

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber Lagan Valley
Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 29 April, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin

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

Councillors J Bamford, D Bassett, S Burns, P Catney,
D J Craig, N Eaton, A P Ewing, A Givan, A Gowan,
J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp, S Lowry,
D Lynch, G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever,
R McLernon, T Mitchell, N Parker, G Thompson and
Hon N Trimble

REMOTE:

Alderman S Skillen, and Councillor J Gallen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
(deputising for Chief Executive)
Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Director of Environmental Services (Acting)
Corporate Communications Manager
Member Services Officers (BS, EW)
IT Officer
Technician

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the April 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 Director of Organisation Development and Innovation outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor G Hynds entered the meeting at 7.01 pm and Councillor J Gallen joined the meeting remotely also at 7.01 pm.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

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.

Condolences

The Right Worshipful the Mayor remembered David Lavery, Fleet Manager employed in the Council's Depot, on the death of his sister, Lynne, and also the family of the late George Alex Boyde, a former elected member for the Alliance Party in the then Lisburn Borough Council who passed away in recent times.

Prayers

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Councillor N Parker led the Council in prayer during which she too remembered the bereaved families referred by the Mayor.

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 K Dickson, and the Deputy Mayor, since the previous meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors R T Beckett, J Lavery BEM, U Mackin and A Martin, and the Chief Executive.

3. Declarations of Interest

Aldermen A Grehan and J Baird, and Councillors A Gowan and G Thompson declared an interest in respect of item 4.1 of the minutes of the Environment & Sustainability Committee of 2 April 2025 - "Contracts in connection with Landlord Registration Scheme NI" in view of being a landlord of property.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council – 25 March 2025

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 March 2025 be confirmed and signed.

4.2 Special Meeting of Council – 31 March 2025

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor S Lowry, and agreed that the minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on 31 March 2025 be confirmed and signed.

4.3 Special Meeting of Council – 14 April 2025

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A McIntyre , and agreed that the minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on 14 April 2025 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Council Meeting – 25 March 2025

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Adoption of Red Phone Boxes

Alderman J Tinsley referred to the matter he had raised in regard to BT having put a notice on phone boxes notifying that they would be removed in 90 days if they were not used, and requested an update on this matter to be provided at the earliest opportunity.

5.2 Special Meeting of Council – 31 March 2025

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Northern Ireland Water

Alderman J Tinsley referred to the commitment from NI Water officials to provide feedback from questions not answered at the meeting to be responded to within approximately four weeks, and advised that to date NI Water had not issued a response to the Council. It was agreed at the request of Alderman Tinsley that further correspondence be issued to NI Water reminding them of their undertaking to provide a response within four weeks.

Page Item 3.2

Department for Infrastructure Roads, Eastern Division

In response to Councillor A Gowan's request for an update on the issue of the traffic lights on the Ballynahinch Road, Anahilt, not being operational, the Director of Regeneration & Growth assured that this matter had been followed up and that site meetings had taken place. He undertook to liaise with the relevant people on this matter and would circulate an update to the relevant DEA Members.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the following legal document be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council as Head Landlord – Consent required between Dunbridge Ltd, c/o Ominplex Holdings (NI) Limited, Governor's Road, Lisburn BT28 1PP and Madame Pho Dundonald Ltd, 17 Greenwood Glen, Belfast BT8 7WE and OYE Packaging Ltd, 2-26 Boucher Place, Belfast BT12 6HU – Lease of Unit 4C, Omni Park, Dundonald
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Nathan Coulter, 65 Ballynahinch Road, Hillsborough BT26 6PH – Deed of Release of Restrictive Covenant relating to premises known as Lands at 140-142 Dromore Road, Hillsborough
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Stepping Stones NI, 39 Seymour Street, Lisburn BT27 4SY – T24/25-07 – Pathways to Employment for Individuals with a Disability Programme
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Benagh Engineering & Motor Works Limited, 35 Benagh Road, Mayobridge, Newry BT34 2JE – Contract for Servicing and Maintenance of Waste Compactors and Containers from Council Household Recycling Centres (T24/25-022)

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Communities & Wellbeing Committee****1 April 2025**

Proposed by Alderman H Legge

Seconded by Alderman S P Porter

Environment & Sustainability Committee**2 April 2025**

Proposed by Councillor P Catney

Seconded by Councillor G Hynds

Matters ArisingPage 185 Item 5.7Recycling Provision in Dundonald

The Director of Organisation Development & Innovation responded to comments from Alderman S Skillen in regard to an update on the feasibility study for the HRC in Dundonald. It was noted that an on-line briefing for the relevant DEA Members to consider this matter would take place on 7 May 2025.

Regeneration & Growth Committee**3 April 2025**

Proposed by Alderman A Grehan

Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

Corporate Services Committee
Proposed by Councillor N Trimble
Seconded by Councillor N Eaton

9 April 2025

Planning Committee (for Noting)

3 March 2025

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 3 March 2025 had been circulated for noting as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 3 February 2025. It was proposed by Councillor S Burns, seconded by Alderman O Gawith, 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

12.1 "Nip it in the Bud" Campaign delivered by the Farming Community Network in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support

Alderman A Grehan left the meeting during this item of business (7.14 pm).

A copy of the undernoted Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor T Mitchell had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting.

"That this Council notes the importance of farmers and rural dwellers to our Society.

Recognises that farmers, agricultural workers and people living in rural communities can have lower access to cancer services due to the nature of their work and often living in isolated areas. We also recognise the impact that a cancer diagnosis can have on a family business such as a family farm, including housing, the extended family, and the welfare of livestock.

Endorses the "Nip it in the Bud" campaign delivered by the Farming Community Network in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support and acknowledges the benefits to the rural community."

12.1 “Nip it in the Bud” Campaign delivered by the Farming Community Network in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support (Cont’d)

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell and seconded by Alderman J Baird.

Councillor Mitchell elaborated on his Notice of Motion during which he highlighted a number of issues, including:

- a close friend had been recently diagnosed with cancer for the third time and he was now working on the “Nip it in the Bud” Campaign with a qualified radiographer in raising awareness among farming and rural communities
- 36% of people live in a rural area and this can create unique challenges
- research shows that people from rural communities often present with more advanced cancers
- Dr Jude McCann, Chief Executive of Farming Community Network, confirms that long working hours and lack of access to support services can limit the opportunity for health checks and cancer diagnoses
- migrant workers in rural communities face additional barriers when accessing cancer care
- the Minister for Health has recognised the inequalities in diagnosis and treatment and has included these inequalities in addressing this imbalance as a priority. Research has been commissioned with an NI cancer registry to identify barriers and constraints
- this campaign provides a range of useful resources for agri-businesses, colleges, community groups and employers to download and circulate which focuses on cancers that farmers are more susceptible to

In closing, Councillor Mitchell stated that the purpose of his motion is to raise cancer awareness within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area, particularly amongst the farming community. He encouraged all Members to promote the “Nip it in the Bud” Campaign where possible.

Alderman J Baird, having seconded the Notice of Motion, also spoke in support of this motion. He spoke about his own cancer journey, having been fortunate to have had an early diagnosis. He stated being a farmer himself, he could understand the daily pressures faced by farmers, many of whom, due to living in isolated areas, are not talking about cancer. Alderman Baird also urged all Members to support Councillor Mitchell’s Notice of Motion.

Councillors M McKeever, A Gowan and D Lynch, on behalf of their respective political parties, spoke in support of the Notice of Motion and thanked Councillor Mitchell for bringing this important Motion before the Council.

Councillor Gowan enquired if Council Officers could consider raising awareness of the “Nip it in the Bud” Campaign via its social media platforms. He also

12.1 "Nip it in the Bud" Campaign delivered by the Farming Community Network in partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support (Cont'd)

referred to a recent PCSP Grand Choice event in Hillsborough where he had met many farmers and suggested that the Council highlights this campaign at such events and perhaps invites likes of Macmillan Cancer Support where the public could have these important conversations.

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Alderman J Baird, was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

13. Confidential Business

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that due to a number of issues having been raised the previous day and which required further legal clarification the reports in connection with Section 76 Planning Agreements had been withdrawn.

There was no other confidential business for consideration

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Congratulations to Lisburn Women's Rugby Team
Councillor N Parker

Councillor N Parker highlighted the outstanding achievement of Lisburn Women's Rugby Club this season on securing the League Cup and also winning the Suzanne Flemming Shield. Councillor Parker commended the players and their coaches and all those who work behind the scenes for their efforts which, she stated, has made their communities proud.

At the request of Councillor Parker, The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed to host a reception for all involved in the Lisburn Women's Rugby team in order to acknowledge and mark their significant achievements. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also extended congratulations to the team.

14.2 Communication Boards in Play Parks and Open Spaces
Councillor C Kemp

Councillor C Kemp expressed thanks to Officers for having progressed the introduction of new communication boards in the Council's play parks and open spaces which had been progressed in conjunction with Solas, an autism support group. The aim of this initiative was to make Council facilities more inclusive creating environments to allow all our children to be able to engage, communicate and play. Councillor Kemp stated that the communication boards looked fantastic and welcomed the positive feedback from parents.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also welcomed this initiative.

14.3 Pope Francis – Online Book of Condolence
Councillor P Catney

At the outset Councillor P Catney expressed thanks to the Council for having opened the Book of Condolence on the passing of the Holy Father Pope Francis, at the request of his party colleague, Councillor John Gallen.

In paying tribute to the late Pope Francis, Councillor Catney advised that Pope Francis had been the first ever Latin-American Pontiff and welcomed the progressive reforms that Pope Francis had delivered during his 12 years papacy. He stated that Pope Francis's reforms had been marked by humility and had embraced the poor and marginalised in society.

Councillor P Catney requested that the online Book of Condolence for Pope Francis, when closed, be downloaded and a copy sent to Archbishop Fr Eamon Martin, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of all Ireland.

14.4 Abolitionist Frederick Douglass
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney reminded the Council of the previous decision of the Council, arising out of a Notice of Motion that he had brought forward, "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." Councillor Catney advised that there had been no update on the progress on this memorial and requested an update on this matter at the earliest opportunity.

14.5 Andrew Morris Golf Shop, Laganview Golf Centre, Lisburn
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney advised that Andrew Morris, who owns the Andrew Morris Golf Shop business in the Laganview Golf Centre in Lisburn, has been served notice by the owner of the property to leave the premises by 20 August 2025. Andrew employs 20 people, most of whom live within the Lisburn & Castlereagh area, and has traded successfully at these premises for the past 15 years. Councillor Catney stated that Andrew has been the perfect tenant, and that this business has brought thousands of people into the Lisburn & Castlereagh area over this time. Councillor Catney stated that the jobs of these 20 employees are now in jeopardy as Andrew has to find suitable premises to move his business to. He wishes to remain trading in this Council area and has identified one or two premises in the Carryduff area

Councillor Catney advised that the main issue for Andrew was that the premises identified would require planning permission for a 'change of use' and that he had already spoken to the Council's Head of Planning & Capital Development and also the Director of Regeneration & Growth on this matter, both of whom have agreed to assist as best they could in this matter. Councillor Catney emphasised the importance of sustaining businesses such as Andrew's in order to drive the economy in the Lisburn and Castlereagh areas.

14.6 Tributes to Pope Francis
Councillor G Thompson and Councillor D Bassett

Councillor G Thompson wished to echo some of the comments earlier in the meeting by Councillor Catney on the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis and to pay tribute to a world leader who was humble, kind and compassionate and who would long be remembered for his outreach to those rejected by society and those who struggle on the margins of society.

Councillor Thompson quoted words of Pope Francis which she said would be a lasting legacy: “we must restore hope to young people, help the old, be open to the future, spread love, be poor among the poor and include the excluded, and preach peace.”

Councillor D Bassett also wished to echo the comment of Councillors Catney and Thompson and he too paid tribute to Pope Francis for having brought peace. He also thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor for having opened the Book of Condolence for Pope Francis.

14.7 Use of Lower Pitch at Cairnshill Park
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson highlighted an issue in connection with the use of the Lower Pitch at Cairnshill Park in Castlereagh South. He advised that Newtownbreda Football Club had been using these facilities for over 50 years and more recently the Club had built up a thriving youth academy using the lower pitch for the past two years. However, a week ago the Club arrived to find that the lower pitch was already in use by a club from East Belfast.

Councillor Higginson enquired about the reasons that a club from outside this Council area had been given preference over a club based within the Council area. He stated that Newtownbreda FC feels aggrieved and disadvantaged that they can no longer use this facility for their training. Councillor Higginson emphasised that he was looking a resolution to this matter at the earliest opportunity.

The Director of Organisation Development & Innovation advised Councillor Higginson that his comments had been noted and that the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing was aware of the situation and had been in discussions concerning the matter. The Director was endeavouring to find a resolution as soon as possible with all parties involved and would keep the Member updated on these discussions.

14.8 Council’s Veteran Champion’s attendance VE Day in London
Alderman O Gawith

Alderman A Gawith referred to the matter of the Council’s Veteran’s Champion attending the VE event in London on 8th May 2025 on behalf of the Council which he welcomed. He made a number of comments in regard to the process by which this decision had been agreed. He also referred to recent debates in the Council Chamber on the subject of openness and transparency which he also supported.

14.8 Council's Veteran Champion's attendance VE Day in London (Cont'd)
Alderman O Gawith

In this regard Alderman Gawith proposed that late items that come forward which require an urgent decision be brought to the attention of all party group leaders and any Independent Member(s) on the Council, and that a report then goes to the next meeting of the relevant committee for retrospective approval.

Councillor N Trimble provided some context to the decision regarding Council representation at the VE Day event in London. Councillor Trimble said he would be content to second Alderman Gawith's proposal that late items be brought to the attention of all party group leaders and any Independent Member(s), subject to adding "where possible" into the proposal.

There were no objections to the proposal or the additional wording put forward and accordingly it was agreed that late items that come forward which require an urgent decision be brought to the attention of all party group leaders and any Independent Member(s) on the Council where possible, and that a report goes to the next meeting of the relevant committee for retrospective approval.

The Director of Organisation Development & Innovation confirmed that she was aware that this matter had been raised with the Chief Executive and also confirmed that a report would come to the Corporate Services Committee in May which would address the governance issues raised.

Alderman J Tinsley, the Council's Veterans Champion, also addressed the Council on this matter and confirmed that he had reimbursed the Council for relevant costs.

14.9 Supreme Court Ruling: Definition of a Woman
Councillor S Burns

Councillor S Burns welcomed the recent Supreme Court Ruling clarifying what constitutes a woman and called on the Council to urgently review all relevant Council policies to make it clear that if a service or space is designated for women only then any person born male but identifies as a woman does not have the right to use that space or services.

The Director of Organisation Development & Innovation advised that it was the intention of the Equality Commission to provide a report and guidance in June 2025 on this ruling which the Council will review and identify what, if any, action is required.

14.10 Apprentice Boys of Derry Parade on Easter Monday in Lisburn
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley expressed thanks in regard to the efforts of Council Officers and staff in particular those working in the Parks and Amenities team, in ensuring Wallace Park and Lisburn City Centre looked so well for the Apprentice Boys of Derry parade on Easter Monday, 21st April. Alderman Tinsley congratulated the Apprentice Boys of Derry's Belfast & District Amalgamated Committee on the standard to which this event had been organised. The event had attracted large

14.10 Apprentice Boys of Derry Parade on Easter Monday in Lisburn (Cont'd)
Alderman J Tinsley

crowds on the day. Alderman Tinsley also thanked the staff in the Lisburn City Centre Management who had worked with a number of establishments in the City Centre to encourage them to remain open on what was a bank holiday.

Councillor G McCleave wished to put on record his party's condemnation in regard to the sectarian tunes that had been played by certain bands during the parade on Easter Monday. He stated that this had been particularly disturbing on the day of when all religions were paying respect on the passing of Pope Francis. He stated that everyone should be unequivocal in the condemnation of sectarian and hateful behaviour and that sectarianism has no place in our society, and particularly the City of Lisburn.

Councillor S Lowry expressed disappointment that the actions of a few individuals had marred the recent parade in Lisburn. This was provocative and insensitive behaviour which would be disrespectful at any time but particularly inappropriate on the day of the Pope's passing. The actions of these individuals do not represent the vast majority of who participated in this event.

Councillor Lowry also expressed disappointment in relation to other incidents of violence and unacceptable behaviour in another Council area in recent days; and also the threats and intimidation that families in Altona Drive had experienced very recently. She stated that everyone deserves to feel safe and respected their homes and community and that the Council should have a united front on these issues. Councillor Lowry emphasised that all these incidents that had taken place over the Easter break are not reflective of our society as a whole.

Alderman S P Porter having made a number of comments in support of the band fraternity, expressed disappointment in regard to the abuse that many band members are subject to. He also spoke of the enjoyment he had in his youth when he had been a member of a local band. He stated that it was important not to lose sight of the valuable work that bands do on a weekly basis and also referred to the numbers of young people who are engaged in these bands, many from less well-off areas. Alderman Porter expressed appreciation in relation to the commitment from their parents which involved much time and effort.

Councillor P Catney responded to some of the comments by Alderman Porter. He said that he was aware of the extent of the good work referred to by Alderman Porter and acknowledged that the actions of some people during the parade on Easter Monday was not reflective of the whole parade. During his contribution Councillor Catney made the point that there is room for all in society and that everyone should work together and show respect.

At a later point in the meeting comments were noted from Councillor G Hynds in regard to the success of the parade on Easter Monday. He described the parade as Lisburn at its best. He too expressed disappointment on the behaviour of a few people which he said was outside the control of the organisers and welcomed the fact that the majority of people had a great day.

14.11 Upkeep of Council Assets
Councillor C McCready

Councillor C McCready having welcomed the recent surfacing at the Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, raised the issue of fencing at the 5-a-side and the 7-a-side pitches at the LeisurePlex. Councillor McCready enquired about the Council's policy for the upkeep of its assets.

In response the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing outlined the three budget areas for the maintenance of Council facilities, namely; a) the repairs and renewables fund, b) departmental maintenance budgets and c) the works programme. The Director also referred to the draft feasibility study for Lagan Valley LeisurePlex and assured Councillor McCready that she would liaise with the Head of Sports Services in regard smaller items outside of the feasibility study.

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.00 pm.

Mayor