

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 22 March, 2022 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Deputy Mayor
Councillor T Mitchell

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE, A G Ewart, MBE,
A Grehan, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, D J Craig, A P Ewing, A Givan,
M Gregg, D Honeyford, J Lavery BEM, H Legge, S Lowry,
C McCready, U Mackin and A Swan

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman S Martin

Aldermen D Drysdale and M Henderson MBE

Councillors R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson, S Eastwood,
J Gallen, M Guy, S Hughes, J McCarthy, G McCleave,
A McIntyre, R McLernon, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer,
S Skillen and N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Officer

IN ATTENDANCE IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Service Transformation
Head of Service (Building Control)
Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development

Reverend Cheryl Meban

Commencement of the Meeting

As The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, was not able to attend the meeting in person, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, took the chair and conducted the business on the agenda.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, 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 particularly welcomed members of Lisburn Castlereagh Youth Council who were in attendance at Lagan Valley Island this evening and watching the meeting on livestream.

The Deputy 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.

The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing, outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency. The Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

At this point, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, invited The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, to address the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, explained that he was attending the meeting remotely as he currently had Covid-19. He thanked the Deputy Mayor for chairing the meeting on his behalf and also associated himself with the welcome extended to members of Lisburn Castlereagh Youth Council. He hoped the young people found this opportunity helpful with their ongoing awareness of what the Council did and stated that working with the Youth Council would benefit the Council in terms of how it delivered its services.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, expressed condolences in relation to the following bereavements:

- Cecil McIlroy, brother of Brian McIlroy, Waste and Operational Services Team;
- Victor Reid, father of the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Cheryl Meban; and
- Morton McKnight, a local man who had contributed greatly to sporting life in Lisburn over many decades, having been former Chairman of Lisburn Distillery Football Club and also an Irish Football Association stalwart.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, welcomed his Chaplain, Reverend Cheryl Meban, Presbyterian Chaplain at Ulster University, to the meeting. Reverend Meban gave an address during which she too remembered the bereaved families referred to by the Mayor. Alderman Martin thanked Reverend Meban for her attendance and she left the meeting.

Alderman A Grehan left, and returned to, the meeting during Reverend Meban's address (7.08 pm and 7.11 pm respectively).

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, Alderman S Martin, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, since the last meeting of Council.

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

In particular, the Mayor highlighted:

- a reception he had held for local lady, Mrs Jane Wells, who had been awarded an MBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours List for services to the public relations industry, to the economy and to the community in Northern Ireland. Mrs Wells had been the bid writer for Lisburn City Status in 2002. The Mayor had great pleasure in hearing about her work with the Mayor at that time, Alderman W J Dillon, and other Elected Members on the cross-party working group that had been established to deliver City Status for Lisburn. Mrs Wells had kept three of the bid documents and had gifted one to the Council; this would be kept in the Lisburn Museum for posterity. Alderman W J Dillon also spoke in respect of the phenomenal job Mrs Wells had done in helping Lisburn achieve City Status and thanked the Mayor for having hosted a reception to recognise Mrs Wells' award of MBE;
- a visit by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Brandon Lewis, to Dundonald International Ice Bowl (DIIB), as approximately £12m had been awarded from the UK Government's Levelling Up Fund for redevelopment of DIIB. The Mayor thanked Officers who had been involved in securing this investment;
- a reception he had held for Mr Fleming Keery, who had walked close to 10,000 miles around the Carryduff/Four Winds/Newtownbreda area to highlight the Lifeline Charity. The Mayor advised that he had invited Mr Keery to walk in the Mayor's Parade in May;
- a visit to Tonagh Community Group, amongst others, to support the Ukrainian Donation Drive. The Mayor stated that he had been extraordinarily impressed by the efforts of so many across the community – through schools, community groups, churches or individually – to support those in need arising from the Ukrainian crisis. He also referred to the efforts of Colin Tinsley, brother of Alderman J Tinsley, in this regard;
- Council employee, Stephen Toal, having now completed marathons in all seven continents;
- International Women's Day had been celebrated this month and the Mayor put on record his thanks to the Communities Team, the Economic Business Relations Team and the Human Resources Team for all they had done in terms of the Council's International Women's Day events; and
- this was the Council's E Learning Week. The Council had spent significant time and effort in terms of providing its workforce with the tools to upskill. A lot of the resources were also available to Elected Members.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman O Gawith, Councillor S Lee, the Chief Executive, Director of Environmental Services and Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor D J Craig declared an interest in Item 7.1 'Signing of Legal Documents', bullet point 5 (Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and the Education Authority), given that he was a member of the Board of the Education Authority in Northern Ireland.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22 February, 2022 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Councillor N Anderson expressed his thanks to all Members, as well as staff, who had offered their condolences on the passing of Christopher Stalford MLA. Alderman M Henderson also thanked all those who had expressed their condolences on the death of his mother, which had been greatly appreciated.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Clearly Kids Limited, 14c Adelaide Park, Belfast BT9 6FX – Lease of Union Bridge Car Park, 88 Bridge Street, Lisburn, County Antrim
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Department of Health of Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast County of Down – Contract for Leases for First Floor Bradford Court between Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and The Department of Health (Urology Inquiry) for open plan office and Chamber
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Barclays Bank Plc, Donegall House, 7 Donegall Square North, Belfast BT1 5GB – Contract for Provision of Banking Services T19/20-046
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and PWS Ireland Ltd, Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry, Co Down BT34 2QX – Contract for the manufacture and delivery of street nameplates for LCCC
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and The Education Authority – Land Registry documents for registering the Council's ownership of Derriaghy Primary School, 14 Milltown Park, Lisburn BT28 3TU – (Folio 37600 Entry No 7)

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Contd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and The University of Southampton, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, European Way, Southampton SO14 3ZH – Contract for Northern Ireland Radiochemical Analysis and Related Interpretation of Analytical Data
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and R&M Greenkeeper Ltd, Unit C1, Kilcronagh Business Park, Cookstown, Co Tyrone BT80 9HG – Contract for the Provision of a Residual and Green Waste Haulage Service from Council Household Recycling Centres – Single Tender Action Ref: STA 21/22-047
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Andrew Boe Independent Arboricultural Consultant, 27 Cherrylands, Newtownabbey BT36 6UA – Contract for Arboricultural Advice
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Safety Solutions (NI) Ltd, Unit 4, Lissue Industrial Estate East, 9 Lissue Walk, Lisburn BT28 2LU – Contract for Supply and Delivery of Parks and Amenities Staff Uniforms
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Hi-Tech Security Services, 54 Hillhall Road, Lisburn BT27 5BX – Contract for the Supply of Static Attendants

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Leisure and Community Development Committee

1 March, 2022

Proposed by Councillor S Skillen

Seconded by Councillor R T Beckett

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Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group Grant Programme

Councillor H Legge, as Chair of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Working Group, expressed her pleasure and appreciation that all 91 applications to the grant programme had been accepted and, with additional funds being made available, all applicants would receive a maximum of £500 towards events and programmes to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. A wide range of events were being planned and Councillor Legge urged Members to attend any they could, especially those in their own District Electoral Areas.

Councillor Legge stated that, under the excellent management of the Head of Parks & Amenities, a total of 76 trees had been planted across the Council area so far, with the final official planting due to take place this Friday in Maghaberry. She put on record her thanks, and thanks of the Working Group, to the Head of Service and his team for the huge amount of work undertaken to bring the Council to this point at an early stage in the celebrations. Councillor Legge had attended all of the tree plantings to date and looked forward to attending the final planting on Friday.

Verbal Matter – St Patrick's Day Talks

Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson paid tribute to the Officers who had arranged the two St Patrick's Day talks, which had been well-constructed and well-researched.

Verbal Matter – Business Games Challenge
Councillor R T Beckett

Councillor R T Beckett referred to the Business Games Challenge having taken place. He, together with the Chairperson of both the Leisure and Community Development Committee and the Development Committee, had attended the launch some time ago. Councillor Beckett had also attended a recent 5-a-side competition in the Lagan Valley LeisurePlex. Councillor Beckett asked that the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing pass on the Council's thanks to staff involved in the organisation of the Business Games Challenge.

Councillor Beckett also passed on his congratulations to Council employee, Stephen Toal, for his achievements in running, as referred to earlier by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin.

Environmental Services Committee

2 March, 2022

Proposed by Councillor A P Ewing
Seconded by Councillor C McCready

Development Committee

3 March, 2022

Proposed by Alderman A Grehan
Seconded by Councillor H Legge

Corporate Services Committee

9 March, 2022

Proposed by Councillor J Laverty
Seconded by Alderman M Henderson

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Centralisation of Registration Services

Councillor M Gregg stated that, whilst he saw the rationale set out in the papers, he disagreed with how the value of the services to those who used them had been measured. A consultation had been carried out and Councillor Gregg had fed into that, as well as constituents and other Members. He requested that this decision be reviewed in six months and in one year, with details being reported back to the Committee regarding any complaints about the transition to digital services.

In response to Councillor Gregg's comments, the Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, Councillor J Laverty, advised that the equality screening document stated that whilst mitigations were already in place for service users who had additional needs, further mitigations would be considered if the relocation presented difficulties for any groups or service users. He agreed that a report would be brought to the Corporate Services Committee in six months in relation to how the service was operating, key statistics and/or any challenges faced. Councillor Laverty pointed out that there was not an online service at present. Temporary arrangements were in place to register deaths by telephone and to exchange documents with relevant parties by email.

Governance and Audit Committee
Proposed by Councillor John Palmer
Seconded by Alderman J Baird

10 March, 2022

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Party Group Leaders Forum

The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, Councillor John Palmer, stated that the above item was not being presented for ratification this evening, as it was subject to the legal procedure associated with a call-in. Members would be advised of the outcome of legal opinion in due course.

Planning Committee

7 February, 2022

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 7 February, 2022 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 7 March, 2022. It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley 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 of 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.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, stated that Any Other Business would be considered at this juncture.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Hillsborough Addressing Issue – Request for Delegated Authority

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, referred to support from the Member Royal Hillsborough Working Group for a revised proposal of Royal Hillsborough addressing boundary, following discussions with Land and Property Services

13.1 Hillsborough Addressing Issue – Request for Delegated Authority (Contd)

(LPS). The revised boundary for Royal Hillsborough was on the basis of inclusion of properties where access lanes or direct access to a roadway fell within the Hillsborough settlement area. In view of the urgency in issuing rates bills by LPS, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Environmental Services Committee, at its April meeting, to consider this issue.

13.2 arc21 Update
Alderman D Drysdale

Alderman D Drysdale referred to a recent episode of Spotlight in which a confidential document had been presented suggesting that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council would be leaving arc21. He stated that no decision had been made by the Councillors, nor had a vote been taken on any such matter. There was no suggestion at this minute in time that that Council would be leaving arc21.

13.3 Resumption of Services for Adults with Special Needs
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter referred to, and welcomed, correspondence from the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust advising that it was looking at plans for the resumption of services for adults with special needs. Over the past 1½ years, the Health Working Group, as well as Sir Jeffrey Donaldson MP and Edwin Poots MLA, had met with the Trust regarding the resumption of these services, particularly day centres and short breaks. He welcomed the fact that the Trust would speak to users and carers to make sure this was done in a safe manner. He commended the Trust for having listened to representations made and hoped that the resumption of services would continue at pace.

13.4 Council-Employee Relations
Councillor J Laverty

Councillor J Laverty commended the Chief Executive and Directors for their excellent working relationship with staff. As Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee he also extended his thanks to all employees for their engagement with management at this time. These sentiments were echoed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell.

13.5 International Women's Day
Councillor H Legge

Councillor H Legge commended the Council for having organised a wide range of events to mark International Women's Day on 8 March, some of which she had been delighted to attend. All events had been well-attended and enjoyed. She had particularly appreciated being at the event at the Enler Centre, hosted with Ballybeen Women's Centre. Councillor Legge thanked those involved in the organisation of events and stated that she was already looking forward to events next year. She also thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, for helping to get the civic building lit up at short notice to mark the day.

13.6 Resurfacing of Hillsborough Car Park
Councillor John Palmer

Councillor John Palmer expressed his thanks and appreciation to Officers and contractors for the speedy and efficient manner in which the resurfacing of Hillsborough Car Park had been carried out, with very little disruption to village life.

13.7 Tribute to Morton McKnight
Alderman D Drysdale

Further to comments earlier by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, Alderman D Drysdale also expressed his sadness on the passing of Mr Morton McKnight, who had been a very hospitable character, well-known in the football world. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, echoed Alderman Drysdale's sentiments.

14. Confidential Business

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 the absence of the Chief Executive, his report was presented by the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, 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 live stream of the meeting was paused (7.56 pm).

14.1 Ukrainian Refugee Scheme and Asylum Seeker Humanitarian Crisis

Alderman A G Ewart left the meeting and Councillor A Gowan joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.01 pm and 8.35 pm respectively).

Members having been provided with a report in relation to the above matter, it was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer and seconded by Alderman S P Porter that:

- (a) a local coordination team be established to include community planning partners and community voluntary partners;
- (b) funding be allocated from uncommitted Department for Communities monies, as outlined in the report; and
- (c) Officers explore wider resource requirements to support Ukrainian refugees and asylum seekers resettling within the Council area.

The proposal in the name of Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman S P Porter was agreed.

14.2 Remote Meetings Legislation
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, stated that he understood provision had been made for remote meetings to continue in the short term over the period of the election and into the new mandate.

14.3 Engagement of Internal Audit Manager
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin

At the request of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, it was agreed that a report be brought to the next meeting of the Corporate Services Committee in respect of the recent engagement of an Internal Audit Manager.

14.4 Online Abuse of Education Staff
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig referred to online abuse that was taking place on a daily basis, attacking school principals, senior management staff, teachers and Boards of Governors. Having stated that there was no policy to support schools in this situation, Councillor Craig requested, and it was agreed, that the Council write to the Permanent Secretary and the Minister for Education requesting that a proper policy be put in place for schools to provide appropriate support in such circumstances.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (9.06 pm).

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, thanked those present for their attendance. He also thanked Officers present for their assistance. Councillor J McCarthy congratulated the Deputy Mayor on how he had chaired the meeting.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 9.07 pm.

Mayor