.

Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen expressed thanks and appreciation to The Right Worshipful the Mayor for providing this space that evening to remember Christopher Stalford. Councillor Skillen spoke of when she first met Christopher Stalford and also expressed thanks and appreciation to Christopher for the support he had provided to her during some of the dark times in her life. In 2012 she had commenced work in the same office as Christopher. She could see back then just how capable Christopher was. She also referred to his humorous personality. He was a working class man whose father passed away when Christopher was very young. His mother brought him up so well and supported him throughout his career.

Councillor Skillen also talked about his love for his wife Laura and their four children and could recall many times when Christopher had brought his children into the office for one reason or another. Councillor Skillen also recalled the funny times and in particular remembered how Christopher had laughed so loudly many times.

Councillor Skillen said everyone was delighted for Christopher when he was elected to the Assembly in 2016 and described him as a very capable politician. Councillor Skillen advised that she had spoken recently with the Council's Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing about a project that was being progressed in Killynure and put on record that she would be keen that this project continued to be progressed and delivered in Christopher's memory.

Councillor Skillen concluded by extending her sincere sympathy to Christopher's wife, Laura, and to their children Trinity, Oliver, Cameron and Abigail, and the wider family circle.

Councillor N Trimble

Councillor N Trimble on behalf of the UUP on the Council expressed sincere and deepest condolences on the passing of Christopher Stalford – to his wife, Laura, and their four children, the wider family circle, to his DUP, friends and colleagues and also to the staff in the South Belfast constituency office. Councillor Trimble commented that the stronger the love one feels for someone the deeper the grief is felt.

Councillor Trimble said that whilst he did not know Christopher as well as other Members on the Council, he did have the great pleasure of meeting Christopher in Stormont on occasions. He said Christopher always carry out his work in a dignified manner. Christopher was, in his opinion, a first class politician. Councillor Trimble stated that he had tremendous respect for Christopher Stalford. He said he enjoyed watching Christopher on the benches and noted that he never got personal but would make his point with grace and precision. Councillor Trimble also recounted a time when he had had the opportunity to talk at length with Christopher in November last year when taking part in a political panel debate in Dundalk and had found him to be nothing but pleasant and very friendly. This was a conversation that Councillor Trimble would hold dear to his heart. He expressed regret that he had not known Christopher more and concluded by saying Northern Ireland politics would be less of a place without him.

Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry, on behalf of the Alliance Party on the Council, offered sincere condolences to Christopher's wife, Laura, and their four children, and the family circle as well as Christopher's wider DUP family. Councillor Lowry recalled when she first met Christopher Stalford four years ago and of their conversation when he had given her sound advice at that time. She also remembered the conversations she had had with Christopher at an election count in 2017 which had been mainly about their families but he had also talked about his concerns should he not be successful in being elected and how he was 'doing this for his children.' Councillor Lowry was grateful for this chance to talk to Christopher. Every time she met Christopher thereafter, he had always asked about her family. Councillor Lowry described Christopher as a fantastic Principal Deputy Speaker – it seemed that he was born for that role. Christopher's loss was a terrible loss for everyone.

Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin, on behalf of the Sinn Fein Party on the Council, wished to offer his sentiments of sympathy to the family and friends of Christopher Stalford. He also conveyed sympathy on behalf of his Sinn Fein colleagues in South Belfast all of who always had a good working relationship with Christopher during their time on Belfast City Council and the Assembly. Councillor Carlin said he was deeply shocked at Christopher's passing. Councillor Carlin acknowledged that Christopher Stalford was a huge personality in South Belfast and that the tributes in the Chamber tonight were testament to that.

Councillor J McCarthy

Councillor J McCarthy, on behalf of the SDLP on the Council, wished to pass on condolences to Christopher Stalford's family, friends and DUP colleagues.

Councillor J McCarthy (Cont'd)

Councillor McCarthy stated that he, like many others, was in awe of Christopher's dedication to his beliefs, his dedication to his constituents he represented in South Belfast and in particular to his family. Councillor McCarthy stated that he had met Christopher on a few occasions and that on each occasion he remembered his wit and good humour. Councillor McCarthy stated that Christopher would be missed greatly across the political spectrum.

Councillor S Lee

Councillor S Lee, the Green Party Member on the Council, wished to endorse all that had been said by the previous speakers about Christopher Stalford and conveyed his own party condolences to Christopher's wife, Laura, and their children on their tragic loss. Councillor Lee also spoke about Christopher's talent and of his good humour, and concluded by saying how sad it was to have heard of his untimely passing.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, thanked Members for their contributions that evening which he described as extraordinary. He also felt that the sentiments expressed by Members that evening and also by Christopher Stalford's colleagues in the Assembly the previous day all had been heartfelt and true.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor paid his own tribute to Christopher Stalford and spoke at length of his encounters with Christopher when they had been students at Queen's University. The Right Worshipful the Mayor felt that everything that could be said had been said about Christopher who was a true politician and public servant. The Right Worshipful the Mayor was of the opinion that politics and public service were the greatest and most noblest callings which had the power to make change in our communities. Christopher Stalford was one of the best. He was someone who held a number of political offices and positions but all that had not changed him. The Right Worshipful the Mayor assured that the thoughts of everyone on the Council were very much with the Stalford family, Christopher's friends, colleagues and the constituency team.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that he had, on behalf of the Council, written to Christopher's Party Leader and to his family and his staff members to convey our condolences. He stated also that to those Members this evening who have shared their own anecdotes and to the wider DUP family we, as colleagues, regardless of party label, stand with you at this incredibly difficult time and know that we are there for you and in that friendship and in that spirit we will continue Christopher Stalford's legacy.

At this juncture the Council stood and observed a minute's silence at 7.50 pm as a mark of respect on the passing of Christopher Stalford.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, welcomed his Chaplain, Reverend Cheryl Meban, Presbyterian Chaplain at Ulster University, to the meeting. Reverend Meban gave an address and said a prayer during which she too remembered the

Prayers (Cont'd)

bereaved families referred to by the Mayor and made reference to the heartfelt condolences expressed by Members on the untimely passing of Christopher Stalford.

Rev Meban also referred to the crisis in the Ukraine and remembered those people living in Ukraine on losing their peace and autonomy from Russia.

Alderman Martin thanked Reverend Meban for her contribution and her attendance that evening.

Alderman A Grehan left the meeting at the commencement of the Mayor's Chaplain's address at 7.51 pm and returned to the meeting at its conclusion at 7.56 pm.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

At the outset The Right Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of himself and his wife, Joanna, expressed thanks to Members and Officers for their support, and to those people who had reached out to them, during the past number of very difficult weeks when one of their children had spent an extended period of time in the care of the great staff on the Children's wards at the Ulster Hospital. The Right Worshipful the Mayor put on record that he would be eternally grateful to the staff of the Mayor's Office for everything they had done to support him during this time. He also expressed thanks and appreciation to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, for having deputised for him on a number of occasions, and extended sincere thanks and heartfelt gratitude for the support of his Chaplain, Rev Cheryl Meban during these past weeks which he said had been a very uncertain time for his family.

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, since the last meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman M Henderson MBE.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes

Council Meeting held on 25 January, 2022

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 January, 2022 be confirmed and signed.

Special Meeting of Council held on 10 February, 2022

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of Council held on 10 February, 2022 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations to be received at the meeting.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Bryson Recycling, Rives Edge, 13-15 Ravenhill Road, Belfast BT6 8DN – Contract for the provision of a kerbside sort service for the collection and recycling of dry recyclables and food waste from households within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area (Ref STA21/22-040)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and OHRD Ltd, 21 Old Channel Road, Belfast BT3 9DE – Contract for Lot 1 Provision of Occupational Health Service
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Familyworks, 2B Regent Street, Newtownards BT23 4LH – Contract for Lot 2 Provision of Counselling Service
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and AJCG Limited, 21 Enterprise Avenue, Belfast Road, Downpatrick BT30 9UP – Contract for Festive Lighting

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Leisure and Community Development Committee****1 February, 2022**

Proposed by Councillor S Skillen

Seconded by Councillor R T Beckett

Verbal Matter

Alderman W J Dillon advised that he had received notification from the Rector of St John's Parish Church, Moira, who was seeking permission from the Council to hold a short church service on 12th April, 2022 in Moira Demesne to celebrate Holy Week.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed that the Council's Byelaw in connection with the holding of religious ceremonies in public places be temporarily suspended on 12th April, 2022 in order that the above-mentioned church service could take place in Moira Demesne.

Environmental Services Committee**2 February, 2022**

Proposed by Councillor A P Ewing

Seconded by Councillor C McCready

Development Committee**3 February, 2022**

Proposed by Alderman A Grehan

Seconded by Councillor H Legge

Corporate Services Committee**9 February, 2022**

Proposed by Councillor J Laverty

Seconded by Alderman W J Dillon

Planning Committee**10 January, 2022**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 10 January, 2022 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 7 February, 2022. It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There were no reports for consideration from the Chief Executive.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for consideration.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business raised at the meeting.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Tributes to Christopher Stalford by Education Authority
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig conveyed to the Council that he had attended a meeting of the Education Authority earlier that day in Wellington College, Belfast, at which tributes had been paid to Christopher Stalford. Councillor Craig stated that the tributes were particularly sad as Wellington College was the school attended by Christopher Stalford and that Christopher had also been a former member of that school's Board of Governors.

14.2 Incident in Bow Street Shopping Mall on 22 February 2022
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig commended the efficient response of the Security staff and the PSNI to the serious incident that had occurred in the Bow Street Shopping Mall that afternoon which had resulted in an individual who appeared to be armed with a knife and a weapon being arrested.

Councillor Craig described the actions of the individual as deeply regrettable and shameful which no doubt had traumatised both staff and members of the public who witnessed the incident. Councillor Craig requested that, through the Mayor's Office, this Council's thanks and appreciation be conveyed to the security staff in the Bow Street Mall and the PSNI Officers for the prompt actions that they took on that occasion.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, also addressed the Council in regard to the above-mentioned incident that had taken place in the vicinity of the City Centre which he said was of great concern. The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed his gratitude for the effectiveness of the response of the PSNI Officers and the Bow Street Mall's security team and agreed to pass on the Council's thanks and gratitude as requested by Councillor D J Craig.

14.3 Antisocial Behaviour in Moira Demesne
Councillor C McCready

Councillor C McCready put on record his disappointment in regard to the antisocial behaviour in Moira Demesne which had taken place over the period of the schools' half term break. The actions of the individuals concerned had resulted in damage to Council property and as a result the toilet block had to be closed for a period of time.

Councillor McCready also put on record his thanks and appreciation to the PSNI for their response to the above matter and also to the Council's Parks and Amenities team for their efforts. Councillor McCready was hopeful that the toilet block in Moira Demesne would return soon to normal opening times.

14.4 Apology for Non Attendance for Alderman M Henderson
Councillor N Trimble

Councillor N Trimble having indicated that he wished to be associated with the comments by The Right Worshipful the Mayor and also Councillor D J Craig in relation to the incident in Bow Street Mall earlier that day, requested that an apology for non-attendance at the meeting that evening be recorded for Alderman M Henderson.

14.5 Lough Neagh Partnership Report – November 2021
Councillor John Palmer

Councillor John Palmer welcomed the most recent publication of the Lough Neagh Partnership Report which had been circulated to Members and which detailed the projects, developments and investment in the Lough Neagh area over the past five years. Councillor Palmer stated that he was honoured to have been a member of the Lough Neagh Partnership over the past number of years and commended the sum of £10 million that had been invested in many projects by the Partnership. Councillor Palmer also commended the input from this Council, along with the other Councils and partners in progressing these projects which he said had brought communities together around the Lough and which he hoped would continue in the future.

14.6 Lisburn Baptist Church – Request to hold Outdoor Service on
Easter Sunday
Councillor A Givan

Councillor A Givan advised that he had received a request earlier that day from Lisburn Baptist Church seeking permission from the Council to hold an outdoor church service on Easter Sunday, 17th April 2022 at 8.30 am in either Wallace Park or Castle Gardens. Councillor Givan stated that the Church had felt that during the current Covid-19 Pandemic an outdoor church service would be a much safer environment.

It was noted that the Council would be required to suspend the relevant Byelaw in relation to the holding of religious ceremonies in public places should Lisburn Baptist Church's request be acceded to.

14.6 Lisburn Baptist Church – Request to hold Outdoor Service on
Easter Sunday (Cont'd)
Councillor A Givan

Following further comments from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, it was agreed on a proposal by Councillor A Givan and seconded by Councillor S Skillen that the Council grants delegated authority to the Leisure & Community Development Committee at its meeting to be held on Tuesday, 1 March 2022 to consider the request from Lisburn Baptist Church to hold an outdoor church service on Easter Sunday and to make a decision thereon.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, thanked those present for their attendance and asked everyone to take care and keep safe.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.18 pm.

Mayor