

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 16 December, 2025 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman A Grehan

Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg,
A McIntyre, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors J Bamford, R T Beckett, S Burns,
P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, A P Ewing,
A Givan, A Gowan, J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds,
C Kemp, J Laverty BEM, S Lowry, U Mackin, B Magee,
A Martin, T Mitchell, G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever,
R McLernon, N Parker, G Thompson and Hon N Trimble

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Alderman S Skillen and Councillors D Bassett, R Carlin,
J Gallen and D Lynch

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Head of Governance & Communications
Member Services Manager (Acting)
Member Services Officer (EW)
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the December meeting of Council, including Judith McNamee who had commenced her employment with the Council as Head of Governance & Communications on 1 December 2025.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reminded that the meeting was being livestreamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

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

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

Councillors J Bamford, R McLernon, M McKeever, and N Parker entered the meeting during the safety announcement (6.02 pm).

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.

Councillor D Lynch joined the meeting remotely during the following statement by The Right Worshipful the Mayor (6.04 pm).

Statement by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, on the Bondi Beach Atrocity

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked members of the public and Elected Members who had reached out with suggestions on how this Council could show respect and sympathy following the tragic shooting on Bondi Beach during the Hanukkah Festival. The Mayor stated that this was a shocking and heartbreakening event, the impact of which was felt deeply across our community. As a Council we have come together to express condolences and solidarity with those who have lost their lives, those who were injured and everyone who had been affected by this devastating tragedy. The Mayor acknowledged that many families in the Council's constituency have relatives in Sydney and throughout Australia and that this horrific attack has profoundly affected so many people and it must have been deeply distressing for those who witnessed the event first hand.

On behalf of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and the community The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that she would be writing to the organisers of the Hanukkah Festival and also the Lord Mayor of Sydney to convey condolences and offer support and solidarity. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also advised that the Council had gathered earlier that evening to open a book of condolence which was also available to sign online allowing the community to share words of comfort, remembrance and support.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor then asked everyone present to observe minute's silence to honour the victims of this tragic events on Bondi Beach, to acknowledge the profound impact on families and first responders, and offer heartfelt support to the Jewish community."

The Council stood and observed a minute's silence at 6.06 pm.

Prayers

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed the assistant minister to the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Graeme Read from Elmwood Presbyterian Church, Lisburn, to the meeting of Council. Rev Read addressed the meeting and said a prayer, during which he remembered all those people affected by the Bondi Beach tragedy. Rev Read also expressed condolences to:

Prayers (Cont'd)

- Veronica Kearney, Tourism Development Officer, on the death of her mother, Sarah Elizabeth Morris, and
- Heather Nightingale, on the death of her mother, Mary Nightingale.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Rev Read for his attendance and contribution, following which he left the meeting.

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 A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, since the last meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor put on record her thanks to the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, and the Mayor's driver, who had been particularly busy during the lead up to Christmas.

At this juncture, The Right Worshipful the Mayor introduced a video taken during Stepping Stones' Christmas party, at which Pauline Connell, who attends the Day Centre, sang 'O Holy Night.'

2. Apologies

There were no apologies for non-attendance at the meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest declared at the meeting.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 25 November, 2025

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 November, 2025 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman O Gawith, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and WEEV.IE Ltd, Buildings 8-9, 11-12 Edgewater Business Park, Edgewater Road, Belfast BT3 9JQ – Concession Agreement to Supply, Maintain and Operate Electric Vehicle Charging Units within 9 of the Councils in Northern Ireland
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and J T Sheds and Joinery Limited, 65aq Bridge Street, Lisburn BT28 1ZX – For Delivery of Wooden Huts and Associated Costs (Storage, Maintenance, Build-Up/Take Down) (T25/26-058)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Hanna and Hutchinson Consulting Engineers Ltd, 2A Wallace Avenue, Lisburn BT27 4AA – For Delivery of LCCCs Greenways Investment Framework
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Stepping Stones NI, 39 Seymour Street, Lisburn BT27 4SY – For delivery of T25/26-015 – Accessible Graduate Apprenticeship Programme as per the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Action Plan 2025/26
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Stepping Stones NI, 39 Seymour Street, Lisburn BT27 4SY – For delivery of T25/26-015 – Pathways to Employment for Individuals with a Disability Programme as per the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Action Plan 2025/26
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Civco Ltd, 25A Hillside Road, Maghera BT46 5SD – Contract for Tender for Moira Community Hub (Re-Tender) (T24/25-053)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Kompan Play Equipment, 5 Dunlop Square, Deans Industrial Estate, Livingston EH54 8SB; Haffey Play Grounds, 47 Derrycarne Road, Portadown BT62 1PT; and Play and Leisure Services, 31 Carrowdore Road, Greyabbey, Newtownards BT22 2LU – Contract for T25/26-007 Tender for Supply of Play Park Equipment
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and McNaughton Blair, 10 Falcon Road, Belfast BT12 6RD – Contract for T24/25-015 Tender for Supply of General Hardware Materials

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Communities and Wellbeing Committee

2 December, 2025

Proposed by Councillor T Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor A Givan

Environment and Sustainability Committee

3 December, 2025

Proposed by Alderman A Gawith

Seconded by Councillor S Burns

Regeneration and Growth Committee

4 December, 2025

Proposed by Councillor C Kemp

Seconded by Councillor J Harpur

The Chairman, Councillor C Kemp, reminded Members that the minutes were subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Friday, 19th December, 2025.

Corporate Services Committee

10 December, 2025

Proposed by Councillor B Higginson

Seconded by Councillor J Bamford

The Chairman, Councillor B Higginson, reminded Members that the minutes were subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Monday, 22nd December, 2025.

Governance and Audit Committee

11 December, 2025

Proposed by Councillor D Lynch

Seconded by Councillor M McKeever

Adopted subject to the names of Councillors P Catney and G Hynds being included in the list of attendees.

The Chairman, Councillor D Lynch, reminded Members that the minutes were subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Monday, 22nd December, 2025.

Planning Committee

8 September, 2025

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 3 November, 2025 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 1 December, 2025. It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

9.1 Changes to Standing Orders

The Chief Executive's report set out a number of further changes to Standing Orders following a number of key amendments that had been agreed by Council at its meeting in November 2025. A copy of the updated Standing Orders, dated

9.1 Changes to Standing Orders (Cont'd)

November 2025, had been appended to the report, as well as a paper setting out a number of further changes that were now required.

The Chief Executive highlighted that one key change to Standing Orders was in respect of an update to the Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee which took account of recent changes in legislation removing the requirement for mandatory pre-determination hearings. Consequently, paragraph 34 in the previous Protocol had been removed. As the Protocol of the Operation of the Planning Committee is appended to the Council's Standing Orders, the updated version required Council agreement.

In order that the further amendments to Standing Orders could be considered, it was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed unanimously that Standing Order 27.2 be suspended for the duration of this item of business.

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed that:

- (a) Appendix D of Standing Orders be amended to take account of the updated Protocol for the Operation of the Planning Committee
- (b) Appendix B of Standing Orders be amended to take account of the updated Terms of Reference as agreed by Council in November 2025
- (c) Standing Orders be amended to reflect changes in relation to working practices and other minor changes, as outlined in the appended document.

In addition, it was also agreed, on a further proposal by Alderman A McIntyre that paragraph 5.3 Remote Environment of Appendix C be amended to remove "where practicable."

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

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

12. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for consideration.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential reports for consideration.

14. Any Other Business14.1 Bondi Beach Atrocity – Sunday 14th December 2025
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson spoke of his sadness on hearing about the atrocity on Bondi Beach, Sydney, Australia, on the morning of Sunday 14th December. Councillor Higginson having quoted a Bible verse from Exodus Chapter 20 Verse 13 which is also the fifth Commandment, 'Though shalt not kill,' stated that there are times when the end of the earth seems very near to us. He stated that this was how he felt on Sunday morning when he heard about the brutal murder of innocent Jewish people, men, women and children, as they gathered to light the first candles for the Jewish Hanukkah festival to remember the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem.

Councillor Higginson stated that this would be a deeply unhappy Hanukkah for many of the Jewish faith. Councillor Higginson assured that his thoughts and prayers were with the victims and the families of those affected by this atrocity, as well as the Jewish community in Northern Ireland, and those of the Jewish faith affected by creeping antisemitism which plagues so many parts of the world today. He stated that antisemitism was more destructive to those who practice it than those who bear the brunt of it. Hard as it may be to contemplate the anguish of the Jewish people who have suffered such cruelty at the hands of their enemies throughout this century, it was even more frightening to consider the eternal judgement accorded by those who are determined to hate but whom God loves himself.

Aldermen S P Porter & A McIntyre, and Councillors G Hynds, P Catney & R Carlin also addressed the Council on this atrocity during which they reiterated the sentiments expressed by Councillor B Higginson.

Following Members' contributions The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that a number of Councillors had emailed her, including Councillor Hynds, Alderman Porter and Alderman McIntyre, to ask that we do either a book of condolence or light up the Civic Centre at Lagan Valley Island, as well as having received various other requests, to show support to this atrocity. The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that tonight has shown the Council's solidarity to what happened in Bondi Beach, and thanked Members for that.

14.2 The 'Big Tree Project'
Councillor J Harpur

Councillor J Harpur put on record his thanks and appreciation to the Parks & Amenities team and to those on the Big Tree project who had assisted him with the tree planting sessions with local school children in Colby Park and Carryduff Park. Councillor Harpur welcomed the fact that over 150 trees had been planted by 48 school children from four schools in the local area.

14.2 The 'Big Tree Project' (Cont'd)
Councillor J Harpur

Councillor Harpur advised that Castlereagh South DEA was the only DEA in the Council area that had benefited from this tree planting initiative with school children and requested that Officers consider if other schools from across the Council area could avail of this initiative next year.

14.3 House Fires Across the Province
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig expressed sadness in regard to the fact that the shadow of death hung over communities this Christmas as a result of a number of recent house fires. Councillor Craig also referred to the shadow of death at the very first Christmas which was about the celebration of the reincarnation of Christ coming into this world. Sadly King Herod saw that as a threat and the mothers in Bethlehem wept because he sent soldiers out to murder those children.

Councillor Craig advised that following these house fires across the Province in recent weeks he had contacted the Chief Fire Officer. He stated that these incidents had been horrific for all concerned and that one cannot forget those families who had lost loved ones at a time when they expected to be rejoicing and celebrating with each other. He also expressed concern that there were other victims such as those who have to deal with these situations, and when he had spoken with the Chief Fire Officer, he had raised the important matter of 'duty of care' for those dealing with horrific incidents such as house fires.

Councillor Craig stated that many house fires were caused by electrical faults where circuits were being overloaded with electrical devices which then overheat and go on fire. He emphasised that it was important to get safety messages out to the communities about the dangers of overloading extension leads with several heavy duty electrical devices. Councillor Craig requested that Officers work with NIFRS to consider how these important fire safety messages could be promoted on the Council's various social media platforms.

14.4 Pride of Knockmore Flute Band – 50th Anniversary
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter having advised that Pride of Knockmore Flute Band were celebrating their 50th anniversary this year, paid tribute to one of the founder members, Kenneth Herron, who along with a number of other individuals had formed Knockmore Flute Band in 1975. Kenneth began his musical experience as a base drummer, but went on to teach himself to play the flute showing exceptional commitment over many years. As well as playing instruments Kenneth had served as Chairman, Treasurer and Bandmaster, as well as teaching the next generation of flutists. In recognition of Kenneth's long service the band made him president. Alderman Porter also advised that after 50 years of dedicated service Kenneth has agreed to retire from the band.

Alderman Porter, on behalf of the Council, extended best wishes to Kenneth on his retirement from Pride of Knockmore Flute Band and conveyed thanks to

14.4 Pride of Knockmore Flute Band – 50th Anniversary (Cont'd)
Alderman S P Porter

Kenneth for his long service and commitment to the band and to the marching band scene in Lisburn and Northern Ireland.

At the request of Alderman S P Porter it was agreed that a letter from The Right Worshipful the Mayor conveying congratulations and best wishes to Kenneth on his retirement from Pride of Knockmore Flute Band and also conveying thanks to Kenneth for his long service and commitment with the band.

It was also agreed at the request of Alderman Porter that the Council sends a letter of congratulations to Pride of Knockmore Flute Band on its 50th anniversary and also thanking the band for 50 years of continued musical services, and wishing the band every success in the future.

14.5 Congratulations to Stephen Robinson, Manager, St Mirren Football Team
Councillor G Hynds

At the request of Councillor G Hynds it was agreed that a letter of congratulations be sent to Stephen Robinson as manager of St Mirren Football team following the team's first major trophy in 12 years, having won the Scottish Premier Sports Cup final against Celtic the previous weekend. Councillor Hynds advised that this was a fantastic achievement, being the team's first major trophy under Stephen's management and stated that this success should be recognised by the Council via a social media post, in addition to a letter of congratulations to the Club.

14.6 Congratulations to Carryduff Ladies Gaelic Minor Team
Councillor J Gallen

The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed, at the request of Councillor J Gallen, that a Mayoral reception be held for the Carryduff Ladies Gaelic Minor team to mark the team's success on winning the Ulster Minor Club title against Clann Eirean earlier in the month. Councillor Gallen advised that Carryduff Ladies Gaelic Minor team was the first team to win the Ulster title for the third consecutive year, this being an historic win and unprecedented success for the Club.

14.7 Brooklands Primary School – 40th Anniversary Year
Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, reminded the Council that Brooklands Primary School were celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and was pleased to report that the school has had a very successful year of celebrations with a huge range of events at which a number of Members had been in attendance.

The Deputy Mayor highlighted that one of the most bizarre fundraising events by Brooklands Primary School was the Conga event on Friday past which had included pupils, classroom assistants, teachers, parents and also the school's therapy dog. The conga procession had gone through part of Brooklands estate through to Ballybeen estate.

14.7 Brooklands Primary School – 40th Anniversary Year
Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

The Deputy Mayor advised that the school had raised £5,555.55 to date during its 40th anniversary year and extended congratulations and well done to all.

14.8 Thanks of The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman A Grehan

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, extended thanks to everyone who had supported her during her first six months of her term of office. Having advised that to date a total of £55,500 had been raised for her Mayoral Charity, The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed thanks and appreciation to everyone on her Charity Committee for their efforts during the past six months, many of whom had been out in the cold weather supporting the various fundraising activities.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed thanks to the Chief Executive for his efforts and support during the last six months and also to the Directors and the Heads of Service and all the staff whom, she stated, went out of their way and worked hard for all of the constituents across the Council area.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

Conclusion of Meeting

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 6.51 pm.

Mayor