

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 28 April, 2026 at 7:00 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, S Skillen and J Tinsley

Councillors J Bamford, R T Beckett, S Burns, R Carlin,
P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, A P Ewing, J Gallen,
A Givan, A Gowan, J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds,
C Kemp, S Lowry, D Lynch, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell,
C McCready, M McKeever, R McLernon,

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Councillors J Lavery BEM, B Magee, G McCleave, N Parker
and G Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

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

South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust

Ms H Moore, Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics
Ms L Vladeanu, Assistant Director of Prevention &
Population Health, Health & Wellbeing

Belfast Health & Social Care Trust

Mr A Campbell, Director of Performance, Planning &
Informatics
Mr B Nelson Co-Director of Public Health

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the April meeting of Council.

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.

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 C McCreedy left the meeting at 7.05 pm and returned at 7.10 pm.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed Rev Andrew Thompson to the meeting of Council. Rev Thompson addressed the meeting and said a prayer, during which he expressed condolences to Cathal Magee, Arts Centre, on the passing of his mother, Una Magee.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Rev Thompson 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 that it had been a great honour to bestow the Freedom of the City on Mr Tommy Doherty which, she stated, had been a great event, and thanked everyone for their support at that time.

1.2 Statement by The Right Worshipful the Mayor on Budget Cuts to Community and Voluntary Organisations

At this juncture The Right Worshipful the Mayor made a statement in regard to the recent Government cuts in core grant funding to community and voluntary organisations. During her address The Right Worshipful the Mayor highlighted the concerns in relation to impacts as a result of these cuts, including:

1.2 Statement by The Right Worshipful the Mayor on Budget Cuts to Community and Voluntary Organisations (Cont'd)

- funding for vital voluntary and community services across Northern Ireland have been cut by around 64% from £25m to just over £9m. These cuts in funding impacts 64 organisations, hundreds of staff and around 11,000 people every year.
- many people have lost their jobs, services have been cut and vulnerable members across the communities have been left without support they depend on
- these cuts impact employment programmes, mental health services and disability supports that are already being reduced or lost
- here in Lisburn and Castlereagh the Council has worked very closely with organisations such as Stepping Stones through the Labour Market Partnership, supporting people with disabilities and those furthest from the Labour Market into real opportunities. It is because of these cuts that work is being scaled back with the loss of programmes, reduced capacity and the very real impact of jobs being lost.
- today we are already seeing the real impact of those decisions. Second Avenue Café in Lisburn has closed its doors. For over six years this café provided training, confidence and real work experience for people with learning disabilities. Five valued members of staff had already been made redundant with further job losses proposed across the organisation - directly impacting employability, services for those with barriers to learning including disabilities.
- through grants the Council has supported initiatives like Navigation House, creating spaces for people to build skills and move towards employment, and Mencap creating an outdoor space helping people with disabilities to develop skills and progress towards and into employment
- we are seeing the loss of skilled and experienced staff who work in these services with their expertise and commitment having been central to supporting individuals and families right across our community. This is happening across Lisburn and Castlereagh and it reflects a wider problem on how support is being delivered. This is becoming a pattern. It is not just one issue and it is not working.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reminded that her theme this year was inclusivity for disability and a City that includes everyone, but right now she stated that she did not believe the Government was seeing everyone. The very support that makes inclusion possible was being reduced, ie. the services, the opportunities and the lifelines that people depend on every single day. This required urgent action right across Government, because right now people are losing support, staff are losing jobs and families are left to deal with the consequences. People have been let down and inclusion means nothing if it disappears when it is needed most.

1.3 Mayor's Football Competition - Lagan Valley LeisurePlex - 12 April 2026 Councillor A Givan

Councillor A Givan referred to his attendance, as Vice Chairperson of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee at the recent Mayor's Football tournament which had taken place in the Lagan Valley LeisurePlex on 12 April 2026 and pointed out that the reference to 'Mayor's Disability Cup' in the appended document was misleading and felt that 'Mayor's Football Inclusion Cup' was a more appropriate title. Councillor Givan commended this event and looked forward to seeing many more teams taking part in future such events. He also expressed thanks and appreciation to coach, Stephen Rae, for taking part in this event.

2. Apologies .

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors D Bassett and Rt Hon N Trimble.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following Declarations of Interest were declared:

- Alderman A McIntyre: in respect of item 6.1 – Deputation by the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT) in view of a close family member employed by the SEHSCT
- Councillor M McKeever: in respect of item 6.1 – Deputation by the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT) in view of his employment by the BHSCT
- At a later point in the meeting Councillor A Gowan declared an interest in item 6.1 – Deputation by the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) and Belfast Health & Social Care Trust (BHSCT) in view of a close family member employed by the BHSCT
- At a later point in the meeting Councillor P Catney declared an interest in regard to one of the Council's capital projects, namely; Aberdelghy Golf Club (Item 8 Adoption of Communities & Wellbeing Committee minutes refers)

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 24 March, 2026

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 March, 2026 be confirmed and signed.

4.2 Special Meeting of Council - 16 April, 2026

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman A McIntyre, and agreed that the minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on 16 April, 2026 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Council Meeting – 24 March, 2026

5.1.1 Item 12.1 Notice of Motion - BBC TV Licence Enforcement and Funding Burden on Lisburn and Castlereagh Residents

Councillor D J Craig expressed disappointment in regard to the tone of the correspondence received from the BBC in response to the communication from the Council following the above Notice of Motion that had been agreed by Council the previous month. He described the response from the BBC as condescending and felt that there was an underlying threat of prosecution, and added that many people did not watch the BBC channels or any live stream programmes. Councillor Craig advised that he too had received a letter from the BBC recently which he described as intimidating as the letter had stated clearly that if he did not respond he faced prosecution.

Councillor Craig proposed that the Council writes to the Culture Secretary, Lisa Nandy, to convey the Council's disappointment with the BBC's response and to point out to her the concern of the underlying threat contained in such letters from the BBC.

Councillor G Hynds wished to be associated with the sentiments expressed by Councillor Craig and stated that he found the response patronising, and also that the letters were particularly concerning for elderly people. He also was of the opinion that many young people are 'switching off' and "turning their backs" on the BBC. Councillor Hynds also stated that the response from the BBC missed the point that the Council had raised. Councillor Hynds seconded the proposal by Councillor Craig to write to the Minister for Culture and this was agreed by Members present.

Item 5.1.2 Council Meeting – 24 February 2026 (Item 4.1) Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A Ewart expressed disappointment in regard to the inadequate response received from Royal Mail in response to his Notice of Motion that had been agreed at the February meeting of Council on the delays in postal deliveries throughout Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

6. Deputation

6.1 To Receive Officials from the South Eastern and Belfast Health & Social Care Trusts

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed to the meeting:

- Ms H Moore, Director of Planning, Performance & Informatics (SEHSCT)
- Ms L Vladeanu, Assistant Director of Prevention and Population Health, Health & Wellbeing (SEHSCT)
- Mr Alastair Campbell, Director of Performance, Planning & Informatics (BHSCT)
- Mr Bryan Nelson, Co-Director of Public Health

During the deputation the following Members left and returned to the meeting: Aldermen A McIntyre, M Gregg and S Skillen, and Councillors D Lynch, B Magee, T Mitchell, S Lowry, J Harpur, U Mackin, R McLernon.

Ms Moore and Ms Vladeanu, with the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, provided Members with a strategic overview of the work of the SEHSCT during which she addressed and elaborated on the following:

- the Trust's hospital network which provided integrated health and social care across hospital and community services
- the Trust's vision which is "The South Eastern Trust will be a great place to love, a great place to work and a great place for care and support"
- the Trust's Corporate Plan, strategic priorities and annual activity during 2024/2025. Ms Moore acknowledged the valuable teams of staff across the Trust's network
- customer care feedback and experience at both the Lagan Valley Hospital Urgent Care Centre and also the Regional Day Procedure Unit
- focus on 'moving upstream' one example being moving from analogue to digital. Ms Moore acknowledged that the teams in the Belfast Trust were working with the South Eastern Trust on these initiatives
- the Trust's Hospital at Home initiative
- health inequalities
- work with the South Eastern Area Integrated Partnership Board, the GP Federation, the Public Health Agency and the Council's Community Planning Partnership
- the Trust's Neighbourhood Model initiative which aims to deliver greater levels of care to citizens and their local communities in a joined up approach

Messrs Campbell and Nelson from the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust also addressed the Council on related issues, including:

- the Trust's focus on mental health and emotional wellbeing initiative "Making Every Contact Count"
- the Trust's "This is Our Health" initiative which was due to be launched the following day, 29th April 2026

6.1 To Receive Officials from the South Eastern and Belfast Health & Social Care Trusts (Cont'd)

Following the presentation Officials from both the South Eastern and the Belfast Trusts responded to a number of issues raised by Members, including:

- newly introduced maximum wait times for ambulances at hospitals across parts of the UK
- recent fatalities on the roads and the challenges associated with the health care staff in dealing with such tragedies
- people being let down due to appointments arriving late by post and any action by the Trusts to remain pro-active around addressing missed appointments
- funding cuts to mental health programmes and any increase in the intake in mental health patients due to this cut in funding. Ms Moore undertook to come back to Alderman J Tinsley on statistics relating to the number of mental health patients
- any steps to allow PSNI Officers to be released from hospital after having accompanied patients who had suffered a critical incident. Ms Moore undertook to come back on the issue of PSNI Officers being released.
- a patient's test results being uploaded to the 'My Care' app prior to the patient having been informed of their results by their consultant
- the absence of officials from the GP Federation. Councillor U Mackin expressed disappointment on the absence of a representative from the GP Federation at the meeting that evening requested that Officers write to the Federation again to ask that they meet with the Council to discuss the issue of access to GP services.
- the link between hospital care and the primary care received by patients at home, particularly in relation to medication if the patient is discharged over the weekend
- the closure of the Emerge Counselling Service and any impact on the Health Trusts. Ms Moore undertook to come back to Councillor Hynds on the budget for charitable organisations.
- long waiting times for consultant appointments, and the introduction of Health Trusts employing private health companies to undertake further tests and follow up appointments
- complaints about heating and lack of drinking water for staff working in the new Lisburn Primary & Community Care Health Centre. Alderman P Porter requested that the SEHSCT carry out a review of these issues as a matter of urgency. Ms Moore undertook to take back Alderman Porter's request for an urgent review of the heating management system and drinking water availability in the new Primary Care Centre to the relevant Directorate.
- the GP Out of Hours service and the plans to develop a Multi-Disciplinary Team at Knockbreda. Mr Campbell undertook to confirm in writing to Councillor B Higginson in regard to the development of the Multi-Disciplinary Team at the GP Out of Hours service at Knockbreda.
- progress on the electronic prescription service by the Department of Health
- arrangements for children with special needs and their parents/carers attending hospital for any length of time

6.1 To Receive Officials from the South Eastern and Belfast Health & Social Care Trusts (Cont'd)

- the issue of correspondence from the Belfast Trust going out to parents and not the registered carer of the child/children. Mr Campbell undertook to look into this issue and also asked Councillor Laverty to write to him on this matter with some more detail.
- an update on progress on Child Social Care by Ray Jones. Ms Moore undertook to come back to Councillor Laverty on the different tiers of work on the issue of Child Social Care that was being led by Ray Jones.

A number of Members, some having recounted their personal health journeys and their experiences with the Health Trusts, commended the good work being done by Health Service staff, especially those on the front line. Members also expressed sincere thanks to all the staff for all their hard work and efforts on a daily basis.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked the Health Trust officials for their presentation and for answering Members' questions, following which they left the meeting at 8.29 pm.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ventilation Surveys and Services, Unit 305 Century Building, Liverpool L3 4BJ – Contract for T25/26-022 Tender for PPM 25 Kitchen Grease Extraction Systems
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Weev.ie Limited, Buildings 8-9, 11-12 Edgewater Business Park, Edgewater Road, Belfast BT3 9JQ – Contract for T25/26-052 Tender for Electric Vehicle Charging Business Partner
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Pietre Nuturali Ltd t/a Irish Stone, 26 Harrys Road, Hillsborough, Co Down BT26 6HJ – Contract for T25/26-021 Tender for Conservation and Stabilisation of Church Ruins at Aghalee and Portmore Cemeteries

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Environment and Sustainability Committee

Proposed by Alderman O Gawith

Seconded by Councillor S Burns

1 April, 2026

Regeneration and Growth Committee**2 April, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor C Kemp

Seconded by Councillor J Harpur

Corporate Services Committee**8 April, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor B Higginson

Seconded by Councillor K Dickson

Matters ArisingItem 5.1 Page 195Vacant Property Officer (DfC Pilot)

Alderman A G Ewart advised that he had raised the issue of toilet provision in Lisburn City Centre at the April meeting of the Corporate Services Committee. He also reminded the Council that he also had raised this matter four months ago in January 2026.

In response the Chief Executive advised that the feasibility study for toilet provision in the City Centre was on-going and that he would update Members on this project on a DEA basis. He also reminded Members that there were 170 projects on the Works Schedule currently.

Alderman P Porter, Councillor N Parker and Alderman S Skillen spoke in support of Alderman Ewart's comments and concerns in regard to the provision of toilets in the City Centre.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman S P Porter, and agreed the feasibility of toilet provision in the City Centre be brought forward within two months' time.

The Chief Executive indicated that it was likely that another project would require to be de-prioritised as a result of the above proposal.

Communities and Wellbeing Committee**14 April, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor T Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor A Givan

Councillor T Mitchell advised that the minutes of the Community & Wellbeing Committee were still subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Wednesday, 6 May 2026.

Matter ArisingItem 6.1 Page 212Lough Moss Leisure Centre Feasibility Study

Councillor B Higginson referred to the item he had raised under Any Other Business when he had requested an update on the feasibility study and business case in relation to Lough Moss Leisure Centre, and requested assurances from the Directors and the Chief Executive that the feasibility study would come forward before the summer break. He referred to the meeting that had taken

Item 6.1 Page 212Lough Moss Leisure Centre Feasibility Study (Cont'd)

place the previous week with Carryduff Regeneration Forum when the concerns about the lack of movement on this feasibility study had been raised.

Councillors J Gallen and J Harpur spoke in support of the feasibility study for Lough Moss Leisure Centre coming forward before the summer break. Councillor P Catney emphasised to Members that there was need in all of the DEAs, and referred to the works required to Aberdelghy Golf Course.

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 8.44 pm.

The Chief Executive made a number of comments in response to the issues raised, and reminded Members that he had written out to Members on the DEA investment projects, and that he would be meeting with Members on a DEA basis. The Chief Executive stated that it was a matter of managing with what resources were available and emphasised the importance of getting these meeting dates agreed.

It was agreed that the Chief Executive would work to secure a date to meet with Members from the DEA about investment projects, including the outcome of the Lough Moss feasibility study, and to consider next steps prior to any further report being presented to Committee.

Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 8.47 pm.

Planning Committee**3 March, 2026**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 3 March, 2026 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 13 April, 2026. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman O Gawith, and agreed that their contents be noted.

Councillors S Lowry and U Mackin left the meeting at 8.51 pm.

9. Report from Chief Executive9.1 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning Application on lands northeast of Comber Road and 75 metres southwest of 4 Millmount Village Drive (LA05/2024/0618/F)

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to comments by Alderman M Gregg in regard to outstanding issues in connection with the above planning application, it being noted that the outstanding issues were outside the remit of the Section 76 agreement. The Director advised that these issues would be reported back to the Planning Committee in due course.

9.1 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning Application on lands northeast of Comber Road and 75 metres southwest of 4 Millmount Village Drive (LA05/2024/0618/F)

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

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

Councillor S Lowry returned to the meeting at 8.53 pm.

12. Notices of Motion

12.1 Support for Serving Armed Forces Personal in relation to Rates
Councillor G Hynds

A copy of the undernoted Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G Hynds had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council recognises the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces, many of whom are required to spend extended periods away from their homes as a result of their duties.

Council notes that, in other parts of the United Kingdom, council tax systems make provision to reflect the circumstances of serving personnel who may be absent from their primary residence due to deployment.

Council further notes that, by contrast, there is no specific provision within the Northern Ireland domestic rates system which recognises the unique circumstances of serving Armed Forces personnel who may be absent from their primary residence for significant periods due to deployment.

Council also notes that while some support may be available to serving personnel through military or other channels, this is not reflected within the rates system itself.

In line with the principles of the Armed Forces Covenant, Council agrees to write to the Minister of Finance to request a review of how the current rates system applies to serving personnel, with a view to ensuring fairness and appropriate recognition of their service.

Council further agrees to explore what additional support, guidance, or signposting can be provided at a local level to assist serving personnel in

12.1 Support for Serving Armed Forces Personal in relation to Rates (Cont'd)
Councillor G Hynds

accessing any existing reliefs or support schemes for which they may be eligible.”

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor G Hynds and seconded by Councillor B Higginson.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, advised that the above Notice of Motion, would be referred without debate to the Corporate Services Committee for consideration.

12.2 Bowel Cancer Screening
Councillor J Gallen

A copy of the undernoted Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor J Gallen had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This motion is a call on the Health Minister to Lower the Bowel Cancer Screening Age from 60 to 50 in Northern Ireland.

Here in the North the age of eligibility for bowel cancer screening is at the age of 60.

In Scotland, England & Wales the bowel cancer screening age has been lowered to the age of 50, this reflects evidence that screening at a younger age detects cancers at an earlier more treatable stage.

Bowel cancer is one of the most common cancers in the UK and early detection markedly improves the chances of successful treatment and survival.

Incidence in younger age groups is increasing with research indicating that bowel cancer rates among adults under 50 are rising, highlighting the need for earlier screening to reduce avoidable deaths.

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council agrees to write to the Health Minister to request that the age of eligibility be lowered from 60 to 50 for bowel cancer screening in line with international best practice.”

Councillor J Gallen advised that he wished to add an addendum to his Notice of Motion, namely:

“As this is Bowel Cancer awareness month the Civic Centre be lit up in the colour of the Bowel Cancer Charity the following evening, Wednesday, 29 April 2026.”

The Notice of Motion, including the addendum was proposed by Councillor J Gallen and seconded by Councillor B Higginson.

12.2 Bowel Cancer Screening (Cont'd)
Councillor J Gallen

Councillor Gallen elaborated on his Notice of Motion during which he highlighted the following key issues:

- April was Bowel Cancer awareness month
- his friend, Patrick, who was in attendance in the Chamber that evening, had sadly lost his mother, Maureen, and his wife, Breda, to bowel cancer, leaving their two children aged 11 and 13 without their mother who had been only 48 when she died.
- Patrick had been motivated to email his local councillors as he knew that Breda, who had been a nurse, would have wanted him to do this. He also knew that he should do all that he could to try to help save the lives of those people who were affected by this awful disease.
- Patrick and his sister, Brenda, had attended an event at Stormont Estate organised by Bowel Cancer UK recently at which many people had shared their experiences of bowel cancer, symptoms, diagnosis and treatment, and their lived experience and also their desire to reduce the age of bowel cancer screening to age 50
- if diagnosed early 9/10 people survive bowel cancer.

Councillor B Higginson, having seconded the Notice of Motion, thanked Councillor Gallen for bringing forward this important Notice of Motion which aimed to extend bowel screening from ages 50-74 in Northern Ireland (NI). Councillor Higginson stated this Notice of Motion was deeply personal to him and advised his late mother had suffered from bowel cancer which had contributed to her death at the age of 60, a loss that he carries with him always. Councillor Higginson also related his own personal health issues in the past during which he had lived with the threat of bowel cancer.

Councillor Higginson highlighted a number of fundamental issues in support of the Notice of Motion, including:

- bowel cancer is the fourth most common cancer and the second biggest killer in NI
- bowel cancer is one of the most treatable cancers when it is detected early
- early screening is cost effective as treatments are more expensive and more invasive when bowel cancer is diagnosed later
- uptakes rates in bowel cancer screening are broadly similar across England, Wales, Scotland and NI which this tells us that people are willing to engage with screening when it is offered.
- extending bowel cancer screening to ages 50-74 would bring NI into line with the UK and would save lives

Councillors J Bamford, R Carlin and T Mitchell, on behalf of their respective political parties spoke in support of the Notice of Motion. Councillor G Hynds also spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

12.2 Bowel Cancer Screening (Cont'd)
Councillor J Gallen

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor J Gallen and seconded by Councillor B Higginson, including the addendum, was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business for consideration.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Response from Royal Mail
Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A G Ewart expressed disappointment in regard to the correspondence that the Council had received in response to the letter sent by the Council following his Notice of Motion on the delays in postal deliveries across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Alderman Ewart stated that this response was not acceptable.

At a later point in the meeting Councillor G Hynds also conveyed his disappointment with the correspondence received from Royal Mail.

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting at 9.08 pm.

14.2 Tragedies on Local Road
Councillors C Kemp, P Catney and R T Beckett

Councillor C Kemp expressed condolence to the families, friends and loved ones of the two men who had lost their lives on the A26 Glenavy Road the previous weekend. Councillor Kemp also expressed condolence to the loved ones and families of the other three people who lost their lives on the roads also during the previous weekend. Councillor Kemp stated that sadly she could empathise with these families as her own family had experienced significant loss on the roads. It was a distressing reality that this year to date 29 people had lost their lives on the roads which was twice the number recorded this time last year. Councillor Kemp stated that behind every statistic lives had been changed forever and that her thoughts were with those families.

At a later point in the meeting Councillor P Catney and R T Beckett addressed the Council on the recent road tragedies. Councillor Catney recounted his personal story on having lost his younger brother who had been killed on the same stretch of road at Lower Ballinderry 50 years ago. Both Members spoke of the dangers of the roads and also about the need to make responsible decisions when driving.

14.3 Toilets and Playpark in Moira Demesne
Councillor C McCready

Councillor C McCready highlighted the issue of the upkeep of the toilets in Moira Demesne and advised that a number of Members had received complaints recently about the condition of these toilets. Councillor McCready also raised the issue of the need for a review of the playpark in Moira Demesne and asked if the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing could look into and prioritise these matters.

14.4 Repairs to Damaged Arch at Moat Park
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry expressed thanks to the Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting) and her team in regard to the prompt progress on the repair to the arch at Moat Park.

14.5 Flooding Issues at Beach Park and River Road
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig expressed thanks to the Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting) in regard to the work that had been progressed at Beach Park. Councillor Craig also referred to the issue of flooding on River Road and asked the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing for an update on these issues to outline what work had been completed and also a timeline for works still to be progressed.

It was noted that the Director would contact Councillor Craig on this matter.

14.6 Multi-Cultural Community Celebration Event at
Forthill Integrated Primary School
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor Hynds advised that he had attended the above event at Forthill Integrated Primary School last week which had celebrated 140 years since the School had been established and also 60 years on their current site. Councillor Hynds stated this had been a fantastic event for the local community, past pupils, families and teachers.

14.7 Purdysburn Pathway – Options Agreement
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin raised the issue of Purdysburn Pathway and the connection to St Ita's Primary School and the Cairnshill Park & Ride. He advised that the matter of the options agreement had been on-going with the Department for Infrastructure since February 2025. Councillor Carlin advised that he had written previously to the Chief Executive of NI Water in regard to the legalities around the options agreement.

Councillor Carlin emphasised that St Ita's school was keen that this issue was progressed in view of the safety issues concerning pupils who were having to walk down the main road. Councillor R Carlin requested that the Council writes

14.7 Purdysburn Pathway – Options Agreement (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

to Dr Sara Venning, Chief Executive of NI Water asking her to intervene as soon as possible with a view to getting this matter resolved.

14.8 Cyber Security Training
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, at the request of Party Group Leaders, reminded Members of the need to complete the Cyber Security Training.

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 9.20 pm.

Mayor