

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 28 May, 2024 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor A Gowan

Deputy Mayor
Councillor G McCleave

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

Councillors D Bassett, P Burke, S Burns, R Carlin, P Catney,
D J Craig, K Dickson, N Eaton, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan,
B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp, P Kennedy, J Lavery BEM,
S Lowry, C McCready, A McIntyre, M McKeever,
R McLernon, U Mackin, A Martin, N Parker and G Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Acting Director of Environmental Services
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Officer

Mr D Roberts, Mayor's Chaplain

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed those present to the meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He 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.

Prayers

Councillors P Burke and R Carlin arrived to the meeting at 7.02 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Brygida Barbara Jochemska, mother of Patrycja McMaster, employee at Dundonald International Ice Bowl; and
- Annie Brady, mother of Danny Brady, employee within the Assets Unit.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed his Chaplain, Mr D Roberts, to the meeting. Mr Roberts gave an address and said a prayer during which he also referred to the above bereavements and offered his sympathy to the families. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, having paid tribute to Mr Roberts for having taken on the role of Mayor's Chaplain for the past year, thanked him for his attendance and he left the meeting (7.11 pm).

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, Councillor A Gowan, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, since the last meeting of Council.

In particular, Councillor Gowan highlighted the Mayor's Parade. He thanked all staff involved for their hard work and efforts in making it the very successful event it had been and asked that his sentiments be conveyed to those staff members.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman A Grehan and Councillors R T Beckett, T Mitchell and N Trimble.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 April, 2024 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

Councillor J Lavery asked that the meeting go 'into committee' as he wished to discuss an item of a financial nature.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed that this item be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present, the reason being that it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information). The livestream was paused at 7.16 pm.

The Chief Executive having answered a number of queries raised, agreed that an update report would be presented to the September meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee in respect of Citywatch CCTV.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (7.21 pm).

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and R&M Greenkeeper Limited, Unit C1, Kilcronagh Business Park, Cookstown BT80 9HG – Contract for Provision of a Haulage Service for Residual and Green Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref: STA23/24-040)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and The Resurgam Community Development Trust Limited, 3 Laganview Enterprise Centre, 69 Drumbeg Drive, Lisburn BT28 1NY – Development and Agreement for Lease of Hilden Primary School
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Eclipse Sales Ltd t/a Steeltech NI Sheds, 412 Cushendall Road, Rathkenny, Ballymena BT43 6QE – Contract for Aberdelghy Driving Range (T22/23-083)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Dawson Manufacturing and Engineering Ltd, 3 Charlston Crescent, Portadown BT63 5ZE – Contract for T23/24-025 Tender for the Provision of Welding/Fabricating Services

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Contd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and M&M Contractors (Europe) Ltd, 4 Pilots View, 18 Heron Road, Belfast BT3 9LE – Contract for Tender for New Meeting Room and Offices at The Irish Linen Centre and Lisburn Museum, Lisburn (T23/24-018)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Citywatch CCTV Northern Ireland, PSNI, 15 Barrack Street, Lisburn BT28 1TJ – Letter of Offer to Citywatch CCTV Northern Ireland
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Belfast City Council, Belfast City Hall, Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5GS – Funding Agreement in respect of Destination Royal Hillsborough (item 13.4 refers)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Historic Royal Palaces, Hampton Court Palace, Surrey KT8 9AU – Collaboration Agreement in respect of Destination Royal Hillsborough (item 13.4 refers)

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Environment and Sustainability Committee

1 May, 2024

Proposed by Councillor C McCready

Seconded by Councillor G Hynds

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Funding from DAERA

Councillor G Hynds thanked the Minister for his reply regarding funding for animal welfare. Whilst he understood that budgets were tight, he was disappointed and concerned that animal welfare funding had been halved and there was no commitment going forward. Councillor Hynds hoped that pressure would be put on the Minister to provide the appropriate funding and that this would not fall to ratepayers.

Verbal Matter – Incident at Drumlough Household Recycling Centre

The Chair of Environment and Sustainability Committee, Councillor C McCready, put on record his thanks to Council staff for having dealt with a recent incident at Drumlough Household Recycling Centre. No injuries had occurred and Councillor McCready hoped a safety message could be released to prevent future such incidents occurring.

Regeneration and Growth Committee

2 May, 2024

Proposed by Councillor J Lavery

Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

Communities and Wellbeing Committee

7 May, 2024

Proposed by Councillor J Gallen

Seconded by Alderman S P Porter

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Flower Beds and Grass Cutting

Alderman S P Porter referred to complaints he had received over the past number of weeks regarding grass cutting in the Council's cemeteries. Grass had not been cut for a period of time and when this had taken place, grass cuttings had blown over graves, which had been upsetting for many constituents. Alderman Porter sought an assurance that grass cutting in cemeteries was up-to-date and asked that an early report be provided to Members indicating how this situation had arisen and setting out what steps were being taken to ensure it did not happen again. Councillors G Hynds and C McCreedy also voiced concerns on this matter.

In response, the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing confirmed that staff had mobilised across a number of sites. Grass cutting at a number of sites had already been completed but all would be finalised by end of the week. A number of operational factors, as well as the weather, had contributed to the situation but the Director assured Members that Officers would continue to review and monitor to ensure that the schedule was maintained and adhered to going forward. She agreed that a report would be presented to a future Communities and Wellbeing Committee meeting on this matter.

Corporate Services Committee

8 May, 2024

Proposed by Alderman O Gawith

Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

The Chair of Corporate Services Committee, Alderman O Gawith, thanked Members of that Committee, as well as Officers, for their support during his term as Chair.

Planning Committee

15 April, 2024

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 15 April, 2024 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 13 May, 2024. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor U Mackin and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There were no reports from the 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.

12. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

Prior to considering confidential business, The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that Any Other Business would be taken at this time.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Antisocial Behaviour – Grand Street Housing Development
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig referred to a new housing development at Grand Street, operated by Triangle Housing. Prior to occupation of the dwellings, assurances had been given that tenants would be peaceful people with no issues and that procedures were in place to deal with any antisocial behaviour that might arise. Unfortunately, the first tenants had moved in last Thursday and the environment since had not been peaceful. It was alleged that most of the tenants were dealing with the Justice System in one way or another. One allegedly had a major addiction problem that had overspilled into the community. Last night, a major fight had developed in the area, with weapons used, and terrified residents in the vicinity had witnessed this. Councillor Craig thanked the PSNI for the actions its Officers had taken to deal with the matter so quickly and for making two arrests. Having contacted Triangle Housing since, Councillor Craig stated his disappointment in the response he had received, with blame having been levied on the Housing Executive and the system used for selecting tenants. There had been an admission made that Triangle Housing had no procedures in place to deal with this situation.

Councillor Craig proposed that the Council write to Triangle Housing to request that its representatives attend a meeting with the Council, the PSNI and the Housing Executive to discuss what steps could be taken to avoid a situation arising similar to that in a housing development in Graham Gardens a number of years ago. This proposal was seconded by Councillor G Hynds and agreed. Councillor Hynds commented on the frightening situation the previous evening when the fight had broken out and thanked representatives of Lisburn Safe and Hilden Community Association for assistance they had given. He stated that Triangle Housing had committed to investigating the matter.

Councillor P Catney, who had also been at the scene the previous night, commented on the matter. He went on to state that the NI Fire and Rescue Service was currently in attendance at a fire at the Hilden Mill site. He hoped that damage would be minimal and that steps could be taken to progress regeneration of that site.

Alderman S P Porter, as Chair of the Lisburn & Castlereagh Housing Liaison Forum, stated his support for this proposal. There were many good families in need of social housing; however, people did not want social housing in their area because of lack of management and concerns about the tenants allocated

13.1 Antisocial Behaviour – Grand Street Housing Development (Contd)
Councillor D J Craig

occupancy on many occasions. Alderman Porter stated that this was not a matter for only one Housing Association; all Housing Associations, as well as the Housing Executive, needed to work together to address this issue.

13.2 Agenda Item – Reports from Members on Boards
Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin referred the item on each Council agenda regarding Reports from Members on Boards and, given that there was normally no business included under that item, he asked if the Chief Executive could consider removing that from future agendas or having an alternative way of communicating any such business to Members, should any arise.

13.3 Death of George Lavery
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney referred to the recent death of Mr George Lavery. Mr Lavery was born just outside Moira and had been a keen sportsman in Gaelic Football. Councillor Catney having outlined his many achievements over the years, asked that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr Lavery's family. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, agreed to write a letter to Mr Lavery's family conveying the Council's sympathies on his recent passing.

13.4 Derriaghy Football Club – Clarence Cup
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds expressed his congratulations to Derriaghy Football Club on having recently won the Clarence Cup.

13.5 Review of IT Security Policy
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds referred to details that had come to light during the ongoing Covid 19 Enquiry in relation to missing phones, laptops, wiping of devices, etc. He stated concerns that currently if an Elected Member left the Council, their mobile phone was wiped and information relating to calls and messages was not saved anywhere. He enquired if this procedure was the same for Officers. In the interest of openness and transparency, Councillor Hynds proposed that a review of the Council's IT Security Policy be carried out in respect of, not only how Members and Officers were directed to use their device and how long all information should be kept, but how the Council dealt with devices when a Member or Officer left the Council. This proposal was seconded by Councillor P Catney. A number of Members pointed out difficulties around this proposal given that not all Members availed of a Council-provided device. The Chief Executive agreed that a review would be undertaken and a report presented to a future meeting of the Corporate Services Committee.

13.6 Abolitionist Frederick Douglass
Councillor P Catney

The Chief Executive agreed to provide Councillor P Catney with an update in respect of a previous decision of the Council to undertake a feasibility study, including planning considerations, and other options, and costings for further review by Members, to erect a statue or memorial in Market Square, adjacent to Lisburn First Presbyterian Church, in commemoration of Frederick Douglass.

14. Confidential Business

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); (b) relating to any individual; and (c) which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed that the following items be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The livestream was paused at 8.01 pm.

14.1 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2022/0018/F
(Report would be available after the Agreement was signed and sealed)

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed that approval be given to the signing and sealing of the Agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive. Both Members commended the developer involved in the application for having taken on board the wishes of the Planning Committee to have affordable housing included.

14.2 Item 14.2 had been withdrawn from the agenda.

14.3 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2021/0009/F
(Report would be available after the Agreement was signed and sealed)

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor D Bassett and agreed that approval be given to the signing and sealing of the Agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

- 14.4 Contracts for Funding Agreements regarding BRCD (Belfast Region City Deal) Destination Royal Hillsborough
(Redacted report would be available post the signing and sealing of the documents relating to the contract for works as well as the aware of the HRP related works contracts)

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor G Thompson and agreed that approval be given to the signing and sealing of the documents listed in the report.

The Chief Executive agreed to seek advice form the Director of Regeneration and Growth regarding comments made in relation to having works expedited.

- 14.5 Request for Additional Employment
(Report would never be available)

The Chief Executive left the meeting for consideration of this item of business (8.11 pm).

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed that approval be given to the request for additional employment as set out in the report of the Director of Organisation Development and Innovation.

The Chief Executive returned to the meeting at 8.12 pm.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (8.12 pm).

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.12 pm.

Mayor