

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber and Remote Locations on Tuesday 28 June, 2022 at 7:02 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Guy

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

Councillors R T Beckett, F Cole, D J Craig, A P Ewing,
A Givan, M Gregg, J Lavery BEM, S Lee, H Legge,
C McCready, U Mackin, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer,
A Swan and N Trimble

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman A Grehan, M Henderson MBE and S Martin

Councillors R Carlin, A Gowan, A McIntyre, R McLernon,
T Mitchell, S Mulholland and S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Member Services Officer
PCSP/Member Services Administrative Assistant
Technician
IT Officer

In the absence of the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, chaired the meeting.

As the meeting was being livestreamed to enable members of the public who were watching the proceedings of the meeting remotely and as there were also members of the public seated in the Council Chamber's public gallery, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, outlined a privacy statement in connection with the livestreaming of the meeting.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, welcomed everyone present to the June meeting of Council, including the members of the public seated in the public gallery.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

The Deputy Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting following which the Member Services Administrative Assistant read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers

In the absence of the Mayor's Chaplain, Alderman J Tinsley addressed the Council and said a prayer during which he remembered the family of Catharine McWhirter, Community Planning Manager (Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate), whose father, Mr Alexander Burns, had passed away in recent days.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, also expressed condolences, on behalf of the Council, to the family of Catharine McWhirter on their very recent bereavement.

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 S Carson, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, since the Annual Meeting of Council on 7 June 2022.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, Alderman O Gawith and Councillors N Anderson, J Gallen, S Hughes, S Lowry and G McCleave.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest expressed declared at the meeting.

At this point the Deputy Mayor stated that any Member leaving the meeting to advise the Member Services Officer accordingly in order that this is recorded accurately in the minutes.

4. Council Minutes for Adoption

4.1 Council Meeting held on 24 May 2022

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 May, 2022 be confirmed and signed.

Alderman S P Porter entered the meeting at 7.12 pm.

4.2 Annual Meeting held on 7 June 2022

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Councillor N Trimble, and agreed that the minutes of the Annual meeting of Council held on 7 June, 2022 be confirmed and signed.

4.3 Special Meeting of Council held on 13 June 2022

It was proposed by Councillor M Gregg, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on 13 June, 2022 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Council Meeting held on 24 May 2022

There were no matters arising.

5.2 Annual Meeting held on 7 June 2022

Item 6.5 Page 353

Election of Members to Committee Positions (2022/2023) – Development Committee

Alderman J Tinsley, nominating officer for the Council's DUP, advised that the name of Councillor A Gowan had been put forward mistakenly as a Member of the Development Committee instead of the name of Councillor R T Beckett.

It was noted that Councillor R T Beckett was a Member of the Development Committee for the year 2022-2023.

5.3 Special Meeting of Council held on 13 June 2022

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

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

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NLGA), Department of Health of Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, Co Down – Lease Extension First Floor Bradford Court
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ulster Supported Employment Limited, 182-188 Cambrai Street, Belfast BT13 3JH – Letter of Offer to award an annual match funding contribution to USEL – LCCC-ESFMF-03: £30,000
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Stepping Stones NI, 39 Seymour Street, Lisburn BT27 4SY – Letter of Offer to award an annual match funding contribution to Stepping Stones – LCCC-ESFMF-08: £23,156.67
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and The Princes Trust, Unit 8, Weavers Court, Belfast – Letter of Offer to award an annual match funding contribution to Princes Trust – LCCC-ESFMF-10: £41,274.45
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Specialisterne NI, Skainos, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 1AF – Letter of Offer to award an annual match funding contribution to Specialisterne – LCCC-ESFMF-13: £3,219.87
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Specialisterne NI, Skainos, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast BT4 1AF – Letter of Offer to award an annual match funding contribution to Specialisterne – LCCC-ESFMF-14: £2,349.01
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and DGS Service Solutions Ltd, Unit 14, Forty8 North, 48 Duncrue Street, Belfast BT3 9BJ – T21/22-047 Tender for the Provision of Caretaker and Reception Services at Bradford Court

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Environmental Services Committee****1 June, 2022**

Proposed by Councillor A P Ewing

Seconded by Councillor C McCready

Development Committee**1 June, 2022**

Proposed by Alderman A Grehan

Seconded by Councillor H Legge

Leisure and Community Development Committee**7 June, 2022**

Proposed by Councillor A McIntyre

Seconded by Councillor A Gowan

MM 28.06.2022

Corporate Services Committee

8 June, 2022

Proposed by Councillor U Mackin

Seconded by Councillor N Trimble

Minutes adopted subject to the recommendation at item 5.1(c) being referred back to Committee, as follows:

Item 5.1 Page 373

Northern Ireland Local Government Association
(including a matter in connection with the Local
Government Staff Commission)

On a proposal by Alderman W J Dillon, and seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer, it was agreed that the recommendation at item 5.1 (c) in relation to the Council's contribution of £31,359 (excluding VAT) for the year 2022-2023 to the Local Government Staff Commission to be processed for payment be referred back to the Committee for further consideration. The Vice Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, Councillor U Mackin, in the absence of the Chairman, Councillor S Hughes, indicated his agreement to this matter being referred back.

Governance & Audit Committee

9 June 2022

Proposed by Alderman D Drysdale

Seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer

Capital Projects Committee

22 June 2022

Proposed by Councillor S Lee

Seconded by Alderman J Baird

It was noted that as the above meeting had taken place on 22 June 2022, the minutes were still subject to the call-in process until 10.00 am the following day, 29 June 2022.

Special Governance & Audit Committee

23 June 2022

Proposed by Alderman D Drysdale

Seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer

It was noted that as the above meeting had taken place on 23 June 2022, the minutes were still subject to the call-in process until 10.00 am on Thursday, 30 June 2022.

It was also noted that the Special meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee had been convened less than five clear days prior to the meeting of Council. In this regard the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, referred to Standing Order 14.1 that stated "*Minutes of meetings of a Committee held less than five clear days before the meeting of the Council shall not be submitted to that meeting for approval. This may be dis-applied where a Committee considers the matter to be of extreme urgency and records such in its minutes*". Accordingly the Deputy Mayor advised that on this occasion the Special Meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee, had been convened in order to consider and approve the Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31 March 2022 and which were required to be submitted to the Northern Ireland Audit Office by 30 June 2022.

Special Governance & Audit Committee
(Cont'd)

23 June 2022

In order that the draft minutes be ratified at the meeting that evening, it was proposed by Alderman D Drysdale, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed that the appropriate Standing Order be suspended for this purpose.

Planning Committee

9 May, 2022

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 9 May, 2022 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 13 June, 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

9.1 Street Naming – Off Rathfriland Road, Dromara

The Chief Executive reported that Best West Housing Limited had proposed the street names (first and second preferences), as set out in his report, for a development of 8 dwellings situated off the Rathfriland Road, Dromara.

Members were provided with copy of the development layout and were advised that the request met the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy in that the names proposed were in keeping with the historic use of the site as a former police station from 1920 until its demolition in the early 2000s.

Building Control Service having received no objections to the proposed names from Elected Members of the relevant District Electoral Area, nor the Royal Mail Address Management Team, it was proposed by Councillor M Gregg, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed that the name Station Court be approved for this development of 8 dwellings off the Rathfriland Road, Dromara.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

The Chief Executive advised that there was a confidential report in connection with a decision subject to the reconsideration procedure and which would be considered later in the meeting under confidential business (item 13.1 refers).

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Sustainability Officer

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S Lee had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council is committed to become increasingly more sustainable in line with our duties under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and is therefore resolved to formalise within one document a roadmap setting out the Council’s ambition. This Council also acknowledges that keeping on track to deliver on our sustainability ambitions and duties requires resource. We therefore believe that a dedicated sustainability officer will be required and resolves to begin exploring what such a role would look like. We request that a paper be prepared for the relevant committee(s) with options for a sustainability officer position as soon as practicable.”

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor S Lee and seconded by Councillor R Carlin.

Councillor S Lee elaborated on his notice of Motion, and highlighted a number of issues which he hoped would be explored at Committee in due course, namely;

- a sustainability roadmap is important in achieving tangible measureable progress and will set out clearly what we want to achieve
- Ards and North Down Borough Council produced such a sustainability roadmap recently which is accessible on their website and which may be useful for reference purposes
- a dedicated sustainability officer would take the leading role to report on progress
- at this stage we are looking at potential options for a sustainability officer and the associated cost of each option
- this Council is lagging behind other Councils in demonstrating a commitment to explore options for a sustainability officer and we are the only Council in Northern Ireland that does not have such a role.

In concluding Councillor Lee assured the Council that this stage was about exploring options in order to make an informed choice.

Councillor R Carlin, having seconded the Notice of Motion, thanked Councillor S Lee for bringing his Motion before the Council encouraged Members to support Councillor Lee’s Notice of Motion.

The Deputy Mayor invited other Members to speak to the Notice of Motion.

Alderman J Tinsley having spoken in support of the principles outlined in the Notice of Motion, proposed an amendment that the words “will be” in the penultimate sentence be changed to read “may be,” the amended sentence to read:

“We therefore believe that a dedicated sustainability officer may be required and resolves to begin exploring what such a role would look like.”

12.1 Sustainability Officer (Cont'd)

Councillor S Lee agreed to accept Alderman Tinsley's amendment to his Notice of Motion.

A number of Members, on behalf of their respective political parties, spoke in support of the principles of the Notice of Motion, namely; Aldermen D Drysdale and S P Porter and Councillors M Gregg and N Trimble.

The Notice of Motion, as amended, was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously, namely:

"This Council is committed to become increasingly more sustainable in line with our duties under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and is therefore resolved to formalise within one document a roadmap setting out the Council's ambition. This Council also acknowledges that keeping on track to deliver on our sustainability ambitions and duties requires resource. We therefore believe that a dedicated sustainability officer may be required and resolves to begin exploring what such a role would look like. We request that a paper be prepared for the relevant committee(s) with options for a sustainability officer position as soon as practicable."

13. Confidential Business

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, advised that two items were required to be considered "In Committee" as follows:

13.1 Governance & Audit Committee – Update: confidential due to containing information a) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information), and b) in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

13.2 Tender for the Provision of Agency Workers: confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information),

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor F Cole, 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 (7.40 pm).

13.1 Governance & Audit Committee - Update

It was proposed by Councillor John Palmer, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the recommendations as set out in item 3.1 of the minutes of the Governance & Audit Committee meeting of 10 March 2022 be ratified thereon, as outlined in an appended document to the Chief Executive's report.

13.2 Tender for the Provision of Agency Workers

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor H Legge, and agreed that the Chief Executive's recommendations in relation to the tender for the provision of agency workers, as outlined, be approved.

Any Other Confidential Business

13.3 Electricity Contracts

The Chief Executive responded to questions from two Members in connection with the Council's current contracts for the provision of electricity.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, 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 (7.45 pm).

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Requests for Provision of Portaloos
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen requested that the Council provide portaloos at the undernoted community events:

- a) Newtownbreda Baptist Church - community event taking place from 4-8 July 2022, and
- b) Moneyreagh & District Community Association's fun day on 11 July 2022.

The Chief Executive undertook to forward Councillor Skillen's requests for provision of portaloos at the aforementioned community events to the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities).

14.2 Condition of the Former Derriaghy Primary School Site
Councillor D J Craig

Comments were noted from Councillor D J Craig who reported having been contacted by local residents in connection with the condition of the site of the former Derriaghy Primary School. Councillor Craig sought reassurance that the state of the grass at this site would be attended to.

The Chief Executive by way of an update advised that the Head of Service (Parks and Amenities) had confirmed earlier that day that this matter was in hand.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.46 pm.

Mayor