

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 23 June, 2020 at 5:32 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor N Trimble

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen O Gawith, A Grehan, S Martin, S P Porter and
J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, H Legge, C McCready, U Mackin,
T Mitchell, John Palmer

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE, D Drysdale,
A G Ewart MBE, A Grehan and M Henderson MBE

Councillors R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson, D J Craig,
S Eastwood, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan, A Gowan,
M Gregg, M Guy, D Honeyford, S Hughes, J Lavery BEM,
S Lee, S Lowry, J McCarthy, G McCleave, A McIntyre,
R McLernon, S Skillen and A Swan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Head of Communities
Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development
PCSP/Member Services Manager
Member Services Officers
IT Officer
Mayor's Chaplain

Commencement of the Meeting

Alderman S Martin and Councillor T Mitchell arrived to the meeting during this item of business (5.34 pm). Alderman S Martin and Councillor H Legge left the meeting during this item of business (5.36 pm).

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.

Commencement of the Meeting (Contd)

At this point, the PCSP/Member Services Manager read out the names of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, requested that all mobile phones be put on silent for the duration of the meeting. He also stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders.

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

Prayers

During consideration of this item of business:

- Councillor N Anderson arrived to the meeting (5.36 pm);
- Alderman S Martin and Councillor H Legge returned to the meeting (5.38 pm);
- Alderman A Grehan arrived to the meeting (5.38 pm). She then left the Council Chamber at 5.41 pm);
- Alderman S Martin left, and returned to, the meeting (5.41 pm and 5.44 pm); and
- Alderman D Drysdale joined the meeting (5.48 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Charlotte (Lottie) Fulton – mother of Ronnie Fulton, Environmental Services; and
- Billy Bell – former Mayor of Lisburn City Council (2003/04)

Members were invited to observe a minute's silence as a mark of respect for former Mayor of Lisburn City Council, Mr Billy Bell.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed to the meeting Rev Fiona Forbes, Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church, who began by thanking Councillor Trimble for having invited her to be Mayor's Chaplain during his term in office. She stated that, not only would she be available for the Mayor and Mayoress during the forthcoming year, but for any Elected Member who needed her help in any way. Rev Forbes gave an address and said a prayer, during which she remembered the above bereaved families. Councillor Trimble thanked Rev Forbes for her attendance and she left the meeting (5.50 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.2 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor since the Annual Meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

There were no apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of non-pecuniary interest were expressed at this point:

- Councillor S Hughes in respect of Item 7.1 Signing of Legal Documents, given that he had lobbied heavily for this legal agreement to happen and was a member of Derriaghy Cricket Club, which was a related entity to the party signing the legal document; and
- The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, in respect of item 13.3 Community Coordination Hub, given that Lisburn Foodbank was one of his chosen charities, although he was not involved in its organisational structure.

During the meeting the following declaration of non-pecuniary interest was made:

- Councillor D J Craig in respect of Item 9.3, Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Reconstitution, given that his wife had been reappointed as an independent member of the Partnership.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 May, 2020 be confirmed and signed.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 5 June, 2020 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Annual Meeting – 5 June, 2020

Page 300, Item 5.3 – Election of Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen for 2020/2021

Alderman W J Dillon, who had been elected as Chairman of the Economic Development Committee for the incoming year, reported receipt of notification from the Department for Communities that the Council was to receive £545,000 for revitalisation of town centres. In the Lisburn and Castlereagh area, this could support Lisburn City Centre, Carryduff and Dundonald. A number of ways to allocate this money had been identified, particularly for the catering and hospitality sector, as many were keen to put tables and chairs outside their premises and it was hoped the Council could purchase tables, awnings, heaters, etc. This money required to be spent before the end of the current financial year.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

On a proposal by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, it was agreed that the following legal document be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Michael Lamont, of 53 Redwood Dale, Dunmurry, BT17 9RL, Robert Bleakley of 8 Greenvale, Dunmurry, BT17 9RL, and Nigel Fell of 69 Pinewood Drive, Inverness, Scotland, IV2 6GH, as trustees of Derrriaghy Cricket Club Football Club, Seycon Park, Hornbeam Road, Dunmurry, Lisburn, BT17 9DJ – lease of a soccer pitch at Seycon Park, Hornbeam Road, Seymour Hill, Dunmurry, Lisburn, BT17 9DJ.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Planning Committee
Planning Committee

2 March 2020
2 June 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 2 March and 2 June, 2020 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meetings of the Planning Committee on 2 June and 17 June, 2020 respectively. It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

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

Item for Decision

9.1 Covid-19 Update

Members were provided with a Covid-19 update report outlining the background to this situation and a number of key considerations around finance, capital programme, committee meetings, delegated authority and recovery plan.

Discussion ensued, during which the Chief Executive responded to a number of queries raised by Members. Councillor M Guy referred to the Council's evaluation of the Covid-19 response and, having asked that, as soon as practicable after 30 June, Members be provided with a report covering a number of issues, the Chief Executive verbally responded to the points raised, some of

9.1 Covid-19 Update (Contd)

which were addressed in his update report. Councillor Guy agreed to provide further comments to the Chief Executive after the meeting regarding her suggestions around future governance arrangements. The Chief Executive agreed to provide a further copy of the previously-circulated Emergency Plan to Members.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman S Martin and agreed that:

- (a) delegated authority granted in March 2020 remain in place, specifically to reinstate services which were suspended or scaled back as a result of the pandemic and where there was a requirement to act with a level of immediacy. Similar to previous years where most Committees sat in recess over the summer, if a decision was less urgent it would be brought to the next Council meeting for consideration. Any decisions made under delegated authority would continue to be placed on the decision log. More significant or strategic decisions over the summer which required a lead-in period would be considered by the relevant Committee or Council, in line with Standing Orders and a normal schedule of Committee meetings would recommence in September; and
- (b) the contents of the update report be noted, particularly the significant input required from the various Committees to guide and subsequently decide on future service alterations within the Council to ensure the Council remained viable in the longer term.

9.2 Delegated Authority to Governance and Audit Committee

It was proposed by Councillor John Palmer, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Governance and Audit Committee, at its meeting to be held on 30 June, 2020, to note the Council's Financial Statements 2019/20 and agree to submit these to the Northern Ireland Audit Office accordingly.

9.3 Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP Reconstitution

Members were advised that, on 15 June, 2020, the Northern Ireland Policing Board had reconstituted all PCSPs across Northern Ireland and confirmed the appointment of 118 independent members. Members noted from the Chief Executive's report, the names of the 9 independent members appointed to Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP. Members congratulated those people newly-appointed and paid tribute to the former independent members who were no longer on the Partnership.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor S Carson and agreed that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, write a letter of thanks to the outgoing independent members of the PCSP for their contribution to the Partnership during their service.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that Confidential Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

10. 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, Councillor N Trimble, advised that the matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with “In Committee” due to containing information (a) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information); and (b) relating to any individual.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor H Legge 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.

The Head of Communities joined the meeting at this point (6.21 pm).

10.1 Capital Programme – Changes and Movements with Delegated Authority To Award Contracts

Members were provided with a report relating to the above matter. The Director of Service Transformation having answered a number of queries raised by Members, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor S Hughes and agreed that:

- (a) the associated capital budgets for Cemeteries Mini Programme Phase 1, Full Fibre Network NI (FFNI) and Planning Portal be approved and that these projects move to Phase 2 on the Capital Programme;
- (b) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive and the Mayor to award the FFNI and Planning Portal contracts, subject to both projects remaining within the approved capital budget and being within the Council’s affordability limits at the time of award; and
- (c) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive and the Mayor to award the Lagan Valley LeisurePlex Flat Roof and Integrated HR & Payroll System contracts on completion of a satisfactory procurement process, subject to projects remaining within the approved capital budget and being within the Council’s affordability limits at the time of award.

10.2 Furlough

Councillor S Skillen left, and re-joined, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.30 pm and 6.51 pm).

10.2 Furlough (Contd)

Members were provided with a copy of a paper regarding the issue of Furlough. The Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development answered several queries raised by Members. Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman S P Porter and seconded by Councillor R Carlin that all Council employees and casual workers on Furlough continue to be paid at 100% until the end of August and that a report be brought to the August Council meeting in relation to how this matter would be addressed from 1 September.

The proposal in the name of Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor R Carlin was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared "carried", the voting being 32 votes in favour, 6 votes against and 1 abstention.

10.3 Community Coordination Hub: Task Force

The Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development left the meeting at this point (6.58 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of a report in relation to the Community Coordination Hub Task Force. Arising from the work of the Food Task Group, two proposals had been submitted to date and were detailed in the Chief Executive's report. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing having answered several queries raised by Members, it was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to make awards to the Lisburn CC Community Trust and Resurgam Trust, as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, subject to completion of a Financial Appraisal and acceptance of a formal Letter of Offer.

Resumption of Normal Business

The Head of Communities left the meeting at this stage (7.01 pm).

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

11. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

12. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

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

13. Notice of Motion

13.1 Black Lives Matter
Councillor D Honeyford

During consideration of this item of business:

- Alderman A Grehan joined the meeting remotely (7.06 pm);
- Councillor S Hughes left, and re-joined the meeting (7.27 pm and 7.35 pm);
- Alderman J Tinsley left, and returned to, the meeting (8.01 pm and 8.03 pm);
and
- The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, left, and returned to, the meeting (8.08 pm and 8.11 pm).

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D Honeyford had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council stands with the Black Lives Matter movement in condemning racism, discrimination and inequality in all its forms.

This Council reaches out to every resident who is or has been impacted by racism, and expresses its pride in the diversity of our area, and commits to tackling hate in all forms.

This Council also expresses disappointment in the delay of a Racial Equality Strategy and will write to the Northern Ireland Executive Office and express our desire to ensure it is not further delayed.

Furthermore, as a Council we commit to enhance and implement our equality and good relations obligations to ensure this area is welcoming, inclusive and open to all”.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor D Honeyford and seconded by Councillor S Lowry.

Councillor D Honeyford stated that everyone had been affected by the video footage of the death of George Floyd, who was not the first black man to die at the hands of a police officer and sadly there had been others since his death. The Black Lives Matter movement had been prominent in organising awareness and, since the death of George Floyd there had been protests in cities across the world against accusations of police brutality and institutionalised racism. Black Lives Matter was the concept – to remove it would be to dilute. This motion was about standing up against racism, discrimination and inequality in all its forms. Councillor Honeyford stated that to tell the black community we knew better how to frame their pain and inequality would be an injustice to them. For many years, Northern Ireland had suffered the blight of sectarianism, but things were now changing. While the number of race hate incidents in Northern Ireland may be small, it should not be considered that there was not a serious problem – this was evident from social media and from talking with friends who had a different colour skin. Northern Ireland did have a problem with racism and quick and decisive action was needed to stop this becoming a second blight on the community.

13.1 Black Lives Matter (Contd)
Councillor D Honeyford

Councillor Honeyford stated that there was a need for the Northern Ireland Executive to urgently deliver its promise of a Racial Equality Strategy so that all citizens would know there was a commitment from political leaders to ensure that they were valued and respected. It was unacceptable to use differences to create an opponent rather than a celebration of life and when cultural differences were forced on other people rather than enjoyed or welcomed. Many studies showed that newcomers to our community offered much more than they took away – this was demonstrated by the range of nationalities working in our hospitals and to whom everyone should be eternally grateful, particularly during the current pandemic. We live in a world of binary views where difference was used to encourage fear and, even unintentionally or mistakenly, this created an increase in racial incidents and affected the day-to-day lives of local constituents. As community leaders, Elected Members needed to be careful in their words and actions. Until everyone was equal, no-one was. Whilst it was right to speak out and protest about racism, discrimination and inequality, this must be done in a peaceful manner, within the law.

For some, it may be difficult to understand racism, having never experienced it; however, it must be accepted that racism was real and existed today. In bringing forward this Notice of Motion, Councillor Honeyford wanted to send a message that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council was speaking with one voice and was privileged to call members of the black community friends, neighbours and fellow citizens who were equal and who the Council wanted to excel in all aspects of their lives. As a Council, the very least that could be done was to condemn racism resolutely with one unified voice, take responsibility to try to understand and look after minorities, give them a voice, help with their concerns and end inequality.

Councillor S Lowry, in seconding the Notice of Motion by Councillor D Honeyford, stated that the recent death of George Floyd and subsequent protests had prompted many to examine their own attitudes towards racism and had prompted global debate and mass demonstrations. All lives would only matter when black lives mattered – none could be equal until all were equal – hence the importance of the Racial Equality Strategy being brought forward by the Northern Ireland Executive without delay. The Council needed to do all it could to promote good relations and diversity across its area and reach out to assure residents impacted by racism that they had the Council's support. Councillor Lowry had been horrified to witness the Black Lives Matter demonstrations hijacked by those who had participated in riots, looting and violence against the police. Counter demonstrations had also transcended into violence and such reactions were neither helpful nor productive. Racism in all its forms had been condemned by many on social media, but while acknowledging racism and calling it out was a great thing, ultimately raising awareness could only be useful if it prompted policy changes, attitude changes and a decrease in racism. Meaningful change was needed. The Notice of Motion by Councillor Honeyford would signal the Council's commitment to tackling hate in all forms and show that this area was welcoming, inclusive and open to all its citizens.

13.1 Black Lives Matter (Contd)
Councillor D Honeyford

Councillor H Legge proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D Honeyford. She proposed that the first paragraph be replaced with the following paragraph and that the remainder of the Notice of Motion remain unchanged:

“This Council condemns the killing of George Floyd, racism, discrimination and inequality in all its forms. We condemn violence and breaches of the law”.

Councillor Legge stated that the amendment she had proposed was minimal and, in her opinion, was more inclusive, given issues some people had with the way in which the Black Lives Matter movement had been hijacked by people for their own gain. She stated that it was a source of regret that the Council had not been able to come together with a Notice of Motion before tonight’s meeting, but hoped that her amendment would go some way in addressing that. The amendment to the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor H Legge was seconded by Councillor C McCready.

A number of Members spoke in the support of the Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor D Honeyford, namely Councillor S Lee, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor J McCarthy, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor J Gallen and Alderman S Martin. In supporting this Notice of Motion, the following main points were made:

- Whilst concern had been expressed about violence associated with protests, the Notice of Motion by Councillor Honeyford stated the Council stood with Black Lives Matter in condemning racism; it did not give a complete endorsement of everything that was happening at protests;
- Most of the violence and brutality that had occurred at Black Lives Matter protests had not been perpetrated by protesters, and indeed some had been caused by the police and the militarisation of some areas of the States;
- It was unnecessary to say that all lives mattered. Whilst that was true, all lives were not currently under threat. Given what had happened to George Floyd, it was black lives that were under threat and that was why the ‘black lives matter’ slogan was important;
- The number of race hate crimes in Northern Ireland currently outnumbered sectarian hate crimes. In the last 4 years, almost 3,500 race hate crimes were reported to the police, with only 363 court convictions – hence the importance of reviewing the Racial Equality Strategy as a matter of urgency; and
- The focus should not be on the actions of some misguided individuals who breached the law during protests, but should be on the cause, the principles and the things people were trying to achieve – greater equality, anti-racism and ensuring that society moved forward not backward.

13.1 Black Lives Matter (Contd)
Councillor D Honeyford

A number of Members spoke in support of the amended Notice of Motion by Councillor H Legge, namely Councillor A Givan, Councillor C McCready, Alderman W J Dillon, Councillor N Anderson, Alderman S P Porter, Councillor S Carson and Councillor D J Craig. In supporting the amended Notice of Motion, the following main points were made:

- All lives were precious and all lives mattered, regardless of skin colour. Racism in all its forms should be condemned, not just racism against black people;
- Whilst agreeing with the statement ‘black lives matter’, concern was expressed in respect of Black Lives Matter as an organisation and the founding principles of this movement;
- Concern was expressed that the Black Lives Matter movement was seeking to de-fund or abolish the police;
- Concern was expressed that, in some areas where Black Lives Matter protests had taken place, there had been a breakdown in all forms of law and order, with police having been attacked as well as a number of national monuments. The Council should support the police and the justice system in dealing with the issue of racism;
- Not all members of the black community considered that the Black Lives Matter movement represented them; and
- Whilst it was right to condemn the killing of George Floyd, it was not right to condemn every police officer standing on the frontline defending people, their property and their country.

Councillor S Hughes voiced his disappointment at the division among Members in respect of this debate and stressed the importance of the Council sending out a positive message on the issue of racism.

In response to comments made regarding his Notice of Motion, Councillor D Honeyford pointed out that the motion was simply asking the Council to stand with the Black Lives Matter movement in condemning racism, discrimination and inequality and was not seeking the Council in any way to support Black Lives Matter as an organisation. He stated that ‘black lives matter’ was a concept and to remove that was to deny the problem. With his Notice of Motion, Councillor Honeyford wished to send a message to the local community that, as a unified body, the Council stood against racism.

The amendment to the Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor H Legge and seconded by Councillor C McCready was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared “carried”, the voting being 26 votes in favour and 14 votes against.

The amendment, having become the substantive motion, was put to the meeting and unanimously agreed.

13.2 Condemnation of George Floyd Killing & Racism
Councillor C McCready

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor C McCready had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council condemns the killing of George Floyd and racism in all its forms; condemns the violence, breaches of law and order including covid-19 restrictions; agrees to light the council building in red to remember all those who have lost their lives because of racism”.

Councillor C McCready, in light of the decision taken in respect of item 13.1, withdrew his Notice of Motion.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Provision of Covid-19 Signage to Primary Schools
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, stated that she had been contacted by some primary school principals who had been advised that the Council had a budget that schools could access to allow them to produce Covid-19 signage needed for children returning to classrooms. Having asked if this was factually correct, the Chief Executive confirmed that there had been no communication from any Department indicating that the Council should be distributing money to schools to support signage.

14.2 Death of Former Mayor, Mr Billy Bell
Councillor John Palmer

On behalf of the Ulster Unionist Group, Councillor John Palmer, paid tribute to former Mayor of Lisburn City Council, Mr Billy Bell, who had recently passed away. Mr Bell had been a very good politician, serving not only on Lisburn City Council, but also on Belfast City Council, and had also been an MLA.

14.3 Thanks to Retail Workers
Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Eastwood expressed her thanks in respect of the fantastic work carried out by local businesses and workers over the last few months. As well as health and social care workers, retail workers had been working hard providing what was in many circumstances a lifeline for local communities. Immediately they had repurposed, taken on additional services and adapted to meet the needs of the community. Social enterprises were also a key part of the local economy. It had been great to see Stepping Stones Second Avenue Café repurpose and adapt to both keep workers in jobs and continue to give the opportunities for work that only social enterprise could offer. The innovation, creativity and dedication had been nothing short of heroic from these businesses and workers, with many staff shielding away from their own families to work on

14.3 Thanks to Retail Workers (Contd)
Councillor S Eastwood

the frontline, providing what was needed, when it was needed. Small and independent businesses were a key part of the economy and it was important to work together to give them full support.

14.4 Holiday Hunger
Councillor S Skillen

Alderman S Martin left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.37 pm).

Councillor S Skillen welcomed the commitment by the First Minister, Arlene Foster, in terms of tackling holiday hunger. Almost 97,000 children in Northern Ireland were entitled to free school meals. Central and local government needed to work with communities to ensure no child went hungry. There was a link between poverty, bad health, long-term unemployment and educational attainment so giving children the best start in life should be important to all arms of the government and communities. Working with communities, Councillor Skillen stated that she would like to see holiday hunger continuing to be addressed in future years.

14.5 Thanks for Condolences
Alderman D Drysdale

Alderman D Drysdale thanked all those who had expressed their condolences on the recent death of his aunt.

14.6 Death of Former Mayor, Mr Billy Bell
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig also paid tribute to the late Mr Billy Bell, who had not only been Mayor of Lisburn City Council, but previous to that had been Lord Mayor of Belfast City Council. Councillor Craig remembered Mr Bell with fondness and stated that he had been great friend to him in Council. He expressed his deepest sympathies to Mr Bell's family at this sad time.

14.7 Outdoor Seating at Cafes and Restaurants in City Centre
Councillor A Swan

Councillor A Swan referred to comments made previously in the meeting by Alderman W J Dillon regarding money which was to be made available to assist cafes, restaurants and traders in the centre of Lisburn. He proposed that the Council offer temporary street trading licences to cafes and restaurants, whether licenced or not, where a place to put tables and chairs outside their premises was practicable and that the Council make every reasonable effort to facilitate this. This proposal was seconded by Alderman W J Dillon.

Discussion ensued, during which some Members stated that, whilst wishing to support businesses, the Council could not take such actions without first consulting with the blind community and the disabled community and this process

14.7 Outdoor Seating at Cafes and Restaurants in City Centre (Contd)
Councillor A Swan

must be followed. The Chief Executive confirmed that what had been suggested by Councillor Swan was something the Council was already looking at. The Council did have to take cognisance of the visually impaired and due diligence had to be carried out. Following discussion, Councillor Swan stated that he would caveat his proposal with 'subject to appropriate due diligence being carried out'. The proposal in the name of Councillor Swan, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, was agreed.

14.8 Play Parks
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Alderman A Grehan left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.55 pm).

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, referred to the proposed refurbishment of play parks and development of new play parks. She had approached Officers of the Council and was awaiting an overview of this matter. The Deputy Mayor was disappointed that Members, who were under scrutiny from their communities, had not been kept informed about delays associated with the play park process, whether due to tendering, planning or whatever. She sought an assurance that this would not happen again, that Members would be given information in a timely fashion and that a public statement be issued in terms of the current position regarding play parks. The Chief Executive gave an assurance that the Council would endeavour to improve its internal procedures for communication around tenders that did not progress. There would be an element of discussion required with Members over the summer period around what the Council's capital investments might be and what Members would consider as priorities. The Chief Executive also agreed that, as requested by the Deputy Mayor, a public statement would be issued in respect of play parks.

14.9 Carryduff Greenway
Councillor S Lee

Councillor S Lee voiced his frustration at the lack of progress in relation to the Carryduff Greenway project, even though it was in the Local Development Plan and had cross-party support. He asked if this project could be included in the work of the Capital Projects Committee to ensure it was moved forward. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Carryduff Greenway project did sit within the 10 Year Investment Plan and was in the Capital Programme. This was something that did need to be reviewed. The Minister for Infrastructure was keen to invest in cycleways and greenways so there may be opportunities for the Council. In relation to the Carryduff Greenway, there may be challenges for the Council in terms of land ownership and the Chief Executive did not feel this would be progressed soon; however, the Council would explore any opportunities that may exist. Whilst appreciating the comments by the Chief Executive, Councillor Lee stated that work commencing on the first phase of the project in Carryduff would be welcomed.

14.10 Guidelines for Businesses Reopening on 3 July
Councillor C McCready

Councillor C McCready referred to those businesses, including restaurants, which were to reopen on 3 July and asked if Environmental Health could assist by issuing guidelines. The Director of Environmental Services confirmed that the Food Manager in Environmental Health had continued to liaise with all relevant properties throughout the Covid-19 crisis. She agreed to contact him the following day to confirm that this support and communication would continue.

Councillor S Skillen referred to the reopening of barbers and hairdressers and asked if they too would be provided with guidance. The Director of Environmental Services stated that the Council had been mandated with updated regulations as a result of Covid-19 so Environmental Health was responsible and was actively working with a range of premises to advise on firstly which could reopen and secondly, within the health and safety regulations, measures required around social distancing and managing the risk within premises. The Director agreed to confirm the status of the communications the following day.

14.11 Local Risk of Redundancies
Alderman W J Dillon

Alderman W J Dillon made Members aware that he understood there was a risk of redundancies in the Council area and had assurance from the Economic Development Team that they had planned for and were prepared to respond to emerging circumstances.

Alderman D Drysdale stated that it was worth noting that many businesses had still not received a grant from the government. He had spoken to a businessman the previous day who had Furloughed 100 employees. He had been unable to avail of the £10,000 grant as his business was too big and did not qualify for the £25,000 grant as his business did not fall under any of the hospitality elements. Alderman Drysdale had contacted the local MP in relation to this. Another company had received a grant but could not reopen as civil servants could not find an area to put it under in relation to the mental health issues it dealt with. It was being treated the same as hairdressers even though it provided help for people who had fibromyalgia to manage their pain, etc. Alderman Drysdale referred to a survey that the Council had recently carried out and asked what would happen as a result of that and if the Council would be giving money to support businesses. The Director of Service Transformation advised that information received back from the survey was currently being analysed and it would help the Council design its recovery plan. A number of funding streams had been made available or discussed and the Council wanted to be best informed on how to address that and identify where the gaps were and the needs of businesses. A report on this matter would be brought to the Development Committee in September, but any decisions required in the meantime would be taken in accordance with the existing governance structures.

14.12 Carryduff Greenway
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson stated that he fully supported comments made earlier by Councillor S Lee in relation to the above matter. He stated that part of the challenge was not only with different landowners but that different parts of the project required certain planning applications to be enacted. This was still being worked through and Councillor Anderson encouraged Council Officers to continue to work closely with developers to ensure the process that was promised in planning applications came to fruition.

14.13 Car Parking Charges
Councillor John Palmer

In response to a query by Councillor John Palmer as to whether car parks would reopen to the public, with charges, from 1 July, the Chief Executive confirmed that this would be the case, as agreed in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Environmental Services Committee.

Conclusion of the Meeting

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 9.11 pm.

Mayor