

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Tuesday 3rd March 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (COMMITTEE):

Councillor T Mitchell (Chair)
Councillor A Givan (Vice-Chair)
The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Alderman A Grehan
Alderman A McIntyre
Councillors T Beckett, J Craig, K Dickson,
B Higginson, S Lowry, G McCleave and G Thompson

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE)

Alderman S Skillen
Councillors R Carlin, J Gallen and C Kemp

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (NON-COMMITTEE)

Councillor G Hynds

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Head of Communities
Head of Sports Services
Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)
Community Planning Support Officer (HB)
Member Services Officers (RN & EW)

Commencement of Meeting

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

Unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per 8.5 of the Council's Standing Orders. Mobile phones were to be turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting. Members attending remotely were asked to keep their cameras on. Finally, the Chair asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

At this stage in the meeting, the Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, referred to the recent passing of Mrs Betty Campbell - a former Mayor of Lisburn City Council. The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman A Grehan; Alderman A McIntyre and Councillor T Beckett, paid tribute to Mrs Campbell and her contribution to civic life and the work of the Council during her time as an Elected Member representing the Alliance Party. The Right Worshipful The Mayor would be marking Mrs Campbell's passing at the March 2026 meeting of Council.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor R Carlin joined the meeting on a remote basis during the Housekeeping announcements. (6.04 pm)

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were accepted and recorded on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge; and Councillor The Hon N Trimble.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following Declarations of Interest were made:-

Item 4.1 of Report of Head of Communities – “Arts Grant Scheme – Outcome of Assessments 2026/2027”

- Alderman A McIntyre as he had delivered a tour for Lisburn Féile. Pecuniary interest. Would be leaving the meeting for this item.
- Alderman S Skillen as her employer – Ballybeen Improvement Group – had been a recipient of funding. Pecuniary interest. Would be leaving the meeting for this item.

3. Report of Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

3.1 Ulster Sports Legacy

The Director explained the concept of the Ulster Sports Legacy which is a multi-dimensional approach to celebrating the influence, impact and legacy of sport in Ulster.

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- “Ulster Sports Legacy – Strategic Outline Case”;
- letter dated the 26th February 2026 from the Founder & Director of Ulster Sports Legacy.

3.1 Ulster Sports Legacy (Continued)

A number of Members welcomed this initiative and the Director responded to Members' questions, noting comments about the suggested involvement of Lisburn Museum and of sports working groups at the NI Assembly.

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor T Beckett and agreed to recommend that the Ulster Sports Legacy be endorsed.

Future correspondence of a routine nature from the Ulster Legacy Trust would be provided to Members via the Information & Correspondence schedules. More significant issues would be reported to Committee.

4. Report of Head of Communities

4.1 Arts Grant Scheme - Outcome of Assessments 2026/2027

Having declared interests in this item of business, Aldermen A McIntyre and S Skillen left the meeting before its commencement. (6.10 pm). Councillor S Lowry entered the Chamber at this time also. (6.10 pm)

The Head of Communities reported extensively on the Arts Grant Scheme in terms of its objectives, the various funding strands and their available amounts of funding, the number of applications received during the application process and the outcomes thereof.

In addition to the narrative report, Members had been provided with copy of a table of outcomes of assessment under the Arts Grant Scheme.

The Head of Communities responded to Members' questions and gave an assurance that future applicants would be made aware of the correct grant or the correct funding stream under which they should apply. Furthermore a review of all grant schemes was ongoing, one of the aims being to ensure that adequate funding was contained with the estimate-setting process.

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig, seconded by Councillor G Thompson and agreed to recommend that:-

- the allocated amount of funding for each successful applicant based on weighted score be approved;
- the shortfall of £20,188.50 be ear-marked from 2025/2026 in-year underspend.

4.2 Department for Communities
Consultation on the NI Executive Disability Strategy 2025-2035
(Closing date: 20th March 2026)

Further to the previous Meeting of Committee, a draft response to the above consultation had been provided. In her report, the Head of Communities outlined the salient points of both the consultation and the draft response.

As agreed at the previous Meeting, Members had been invited by e-mail to provide comments on the draft response. At the time of writing the report, none had been received.

Councillor C Kemp voiced her concern about the promotion of the word “equity” to replace “equality” and asked that this be not followed. The Director responded to this.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor S Lowry and agreed that - subject to the retention of the word equality and the piece about it, but with the addition of a line about equity, reasonableness and reasonable adjustment, the draft response to the above consultation be accepted as the Council’s response thereto and – in line with the authority delegated to the Committee by the Council at its meeting held on the 24th February 2026, be submitted to the Department of Communities by the stipulated closing date of the 20th March 2026.

During this item of business:-

- Alderman A McIntyre returned to the Chamber during the Head of Communities’ presentation of this item (6.15 pm);
- Alderman S Skillen returned to the meeting on a remote basis during discussion of this item (6.18 pm).

5. Any Other Business – Non-Confidential

5.1 Wallace High School Lisburn – Success in Rugby Medallion Shield
Councillor T Mitchell (Chair)

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, referred to the success of the Medallion Rugby Team of Wallace High School, Lisburn in winning the Danske Bank Schools’ Medallion Shield earlier that day having defeated Sullivan Upper School in the final played at the Affidea Stadium at Ravenhill.

The Chair stated that it was likely that The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, would be recognising this achievement.

Alderman A McIntyre, a past pupil of Wallace High School, endorsed these congratulations.

5.2 Flooding at (i) Beech Grove and (ii) Ballybog Road
Councillor J Craig

Councillor J Craig sought an update on issues which he had raised some time ago in regard to flooding at Beech Grove and at Ballybog Road. The flooding of properties at these locations had been associated with adjacent Council lands so it was important that the Council have such issues resolved for the residents of these areas.

The Director and the Head of Parks & Amenities spoke on this item with the Director agreeing to provide Members with a written update.

5.3 Belfast Fleadh (2nd – 9th August 2026)
Alderman A McIntyre

Alderman A McIntyre sought an update on any events that the Council might be organising associated with the Belfast Fleadh in August 2026.

The Director confirmed that work was ongoing in regard to a number of fringe events and indeed, some groups had approached Council staff about becoming involved in events.

5.4 Former Hilden Primary School - Signage
Councillor G Hynds and Councillor T Mitchell (Chair)

Councillor G Hynds referred to the success of the facilities that were now in place at the former Hilden Primary School. Councillor Hynds highlighted that signage was required along the Towpath so as to indicate the existence of the facilities. The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, stated that signage on the local roads would be helpful also.

The Head of Communities confirmed that the matter of signage was being attended to.

5.5 Mcllroy Park, Lisburn - Repairs
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds extended his thanks for works that had been carried out to address fire damage at Mcllroy Park. Councillor Hynds drew attention to damaged signs and graffiti on bins which required attention at this location.

5.6 Ramblers Bridge - Overgrowth
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds referred to significant overgrowth at Ramblers Bridge and asked that this be tidied up.

5.7 Derriaghy Cricket Club Football Club
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds expressed his thanks to The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, for the recent reception she had hosted for Derriaghy Cricket Club Football Club.

Councillor Hynds stated that the current success of Derriaghy CC FC and that of Ballymacash Rangers FC and Lisburn Rangers FC was commendable.

5.8 Carryduff Running Club's 5k and 10k Runs - Sunday 1st March 2026
Councillor J Gallen

Councillor J Gallen referred to the success of the inaugural "Run The Duff" 5k and 10k Runs which Carryduff Running Club had organised on Sunday 1st March 2026. The number of runners had been in the region of 1,000.

Councillor Gallen asked that a letter be sent to Carryduff Running Club congratulating them on the success of this initiative. This was agreed.

5.9 Defibrillators

5.9.1 Provision to Community Groups
Councillor C Kemp

Councillor C Kemp sought an update on funding to community groups for the provision of defibrillators.

The Director confirmed that this matter was progressing via underspend and the DEA Local Investment Programme. The timeline of provision was not yet available.

5.9.2 Council Owned Facilities
Councillor J Craig

Councillor J Craig understood that all Council-owned facilities were to be equipped with a defibrillator and enquired if there was a policy on this. Councillor Craig also referred to Tolerton Sports Zone where there was a defibrillator, but the housing cabinet had not yet been sourced.

The Director stated that - whilst there was no policy as such, the Council did wish to ensure that each facility had a defibrillator. The Head of Communities would source a map of defibrillator locations from "Community Life Savers" and provide it to Members, together with an update on their provision in Council facilities.

5.10 Pitches Strategy
Councillor G McCleave

Councillor G McCleave sought an update on the Pitches Strategy.

The Director confirmed that recommendations of the report were being considered and that it was hoped to have Member workshops in April/May 2026. The Director was available to speak off-line with any Member about this matter.

5.11 Action Cancer Big Bus Mobile Screening Unit
The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, referred to Action Cancer's Big Bus Mobile Screening Unit which had been parked at Ballyoran Community Centre recently. All screening slots had been booked within 20 minutes of opening.

The Right Worshipful The Mayor thanked all who had played any part and who continued to do so in raising funding so as to keep this facility in operation as it cost £5,000 each time the bus went out on the road.

5.12 Former Hilden Primary School – Commemorative Book
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds sought an update on the publication a book about Hilden Primary School.

The Head of Communities confirmed that staff in the Lisburn Museum were working on this project.

5.13 April 2026 Meeting of Committee
Councillor T Mitchell (Chair)

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, reminded Members that - as previously agreed, the April 2026 meeting would be held on Tuesday 14th April (the scheduled meeting date falling on Easter Tuesday).

6. Any Other Business – Confidential

There were no confidential items included in the agenda for consideration. However the Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, invited Members to indicate if they had any items of a confidential nature which they would wish to raise.

There were no items of a confidential matter raised by Members.

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, thanked those present for their attendance and - there being no further business - the meeting concluded at 6.34 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIR