

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 23 February, 2021 at 7:03 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Hon. N Trimble

Alderman W J Dillon MBE

Councillor U Mackin

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen J Baird, D Drysdale, A G Ewart MBE,
O Gawith, A Grehan, M Henderson MBE,
S Martin, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson,
D J Craig, S Eastwood, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan,
M Gregg, M Guy, D Honeyford, S Hughes, J Lavery BEM,
S Lee, H Legge, S Lowry, J McCarthy, G McCleave,
C McCready, A McIntyre, R McLernon, T Mitchell,
John Palmer, S Skillen and A Swan

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Member Services Officer (BS)
Member Services Officer (MC)
Member Services Officer (DH)
Technician
IT Officer

IN ATTENDANCE IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

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

The Very Reverend Sam Wright, Lisburn Cathedral

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed those present to the remote meeting of Council, which was being live-streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

Prayers

Councillor R Carlin and Alderman M Henderson joined the meeting during the Chaplain's address (7.05 pm and 7.07 pm respectively).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed to the meeting The Very Reverend Sam Wright, Lisburn Cathedral, who gave an address and said a prayer, following which Councillor Trimble thanked him for his attendance and he left the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Father of John Leebody (member of the cleansing team at Carryduff Depot)
- Mother of Diane Jordan, (member of the administrative team in the Environmental Health Unit)
- Former Mayor of Lisburn City Council, Margaret Tolerton

Expression of Condolence from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, stated that it was with sadness that the Council mourned the passing of the former Councillor and former Mayor, Margaret Tolerton, and acknowledged that he had not known the former Councillor Margaret Tolerton as well as many Members on the Council as their paths on the Council had overlapped for a couple of years only. The Right Worshipful the Mayor described Margaret as a rather formidable woman whose chief concern was representing her community in particular the Seymour Hill area (the then Dunmurry Cross District Electoral Area) which is now within the Lisburn North DEA. Margaret had been a stalwart champion for them. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also stated that Margaret was the second former Mayor who had passed away during his tenure as Mayor, as William Bradshaw (Billy) Bell OBE had passed away in June 2020. He added that both portraits of these two former Mayors of the then Lisburn City Council hung in the Council Chamber's portrait gallery just outside the Chamber and which would continue to hang there for years to come.

At this juncture and in line with Council policy everyone in the Chamber stood and a one minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect for the late Margaret Tolerton (7.14 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor since the last meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept an apology for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor A Gowan.

2. Apologies (Cont'd)

At this juncture Alderman J Tinsley advised that Councillor A Gowan had suffered a family bereavement. Alderman Tinsley also stated that he appreciated the minute's silence to mark the passing of Margaret Tolerton whom he described as a stalwart in the Council and also the community she served. He stated that he and a number of Members of Council had been able to listen to the funeral service either in person or virtually to hear the lovely tribute to such a fantastic character, somebody who had the heart of the whole community. Alderman Tinsley stated that our thoughts and prayers go out to Margaret's daughter, Helen, and son, Ian, and their respective families at this very difficult time.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman M Henderson, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 January, 2021 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters ArisingItem 14.9 Page 72Use of Council Facilities for Administering Covid-19 VaccinationsAlderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley having enquired at the previous meeting of Council in regard to any approaches to the Council regarding the use Council facilities for the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme acknowledged that things had now moved on with the announcement the previous day by the Health Minister, Robin Swann, in regard to the SSE Arena in Belfast being used as a mass vaccination centre. Alderman Tinsley also welcomed the progress in regard to the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme to date and stated that as at 22 February 2021 32% of the population in Northern Ireland had received their first vaccination and many had also received their second vaccination. Alderman Tinsley wished to put on record the thanks and appreciation of the Council to Patricia Donnelly, Head of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme, and her teams who were organising and rolling out the vaccination programme in Northern Ireland in such an efficient manner.

It was agreed on a proposal by Alderman J Tinsley, and seconded by Alderman M Henderson, that a letter from the Council conveying the Council's thanks and appreciation be sent to Patricia Donnelly and her teams.

Alderman W J Dillon concurred with the sentiments expressed by Alderman J Tinsley and also put on record that the vaccination programme was a tremendous achievement by Her Majesty's Government.

Item 14.9 Page 72Use of Council Facilities for Administering Covid-19 Vaccinations (Cont'd)Alderman J Tinsley

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Alderman M Henderson, and agreed that the Council writes to the Prime Minister, Boris Johnston, MP, thanking him for the excellent way the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme had been rolled out compared to other countries in Europe which he stated was an excellent achievement.

Councillor H Legge, in following on from Alderman Tinsley's comments, commended that work that was being carried out in the vaccination centre at the Ulster Hospital. Councillor Legge welcomed the fact that those people in the 65+ age group and those who are deemed to be clinically extremely vulnerable were able to avail of this service and paid tribute to the sterling job that was being carried out.

Councillor H Legge having concurred with the comments by Alderman W J Dillon in regard to the success of the Government at Westminster in their efforts with the Covid-19 pandemic, wished to put on record that this Council should pay tribute to our Health Minister, Robin Swann, in regard to the efficient manner in which he has rolled out the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in Northern Ireland and in particular how quickly the vulnerable groups in the community have been able to avail of their vaccinations. Alderman M Henderson wished to second Councillor H Legge's proposal.

Alderman M Henderson commended the professional and efficient service he had been provided with at the Ulster Hospital when he had attended recently to receive his Covid-19 vaccination. Alderman Henderson proposed that the Council also writes to the Chairman of the HSC Trust to personally thank him for the Trust's efforts in the successful vaccination programme to date. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, stated that he had no objections to a further letter being issued from this Council.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute(i) Signing of Legal Documents

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Tourist Wise Limited t/a Brilliant Trails Limited of 5 The Courtyard, Galgorm Castle, Galgorm, Ballymena, BT42 1HL – Contract for construction consultancy services (Hillsborough Forest Digital Sculpture Trail Augmented Reality application).

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Cont'd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Idan Zareski of Les Quatre Vents, 31560 Calmont, France – Contract for Hillsborough Forest Park – Provision of public art commissions and an augmented reality trail. Commission number 1 (Reflection – Cernunnos).
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Sylvain Ristori of 5650 Chemin de Sainte, Margueite, 07380 – Contract for Hillsborough Forest Park – Provision of public art commissions and an augmented reality trail. Commissions number 2 (Nature – Reborn) and Commission 9 (Science – Unit of Life).
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ngaire Jackson of 56 Kernaghan Park, Hillsborough, BT26 6DF – Contract for Hillsborough Forest Park – Provision of public art commissions and an augmented reality trail. Commission number 3 (Heritage – Cybernest).
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Kevin Killen of 10 Crawfordstown Road, Loughinisland, Downpatrick, BT30 8QQ – Contract for Hillsborough Forest Park – Provision of public art commissions and an augmented reality trail. Commission number 4 (Hope and Aspiration – Beacon of Light).
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Marjan Moghaddon of 191 Willoughby Street, Apt 16L, Brooklyn, New York, USA – Contract for Hillsborough Forest Park – Provision of public art commissions and an augmented reality trail. Commission number 6 (Fantasy – Magic Garden).
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Marc Kelly of Drumcondra, Emyvale, County Monaghan, H18 KN36 – Contract for Hillsborough Forest Park – Provision of public art commissions and an augmented reality trail. Commission number 7a (Child's play – Sssssh), Commission number 7b (Child's play – I spy) and Commission Number 8 – (Motion – Power up).
- Northern Ireland Tourist Board (t/a Tourism Northern Ireland) of Floors 10-12 Linum Chambers, Bedford Square, Belfast, BT2 7ES and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council - Deed of Indemnity in relation to design, support and hosting of E-Tourism related website platform.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Willis Towers Watson Insurances (Ireland) Limited of Floor 3, Centrepoint, 24 Ormeau Avenue, Belfast, BT2 8HS – Contract for the provision of insurance services for the South Eastern Sub-Region.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Play and Leisure Services Limited of 31 Carrowdore Road, Greyabbey, BT22 2LU – Contract for play areas phase 3 (re-commission) Lot 3 – Halftown.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Leisure and Community Development Committee****2 February 2021**

Proposed by Alderman M Henderson

Seconded by Councillor D Honeyford

Environmental Services Committee**3 February 2021**

Proposed by Councillor N Anderson

Seconded by Councillor R McLernon

Matters ArisingItem 5.1 Page 106Littering in Rural AreasCouncillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin welcomed the Director of Environmental Services' response to comments raised at the Environmental Services Committee meeting in relation to littering in rural areas and advised that he had recently been in contact with Officers from Environmental Services and Economic Development to see if there could be joint working to devise a scheme to get buy in from local businesses to address what other initiatives the Council and the wider community could do to address littering in general. Councillor Mackin welcomed the email that he had received from the Director of Environmental Services thanking him for what he had put forward and also to assure that his suggestions would be taken forward. He stated that the countryside had got into a dreadful state due to littering and gave examples of wipes, face masks, and other items. On one occasion recently medication had been found which could have been fatal if it had gotten into the wrong hands or consumed by an animal.

Councillor Mackin thanked everyone concerned for their efforts in relation to these matters and looked forward to being involved in these matters in the future.

Councillor S Skillen spoke in support of the comments raised by Councillor U Mackin and wished to add that dog fouling was also an important issue in both the countryside and urban areas that needed to be addressed.

Councillor O Gawith advised that he had been approached recently by a walking group who assist with cleaning up rural areas. Councillor Gawith reported that the member of this group had informed him that she along with this small group who were entirely volunteer had walked along the Bog Road at the weekend past and had managed to gather up a number of items including a TV, a zimmer frame, couple of mobile phones, car CD player, police cones and 16 bags of rubbish. This had been completed in two and a half hours in pouring rain. The lady in question had reported that when she returned the following day a number of items of fast food rubbish had already been thrown down again. Councillor Gawith emphasised that we all need to do what we can in any way to support those people who are willing to help and also to educate others in the importance and dangers of littering.

Item 5.1 Page 106
Littering in Rural Areas (Cont'd)
Councillor U Mackin

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, suggested that Councillor O Gawith pick up this matter with the Director of Environmental Services to highlight the particular area that required attention. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also expressed appreciation in regard to those members of the public who are willing to assist in this important issue but also that it was important that the Council should focus on these matters also.

Development Committee

3 February 2021

Proposed by Alderman W J Dillon
 Seconded by Councillor U Mackin

Matters Arising

Item 4.5 Page 116
Labour Market Partnership – Update and Proposed Delegated Authority
Alderman W J Dillon

Alderman W J Dillon wished to highlight the issue of the uncertainty around the notable budget allocation which the Westminster Government had allocated to the Department for Communities (DfC) for the Labour Market Partnership initiative. Alderman Dillon advised that on the day of the Development Committee meeting the Head of Economic Development had been advised by the DfC that there was no money available for this initiative at this time. As of yesterday Alderman Dillon had enquired if money had become available and it had been confirmed that there was still no budget available, nor would there be any budget available in the near future. Alderman Dillon enquired as to what the NI Executive had done with this budget allocation from the Westminster Government.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, acknowledged the frustration with this important issue.

Capital Projects Committee

9 February 2021

Proposed by Councillor S Hughes
 Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

Corporate Services Committee

10 February 2021

Proposed by Alderman S P Porter
 Seconded by Alderman S Martin

Planning Committee

11 January 2021

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 11 January, 2021 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 1 February, 2021. It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There was no report from the Chief Executive.

10. Reports from Members on Boards10.1 Metropolitan Spatial Planning Working Group
Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin reported on his attendance every quarter at meetings of the Metropolitan Spatial Planning Working Group which consisted of a number of neighbouring councils who meet to discuss progress and development of their Area Plans. Councillor Mackin reminded the Council that in 2014/2015 Councils had been given two and a half to three year window to prepare their Area Plans and there were now a number of Plans coming forward to the Department. Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council's Area Plan was due to be submitted soon also.

In this regard Councillor U Mackin expressed concern that it had been established and subsequently confirmed that Department for Communities, the Department for Infrastructure as well as the Planning Appeals Commission – do not have resources available to attend to the work associated with the Councils' Area Plans. Councillor Mackin expressed further concern that these Area Plans having been delayed for five years it was now looking like there would be an indefinite delay due to lack of resources to further progress the Plans. When probed Department Officials had indicated that they were trying to draw support from elsewhere and to try to reallocate resources to this important area of work. Councillor U Mackin described this situation as disgraceful. He stated that Civil Servants do not need direction but rather should be getting on with it.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed that the Council writes to the Minister for Communities and the Minister for Infrastructure, who have responsibility for Area Plans, to convey in the strongest terms:

- a) the disappointment of this Council in regard to the lack of resources in each of the Departments to attend to this very important area of work,
- b) requesting that the Departments provide assurances that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Area Plan will not be delayed more than necessary,
- c) emphasising that our Council Officers in the Local Development Plan Section of the Planning Unit have been working inordinately and prudently in the development of the Council's Area Plan only to get to this stage to be made aware that there were no resources in place to allow Departments to further progress the Council's Area Plan, and
- d) the dissatisfaction that Government Departments have let local Government down in this regard.

10. Reports from Members on Boards (Cont'd)

At this juncture The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, requested that any Member wishing to provide a report under agenda item 10 Reports from Members on Boards – to advise him in advance.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

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

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Active Travel Network Map (ATNM)
Councillor S Lee

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S Lee had been circulated to Members with the Notice convening the meeting:

“Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council are committed to promoting, and where possible facilitating active travel across the council area. This council therefore resolves to produce an Active Travel Network Map (ATNM), to show where walking and cycling routes already exist (Existing Routes) and where upgrades or brand new routes are anticipated for the next 15 years (Future Routes).”

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor S Lee was seconded by Councillor S Hughes.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6), the above Notice of Motion fell within the remit of the Leisure and Community Development Committee and would be referred to the next meeting of that Committee for consideration.

12.2 Negative Impact on Businesses and Consumers in Lisburn and Castlereagh due to the NI Protocol
Councillor S Skillen

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S Skillen had been circulated to Members with the Notice convening the meeting:

“That this Council believes the negative impact on businesses and consumers in Lisburn and Castlereagh as a result of the Protocol to be unacceptable, stresses the importance of unfettered trade within the UK, particularly as mainland GB is our biggest trading partner, and calls on the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to invoke Article 16 of the Northern Ireland protocol to allow negotiations to take place, to provide clarity in respect of the Regulatory Framework and to find a better way forward that protects local business and consumers.”

12.2 Negative Impact on Businesses and Consumers in Lisburn and Castlereagh due to the NI Protocol (Cont'd)
Councillor S Skillen

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor S Skillen was seconded by Councillor H Legge.

At this point The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, reiterated his comments that he had made recently at a Council meeting in regard to the number of notices of motions coming before the Council that the Council had no legal competency for and which would be better debated at Stormont. He acknowledged that the Notice of Motion on the NI Protocol directly impacted every local business and every local resident in the Lisburn and Castlereagh areas. He stated that it was only right and proper that this Council be afforded the opportunity to discuss this matter and make its position known and accordingly he was content that the Notice of Motion be heard and debated in full.

Councillor S Skillen elaborated on her Notice of Motion during which she referred to the fact that the Brexit transition period was now over and the NI Protocol was in place the outcome of which was being felt widely across Northern Ireland. Furthermore, the Motion was not contesting the decision of the people of UK on 23 June 2016 but rather the devastating effect the Protocol was having on local businesses in every part of Northern Ireland. Sole traders and businesses continue to face challenges during the global pandemic during this pandemic.

Councillor S Skillen made a number of points during her contribution, a number of which included:

- the Protocol was currently damaging business in our local Council area, and in her own constituency in particular – Dundonald Nurseries and Hillmount Nursery
- plants moving from GB to NI have now to be accompanied by a health certificate issued by a qualified inspector, and any delays result in plants deteriorating
- certain seeds can no longer be sold here and more recently packet seeds that were to accompany the BBC's Gardeners World magazine had been removed from the supply of magazines coming to Northern Ireland.
- the rules guided by the Protocol are proving to be unfeasible and time-consuming and the bureaucratic burden of the additional paperwork cannot continue
- without the intervention of our DUP team at Westminster suppliers of steel and raw materials would have struggled to get their supplies without going through all the additional balances and checks and many businesses in Lisburn and Castlereagh area would have been adversely affected

Councillor Skillen wished to put on record her thanks to the Officers in the Council's Economic Development Unit who have continued to provide support to businesses, in particular throughout Protocol period when additional support had been required. Everyday consumers in our constituencies are discovering the negative impact as non-essential retailers remain closed and customers are turning to the major online outlets to have items delivered to their homes. Some

12.2 Negative Impact on Businesses and Consumers in Lisburn and Castlereagh due to the NI Protocol (Cont'd)
Councillor S Skillen

businesses are passing on the additional costs to consumers while others believe the additional workload is too much and have ended their trade to Northern Ireland.

Councillor Skillen thanked those people within her constituency who contacted her and also those who signed Arlene Foster's online petition on the NI Protocol which was debated the previous evening at Stormont. Councillor Skillen also stated that without an urgent rethink the Protocol would continue to have a detrimental impact on our businesses and consumers within our constituencies and appealed to Members to support her Notice of Motion.

Councillor H Legge, having seconded the Notice of Motion, spoke in support of the Motion during which she raised a number of issues, including:

- the balance between protecting the EU single market and ensuring that NI has access to the UK internal market is currently tipping in favour of the EU and the outworking of the Protocol stretches far beyond the protection of the EU single market
- consent had never been sought or given but the NI Protocol has been imposed on NI and its businesses. Councillor Legge stated that her party is opposed to the imposition of the Protocol and want it removed or replaced.
- the UUP's published Practical Solutions Paper which outlined a number of points such as the need for an extended grace period, the need for a UK Government Task Force to deal with immediate problems, extensive awareness campaign amongst GB supply chains and the need for the establishment of an all-island compliance body
- the wider consequences of the Protocol in regard to the movement of animals. Pet owners cannot move freely within UK with their animals, agricultural machinery cannot enter NI from GB without a £200 wash certificate which ensures machinery is power washed to ensure no soil remains on these vehicles.

In concluding Councillor Legge emphasised that NI is part of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland with GB our biggest trading partner for businesses and consumers in this council area and Northern Ireland and they deserve our support at this difficult and unprecedented time.

A number of Members spoke to Councillor S Skillen's Notice of Motion as follows:

Councillor S Lee stated that he was of the opinion that Councillor Skillen's Notice of Motion was one that probably should not have been permitted to be debated by this Council as the Council did not have the power to change anything in this situation. Councillor Lee stated that most of us will be disappointed by the issues

12.2 Negative Impact on Businesses and Consumers in Lisburn and Castlereagh due to the NI Protocol (Cont'd)
Councillor S Skillen

that have arisen by the current arrangements and that it was important that the Council listens to people who have been desperately let down. Also most of us probably would agree that the implementation of the current arrangements are a shambles and most of us would have preferred a much softer Brexit which would have prevented the issues we are seeing now.

In response to Councillor S Lee's comments The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, referred to Standing Order 16.1 (ii) which states that a Notice of Motion may be permitted to be debated by the Council if it 'directly affects the Local Government District or its residents.' The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that it was important that we do have this discussion tonight albeit there is little we can do as a Council.

Councillor S Eastwood spoke against the Notice of Motion during which she outlined a number of points, including:

- a number of past declarations and actions by senior DUP Politicians supporting Brexit at all costs. Councillor Eastwood referred to a number of negative impacts that had been warned about following Brexit such as job losses that the DUP had ignored - it was a case of Brexit at all costs no matter what the damage to Northern Ireland.
- the need to apply forensic scrutiny and follow the chain of events look at the origins of the Brexit route to fully understand what led us to this point
- on 31 March 2019 the former Prime Minister Sir John Major warned that Brexit would jeopardise NI but the DUP did not listen and instead of prioritising Northern Ireland and protecting our people, our jobs, our livelihoods the DUP repeatedly failed
- the Alliance party continue to work closely with local businesses in Lisburn and Castlereagh – working to find a solution
- the party that held the pen and signed off the border in the Irish sea was the DUP who now expect to undo all their hard work, Protocol and all.

At this juncture The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that he did not want this debate to be a political debate and asked that all Members try and maintain a gentlemanly conduct as we debate further this evening.

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting during Councillor Eastwood's contribution at 7.55 pm and returned again at 7.59 pm.

Councillor G McCleave at the outset stated that the Protocol was put in place to help mitigate against the hard Brexit and to avoid a hard border on the Island of Ireland. The DUP had campaigned for this. Councillor McCleave stated that the Protocol is a window of opportunity for businesses with open access to open markets. However Britain's exports to the EU are down 68% since Brexit began in

12.2 Negative Impact on Businesses and Consumers in Lisburn and Castlereagh due to the NI Protocol (Cont'd)
Councillor S Skillen

January 2021. Councillor McCleave stated that we have heard of no alternative to date.

Councillor J McCarthy stated that there has to be an understanding by the proposer of this Motion that by triggering Article 16 will not improve security of the UK or the NI economy. Councillor McCarthy having stated that it was important to look at why the Protocol exists and what it actually states proceeded to elaborate on a number of the 'recitals' and 'annexes' contained within the Protocol and explained that Article 16 allows for safeguarding measures. Also, the Protocol puts NI in a unique position and was hopeful that common sense will prevail and Members vote against this Motion.

Councillor N Anderson spoke in support of the Motion during which he advised that he had been contacted by many members of the business community and also consumers in regard to the trouble they are experiencing due to the Protocol. Councillor Anderson also referred to the fact that many businesses were not operating fully due to Covid and may not yet be aware of the full extent of their problems. He stated that our businesses are being hurt by this Protocol and emphasised that it was important the Council support our businesses, consumers and local groups across the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council areas during these hard times.

Councillor Anderson asked all Members regardless of their respective political alignments to support the Motion tonight and send a message to Her Majesty's Government and which is ultimately about supporting businesses, customers and various groups in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

Councillor John Gallen spoke against the Motion and stated that he regarded Brexit as a shambles from day one and wondered if the DUP had reflected on their actions and that they would have to take ownership of this mess. He also stated that the Protocol would work and it was important that all political parties try to find solutions to make everyone more prosperous in Northern Ireland.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, stated that he felt that some Members had not spoken to the heart of the Motion, but instead had used the opportunity to politically point score. He stated that he was in agreement with what a lot of what other Members had previously stated, but recognised that there was likely no form of wording of the Motion which everyone would be completely satisfied with. He stated that he was in support of the Motion because he felt that the essence of the issue was that the current situation caused by the NI Protocol was not satisfactory both to local residents and to local businesses and that action needed to be taken to remedy this situation.

There being no further speakers The Right Worshipful the Mayor asked Councillor S Skillen to sum up on her Motion.

12.2 Negative Impact on Businesses and Consumers in Lisburn and Castlereagh due to the NI Protocol (Cont'd)
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen thanked Members for participating in the debate this evening and also thanked Councillor H Legge for having seconded the Motion. Councillor Skillen stated that it was disappointing to hear a number of criticisms and negative comments from Members and would have preferred the debate not to have been a political debate. The issue was about standing up for businesses in our Council area. Councillor Skillen also stated that she too could have criticised other parties but had chosen not to.

The Notice of Motion on the subject of the NI Protocol was put to the meeting and a recorded vote was taken at the request of Alderman J Tinsley. The Motion was declared 'carried,' the voting being recorded as follows:

For the Notice of Motion: Councillor N Anderson, Alderman J Baird, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Carson, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman W J Dillon, Alderman D Drysdale, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Alderman M Henderson, Councillor S Hughes, Councillor J Lavery, Councillor H Legge, Councillor C McCready, Councillor R McLernon, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor T Mitchell, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Councillor John Palmer, Alderman S P Porter, Councillor S Skillen, Councillor A Swan, Alderman J Tinsley and The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble.

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Against the Notice of Motion Councillor R Carlin, Councillor S Eastwood, Councillor J Gallen, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor M Gregg, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor M Guy, Councillor D Honeyford, Councillor S Lee, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor G McCleave, Councillor A McIntyre, Alderman S Martin

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12.3 Bi-Lingual Street Signage Policy
Councillor R Carlin

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor R Carlin had been circulated to Members with the Notice convening the meeting:

"That this Council moves to adopt a new bi-lingual street signage policy that simplifies the process for residents when applying for dual language signage on their street and adheres to the guidance outlined in the 'European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages' and the UN Special Rapporteur's guide to the implementation of language rights of linguistic minorities regarding thresholds.

The policy should reflect the following:

- the required consultation can be triggered by either a Resident or local Councillor
- a threshold of 15% of positive respondents will determine the outcome of the request

12.3 Bi-Lingual Street Signage Policy (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

- non-respondents are not considered in the application process
- Bilingual Townland names can also be included on the street signage.”

The relevant paragraph of guidance on thresholds from the UN Office of High Commissioner of Human Rights is as follows:

Street and locality names and topographical indicators intended for the public are important as markers of social identity, culture and history. A good, practical approach adopted in most countries is for the authorities to provide transparent legalisation or procedures to allow bilingual or even trilingual signs, usually following the proportionality principle where there is

a sufficient concentration or demand for such signs in minority languages. While national legalisation varies, the low threshold where it is considered practicable and reasonable to provide such signs tends to vary between 5 per cent and 20 per cent of the local population, with the lowest threshold usually associated with the use of a minority languages that also has some kind of official status or for traditional, historical reasons, The criteria for the display of signs in minority languages must be given a clear and unambiguous legislative basis for it to be effectively implemented. Bilingual or multilingual signs used by public authorities demonstrate inclusiveness, and that various population groups share a locality in harmony and mutual respect”

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor R Carlin was seconded by Councillor G McCleave.

Councillor R Carlin, speaking in Irish, commenced his address at which point there was an interjection from Councillor U Mackin who stated he could not understand what was being said. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, whilst also stating that he too could not understand what was being said, however he felt that Councillor R Carlin's use of the Irish language was pertinent to the subject matter of the motion. However he also stated that he expected Councillor R Carlin would make the majority of his submission in English and that he was permitting Councillor Carlin to proceed.

A point of order was then raised by Alderman M Henderson who wished to have clarification in regard to whether the minute taker was able to record Councillor Carlin's comments that had been spoken in the Irish language. After The Right Worshipful the Mayor had responded to Alderman Henderson, he asked Councillor Carlin when making any pertinent comments during his address that he uses the English language to allow the comments to be recorded in the minutes.

Councillor Carlin proceeded to elaborate on his Notice of Motion and at the outset advised, for the purpose of the minutes, that the words he had expressed in the Irish language had been “Thank you Mr Mayor for allowing me the chance to speak on my Notice of Motion on the subject of Bilingual Signage. “

12.3 Bi-Lingual Street Signage Policy (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor Carlin advised that he brought his Notice of Motion here tonight not only as a representative of the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council but also as someone who spoke Irish as a child, having come from an Irish speaking family.

Councillor Carlin made a number of points in support of his Notice of Motion, a number of which included:

- the Irish language is alive and well within the boundaries of Lisburn and Castlereagh, not just by those who speak it and live it daily as their first language but also by those who learn it in their spare time. Also every resident and even all 40 Members and staff on this council live it daily without a thought as every townland village and townland and parish in LCC has its very routes in the Irish language.
- the old name of Lisburn was Lisnagarvey directly derived from Irish Lios na gCearrbhach 'fort of the gamblers.' Castlereagh is derived from Irish: An Caisleán Riabhach, meaning "the grey castle." Councillor Carlin listed a number of other townlands along with their Irish derivatives.
- despite this rich colourful, historical and colourful and cultural heritage Lisburn and Castlereagh have not one street sign with reference to the origins of its place names. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council has the most restrictive policy of any Council in the North regarding the displaying of bilingual street signs.
- following a recent move by Belfast City Council and then by a number of other councils such as Derry & Strabane, Newry Mourne and Down Council and more recently Mid Ulster in the adopting of the of UN and internationally compliant street signage policies – now have more compliant street naming policies.
- the Council's current policy was bureaucratic and the 60% threshold was unreasonable and unjustifiable as was the counting of non-respondents as a vote against bilanguage signage
- the Council fails to comply with the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages of which the British Government is itself a signatory
- the UN Special Rapporteur's Guide to the implementation of Language Rights of Linguistic Minorities falls under the human rights remit regarding thresholds – which advises local authorities should follow the proportionality principle that 5-25% is considered practical and reasonable. It was discriminatory and indefensible for this Council to ask minority groups to achieve a super majority as our current policy states.
- The United Nations states that bilingual or multilingual signs used by public authorities demonstrates inclusiveness and that various population groups can share a mutual respect. We live in a shared society where we should foster and encourage harmony. This Council should celebrate and promote that diversity and cultural heritage for all those who live here.

12.3 Bi-Lingual Street Signage Policy (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin concluded with a quote from Seamus Heaney “if we regard self-understanding, mutual understanding imagine the enhancement cultural diversity and a tolerant political atmosphere as desirable attainments we should remember that a knowledge of the Irish language is essential in their realisation”

Councillor G McCleave, having seconded Councillor R Carlin’s Notice of Motion, proceeded to speak in support of the Motion and made the following points:

- the Irish language is one of the oldest living languages in Europe but there has been many periods in its history when there have been those who have tried to suppress it
- Irish medium education in the North Irish has had a 41% growth in the last 10 years with 35 primary schools and 44 pre-schools and 5 post primary schools teaching the Irish language and a number of those families live within the Lisburn and Castlereagh areas
- the cost of each sign would be minimal yet this Council has had no problem spending large sums of taxpayers money on events each year
- the change in Council policy is as per the recommended best practice by UN Human Rights and this Council should respect the rights of Irish language speakers within this Council area and show that we are open and welcome to all.

Councillor A P Ewing spoke against the Motion stating that by reducing the threshold to 15% of positive respondents to determine the outcome of a request is unfair and undemocratic in that it does not take into consideration the wishes of the rest of the residents. The Council’s current policy is a more democratic and more appropriate than this proposal.

Councillor J McCarthy spoke in support of the Motion and stated that this Council’s policy should be Human Rights compliant and should take into consideration the rights of those who speak minority languages. Councillor McCarthy stated that he too comes from a family of Irish speakers and therefore recognises the importance of promoting the rich heritage and culture of the Lisburn and Castlereagh area

Councillor A Givan spoke against the Motion and made the following points:

- the motion moved this evening speaks of bilingual signs. Why do we not consider trilingual signs as there are areas in LCCC area where there are more than two different languages being spoken. The mover of the Motion is only interested in one language, that is the Irish language.
- the implementation of this motion would result in adverse community tension as to have Irish Street signs would be regarded as cultural branding
- the 15% threshold would be unfair and undemocratic

12.3 Bi-Lingual Street Signage Policy (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

- the proposer makes no mention of Community Relations
- we all have a duty to learn English otherwise people would remain segregated in their own communities to the detriment of society as a whole
- the Irish language is a good language, as is the Ulster-Scots language but sadly the Irish language polarises communities and is synonymous with anti-Britishness here in Northern Ireland and in our mixed DEAs such a move would cause resentment with the Irish language forced upon them against their will. This is not being inclusive nor will it help to build a shared future.

Councillor A McIntyre spoke against the Notice of Motion and made a number of points, including:

- the Alliance party always has been supportive of the Irish Language
- place names are anglicised versions of native Irish and help give us an insight into landscape, settlements and battles of the past
- we now have Irish language classes at our civic centre and there are a number of community initiatives in our Council area, one in particular being the Glenavy GAC. Councillor McIntyre advised that this was where he had attended Irish language classes.
- it is very important, to recognise those who prefer not to have dual signs
- this proposal lowers the threshold which would create a risk of disharmony in areas
- the Motion lacks detail around the consultation process and openly stating the exclusion of non-respondents. This is something which would only serve to create the feeling of dual language signage being imposed upon in a neighbourhood
- he was disappointed that this Notice of Motion had been brought forward in this manner as a current Council policy on Street Signage already existed. The right course of action would have been to bring this issue to Committee to request for a review of current policy and to request legal advice and an EIA
- no enquiries have been made in relation to requests for Irish language signs which shows that either there was no demand or that the Council had a role to be more proactive in highlighting the current policy
- the original policy had been reviewed and ratified by the Full Council in 2018 however the Alliance group believes this policy needs reviewed again in light of the guidance that Councillor R Carlin had highlighted from the European Charter on Regional or Minority languages and the UN Special Rapporteurs Guide

12.3 Bi-Lingual Street Signage Policy (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

- in March 2020 a presentation to the Corporate Services Committee (CSC) had been made by Conradh na Gaeilge and it had been agreed that a report on obligations of this Council in regard to the Irish language be should be presented to CSC in June 2020. However the due to the activating of the Council's emergency plan due to Covid our priorities changed and that report has not been undertaken.

In concluding Councillor A McIntyre stated that Alliance does support and embrace the Irish language and recognises its importance as part of its shared history and identity but due to the lack of detail over application of this proposal and risk of the lower threshold having a politicising effect, he could not support this Motion as it stands.

Councillor A Swan left the meeting during Councillor A McIntyre's contribution at 8.40 pm and returned again at 8.42 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, responded to the comment raised by Councillor A McIntyre in regard to Notices of Motion which sought to amend a Council policy in the general sense. The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that such Motions were good in that they allow for debate. Should a change in policy be agreed the proper internal processes would then be completed. The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that he would not want to discourage Members from being able to submit Motions seeking to amend or change a policy.

Councillor J Gallen, having commended Councillor R Carlin on the manner in which he presented his Notice of Motion, spoke in support of the Motion during which he sought clarification in relation to the 15% threshold. Councillor Carlin stated it was 15% of respondents and not number of people surveyed whereas with the current policy non-responders are taken as 'not in favour.'

Councillor C McCready spoke against the Motion during which he challenged the proposer and seconder of the Motion in relation to what their priorities should be during the Covid-19 pandemic. Also, Councillor McCready stated that from his experience of growing up with many minority languages he believed that this Notice of Motion on bilingual street signage would not bring people together and therefore he could not support something that would divide communities.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor invited Councillor R Carlin to sum up on his Notice of Motion.

Councillor R Carlin summed up by referring again to the importance of human right priorities and gave an assurance that the Notice of Motion was not coming from Sinn Fein but rather from the United Nations and the British Government's report on minority languages which they submit annually to the Council of Europe. The Motion was about focussing on the Irish Language and to acknowledge we have the Irish language in Lisburn and Castlereagh. Councillor R Carlin also expressed disappointment in regard to the interruptions at the commencement of his contribution and also in regard to a number of comments by those Members who

12.3 Bi-Lingual Street Signage Policy (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

spoke against his Notice of Motion. Councillor Carlin thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor, once again, for having the opportunity to speak on his Motion.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, put the Notice of Motion to the meeting and a recorded vote was taken at the request of Councillor A P Ewing. The Notice of Motion 'fell,' the voting being recorded as follows:

In Favour of the Motion: Councillor R Carlin, Councillor J Gallen, Councillor S Lee, Councillor J McCarthy and Councillor G McCleave.

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Against the Motion: Councillor N Anderson, Alderman J Baird, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Carson, Councillor M Gregg, Alderman W J Dillon, Alderman D Drysdale, Councillor S Eastwood, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor O Gawith, Councillor A Givan, Councillor M Gregg, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor M Guy, Alderman M Henderson, Councillor M Honeyford, Councillor S Hughes, Councillor J Lavery, Councillor H Legge, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor C McCready, Councillor A McIntyre, Councillor R McLernon, Councillor U Mackin, Alderman S Martin, Councillor T Mitchell, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Councillor John Palmer, Alderman S P Porter, Councillor S Skillen, Councillor A Swan, Alderman J Tinsley and The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble,

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13. Confidential Business

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that the item to be considered under Confidential Business was confidential due to containing information in relation to the financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned, (including the Council holding that information).

Councillor U Mackin left the meeting at 8.53 pm.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor H Legge, and agreed that the following item be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The live stream of the meeting was paused at this stage.

13.1 Request for Delegated Authority for the Award of Tender for Recycling Recovery of Residual and Bulky Waste from Council Household Recycling Centres

The Chief Executive outlined the background and key issues in relation to the above tender exercise.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor S Lee, and agreed that the Council grants delegated authority to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee to award the tender for the

13.1 Request for Delegated Authority for the Award of Tender for Recycling Recovery of Residual and Bulky Waste from Council Household Recycling Centres (Cont'd)

recycling and recovery of residual and bulky waste from Council Household Recycling Centres. It was noted that a report thereon would be brought to the Environmental Services Committee advising of the award.

Additional Confidential Matter

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that a further confidential matter was required to be considered by Members present at the meeting and the Chief Executive.

At this juncture (8.56 pm) the Member Services Officers in attendance in the Council Chamber left the meeting as did the Directors who were in attendance remotely (via the Zoom 'waiting room' facility), namely; the Director of Environmental Services, the Director of Service Transformation, the Acting Director of Corporate Services and Finance and the Acting Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing.

13.2 Appointment of Director of Finance & Corporate Services

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised Council that, following completion of a selection and appointment process, a conditional offer of employment had been made for the post of Director of Finance & Corporate Services.

Members noted this outcome and that the matter would remain in confidence until employment checks had been completed and the appointment confirmed.

The Member Services Officers returned to the meeting at 8.59 pm at which stage the Directors were also re-admitted to the meeting from the Zoom 'waiting room' facility.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by the Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Irish Street Signage
Councillor A McIntyre

Following on from his speech earlier in the meeting during consideration of Councillor R Carlin's Notice of Motion, Councillor A McIntyre referred again to the matter of the report on the 'Council's Obligations in relation to the Irish Language' which had been due to be brought back and considered at the June 2020 Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee but which had not happened due to the

14.1 Irish Street Signage (Cont'd) Councillor A McIntyre

Covid-19 Pandemic and the Council's Emergency Plan being enacted. Councillor A McIntyre stated that, on behalf of the Alliance group, he proposed that this report be now undertaken to allow a holistic review of the Council's current policies and the obligations that it does have with issues around the Irish language cutting across a number of Committees.

Councillor McIntyre stated that this review was important as it would inform any changes around policies going forward. This review would include the current policy on street signage, including an Equality Impact Assessment and any relevant legal advice that the Council would need to undertake.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council's Emergency Plan remained enacted at this moment in time as a number of services continued to be suspended due to the pandemic; and that it may be April before all services were reinstated. The Chief Executive emphasised that the Council's focus continues to be supporting staff, redeployed staff and staff on Furlough and accordingly the proposal by Councillor McIntyre could not be actioned at this time.

Following further comments from The Right Worshipful the Mayor it was agreed that Councillor McIntyre's proposal be withdrawn and that the Member be allowed to come back with his proposal at an appropriate time when the Council was out of the Emergency governance arrangements.

14.2 DIY SOS BBC1 Programme Councillor John Palmer

Councillor John Palmer referred to the airing the previous evening of the BBC's DIY SOS Programme which had assisted with a major DIY project for a family from Bangor and at which a number of local tradesmen had taken part. Councillor Palmer advised the Council that this was the first time the BBC had brought this programme to Northern Ireland.

It was agreed at the request of Councillor John Palmer that a letter from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, be sent to these local companies expressing congratulations and appreciation for their commitment and hard work in helping the family concerned.

14.3 Sale of Non-Essential and Secondary Goods Regulations The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, reported that he had been approached by an owner of a local small independent menswear shop who had expressed frustration regarding certain large out of town retailers operating a clothing department 'with impunity.' This member of the public had asked the question if these retailers were permitted to sell these secondary items and if there was anything the Council could do from an enforcement point of view.

14.3 Sale of Non-Essential and Secondary Goods Regulations (Cont'd)
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble

In response the Director of Environmental Services advised that through The Executive Office considerable work had gone into addressing the various queries around premises which are permitted to trade in accordance with the regulations. This issue had been clarified and had been challenged locally but the position on the sale of secondary goods had been confirmed and that anyone who was operating outside of the guidance should be referred to the Council's Environmental Health unit. The Director reminded Members of the approach to support local businesses. The Director stated that any specific examples of secondary sales should be passed to either herself or the Head of Environmental Health in the first instance.

A number of Members spoke on this matter, during which reference was made of the following:

- the benefit of the High Street Voucher Scheme
- the benefit the click & collect facility
- online sales affecting local businesses
- financial stress being experienced by both larger and smaller shops
- the closing certain sections of the larger multinational stores could lead to unemployment for staff working at these outlets.

In response to a question in relation to what regulatory channels were open to the Council when dealing with breaches in trading regulations, the Director of Environmental Services advised that from a council perspective the support to local businesses is integrated and inclusive of all Council Departments where relevant.

14.4 Clanmil's Housing Proposals re MOD Houses at Oakridge,
Lisburn North DEA
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig reported that Clanmil Housing had been offered a further 30+ army houses at Oakridge area of Lisburn North area. Councillor Craig reminded Members that there has been an agreement in place for the past five or six years that any houses offered out would be on a 50/50 basis of social rental and first time buyers using a scheme introduced by the Executive which made it easier for first time buyers to purchase their own properties.

Councillor Craig expressed concern that a letter handed out to local residents by Clanmil made no mention of that agreement and also made no mention of properties being sold to first time buyers. Councillor Craig stated that this has been a clear breach of the agreement set up between the local community and themselves.

Councillor D J Craig proposed that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Housing Liaison Forum, together with The Right Worshipful the Mayor, seek an urgent meeting with Clanmil Housing to address this matter. The Right Worshipful the Mayor seconded Councillor Craig's proposal and the proposal was agreed.

14.4 Clanmil's Housing Proposals re MOD Houses at Oakridge,
Lisburn North DEA (Cont'd)
Councillor D J Craig

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that the Chief Executive arranges such a meeting as soon as possible.

Councillor J McCarthy spoke in support of Councillor Craig's proposal.

Councillor Carson echoed the sentiments expressed by Councillor Craig and stated that he too had concerns in regard to not being consulted properly on this matter. He also advised that his colleague, Paul Givan MLA had raised this matter with Clanmil's Chief Executive.

Alderman S Martin felt Clanmil's engagement was a bit more proactive on this occasion and advised that he had had conversations with residents on this matter. Alderman Martin also warned caution in relation to moving forward too quickly on this issue and to have further conversation and engagement with Clanmil in order to gain more facts on their proposals and to take responsible and proactive steps. He also suggested that the engagement included all six Lisburn North Councillors.

Councillor S Hughes whilst acknowledging that the points raised by Alderman S Martin were very salient points wished to put on record his disappointment that he had not received any telephone call from Clanmil on this occasion.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor indicated that the Chief Executive advised him that the next meeting of the Housing Liaison Forum was due to take place on 3 March, to which Clanmil and the Lisburn North Councillors could be invited. It was noted that endeavours would be made to secure an earlier date, if possible.

For the record, Councillor R T Beckett advised that Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP had been also involved in addressing this issue this week. Councillor Beckett elaborated on a number of issues that had been raised thereon.

14.5 Signage at Blaris New Cemetery
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Comments were noted from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, in regard to two conflicting signs at Blaris New Cemetery, one stating that no dogs were permitted in the cemetery and the other stating that dogs on leads were permitted. The Deputy Mayor also expressed concern in relation to the amount of dog fouling on the green areas at the entrance gates to the Cemetery.

In response The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that the Chief Executive had given him an assurance that the above matters would be attended to at the earliest opportunity.

14.6 Unstable Internet during Previous Matter
Councillor A McIntyre

Comments were noted from Councillor A McIntyre who advised that his internet connection had been unstable during the matter he had raised earlier under Any Other Business and sought clarification in regard to the outcome thereon.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 9.33 pm.

Mayor