

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 27 March, 2018 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor T Morrow

Deputy Mayor  
Councillor H Legge

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, D Drysdale, A G Ewart MBE,  
M Henderson MBE, T Jeffers, W A Leatham, S Martin,  
S P Porter, G Rice MBE and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, J Baird, R T Beckett,  
B Bloomfield MBE, S Carson, D J Craig, A P Ewing, J Gallen,  
O Gawith, A Girvin, A Givan, J Gray MBE, A Grehan,  
B Hanvey, V Kamble, J McCarthy, A McIntyre, U Mackin,  
B Mallon, J Palmer, A Redpath, S Skillen and R Walker

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive  
Director of Environmental Services  
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing  
Director of Service Transformation  
Lead Head of Planning & Building Control  
Head of Marketing and Communications (Ms A Goddard)  
Member Services Officer  
Attendance Clerk

**Commencement of the Meeting**

Alderman T Jeffers and Councillor A Givan arrived to the meeting at this point (7.01 pm).

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed those present to the meeting, following which the Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor Morrow requested that all mobile phones be switched off or put on silent for the duration of the meeting.

**Prayers**

Councillors A P Ewing, A Grehan arrived to the meeting during this item of business (7.02 pm), as did Alderman S P Porter and Councillor A McIntyre (7.03 pm).

Prayers (Contd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, expressed condolences in respect of the recent death of:

- Mr John Hurson, father of Ms Christina Hurson, employee in the Island Arts Centre;
- Mr Derek Middleton, former Chief Environmental Health Officer in Lisburn Borough Council and father of Ms Terry Middleton, employee in Museum Services;
- Mr Albert Porter, father of Alderman S P Porter and Messrs John and Mark Porter, employees in Technical Services; and
- Mr Cecil Calvert, former Alderman and Mayor of Lisburn City Council. As a mark of respect for Mr Calvert, given his former position of Mayor, Members stood and observed a minute's silence.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed Rev N Serb, Mount Zion Free Methodist Church, to the meeting and provided some information on his background. Rev Serb stated that it was a great privilege to be part of the City of Lisburn and Castlereagh. He expressed thanks for the service the Council provided to the City and gave an assurance of the Church's prayers and continual support. Rev Serb read a passage of Scripture and said a prayer, during which he too remembered the bereaved families referred to by the Mayor.

Councillor N Anderson arrived to the meeting during Rev Serb's address (7.05 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked Rev Serb for his attendance and he left the meeting at this point (7.10 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, outlined the engagements he had attended during the month as follows:

- Fairtrade Fortnight Celebration in Wallace High School;
- Funeral of Jack Beattie, which had been attended by a number of Elected Members;
- Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission "Out of Sight, Out of Mind" event at Belfast City Hall;
- Reception for 1<sup>st</sup> Hilden Scout Group to celebrate 30 years in existence;
- Community Litter Pick at Comber Greenway, organised by McDonald's;
- International Women's Day event at Café Vic-Ryn, which had also been attended by Alderman A G Ewart;
- Reception for Lisburn Outlook;
- Civic Event for the 2 Rifles Battalion, which had been attended by Prince Edward. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, expressed thanks, on behalf of the Council, to the staff involved in the organisation of this event, particularly Mrs Carmel Connolly and Mrs Diane Wilson;
- St Patrick's Day celebrations at the Enler Centre, Ballybeen;
- Flag Raising Ceremony for Commonwealth Day;

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Contd)

- Meeting at SERC regarding skills deficit in the manufacturing sector;
- Funeral of Mr Cecil Calvert, which had been attended by a number of Elected Members;
- Joint Secretaries of the British-Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat St Patrick's Day Reception at the Ulster Museum;
- Ulster in Bloom Awards Ceremony at Cultra Manor, when one trophy had been received within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City area. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked those involved in winning this award;
- Social Enterprise Programme End of Programme celebration event;
- Mayor's Community Awards Dinner. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked the Community Support Officer and her team for her work in organising this event;
- Warrington Commemoration Service;
- AGM of Motor Neurone Disease Association;
- Breakfast seminar organised by Lisburn Enterprise Organisation;
- 'Glider' bus display at Stormont;
- Queen's Award celebration event at Theatre at the Mill, Newtownabbey;
- Event at Eikon Exhibition Centre which had had been attended by Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markle;
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Business Awards at La Mon Hotel;
- ABF The Soldiers' Charity Ulster at War Concert at the Waterfront Hall;
- Reception for Mr I Wilson, Head of Planning & Building Control, on the occasion of his retirement. At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor offered Members the opportunity of saying a few words to Mr Wilson before his departure. A number of Members (Aldermen J Tinsley, W J Dillon, S Martin, G Rice and M Henderson and Councillors B Hanvey, A Girvin, A Redpath and J Palmer) put on record their thanks to Mr Wilson for the help and support he had afforded them over the years, especially more recently in respect of the Council's new role in relation to the planning function. In particular, Members paid tribute to Mr Wilson for the pinnacle role he had played during the transition period from the former Lisburn City and Castlereagh Borough Councils to the new Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. He had been a courteous Officer who had treated all Members equally and had always been willing to go the extra mile. Being awarded "Employee of the Year" in 2012 by NILGA had demonstrated how well respected Mr Wilson was, not only in this Council, but throughout Local Government. Members wished Mr Wilson a long, happy and healthy retirement. Mr Wilson thanked Members for their kind words and best wishes. He stated that he had been privileged to work for the Council for the last 19 years and thanked the Chief Executive and Members for their support;
- Motorbike Awareness Project "Celebration of Success"; and
- Clean-up along the River Lagan.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, expressed his appreciation to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, for having attended a number of events on his behalf during the last month, as follows:

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Contd)

- Chinese New Year event;
- International Women's Day event at Lagan Valley Island;
- International Women's Day event at Bridge Community Centre;
- Spirit of Ballybeen Awards;
- Diversity Festival;
- AGM of Hillsborough Community Centre;
- International Table Tennis Match at the Racquets Club; and
- Boys' Brigade National Chess Final at Hillsborough.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors T Mitchell, M Tolerton and N Trimble.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor A P Ewing declared an interest in the minutes of the special Development Committee meeting held on 21 March, 2018, as he was a Board Member of Lisburn Commerce Against Crime.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 February, 2018 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

Councillor U Mackin left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.35 pm).

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

On a proposal by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor A Givan, it was agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Contd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Escapade HW Limited of Dundonald International Ice Bowl, 111 Old Dundonald Road, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 1XT – Lease relating to part of the Basement (Escape Rooms) at Dundonald International Ice Bowl;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Erroyl Samuel Dougherty and Bertha Dougherty of 92A Comber Road, Dundonald, Belfast, BT16 2AG – Contract (Memorandum of Sale) in relation to the disposal of lands adjoining 92A Comber Road, Dundonald;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Hi-Tech Security Services of 54 Hillhall Road, Lisburn, BT27 5BX – Contract for Out of Hours Dog Control Service;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Northern Ireland Housing Executive, 2 Adelaide Street, Belfast – Development Agreement – Drumbo Village Renewal Scheme; and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Department for Infrastructure, Clarence Court, Adelaide Street, Town Parks, Belfast, County Antrim, BT2 8BG – Form of Transfer relating to part of the land contained in folio 29601 County Down.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

It was agreed that the minutes and recommendations of the undernoted meetings be adopted, subject to any changes recorded below:

**Leisure and Community Development Committee**

**6 March 2018**

Proposed by Alderman J Tinsley

Seconded by Councillor R Walker

Translink Ulster in Bloom Competition

Alderman J Tinsley advised that Hillsborough had won the Large Village category in the recent Ulster in Bloom competition and that the cheque that had been received would be donated to the Mayor's Charities. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, stated that this was much appreciated.

**Environmental Services Committee**

**7 March 2018**

Proposed by Alderman T Jeffers

Seconded by Councillor J Gray

**Development Committee**

**7 March 2018**

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart

Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

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Belfast Region City Deal – Update

The Chairman of the Development Committee, Alderman A G Ewart referred to it having been agreed that "the Council's Chief Executive deliver a briefing on the Belfast Region City Deal initiative to the eight Members nominated to this initiative

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Belfast Region City Deal – Update (Contd)

in order to ensure consistency and clarity going forward”. He had understood that such a briefing would be provided prior to every City Deal meeting and, having sought clarification, the Chief Executive confirmed that this would be the case.

**Special Development Committee** **21 March 2018**  
 Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart  
 Seconded by Alderman D Drysdale

**Corporate Services Committee** **13 March 2018**  
 Proposed by Councillor S Carson  
 Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

**Capital Projects Committee** **13 March 2018**  
 Proposed by Alderman D Drysdale  
 Seconded by Alderman S P Porter

**Special Leisure and Community Development Committee** **26 March 2018**

Councillor U Mackin returned to the meeting and Councillor A Redpath left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.39 pm).

The Chairman of the Leisure and Community Development Committee, Alderman J Tinsley, advised that the purpose of the special meeting of the Committee had been to consider a review of the Museum and Heritage Service. No decision had been made in relation to this matter at the special meeting and it had been agreed that, taking account of Members’ suggestions, a further report would be presented to the next meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee. This verbal report was seconded by Alderman S P Porter.

For Noting

**Planning Committee** **5 February 2018**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 5 February, 2018 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 5 March, 2018. It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor J Baird and agreed that the reports and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Noting

9.1 Carriageway Conditions in Lisburn & Castlereagh Area

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter dated 28 February, 2018 from the Department for Infrastructure in response to representations made by the Council regarding the above matter.

9.2 Changes to Committee Membership

9.2.1 DUP Committee Membership

Members were advised of, and noted, the following DUP Party changes in regard to Committee membership:

- Councillor A Givan to replace Councillor S Skillen on the Leisure and Community Development Committee; and
- Alderman T Jeffers to replace Councillor M Tolerton on the Planning Committee.

9.2.2 Councillor C Quinn

The Chief Executive reported receipt of a letter of resignation from Councillor C Quinn, to take effect from 9 March, 2018. It was noted that Councillor B Hanvey had been nominated to replace Councillor Quinn as Vice-Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee and that Councillor J Gallen would replace Councillor Quinn on the Leisure and Community Development Committee.

9.3 Special Meeting of Council – 29 May, 2018

Members were advised that, following consultation with The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, it had been agreed to convene a special meeting of Council on 29 May, 2018 to receive a presentation from the Department for Infrastructure, Roads Service, in regard to the Roads Service Spring Report. Further to previous discussions, it was noted that this would be the only presentation received at this special meeting.

9.4 Enforcement of Article 40 Agreement Brokerstown

Councillor A Redpath returned to the meeting and Councillor A Girvin left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.42 pm and 7.43 pm respectively).

Members were advised that, following representations by the Council in regard to the above, the Permanent Secretary, Department for Infrastructure, had agreed to meet with a deputation of Elected Members to discuss this issue. It was noted that this meeting would take place on 28 March, 2018 at 11.30 am in Clarence Court, Belfast, and would be attended by Members from the Lisburn Town South/ Killultagh District Electoral Areas. Alderman W A Leathem thanked the Chief Executive and the Lead Head of Planning & Building Control for arranging this

9.4 Enforcement of Article 40 Agreement Brokerstown (Contd)

meeting, especially given that there had been another serious accident on the Knockmore Road three weeks ago involving a lifelong friend of Alderman Leathem and he had witnessed first-hand the trauma faced by the victim and his family.

At this stage, Alderman W A Leathem stated that he concurred with the sentiments expressed by other Members earlier in the meeting in respect of Mr I Wilson. Alderman Leathem added his thanks and appreciation and paid tribute to Mr Wilson's dedication, zeal and commitment to his work, his colleagues and Elected Members.

9.5 International Fund for Ireland – Annual Report and Accounts 2017

It was noted that a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts 2017 had been received from the International Fund for Ireland and could be made available to any interested Member.

9.6 Letter from Kensington Palace

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter dated 7 March, 2018 from Kensington Palace on behalf of Prince Harry and Ms Meghan Markel to thank the Council for its letter of congratulations on the occasion of their engagement.

9.7 Newsheet of the Central Appointments Unit – All Aboard

Members noted that a copy of Issue 27 of the above newsheet could be accessed online.

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

12.1 Conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City on  
Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE  
Alderman W A Leathem

Councillor S Skillen left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.48 pm and 7.51 pm respectively).

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Alderman W A Leathem had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:



12.1 Conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City on Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE (Contd)  
Alderman W A Leathem

“That this Council confers the honorary Freedom of the City of Lisburn & Castlereagh on Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE. The award is in recognition of Mrs Christie’s dedication, service and support to our area in her role as Her Majesty’s Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim”.

In proposing the above Notice of Motion, Alderman W A Leathem stated that Her Majesty the Queen appointed a Lord Lieutenant for each county on the advice of the Prime Minister, who consulted widely with the county concerned. Lord Lieutenancy for County Antrim had come into being in 1831. From then until the present day, there had been some very prestigious Lord Lieutenants and these were listed by Alderman Leathem. Mrs Joan Christie had been Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim since 2008 and had welcomed many international visitors to the Province, such as Presidents Obama and Putin, as well as members of the Royal Family, including Her Majesty the Queen. In 1976, she had received an MBE for services to government, followed by an OBE for services to education and, most recently, a CVO, which was a private honour distributed by Her Majesty the Queen and demonstrated the respect with which Mrs Christie was held. The Lord Lieutenant was the Queen’s representative in the county and when a member of the Royal Family visited County Antrim, it was Mrs Christie’s duty to meet them and accompany them on their visit. Alderman Leathem referred to an article he had read in which Mrs Christie had stated that, when a member of the Royal Family visited, it was the people of Northern Ireland they were here to visit rather than her and this encapsulated how humble she was in her role.

Alderman W A Leathem advised that Mrs Christie had been awarded the Freedom of the Borough by both Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and the Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council. If the Notice of Motion was passed by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, that would be the third Freedom of the City conferred on Mrs Christie in County Antrim. This spoke volumes in relation to her dedication, zeal and commitment to service as Lord Lieutenant since 2008.

Mrs Christie had been active in many public and voluntary bodies, a former Civil Servant and Assistant Private Secretary to successive Secretaries of State in Northern Ireland until 1979. She was the Deputy Lord Lieutenant from 2005. She had been a member of the SEELB which covered education provision in the former Lisburn City and Castlereagh Borough Council areas. Mrs Christie had particular zeal for education and particularly special needs.

In her capacity as Lord Lieutenant for County Antrim, Mrs Christie had attended almost every civic event to which she had been invited by both the former Lisburn City Council and the present Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, including Freedom of the City ceremonies, Mayors’ dinners, Church services, AGMs, military events and many other civic events. She had been very much involved in the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee celebrations and had been instrumental in groups within the Lisburn area having received the Queen’s Award for Volunteering in

12.1 Conferring the Honorary Freedom of the City on Mrs Joan Christie CVO, OBE (Contd)  
Alderman W A Leathem

2012, including Lisburn Community Self Build, Dunmurry Community Association and Lisburn Voluntary Laundry Service. The Queen's Award for Volunteering was the equivalent to an MBE for a community group.

Alderman W A Leathem stated that Mrs Christie was due to finish her Lord Lieutenancy in 2019 and whoever replaced her would have a hard act to follow. He stated that Mrs Christie was a real ambassador for Lisburn & Castlereagh and for County Antrim and it gave him great pleasure to propose his Notice of Motion that the Council confer the honorary Freedom of the City on Mrs Christie.

At this stage, Alderman S P Porter thanked those Members who had send cards and messages and had attended his father's funeral. This had been much appreciated by him and his family.

Alderman S P Porter seconded the Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman W A Leathem and, in doing so, he pointed out that Alderman Leathem had first spoken to him about this matter prior to Mrs Christie having received the Freedom of the City from either Mid & East Antrim Borough Council or Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council. He also stressed that the Freedom of the City was not being conferred on the position of Lord Lieutenant, but personally on Mrs Christie. As a former Mayor of Lisburn City Council, Alderman Porter had worked with Mrs Christie. As referred to earlier by Alderman Leathem, he stated that the groups that had been received the Queen's Award for Volunteering had done so with the help, support and guidance of the Lord Lieutenant. The highest honour Councillors could get was when someone like the Lord Lieutenant commended how the Council ran its events and this was something that Mrs Christie had done. Alderman Porter stated that this was an honour for Council staff who faithfully delivered excellent service in organising civic events.

Alderman S P Porter stated that Mrs Christie had served Northern Ireland with dignity, whether supporting the Armed Services or attending Council events. In relation to special needs, Alderman Porter had met Mrs Christie in her private role at the Education Board. She had been really heart-set in supporting special needs provision in this area.

A number of other Members spoke to support the Notice of Motion, namely Councillor B Bloomfield, Alderman S Martin, Councillor J Gray, Councillor R T Beckett and The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow.

The Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman W A Leathem and seconded by Alderman S P Porter was put to the meeting and, on a show of hands, was unanimously agreed.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Delegated Authority  
Alderman J Tinsley

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart and agreed to recommend that delegated authority be granted to both the Development Committee and the Leisure and Community Development Committee to consider a request for financial assistance from R-Space Lisburn with regard to a proposed Linen Biennale Festival.

14.2 Roadside Litter Picking  
Councillor A Redpath

Councillor A Redpath stated that he had previously raised an issue regarding new health and safety legislation and the difficulties it was causing the Council in relation to roadside litter picking. This issue was continuing to cause concern and, due to the constraints imposed, was generating a growing number of complaints in Councillor Redpath's area. A number of local community groups had stepped into the breach, which was very good of them. Councillor Redpath understood that Council staff were meeting with the Health & Safety Executive next month to discuss this issue and asked that the Council write to the Health & Safety Executive to outline the very serious difficulties it was having in delivering this role in light of the excessive regulations it had put in place.

In response to Councillor Redpath's comments, the Director of Environmental Services stated that the legislative requirement in terms of managing roadside safety had been considered at a strategic level with the Health & Safety Executive through the Local Authorities Safety Advisors Network as the constraints and controls were being experienced by all councils. In the interim, the Council had no alternative other than to comply with the current requirements but it was recognised that this was having an adverse impact on the Council's ability to address roadside littering. The Director confirmed that this would be addressed but she could not guarantee the outcome.

14.3 Thanks for Support  
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson thanked Members for their recent encouragement and financial support in relation to his wife's visa application. He was pleased to advise that her application had been approved and she was coming home.

14.4 Administration Officer for NAC  
Alderman M Henderson

As NAC Chairperson, Alderman M Henderson put on record his thanks to the Chief Executive and Human Resources staff for their help in recruiting a new Administration Officer for the NAC.

14.5 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Formation of the RAF  
Councillor S Carson

Councillor S Carson stated that 2018 marked the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the RAF. He had been contacted by individuals in the community, including a local chaplain, in relation to events that the Council may wish to run or plans it may have to mark the occasion. Councillor Carson advised that various regional events were taking place between the end of March through to July and asked that the Council explore options on how it might mark this occasion. It was agreed that Councillor Carson liaise with The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, in relation to this matter and report back at a future meeting.

In addition to the above, Councillor S Carson advised of a man born and brought up in Lisburn, Mr Terence Malcolm Bulloch, who was a very colourfully decorated RAF pilot and navigator. Mr Bulloch had accredited 350 missions during service for the RAF and had flown for over 4,500 air hours in a series of aircrafts. Councillor Carson had been working with Ernie Cromie in the Ulster Aviation Society to put forward an application to the Ulster History Circle to have a blue plaque erected at Mr Bulloch's place of birth in Lisburn. This was quite a difficult task and Councillor Carson asked that the Council write a letter of support for the application.

14.6 Publication of Members' Details  
Alderman D Drysdale

Alderman D Drysdale made Members aware that, in recent financial dealings, his account company had flagged up a risk in relation to his name and mobile number being published on a website, which could lead to identity theft. Alderman Drysdale advised that this could affect their credit reference rating.

14.7 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Business Awards 2018  
Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A G Ewart asked that his thanks be conveyed to Mrs Patricia Mallon and Miss Lisa Jardine for their involvement in organising the above event.

14.8 Hope 4 ME & Fibromyalgia – Council's Request for Meeting  
Alderman W A Leathem

Alderman W A Leathem referred to a request he had made a number of months previously that the Council write to the Secretary of State, in light of the Permanent Secretary's refusal to meet with the Council in relation to its concerns regarding the inadequate and disappointing responses to its Notice of Motion on the subject of ME and Fibromyalgia. Alderman Leathem was not aware of any acknowledgement of this letter having been received and requested that the Chief Executive forward a letter to the new Secretary of State, copied to the Head of the Civil Service, outlining the Council's concerns.

Alderman Leathem stated that the Chief Executive had suggested he be a voice for the many sufferers of fibromyalgia who were unable to speak out. Alderman Leathem had gone to speak with the local Fibromyalgia Group in December. Following some local press, Alderman Leathem had been contacted by a

14.8 Hope 4 ME & Fibromyalgia – Council’s Request for Meeting (Contd)  
Alderman W A Leathem

constituent in the Council area who had suffered from fibromyalgia for a number of years and who had faced difficulties with his work as a result of ill-health. The constituent had claimed that the Northern Ireland Civil Service was the only Civil Service in the UK that had not implemented the UK Government’s Improving Lives Strategy to get and keep disabled people in work. It was proposed by Alderman W A Leathem, seconded by Councillor J McCarthy and agreed to recommend that the Council write to the Head of the Civil Service asking if this was the case and, if so, why it was the case and why Northern Ireland was not in line with the rest of the UK in helping people who were disabled.

The Chief Executive advised that the Council would be inviting the Secretary of State to meet with a cross-party group and this matter would be raised at that time, as well as in writing.

At this point, Councillor N Anderson advised that he wished to raise a confidential matter.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor A Redpath and agreed that the items in the confidential report and additional confidential report be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

14.9 Indemnity for Councillors in Relation to Planning  
Councillor N Anderson

In response to a query from Councillor N Anderson regarding indemnity for Councillors in relation to planning, the Chief Executive advised that she would be writing to Members in relation to this matter.

14.10 Councillor M Tolerton  
Alderman W A Leathem

Alderman W A Leathem updated Members in relation to Councillor M Tolerton’s recent spell of ill-health and asked that she be remembered in their prayers.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Redpath, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.34 pm.

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Mayor