

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 24 August, 2021 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman S Martin

Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, A G Ewart MBE, A Grehan,
O Gawith and J Tinsley

Councillors D J Craig, S Eastwood, A P Ewing, A Gowan,
D Honeyford, J Lavery BEM, S Lee, H Legge, J McCarthy,
C McCready, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer and A Swan

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Aldermen J Baird, M Henderson MBE and S P Porter

Councillors R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson, J Gallen,
A Givan, M Gregg, M Guy, S Hughes, G McCleave,
A McIntyre, R McLernon, S Skillen and N Trimble.

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Member Services Officer (BS)
Member Services Officer (RN)
Technician
IT Officer

IN ATTENDANCE IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Service Transformation
Head of Building Control
Acting Head of Communities
Reverend Cheryl Meban

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting the Chief Executive proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

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

At this point the Member Services Officer 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 juncture, Alderman A Grehan advised that Councillor H Legge would be arriving late to the meeting.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, referred to the following bereavements and expressed his condolences to their families:

- Martin (Marty) Stitt, Street Cleansing Carryduff Depot, who passed away suddenly earlier this month. The Right Worshipful the Mayor paid tribute to the many years of loyal service that Marty had provided to the Council and advised that he had sent a letter, on behalf of the Council, to Marty's widow, Robyn, to convey the Council's condolences to her and the wider family circle at this sad and difficult time.
- Mother of Diane Wilson, Administrative Assistant, Corporate Communications and Administration, and
- Father of Padraic Murphy, Programme Co-ordinator, Portfolio Office, Economic Development Unit

Alderman S P Porter joined the meeting remotely at 7.06 pm.

As the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Meban, who had not yet joined the meeting remotely, The Right Worshipful the Mayor invited Alderman J Tinsley to address the Council and say a prayer. During his prayer Alderman Tinsley remembered those bereaved families referred to by The Right Worshipful the Mayor and also those communities in crisis in Afghanistan.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Alderman Tinsley for having deputised for his Chaplain at short notice and for his contribution that evening.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

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.

The Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Meban, joined the meeting remotely at 7.11 pm.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman D Drysdale, Councillors N Anderson, S Lowry and U Mackin, the Director of Environmental Services and the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 July, 2021 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

Councillor H Legge entered the meeting at 7.12 pm.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Councillor John Palmer, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and IDOX – To consolidate all IDOX support and maintenance contracts within Building Control and Environmental Health into a single annual agreement and payment, IDOX, 3 Ballynahinch Street, Hillsborough, Co Down BT26 6AW
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Santos FC – Lease of the Scout Field, 698 Saintfield Road, Carryduff BT8 8BU – Santos, 8 Croft Hill Cottages, Belfast BT8 6BA
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Run with Passion – Lease of Drumbo Park, 57 Ballyskeagh Road, Lisburn BT27 5TE – Run with Passion, Drumbo Park, 57 Ballyskeagh Road, Lisburn BT27 5TE
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and The Lagan Navigation Trust – Lease of Land at Blaris Drive, Lisburn – The Lagan Navigation Trust of Navigation House, 148 Hillsborough Road, Blaris, Lisburn BT27 5QY
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Technology One UK Ltd – G Cloud 12 Call off agreement with Technology One – Technology One UK Ltd, 29 Broadway, Maidenhead SL6 1LY United Kingdom

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Advanced Overwatch – Contract for Planned Preventative Maintenance – Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) (PPM 11) – Advanced Overwatch, Units 1-3 Loughanhill Industrial Estate, Coleraine BT52 2NR

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Special Development Committee
Proposed by Alderman A Grehan
Seconded by Councillor H Legge

16 August, 2021

Planning Committee

5 July, 2021

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 5 July, 2021 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 August, 2021. It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

9.1 Local Government Boundaries Review NI – Draft Consultation Response

The Chief Executive's report outlined the background and key issues in relation to the Local Government Boundaries Review NI – Draft Consultation Response, the recommendations of which had been published on the LGBC NI website.

A copy of the latest correspondence from the commissioner dated 27 July 2021 had been furnished to Members. It was noted that the deadline for written submissions was 21 September 2021 and that should Members wish to make individual representation full details of how to access and respond to the consultation could be viewed on the LGBC NI website.

The Chief Executive advised that the Commissioner's Provisional Proposals report outlined the recommendations in respect of the number, boundaries and names of the 11 local government districts and also the number, boundaries and names of the wards into which each district was divided. A table outlining this information for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area had been appended to the Chief Executive's report for ease of interpretation. The report also contained a link to a map detailing the ward boundary changes for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area a copy of which had been also provided to Members. Also, large scale maps highlighting the variation in wards boundary changes had been placed in the rotunda at Lagan Valley Island for Member and public viewing.

The Chief Executive recommended in his report that that the Council responds to the Commissioner accepting in full her provisional recommendations.

9.1 Local Government Boundaries Review NI – Draft Consultation Response (Cont'd)

During discussion Alderman Tinsley proposed that rather than the Council responding as a corporate body accepting in full the provisional recommendation of the Local Government Boundary Commission – individual Members and/or individual political parties make their own submission to the Commissioner.

Councillor N Trimble welcomed the fact that the provisional recommendations had no overall change to the Council's boundary and also pointed out that there was considerable change to the boundaries of Lisburn South and Kilultagh DEAs. Councillor Trimble stated that in his opinion the least amount of change would be preferable and that he was in support of Alderman Tinsley's proposal.

It was agreed on a proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, that:

- a) the Chief Executive's report on the Commissioner's provisional findings, so far as they impact on this Council, be noted, and
- b) individual Members and/or individual political parties make their own submission to the Commissioner by the stipulated closing date of 21 September, 2021.

9.2 Targeted Consultation on the Future Planning Model - Integrated Care System NI - Draft Framework Document

The Chief Executive reported that a programme of work had commenced to develop a Future Planning Model to replace the existing commissioning arrangements and processes in Northern Ireland regarding the delivery of health services. This work would see the development of a new Integrated Care System (ICS) model in Northern Ireland whereby local providers and communities would be empowered to come together to plan, manage and deliver care for their local population based on a population health approach, with regional and specialised services planned, managed and delivered at a regional level.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council was being asked to submit its views on the draft Framework which will underpin this model.

The Chief Executive's report contained a link to a document 'Future Planning Model' which provided a blueprint for the future of planning and managing health and social care services in Northern Ireland.

The Chief Executive advised that the rationale for having recommended that the response be developed and agreed at the Leisure & Community Development Committee was due to the links with this piece of work to the Council's Community Plan.

It was proposed by Councillor J McCarthy, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed that as the deadline for the submission of responses was

9.2 Targeted Consultation on the Future Planning Model - Integrated Care System NI - Draft Framework Document (Cont'd)

17 September 2021, which was prior to the date of the September Council meeting, delegated authority be granted to the Leisure and Community Development Committee to approve the consultation response to the draft Future Planning Model issued by the Department of Health.

9.3 Arrangements for Council and Committee Meetings

The Chief Executive's report outlined the background to and the current arrangements in relation to Council and Committee meetings.

It was noted that it was anticipated that the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Bill would receive Royal Assent in September 2021 however arrangements required to be agreed to enable the Council to continue with its meetings in the absence of this legislation.

The report circulated outlined options for Council and Committee meetings during September 2021.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed that pending the Local Government (Meetings and Performance) Bill receiving Royal Assent:

- a) the Full Council Meeting at the end of September be held in in the Island Hall with all Members requested to attend and until Royal Assent for the regulations is received, and
- b) Committee meetings progress with all Members in physical attendance in the Council Chamber as outlined in the Chief Executive's report.

Apologies from The Mayor's Chaplain, The Reverend Meban

At this juncture The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that Reverend Meban had messaged him to advise that she had experienced technical difficulties earlier and whilst she had joined the meeting for a while, she had since left the meeting and wished to apologise for not being able to address the Council on this occasion.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

10.1 National Association of Councillors
Alderman M Henderson

Alderman M Henderson reported that the National Association of Councillors (NAC) were back up and running and that the first meeting was taking place in October in Carlisle. The theme of the meeting was 'Levelling Up' and would look at issues such as 'Special Powers to Councils' in relation to 'after Covid-19'

10.1 National Association of Councillors (Cont'd)
Alderman M Henderson

and other issues in connection roles and responsibilities of councils during a pandemic.

Alderman Henderson having welcomed the fact that there was now a direct flight operating from Belfast to Carlisle advised that due to a number of NAC members not having been re-elected following the local elections in England he had been appointed to the Executive Committee of the NAC in England which meant that he would be required to travel to England six times a year and in this regard sought approval from Council to attend these meetings.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor having congratulated Alderman Henderson on his appointment to the NAC Executive Committee advised that the Chief Executive had informed him that a report relating to Members' attendance at another event was due to be presented to the Corporate Services Committee at its meeting 8 September 2021 and that the matter of Alderman Henderson's approval to attend the above-mentioned NAC meetings could be included for consideration and a decision thereon.

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 at the meeting.

13. Confidential Business

It was agreed that the reports and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, advised that the matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "in committee" due to:

Item 13.1 Hillsborough Community Events – Follow Up Report 1 – containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information), and

Item 13.2 Section 76 in Respect of Planning Applications LA05/2018/0847/F and LA05/2019/0712/F - containing information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor J McCarthy, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the following items 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 (7.25 pm).

13.1 Hillsborough Community Events – Follow Up Report 1

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, the first of a number of follow up reports outlining progress to date in respect of Hillsborough Community Events to celebrate the granting of ‘Royal’ Status. The report also set out a proposed timetable of events.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, commended the Chief Executive and Officers for their efforts in progressing this area of work over the summer months.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the Chief Executive’s follow up report on the Hillsborough Community Events be noted and that the recommendation as outlined in the report be approved.

13.2 Section 76 in Respect of Planning Applications LA05/2018/0847/F and LA05/2019/0712/F

Members had been provided with a copy of the Section 76 Agreement in respect of the above planning application.

Following a number of comments and a suggestion by Councillor M Guy in relation to the above-mentioned section 76 agreement a discussion ensued during which the Director of Service Transformation responded to a number of comments and questions raised by Members.

Following the discussion it was agreed on a proposal by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer that

- a) a decision in respect of the Chief Executive’s recommendation on the section 76 agreement be deferred,
- b) a Special meeting of council be convened in early September to consider this matter further and to make a decision thereon, at which a legal representative would be in attendance, and
- c) an Elected Member workshop on the matter in question be arranged prior to the Special Meeting of Council which would provide further information and better understanding of the issues to be considered.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (8.16 pm).

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Recent Flooding
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter referred the recent flooding in the Ballymacash and Ballymacoss areas of Lisburn and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Chief Executive for having issued his email to Members regarding the way forward for the Council and community groups. Alderman Porter expressed concern that despite the number of meetings with local Councillors and best efforts to alleviate flooding in the above-mentioned areas flooding and sewerage continue to be an issue.

Alderman Porter requested that the Chief Executive arrange a meeting with senior officials from DfI Roads and NI Water to discuss the ongoing flooding issue in these areas with Elected Members from both the Lisburn South DEA and Kilultagh DEA to be in attendance as well as community representatives.

Alderman S P Porter wished to put on record his thanks and appreciation to the Director of Environmental Services and Officers for their efforts in attending to the provision of sand bags on the evening in question which ensured residents and local business owners were protected as best as possible. Alderman Porter stated that Officers had gone over and beyond the call of duty on that occasion.

The Chief Executive undertook to consider the request by Alderman S P Porter.

14.2 Condition of Planting on Major Roundabouts
Councillor A Givan

Councillor A Givan expressed concern in regard to the condition of the wild flower meadow planting on major roundabouts on arterial routes into Lisburn which created a terrible impression for rate paying residents and visitors coming into this area. He stated that wild flower meadow planting was not suitable for roundabouts as such planting was a very slow process taking somewhere between 10-14 years to develop fully.

Councillor Givan asked that the Chief Executive consider reviewing the current policy on planting at roundabouts and suggested flowering shrubs or small trees and small bedding plants would be more suitable. He also stated that the Council had excellent ground maintenance staff.

In response The Right Worshipful the Mayor suggested that Councillor Givan in the first instance liaise with the Director of Environmental Services and the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing, with a view to a report being brought before the relevant Committee in due course.

14.3 Litter, Dog Fouling and Fly Tipping Enforcement
Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A G Ewart referred to three other councils that have employed a private firm to carry out litter, dog fouling and fly tipping enforcement in partnership with the councils' own enforcement officers (namely; Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council). Alderman Ewart was of the opinion that this arrangement worked well and requested that the Environmental Services Committee consider putting in place a similar arrangement or at least to carry out a pilot scheme in the first instance.

Councillor A P Ewing, as Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee, spoke in support of Alderman A G Ewart's comments and looked forward to having this discussion at Committee.

In response the Chief Executive stated that this matter included more than littering and dog fouling and referred to the wider strategic position of environmental crime on which more work was required such as in relation to levels of complaints and where the 'hot spots' were. The Chief Executive advised that a report would come forward on this area of work in due course.

14.4 Grass Cutting at Lough Moss
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin referred to having received a number of complaints regarding the grass at Lough Moss and requested that the grass be cut at this location as soon as possible.

14.5 Afghanistan Refugee Crisis
Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, referred to the current Afghanistan refugee crisis and advised that he had been contacted by various community groups and churches enquiring about a central hub for clothing donations for any potential refugees that may come into the Council area and in this regard enquired if there were any plans for the Council to facilitate such a facility.

The Acting Head of Communities advised that such requests would normally be received by the Mayor's Office and undertook to liaise with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's Office with a view to co-ordinating such a facility in conjunction with the Communities team. It was noted that a similar facility had been put in place in the past for Syrian refugees.

14.6 Former Hilden Primary School Building
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig referred to the purchase by the Council of the former Hilden Primary School as an historic building which was to be developed for the benefit of the local community. He stated that a committee comprising of Lisburn North DEA Members that had been set up to oversee this initiative and which was to consider progress reports on a monthly basis and expressed dissatisfaction in

14.6 Former Hilden Primary School Building (Cont'd)
Councillor D J Craig

regard to the apparent lack of progress on this initiative as no further updates had been provided in almost two years. Councillor Craig requested the Chief Executive to address this matter as soon as possible.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, left the meeting at 8.27 pm.

In response the Acting Head of Communities advised that the last meeting of the board had taken place at the end of in May 2021 with the next meeting scheduled for mid-September. The Acting Head of Communities proceeded to provide Members with an overview of the work that had been undertaken in recent times in relation to the development of the former Hilden Primary School, including:

- the recruitment of a Development Officer, Dr Ben Simons, who had been in post since April 2021, had been carrying out a significant piece of work with local residents and interested stakeholders in the Hilden area. Dr Simons also had been recording testimonials from significant individuals as part of the delivery focus for this project
- focus group meetings had taken place both in the museum and the local community
- leaflets had been printed for distribution in the Hilden area to provide an update on this project for local residents
- a meeting with Heritage Lottery Fund had been arranged to provide an update on general progress in the development phase of the project.
- a refresh of the business case for this project was being undertaken as instructed by the Capital Project Team in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Cllr S Hughes supported the issues raised by Councillor Craig in relation to the Hilden project and agreed that communication around this project was an issue of concern.

14.7 McKinstry Road Junction
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig advised that he had noted with interest that on 21 August 2021 the Minister for Infrastructure, Nichola Mallon MLA, had approved a series of safety measures at the roundabout at the end of the McKinstry Road. Whilst welcoming such safety measures by DfI, Councillor Craig expressed concern that such works were being carried out ahead of any improvement works to the junction at The Cutts which had a long history of serious road traffic accidents, serious injuries and also fatalities at that junction. Councillor Craig reminded the Council that Officials from DfI Roads continue to emphasize to the Council that the Department requires a significant accident history for the area in question in order that any improvements and safety measures be undertaken.

14.7 McKinstry Road Junction (Cont'd)
Councillor D J Craig

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor J McCarthy and agreed that the Council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure to:

- a) convey the Council's deep dissatisfaction and concerns in regard to the Department's approval of a series of safety measures at the McKinstry roundabout when there is a more severe accident history at The Cutts junction going back for almost a decade and asking the Department to justify their decision on this occasion, and
- b) request details for the record on the accident history for both the McKinstry roundabout and the junction at The Cutts.

Councillor O Gawith left the meeting at 8.31 pm.

14.8 Mayoral Event for LGBT Community
Councillor S Lee

Councillor S Lee congratulated The Right Worshipful the Mayor in regard to the successful event the previous evening which he felt was very positive for Lisburn's LGBT citizens and expressed the wish that this would be an annual event.

14.9 Update on Environmental and Sustainability Working Group
Councillor S Lee

At the outset Councillor S Lee referred to the most recent IPCC report which highlighted stark warnings from over 2000 scientists regarding climate change and stated that he was hopeful that the Council could re-visit its corporate position on climate emergency at some stage.

Councillor Lee requested an update on the ongoing work of the Council's Environmental and Sustainability Working Group.

The Head of Building Control advised that whilst there had been no meetings of the Council's Environmental Sustainability Working Group for some time work had been ongoing. The Head of Building Control in particular referred to the development of a policy and the screening tool that goes along with the policy which would allow anyone taking a project forward to have something to screen the project against in terms of environmental and sustainability impacts. The Head of Building Control was hopeful that this piece of work would be presented to a meeting of the Environmental and Sustainability Working Group with a date to be established in the next number of weeks.

14.10 Support to Refugees
Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Eastwood having put on record her solidarity to the situation in Afghanistan, stated that she was aware of a number of Members on this Council who had suffered as a result of family members serving in Afghanistan and was

14.10 Support to Refugees (Cont'd)
Councillor S Eastwood

also aware that many people in the community have also suffered greatly both physically and mentally as a result of having served in Afghanistan.

Councillor Eastwood wished to support the issue raised earlier by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, in regard to a community response being put in place. Councillor Eastwood enquired if Council Officers had been in contact with The Executive Office on how the Council could assist these refugees. Councillor Eastwood also welcomed the fact that her party colleague Kellie Armstrong MLA had written to the Department for Communities on this matter.

Councillor Eastwood welcomed the Council's cross party support for the refugee crisis in Afghanistan and reminded that this Council set the bar high when Lisburn had the highest number of resettled families from Syria in the past. Councillor Eastwood stated that these families were very much the heart of our city despite only being here a short while. Councillor Eastwood also stated that this was sending a positive signal from the Council to those people fleeing for their lives in Afghanistan and concluded by stating that it was important that this Council reaches out to do what is possible for these refugees.

The Chief Executive reaffirmed that a local response to the refugee crisis in Afghanistan would be co-ordinated through the Mayor's Office and the Council's Communities team and also gave an assurance that contact would be made with the Department for Communities to see what further help could be provided by this Council.

14.11 Gap in Funding Streams
Councillor A Gowan

Councillor A Gowan having welcomed the strong track record of the Council in investing in and supporting community facilities expressed concern that there was a funding gap in what the Council provided as there were a number of groups for which the feasibility study was an impediment.

Councillor A Gowan requested that Officers look into the potential for a funding stream that would provide for this 'gap' and bring a report to the Leisure & Community Development Committee for consideration.

The Acting Head of Communities confirmed that a report on the outcome of the Community Facilities Fund was being progressed currently which would be considered at the September meeting of the Leisure & Community Development Committee. This report would include consideration of the development of such a fund to support groups applying for capital project assistance.

Councillor S Skillen spoke in support of the comments made by Councillor A Gowan.

14.12 Congratulation to Acting Head of Communities
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen congratulated the Acting Head of Communities for her success in being appointed to the position of Head of Communities, subject to employment checks being undertaken.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also wished to convey congratulations to the Acting Head of Communities on her appointment.

14.13 Condition of Public Toilets in Hillsborough Village
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Councillor Jenny Palmer referred to a recent occasion when she was out and about with her grandchildren and had to avail of the public toilets in Hillsborough Village. Councillor Palmer expressed concern in regard to the conditions therein. Her grandchildren had been reluctant to use the facilities describing them as dark, damp and dirty. Councillor Palmer also advised that there had been no hand sanitiser or hand towels and was hopeful that the public realm scheme in Hillsborough would design public toilets which would be fit for purpose. Councillor Palmer requested that something be done in the interim to improve these facilities in light of the Royal title being bestowed on Hillsborough in the near future.

The Chief Executive having thanked Councillor Jenny Palmer for having raised this issue, advised that such issues should be fed into the Chief Executive's office in the first instance in order that they can be dealt with as soon as possible. The Chief Executive also reminded all Members that as part of the Council's DEA Investment Plan funding had been committed for the refurbishment of these toilet facilities and that work was ongoing with the Assets team in this regard. The Chief Executive undertook to get an update on this matter and report back to Councillor Jenny Palmer thereon.

14.14 Enforcement Issues
Councillor John Palmer

Councillor John Palmer welcomed the matter raised earlier by Alderman A G Ewart regarding enforcement issues (item 14.3 refers) and stated that he was pleased to hear that there was progress being made as he had raised this same issue with the Director of Environmental Services some time ago.

14.15 Grass Cutting at Blaris Greenway
Councillor John Palmer

Councillor John Palmer referred to the adoption of the Blaris Greenway last year and reported that he had received a complaint regarding the condition of the grass bank and pathway. Councillor Palmer requested that the Council writes to the Department for Infrastructure asking that the grass be cut at the Blaris Greenway and also enquired if the Council could work with Department Officials with a view to an agreement being put in place to ensure the grass at Blaris Greenway would be cut on a regular basis.

14.16 Council's Position on Establishing Relations with Mainland China
Councillor A Swan

Councillor A Swan expressed concern regarding with the Council's ongoing work on the establishment of a relationship with mainland China from an economic development perspective in light of the fact that there were refugees coming into Northern Ireland from Hong Kong. Councillor Swan was of the opinion that the Development Committee should consider this matter further in conjunction with the Chinese Embassy.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that he was content to leave this matter to the Development Committee.

Conclusion of the Meeting

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.49 pm.

Mayor