

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 May, 2021 at 7:03 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor N Trimble

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, A Grehan, S Martin, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, R Carlin, A Gowan, D Honeyford, S Lee, H Legge, J McCarthy, U Mackin, John Palmer and A Swan

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Aldermen J Baird, D Drysdale, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith and M Henderson MBE

Councillors S Carson, D J Craig, S Eastwood, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan, M Gregg, M Guy, S Hughes, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, G McCleave, C McCready, A McIntyre, T Mitchell and S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Officer

IN ATTENDANCE IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Environmental Services
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development

The Very Reverend Sam Wright

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed those present to this meeting of Council, which was being live-streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He advised that there were more Members present in the Council Chamber this evening than had been the case in recent months. Councillor Trimble requested that all mobile

Commencement of the Meeting (Contd)

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.

Alderman A Grehan arrived to the meeting at this point (7.04 pm).

At this point, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

Prayers

Councillor C McCreedy joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.06 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed The Very Reverend Sam Wright, Lisburn Cathedral, to the meeting. Reverend Wright gave an address and said a prayer.

Alderman S Martin arrived to the meeting at this point (7.12 pm).

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

- Thomas, father of Gareth Anderson, Building Control;
- Basil Corey, father of Caroline Magee, Head of Human Resources and Organisation Design;
- William (Bill), brother of James Neill, member of cleansing team based at Carryduff;
- May Affleck, mother of Gill Bann, member of the Sports Services Unit and part-time swimming teacher at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex;
- Margaret Weir, mother of Una Casement, part-time Arts Information and Education Officer, Island Arts Centre;
- friend and colleague, Abbie Algie, who had worked with the Council for three years as a recreation assistant in Indianaland at Dundonald International Ice Bowl (DIIB); and
- Vasundhara Kamble, member of the former Castlereagh Borough Council, former member of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and a personal friend to many in the Chamber.

On behalf of their parties, Alderman M Henderson and Councillors N Anderson, M Guy, J Gallen, S Lee and R Carlin expressed condolences in respect of all the bereaved families referred to by the Mayor. They paid particular tribute to Vasundhara Kamble, who had been a former colleague and friend of many of the Elected Members. She had been the first Indian Councillor in Northern Ireland. Members referred to Vasundhara as a caring, kind, intelligent lady whose priority had been to see her local community thrive. She had been very active in the Intercultural Friendship Group and worked hard to bring people of different backgrounds together. Members stated that her family were in their thoughts and prayers.

Prayers (Contd)

Councillor S Skillen echoed the sentiments of her colleagues in respect of Vasundhara Kamble and all of the bereaved families. She particularly referred to the untimely death of Abbie Algie and sent thoughts and prayers to Abbie's family and her colleagues in DIIB. Abbie had been a much-loved member of staff, highly regarded by both her work colleagues and customers alike.

At this stage, Reverend Wright said a prayer during which he remembered all the bereaved families referred to this evening.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble thanked Reverend Wright for his words and thoughts this evening. As this was his last full Council meeting as Mayor, Councillor Trimble thanked Reverend Wright for having fulfilled the role of Mayor's Chaplain during the latter half of his term of office. The contributions of Reverend Wright at Council meetings, as well as civic events and services, had been greatly appreciated by Councillor Trimble. Reverend Wright stated that it had been his pleasure to serve as Mayor's Chaplain.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Head of Human Resources and Organisation Design joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.28 pm).

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, since the last meeting of Council.

In particular, the Mayor highlighted the Centenary Service held in Lisburn Cathedral on 9 May. This had been an interdenominational service and had focussed on reconciliation, reflection and looking forward to the next 100 years in an aspirational manner. Councillor Trimble also referred to the virtual Mayor's Parade having taken place the previous week and he thanked all the staff involved in the organisation of this.

It was noted that the visits to a number of children to present them with goodie bags for entering the Arts Kits Spring Competition had been undertaken by the Deputy Mayor rather than the Mayor.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors R T Beckett and R McLernon.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor J McCarthy, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 April, 2021 and the special meeting of Council held on 6 May, 2021, 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 the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and CivCo Limited of 25 Hillside Road, Maghera, BT46 5SD – Contract for rural basic services installation of pathways at Hydebank Playing Fields;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Lubbe and Sons (Bulbs) Limited of c/o Duncan and Toplis, Enterprise Way, Spalding, PE11 3YR – Contract for seasonal bedding plants (Lot 5) flowering bulbs;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Irish Waste Services Limited of 94-96 Hillsborough Road, Carryduff, BT8 8HT – Contract for the recycling and recovery of residual and bulky waste from Council household recycling centres;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Pinnacle Growth Group of 42 Bachelors Walk, Lisburn, BT28 1XN – Contract for Rural Tourism Collaborative Experience Programme; and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Cobra Specialist Security Services Limited of Unit C6 Knockmore Hill Business Park, 9 Ferguson Drive, Lisburn, BT28 2EX – Contract for remote CCTV security camera services.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, explained that, due to a gap in legislation, only those Members physically present in the Council Chamber this evening were permitted to make proposals and take part in any votes.

Leisure and Community Development Committee **4 May, 2021**

Proposed by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer (the Chairman, Alderman M Henderson having confirmed that the minutes presented were a true and accurate record of proceedings)

Seconded by Councillor D Honeyford

Environmental Services Committee **5 May, 2021**

Proposed by Councillor N Anderson

Seconded by Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

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Procedure for Graffiti and Flyposting Removal

Councillor N Anderson paid tribute to the Officers involved in progressing the above matter, which was being worked on across a number of Departments.

Development Committee **5 May, 2021**

Proposed by Alderman W J Dillon

Seconded by Councillor U Mackin

Corporate Services Committee **19 May, 2021**

Proposed by Alderman S P Porter

Seconded by Alderman S Martin

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Community Investment Fund

Alderman S P Porter put on record his thanks to the Chief Executive and staff involved in progressing the above matter, as well as to all those groups who had shown an interest in this fund. He looked forward to work commencing on the pilot Community Investment Fund, with Ballymacash Sports Academy as the partner project. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and Alderman A Grehan echoed the sentiments of Alderman Porter on this matter.

Alderman Porter expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive, members of the Corporate Management Team and the Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, Alderman S Martin, for their help and assistance during his term as Chairman. The past year had been a difficult but exciting one. Alderman Porter referred to the freeze on rates, which had been the first in the history of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, and the amount of investment that had been made in difficult times.

Planning Committee **12 April, 2021**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 12 April, 2021 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 10 May, 2021. It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that their contents be noted.

Alderman O Gawith thanked Officers for their support during his term as Chairman of the Planning Committee. He also paid tribute to Members of the Planning Committee for the knowledge they had applied and their diligence throughout the year.

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.

9.1 Interim Corporate Plan

Reverend S Wright left the meeting at this point (7.45 pm).

Members having been provided with a copy of the Council's Interim Corporate Plan 2021-24, it was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed that it be approved.

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,

13. Confidential Business

It was agreed that the report 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 matter contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor H Legge and agreed that the following item be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The live stream of the meeting was paused at this stage (7.49 pm).

13.1 Investment Plan – Funding Application

During consideration of this item of business, Alderman A Grehan left, and returned to, the meeting (8.00 pm and 8.01 pm respectively), Councillor D J Craig left the meeting (8.21 pm) and the Head of Human Resources and Organisation Design left the meeting (8.22 pm).

The Chief Executive set out in his report, the background and key issues associated with an Investment Plan funding application, the closing date for submission of which was 18 June, 2021.

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee and seconded by Councillor H Legge that a funding application be submitted, as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, to support achievement of the Council's Capital Programme ambitions.

A number of Members spoke in support of this proposal and thanked the Chief Executive and Officers involved in bringing this forward to Council, namely the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Aldermen O Gawith, D Drysdale, S P Porter and M Henderson and Councillors S Lowry, U Mackin, S Skillen, N Anderson and J Laverty.

Councillor G McCleave commented on the tight deadline associated with this first round of funding and stated that he considered it would be best to pause and allow other projects to come forward to support a bid for multiple projects by this Council in a future round. It was proposed by Councillor R Carlin that, as stated by Councillor McCleave, an application not be submitted at this time. This proposal was not seconded.

The Chief Executive answered a number of questions put by Members and provided clarity on several issues raised.

The proposal in the name of Councillor S Lee, seconded by Councillor H Legge, was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken by those Members present in the Council Chamber, was declared 'carried', the voting being 16 votes in favour of the proposal and 1 against.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (8.26 pm).

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Viable Pipe Bomb in Glenavy Village
Councillor D Honeyford

Councillor D Honeyford referred to a viable pipe bomb having been left in the main street in Glenavy Village the previous Saturday evening. Families were beyond concern for the children who had walked past this device, which could have exploded with devastating consequences. This had been an outrageous

14.1 Viable Pipe Bomb in Glenavy Village (Contd)
Councillor D Honeyford

and unacceptable act in an area where the community wanted to live in peace and without hassle. Councillor Honeyford thanked the local police who had been quick to respond and whose handling of the situation and communications since had been first class. He further thanked Reverend Linda Cronin of St Aidan's Parish Church who had given over use of the Church hall for residents during the emergency. Councillors G McCleave and S Lee echoed the comments made by Councillor Honeyford, thanking the PSNI and Reverend Cronin and stating that those responsible had no place in our society.

14.2 Recent Fire at Former Hilden Mill
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, stated that she had been saddened and disappointed over the weekend when, as a result of either silliness or badness, there had been a fire at the former Hilden Mill – an area of historical and architectural heritage. The whole of the Hilden and Lambeg area had been poisoned and polluted with smoke and toxic fumes. The Deputy Mayor was frustrated as there was supposed to be a security company managing the site. The buildings on the site that were trying to be protected were part of the overall development of the Mill and it was a shame and disgrace that this fire had happened, putting the lives of NI Fire & Rescue Service personnel at risk, as well as the PSNI. Councillor Palmer encouraged anyone with information to provide this to the PSNI. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, echoed the sentiments of the Deputy Mayor, stating that the former Hilden Mill was an iconic part of the area's history.

Alderman S Martin associated himself with what had been said. He voiced his concerns around security at the site and stated that it was particularly disturbing to hear reports of young people being in the site the night after the fire. Alderman Martin suggested that there was a role for the Council to engage with the relatively-new owners of the site in terms of their responsibility, not only for the property but for the wider community. He referred to difficulties there had been in bringing this site back into an economic space again and feared that if engagement did not take place with the owners and statutory agencies, the area would be lost, which would be a shame. Whilst the site was owned by a private company, Alderman Martin stated that there had to be some mechanism whereby the relevant statutory agency was able to issue an order and send someone out to ensure the site was secure.

The Director of Environmental Services stated that there was a section within the Clean Neighbourhoods Legislation that dealt with ruinous and dilapidated buildings and she agreed to request the Head of Environmental Health to give consideration to this site under that legislation. She also stated that it would be considered from a Building Control aspect as well. At the request of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, the Director agreed that Members of the Lisburn North District Electoral Area would be kept informed of progress on this matter.

14.2 Recent Fire at Former Hilden Mill (Contd)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

The Director of Service Transformation advised that there had been a number of dialogues and correspondence with the new owners of the site and that would continue. He also reported receipt of correspondence from the Heritage Agency in respect of dealing with the site under planning determinations. The Director confirmed that Officers would continue to reach out to the developer and work with colleagues in Environmental Services in protecting the heritage element of the site.

14.3 Licensing Fees
Councillor G McCleave

Councillor G McCleave stated that some councils had waived licensing fees for the hospitality sector and asked if there were any plans for this Council to do likewise. The Director of Environmental Services confirmed that a letter had been received from the Minister for Communities towards the end of the financial year allowing a renewal subsidy for premises as outlined by Councillor McCleave. The Council had written to premises advising that their licences could be renewed for £1 for the 2021/22 financial year. There had been further reach-out in conjunction with Economic Develop to support businesses, where possible, in informing them of grant opportunities.

14.4 Fly-Tipping, Dog Fouling and Litter
Councillor John Palmer

Councillor D J Craig re-joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.40 pm).

Councillor John Palmer referred to some other councils having employed the services of a private enforcement company to work alongside their Enforcement Officers in dealing with fly-tipping, dog fouling and litter. Councillor Palmer asked that a scoping exercise be carried out to ascertain the benefits that could be achieved by the Council employing such a private enforcement company.

The Director of Environmental Services stated that she was aware of what Councillor Palmer referred to. She advised that the Head of Environmental Health was currently working with the Head of Corporate Communications & Administration to look at how the Council could deliver a more hard-hitting message around environmental crime. She confirmed that a paper would be presented to a future meeting of the Environmental Services Committee and that would include an option of additional private sector enforcement opportunities.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, thanked those present for their attendance and reminded those present in the Council Chamber that they should exit the Chamber in an orderly fashion, adhering to social distancing guidance, and wear their face masks when moving about the building.

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There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.41 pm.

Mayor