

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber Lagan Valley  
Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 24 June, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Alderman A Grehan

Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge (in the Chair for item 9.1)

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

Councillors J Bamford, D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns,  
R Carlin, P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, A P Ewing,  
A Gowan, J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp,  
J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, U Mackin, B Magee, A Martin,  
G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever, T Mitchell,  
G Thompson and Hon N Trimble

**REMOTE:**

Alderman S Skillen, and Councillors A Givan, R McLernon &  
N Parker

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive  
Director of Environmental Services  
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation  
Director of Regeneration and Growth  
Head of Sports Services  
Member Services Officers (BS, EW)  
IT Officer  
Technician

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the June meeting of Council, which she stated, was her first meeting of Council following her election to the position of Mayor.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that the meeting was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor also advised 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.

## Condolences & Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed her Chaplain, Rev Andrew Thompson from Elmwood Presbyterian Church, Lisburn, to his first meeting of Council, Rev Thompson having thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor for the opportunity and privilege to serve as her Mayoral Chaplain, gave an address during which he expressed condolences to the following members of staff:

- Alison McInnes, HR Officer, on the death of her father Mr John Crozier, and
- James Rodgers, Parks & Amenities, on the death of his brother Mr Joseph Rodgers.

Rev Thompson then said a prayer during which he remembered the above-mentioned bereaved families. Rev Thompson then left the meeting.

## 1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

### 1.1 Mayor's Engagements

At the outset, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, extended a welcome to the recently appointed Director of Environmental Services, Mrs Angela McCann, and expressed best wishes to Angela in her new role with the Council.

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, since their election to their respective roles at the Annual Meeting of Council on 6 June 2025.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor put on record her thanks and appreciation to everyone who had attended the launch of her Mayoral charity, Action Cancer, the previous day.

## 2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors J Gallen and D Lynch, and the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing.

## 3. Declarations of Interest

The undernoted Members' declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor C Kemp declared an interest in respect of item 9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report in view of her committee membership of St Joseph's GAC
- Alderman J Baird declared an interest in respect of item 3.1 of the minutes of the Community & Wellbeing Committee of 3 June 2025 Community Facilities Fund in view of his membership of Boardmills LOL 1662

3. Declarations of Interest (Cont'd)

- Councillor A Gowan declared an interest in respect of item 3.1 of the minutes of the Community & Wellbeing Committee of 3 June 2025 – Community Facilities Fund in view of having assisted a number of applicants to this Fund.
- Councillor A Martin declared an interest in respect of item 9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report in view of his committee membership of Lisburn Recreation & Community Hub
- Alderman S Skillen declared an interest in respect of item 9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report in view of her employment with Ballybeen Improvement Group
- Councillor G Hynds declared an interest in respect of item 9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report in view of his committee membership of Lisburn Recreation & Community Hub
- Councillor U Mackin declared an interest in item 7.3 of the minutes of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee of 3 June 2025 Lagan Valley Regional Park in view of his membership of the board of Lagan Valley Regional Park
- The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, declared an interest in respect of item 9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report in view of her role as a volunteer with Live Life

Completed Declaration of Interest forms were submitted by:

- Councillor C Kemp - in respect of item 3.1 of the minutes of the Community & Wellbeing Committee minutes of 3 June 2025 Community Facilities Fund in view of her committee membership of St Joseph's GAC
- Councillor G McCleave - in respect of item 9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report in view of a family member's membership of Glenavy GAC.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council – 27 May 2025

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 May 2025 be confirmed and signed.

4.2 Annual Meeting of Council – 6 June 2025

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 6 June 2025 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and PlotBox, The ECOS Centre, Kernohans Lane, Ballymena BT43 7QA – PlotBox Renewal Agreement
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Gamma Network Solutions Limited, The Scalpel, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor, 52 Lime Street, London EC3M 7AF – Contract for Mobile Voice and Data Services
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Pump Haul Limited, 44 Wateresk Road, Dundrum, Newcastle BT33 0NW – Contract for the Haulage of Residual, Green and Street Sweeping Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref: T25/25-009)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Bryson Recycling Limited, Belfast Road, Central Park, Mallusk, Newtownabbey BT36 4FS – Contract for the Provision of a Kerbside Sort Service for the Collection and Recycling of Multi-Materials (including Food Waste) from Households within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area (Ref: T24/25-032)

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

**Communities & Wellbeing Committee**

**3 June 2025**

Proposed by Councillor D J Craig

Seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

Matters Arising

Item 5.1 Page 321

Report on Request to use Councill Open Spaces

Councillor R Carlin, on behalf of the Sinn Fein party, requested that it be put on record that following further consideration of the decision on the above item of business, it be noted that Sinn Fein were not in support of this decision.

**Environment & Sustainability Committee**

**4 June 2025**

Proposed by Councillor P Catney

Seconded by Councillor G Hynds

Councillor P Catney expressed thanks to the out-going Acting Director of Environmental Services, Richard Harvey, for his efforts during his time in post. Councillor Catney also extended best wishes to the newly appointed Director of Environmental Services, Angela McCann, who had taken up her new post in recent weeks.

Matters Arising

Item 4.1 Page 331

Abandoned Dog

The Chief Executive responded to comments by Councillor G Hynds on the subject of legal advice in connection with the abandoned dog issue.

Councillor R Carlin left the meeting at 7.19 pm.

**Regeneration & Growth Committee**

**5 June 2025**

Proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

**Corporate Services Committee**

**11 June 2025**

Proposed by Councillor B Higginson

Seconded by Councillor J Bamford

Matters Arising

Item 5.1 Page 358

Review of Civic Policies

The Chief Executive referred to the report and related appendices in connection with the above item of business and advised that, subject to the approval of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee, the reference to the Westminster event would be removed as this event was within the remit of the Regeneration & Growth Committee, and as such was not a civic event. Councillor B Higginson, Chairperson, and Councillor J Bamford, Vice Chairperson, were in agreement to this amendment to the above-mentioned documents, where appropriate.

Councillor R Carlin returned to the meeting at 7.21 pm.

**Governance & Audit Committee**

**12 June 2025**

Proposed by Councillor D Bassett

Seconded by Alderman O Gawith

**Planning Committee (for Noting)****12 May 2025**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 12 May 2025 had been circulated for noting as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 June 2025. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor S Burns, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report

Alderman S Skillen (remote attendance) and Councillors G Hynds, C Kemp and A Martin left the meeting having declared an interest in this item of business (7.24 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, also left the meeting due to having declared an interest in this item of business (7.24 pm). The Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, took the chair and conducted this item of business.

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive which outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Community Investment Fund and in particular, the Phase 4 Outcomes Report.

The report set out the timeline for submission of applications, assessments, approvals and notifications for Phase 4 of the Community Investment Fund. Members had also been furnished with a copy of a table setting out the applicants' eligibility and scores, together with the associated Equality Screening document and the Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

Councillor G McCleave left the meeting at this point (7.26 pm) having submitted a completed Declaration of Interest form in connection with this item of business.

A number of Members welcomed the investment across the Council area as a result of this Community Investment Fund initiative.

One Member commended the Officers who had been working on all the projects and acknowledged that such projects made a huge difference to communities. The Member put on record the importance of those groups who had been successful to look also at other funding streams such as the New Ireland Fund.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman O Gawith, and agreed that:

- the Council agrees that the undernoted four applicants become the Council's partner projects under the Community Investment Fund Phase 4, offering a match funding of £1,360,000:

9.1 Community Investment Fund Phase 4 – Outcomes Report (Cont'd)

- a) Live Life Wellbeing Centre,
  - b) Seymour Hill & Conway Residents Association,
  - c) Lisburn Recreation & Community Hub and
  - d) St Jospeh's GAC
- Letters of Offer 'In Principle' be issued to the proposed partner projects with the due diligence arrangements and timelines clearly stated in the terms and conditions;
  - a process be incepted for the unsuccessful applicants to provide feedback and support as required, and
  - in addition to the recommendations as set out in the report, the project submitted by Holy Trinity Parish Church, Drumbo, be referred back for further consideration with a view to exploring options and financial opportunities for this to become one of the Council's partner projects under Phase 4 of the Community Investment Fund.

Councillor D J Craig, out-going Chairperson of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee, congratulated all of the applicants who had received funding through the Community Investment Fund (CIF) Phase 4. He particularly welcomed the fact that a project in the Lisburn North DEA had been successful in receiving CIF funding. He wished every project success in finding any additional funding they required and he too encouraged the applicants to avail of other sources of funding.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, Councillors G Hynds, C Kemp, A Martin and G McCleave returned to the Council Chamber at 7.31 pm. Alderman S Skillen re-joined the meeting remotely at 7.32.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, resumed the Chair and conducted the remaining business on the agenda.

9.2 Summer Arrangements for Council Business

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive outlining the background and key issues in relation to summer arrangements for Council Business.

Key issues detailed in the report included:

- the Council's governance arrangements that provides for emergency arrangements
- matters that require to be considered by the Planning Committee using its delegated function
- Planning related Section 76 developer agreements which have to be presented to Council for signing and sealing
- contingency arrangements to be put in place over the summer period to facilitate any Council decisions which may need to be enacted to support the PEACEPLUS Action Plan and proposed delegated authority be given to the Mayor, Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the relevant Committee, in

## 9.2 Summer Arrangements for Council Business (Cont'd)

conjunction with the Chief Executive, to sign off on requisite agreements. All such particulars to be presented retrospectively to Council.

- new emerging programmes and the Works Programme - any variation of contracts or new contracts to be signed. The appropriate Director, in consultation with the requisite Chairperson and Vice Chairperson, to be given delegated authority over the summer months allowing these programmes to be advanced where funding has been agreed or contingency sums exist in the capital programme against committed projects. An updated Capital Programme is planned to be presented to the Corporate Services Committee in September.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that delegated authority being granted up until 20<sup>th</sup> August 2025, as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, with all decisions reported back to Committee in September.

## 9.3 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2022/0033/F

The Chief Executive outlined the background and key issues in connection with the above Section 76 Planning Agreement, it being noted that a previous report to full Council in May had been withdrawn to allow a number of queries raised by Members on the application of affordable housing policy in this Council Area to be addressed. It had been agreed at the May Council meeting that the Council writes to Co-Ownership, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department for Communities to seek assurances that there was no loophole in the affordable housing policy.

By way of an update copies of the letters issued and their respective responses had been circulated to Members in advance of the meeting via the Council's Information & Correspondence schedule.

The Chief Executive advised Members that the purpose of the report and agenda item is solely to seek approval to apply the seal of the Council to the agreement in accordance with legislation and the Council's standing orders.

During the discussion that ensued Councillor A P Ewing left the meeting at 7.36 pm and returned at 7.41 pm, and Councillor B Higginson left at 7.36 pm and returned at 7.38 pm.

A number of Members' queries were addressed by the Director of Regeneration and Growth in relation to:

- co-ownership being the only shared equity model in NI for the purchase of intermediate schemes
- clarification around the 10<sup>th</sup> residential unit having to be occupied
- the potential for purchasing an affordable housing unit and selling it on for a much higher price



9.3 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2022/0033/F (Cont'd)

- any opportunity for the developer to come back and vary this Section 76 agreement after signing and sealing
- the nature of the company put in place to deliver the proposed development and being a signatory to this Section 76 agreement, and any special measures in place by this Council
- liability issues for those who purchase a property in this development
- this agreement being a three-party agreement, ie. the Council, the developer and the landowners
- site number 14 which due to its size could be converted into another type of dwelling(s)

At this point The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, advised that following consultation with the Chief Executive, the meeting would go into Confidential Business in order to consider the legal advice received by Officers on this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed that the legal advice be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or Members of the public.

Those seated in the public gallery left the meeting (7.52 pm).

"In Committee"

The Chief Executive and the Director of Regeneration & Growth addressed the Council in respect of legal advice received on this matter, and responded to further questions from Members.

Councillor J Bamford left and returned to the meeting during confidential business at 8.20 pm and 8.25 pm respectively.

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

The members of the public were re-admitted to the public gallery.

The Chief Executive addressed the public gallery in connection with the outcome of the discussion that had taken place during confidential session.

It was formally proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor J Lavery, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive subject to re-consideration of further representations made on this planning application by the Planning Committee in due course.

Councillor K Dickson left and returned to the meeting at 8.30 pm and 8.31 pm respectively.

9.4 Gallipoli – 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage  
13 – 18 October 2025

Councillor R Carlin and Councillor N Trimble left the meeting at 8.32 pm.

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive which outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Gallipoli 110<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pilgrimage which was taking place in October 2025 to mark the 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landings of the 10<sup>th</sup> (Irish) Division at Suvla Bay on the Gallipoli Peninsula during the First World War.

A copy of correspondence received from The Dalariada Cultural and Historical Society had been appended to the Chief Executive's report and which had indicated their intention to plan a commemorative tour to Gallipoli in October 2025 and has invited the Council to be represented.

It was noted that a deposit of £500 per person was required by 31 July 2025. It was also noted that in preparation for the pilgrimage the Council's museum team could research further the history of Lisburn men in Gallipoli with a view to the tour providing an opportunity to enhance the information held within the Council's archives.

Councillor C Kemp left the meeting at 8.33 pm.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that in recognising the contribution Lisburn made to the First World War, and in accordance with the Council's policy on invitations to civic functions, visits, and events, that the Mayor, the Chairperson of the Corporate Services Committee, and the Chief Executive (or his representative) attend this Pilgrimage. It was noted that the estimated cost for the attendance of three representatives from the Council was in the region of £4,950.

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 Expanding the Belfast Bike Scheme

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

### 12.1 Expanding the Belfast Bike Scheme (Cont'd)

“That this Council:

- notes the success of the Belfast City Council public hire bike scheme which has operated for almost a decade in our neighbouring district;
- recognises that active travel links, like other transport connections, can transverse the boundaries of council districts and connect people and communities;
- acknowledges that as part of its recent tender process for an operator of its public bike hire scheme, Belfast City Council included an option for expanding the scheme to neighbouring districts; and
- agrees to engage with Belfast City Council to scope out the potential for co-operating in expanding the scheme to areas in our district that form natural connections to neighbourhoods in the Belfast District.”

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor P Catney and seconded by Alderman M Gregg.

Councillors C Kemp and N Trimble returned to the meeting at 8.34 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, advised that the above Notice of Motion would be referred, without debate, to the Regeneration & Growth Committee for consideration as it related to the remit of that Committee.

Alderman O Gawith returned to the meeting and Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting at 8.35 pm.

### 12.2 Civil Unrest

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

“That this Council condemns the recent violence and civil unrest in Ballymena and across parts of Northern Ireland and acknowledges the great efforts and risks taken by the PSNI to restore law and order.

This Council recognises that a cornerstone of British culture and values is the welcoming and integrating of immigrants into our shared rich heritage.

This Council has in place up to date contingency planning arrangements to enable swift liaison with the PSNI and other partners in emergency situations within our area and will continue to promote safe communities where people of every background or persuasion can feel safe; and will aim to provide assistance, where possible, to people from any background through our well established community networks.

## 2.2 Civil Unrest (Cont'd)

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor N Trimble was seconded by Councillor C Kemp.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, advised that the above Notice of Motion would be debated at the meeting that evening.

Councillor T Mitchell returned to the meeting (8.38 pm).

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

- the appalling scenes in Ballymena that he had seen on the BBC national news whilst on holiday
- since submitting his Notice of Motion there had been further violence and unrest across Northern Ireland
- the risk and harm facing emergency services generally but specific when dealing with incidents of mob violence
- fourteen police officers had been injured the previous week in Londonderry as a result of mob violence
- he has the greatest respect for those who are brave enough to put themselves in harm's way in order to protect others
- put on record that this Council firmly supports the PSNI and their actions to maintain law and order and that the Council wishes a speedy recovery to all those injured police officers
- the right to peaceful protests. However some people take advantage of these protests and come together to cause harm to others
- there are those who use immigration to incite violent acts
- his fundamental belief that everyone has a right to live in peace and dignity regardless of their beliefs

Councillor C Kemp, having seconded the Notice of Motion, also spoke in support of the motion and thanked Councillor Trimble for having brought his motion to the Council. Councillor Kemp put on record her heartfelt sympathy to the young girl and her family who were at the centre of the initial peaceful protest, and hoped that the young girl would receive the support she needed in order to rebuild her life.

Councillor Kemp referred to the initial act of solidarity in Ballymena that was overshadowed by scenes of violence which she stated, was racially motivated. During her contribution Councillor Kemp emphasised that as the new Chairperson of the Regeneration & Growth Committee that she would champion the Council's tourism strategy which she hoped would create jobs and opportunities.

12.2 Civil Unrest (Cont'd)

Councillor Kemp stated that the Alliance Party supported this motion including acknowledging the great efforts and risks taken by the PSNI, and the welcoming and integration of immigrants and the need for up to date contingency planning arrangements.

Councillor G McCleave in supporting the Notice of Motion requested an amendment in that the word “British” in the second point be changed to read “our,” the amended sentence to read:

“This Council recognises that a cornerstone of our culture and values is the welcoming and integrating of immigrants into our shared rich heritage.”

Councillor N Trimble indicated that he would accept Councillor McCleave’s amendment.

Alderman S P Porter advised that he had an amendment to the Notice of Motion which he had detailed in an email to the Chief Executive. The Chief Executive forwarded the amendment to all Members of Council for their deliberation.

Adjournment of Meeting

The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed that the meeting be adjourned for a short time to allow Members to familiarise themselves with the wording in the amendment.

The meeting stood adjourned at 8.51 pm.

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting resumed at 9.00 pm.

Alderman S P Porter read out his amendment to the meeting:

“This Council also recognises that freedom of expression and the right to protest are the cornerstone of British democracy, culture and values. It believes that it is not racist to hold, or voice, concerns in relation to the level of illegal immigration to Northern Ireland, or indeed the associated impacts for demand on housing, access to basic services, including GPs, dentists and school places. Accordingly, it resolves, in particular, to condemn all wrongdoing, defend peaceful protest.”

Councillor B Higginson seconded Alderman Porter’s amendment to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor N Trimble indicated that he would not wish to accept the amendment as outlined and discussed his reasons thereon.

At this point Alderman S P Porter elaborated on his amendment to the Motion, during which he made a number of comments, including:

12.2 Civil Unrest (Cont'd)

- the DUP condemns violence no matter what the protest is about
- it is good to reinforce strong history in Lisburn and Castlereagh in regard to legal immigration and the value this adds to our citizens on a daily basis
- the DUP reaffirm its support to those who come to Lisburn and Castlereagh to make their home or place of work
- his amendment was to recognise and re-affirm the problems that uncontrolled immigration can have on housing and other services
- the need for an inquiry into Mears Housing and the Home Office policies

Councillors R Carlin, C Kemp, P Catney, on behalf of their respective political parties, spoke in support of Councillor Trimble's Notice of Motion.

Aldermen J Tinsley and S Skillen, and Councillors G Hynds, A Givan, D J Craig, and B Higginson spoke in support of Alderman S P Porter's amendment to the Notice of Motion.

Councillor N Trimble thanked those Members who had expressed their support to his Motion and for their personal stories.

The amendment by Alderman S P Porter was put to the meeting, a recorded voted being taken at the request of Alderman M Gregg, the voting being as follows:

In Favour: Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Burns, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan, Councillor B Higginson, Councillor G Hynds, Councillor J Laverty, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor C McCready, Alderman S P Porter, Alderman S Skillen, and Alderman J Tinsley **Total: 15**

Against: Alderman J Baird, Councillor J Bamford, Councillor D Bassett, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor P Catney, Councillor P Dickson, Alderman O Gawith, Alderman M Gregg, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur, Councillor C Kemp, Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor B Magee, Councillor A Martin, Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor G McCleave, Alderman A McIntyre, Councillor M McKeever, Councillor R McLernon, Councillor N Parker, Councillor G Thompson, and Councillor N Trimble. **Total: 23**

The amendment to the Notice of Motion fell and Councillor Trimble's Motion, as amended by Councillor G McCleave was put to the meeting, the recorded vote, as requested by Alderman M Gregg, being as follows:

In favour: Alderman J Baird, Councillor J Bamford, Councillor J Bassett, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor P Catney, Councillor K Dickson, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan, Alderman M Gregg, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur, Councillor C Kemp, Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor B Magee, Councillor A Martin, Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor G McCleave, Councillor

12.2 Civil Unrest (Cont'd)

C McCreedy, Alderman A McIntyre, Councillor M McKeever, Councillor R McLernon, Councillor N Parker, Alderman S Skillen, Councillor G Thompson, Alderman J Tinsley, and Councillor N Trimble.

**Total: 31**

Abstain: Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Burns, Councillor D J Craig, Councillor B Higginson, Councillor G Hynds, Councillor J Laverty, and Alderman S P Porter.

**Total: 7**

The Notice of Motion, as amended, was declared “carried,” and read as follows:

“That this Council condemns the recent violence and civil unrest in Ballymena and across parts of Northern Ireland and acknowledges the great efforts and risks taken by the PSNI to restore law and order.

This Council recognises that a cornerstone of our culture and values is the welcoming and integrating of immigrants into our shared rich heritage

This Council has in place up to date contingency planning arrangements to enable swift liaison with the PSNI and other partners in emergency situations within our area and will continue to promote safe communities where people of every background or persuasion can feel safe; and will aim to provide assistance, where possible, to people from any background through our well established community networks.”

13. Confidential Business

There was no other confidential business for consideration

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run 2025  
Councillor T Mitchell

Councillor T Mitchell put on record his congratulations to the Head of Sports Services and all the Officers and staff for their efforts in this year’s Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run which he stated had been a huge success.

Councillor Mitchell welcomed the route change this year which he described as an excellent route and a flatter course.

14.2 Brooklands Primary School Best Primary School Award & 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Councillor S Lowry

It was agreed at the request of Councillor S Lowry that a letter from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, be sent to Brooklands Primary

14.2 Brooklands Primary School Best Primary School Award & 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
Councillor S Lowry (Cont'd)

School on winning the Best Primary School award at the Family First Education Awards 2025 and also on celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

It was also agreed that a letter of thanks and best wishes be sent to the outgoing school principal of Brooklands Primary School, Mr Jeremy Armstrong, who was retiring from teaching after 38 years' service and also a letter be sent to the new Principal, Ms Fiona Smart, wishing her well in her new position.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that the details be emailed to her office for appropriate action.

At a later point in the meeting Alderman S Skillen wished to be associated with the sentiments of congratulations to Brooklands Primary School.

14.3 Congratulations to Dromara Community Group  
Councillor K Dickson

It was agreed at the request of Councillor K Dickson that a letter of thanks from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, be sent to Mr Nathan Middaugh for having put so much time and effort into organising this year's Dromara Community Festival week-long event. Councillor Dickson advised that the week of activities had been enjoyed by the entire community. Councillor Dickson also thanked Council for having provided him with a gazebo for this event which had been a welcome respite due to the high temperatures.

Councillor Dickson also requested that The Right Worshipful the Mayor consider having a reception for Mr Middaugh and members of the Dromara Community Group in recognition of their efforts and a very successful festival.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that the details be emailed to her office for appropriate action.

14.4 Congratulations to Ms Susan Jones – Pride of NI Awards  
Councillor K Dickson

Councillor K Dickson put on record congratulations to Ms Susan Jones, Head of Forthill Integrated Primary School who had won the Spirit of Education award at the Pride of Northern Ireland awards recently. Councillor Dickson described Ms Jones as an amazing individual who had 40 years' experience, being also lead Safeguarding Officer at that school and who had pioneered the Early Years Development in the local community. Ms Jones had also co-founded a cross-community playgroup and had led on a number of shared education projects. Councillor Dickson also advised that Ms Jones had welcomed children from every background at Forthill Integrated Primary School, and as lead Child Protection Officer and a qualified Counsellor, Ms Jones had offered direct support to many families facing poverty, illness and hardship, and delivering food parcels to families facing food poverty.



14.4 Congratulations to Ms Susan Jones – Pride of NI Awards  
Councillor K Dickson (Cont'd)

It was agreed at the request of Councillor K Dickson that a letter from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, be sent to Ms Jones to convey the Council's congratulations on her award and also to mark this achievement by inviting Ms Jones and staff from the school to a Mayoral reception.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that Councillor K Dickson email the details of his request to the Mayor's Office for appropriate action.

14.5 Royal Hillsborough – Best Kept Small Town Award 2025  
Councillor G Thompson

Councillor G Thompson put on record congratulations to Royal Hillsborough on winning the accolade of "Best Kept Small Town" award at the All-Ireland Best Kept Town Awards 2025. Councillor Thompson acknowledged the collective efforts by many from the local communities, including Council Officers and staff, in particular staff from the Parks and Amenities Unit, in maintaining the village which had ensured this accolade.

14.6 Replaced Streetlighting – Elm Corner, Lambeg  
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig expressed his frustration in regard to the response received from DfI Roads in connection with the issue that he had raised some time ago regarding the second set of replacement LED street lights at Elm Corner. Councillor Craig highlighted inaccuracies contained in the response that had been issued to the Council. He also expressed frustration in that the work that was being carried out for a second time was unnecessary as he could recall approximately two years ago the contractors digging up that area to replace wires and unfortunately DfI Roads have had to repeat that exercise with yet more new wires. He expressed concern that public money was being spent foolishly by DfI Roads.

It was agreed at the request of Councillor D J Craig that a letter be sent to DfI Roads requesting an update on their recent communication sent to the Council in view of the inaccuracies contained within their response.

14.7 Congratulations to Ms Joanne Currie, Cairnshill Integrated  
Primary School  
Councillor J Harpur

It was agreed at the request of Councillor J Harpur that a letter of congratulations be sent to Ms Joanne Currie, Head Teacher at Cairnshill Integrated Primary School on having received an MBE in the King's recent Birthday Honours. Councillor Harpur stated that Ms Currie was a dedicated educator and was well known for her work in the local community in the Castlereagh South area.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that Councillor Harpur email the details of his request to the Mayor's Office for appropriate action.

14.8 Drainage Issue on the Low Road  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds, having referred to the issue that Councillor D J Criag had raised in relation to the matter of inaccurate responses from DfI Roads (item 14.6 refers), expressed concern that despite having received an update from DfI Roads, the drainage issue on the Low Road had not been resolved. Councillor Hynds requested that a letter be sent to DfI Roads seeking a further update on the drainage issue on the Low Road.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that Councillor Hynds email the details of his request to the relevant Director for appropriate action.

14.9 Constable Stephen Dickson – King’s Police Medal & Spirit of NI  
‘999 Hero’ Award  
Councillor A Gowan

It was agreed at the request of Councillor A Gowan that a letter of congratulations be sent to Constable Stephen Dickson on receiving the award of the King’s Police Medal in the King’s Birthday Honours, and also for his achievement at the Spirit of NI Awards when he had been awarded the ‘999 Hero’ award. Councillor Gowan advised that Constable Dickson was the Chairperson of the Council’s Road Safety Committee, something he was passionate about having spent 30 years in the Collisions & Investigations Unit of the PSNI and formerly the RUC George Cross. Councillor Gowan also requested that The Right Worshipful the Mayor consider inviting Constable Dickson to a Mayoral reception to mark his recent achievements.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that Councillor Gowan email the details of his request to the Mayor’s Office for appropriate action.

14.10 Special Meeting of Council - BHSCT & SEHSCT  
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson referred to a question he had asked at the Special Meeting of Council in March 2025 in regard to Purdysburn ambulance station being retained at Purdysburn, and welcomed the recent news that this station had been operational from the Purdysburn site from last week. There was a commitment to keep this service at Purdysburn, which, he stated, would be good for ambulance coverage in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

14.11 Ms Jean Stewart - King’s Birthday Honours  
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson read the content of an email that he had received which outlined that Ms Jean Stewart had received the British Empire Medal in the recent King’s Birthday Honours in recognition of her services to music in Lisburn. The email noted that Ms Stewart was a life-long member of the Lisburn community having taught piano and the theory of music for over 60 years.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that she, and also the Deputy Mayor, were also in receipt of this email regarding Ms Stewart’s award and assured that her Office would mark this achievement in the near future.

14.12 Archaeological Dig – Moira Demesne  
Councillor A Givan

Councillor A Givan welcomed the archaeological dig that was currently taking place in Moira Demesne which had uncovered a number of interesting artefacts some dating back to the Seventeenth Century.

Councillor A Givan put on record congratulations to Mr Ruairi O Baoill from the Queen's University of Belfast (QUB) Archaeology Department for his efforts in supervising this dig at Moira Demesne which had been assisted by 35 students from QUB and also a large number of volunteers. Councillor Givan conveyed thanks to Mr O Baoill and all the volunteers for their efforts.

Councillor Givan advised that he had represented the Chairperson of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee at this site for an afternoon when he had joined the team of volunteers in the hope of finding something interesting. He also indicated that he had sent an email to the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing regarding the possibility of keeping the dig open, there being only a few days left before the dig was closed. He suggested that it may be possible to fence off part of the park and also have story boards erected. Councillor A Givan requested that the Chief Executive look into the possibility of keeping the dig open at Moira Demesne.

The Chief Executive stated that he had attended the site that morning and had met Mr O Baoill and other archaeologists who had indicated that they were keen that the Council give consideration to having some form of interpretation of the dig on display. It was also acknowledged that a substantial investment would be required to display the artefacts. The Chief Executive assured that discussion would take place on how best to celebrate this story going forward.

Alderman O Gawith advised that he also had been at the site and had chatted to the archaeologists about the small pieces of flat glass that had been uncovered. He too had been asked in recent days if the site could remain open.

Councillor P Catney also welcomed this archaeological dig, having grown up in Moira.

Councillor D J Craig as the then Chairperson of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee had attended along with the Chief Executive at the launch of the dig and had the honour of digging out the first shovel of grass and had uncovered the first piece of pottery. He too said it was important that the Council recognises the work of the dig supervisors, the university students, and the volunteers, and also the Council staff from the Irish Linen Centre/Lisburn Museum.

14.13 Congratulations to (a) Christian Ennis from Ballybeen and  
(b) 2crew4u Dance Group  
Alderman S Skillen

At the request of Alderman S Skillen it was agreed that a letters of congratulations and best wishes from The Right Worshipful the Mayor be sent to:

14.13 Congratulations to (a) Christian Ennis from Ballybeen and  
(b) 2crew4u Dance Group  
Alderman S Skillen (Cont'd)

- (a) Christian Ennis, a high school pupil from Ballybeen who had qualified to attend the Under-18 Darts Championships in Gibraltar later this year. Alderman Skillen advised that both Christain's parent and the local community were very proud of Christain's achievement. and
- (b) 2crew4u Hip Hop dance group who meet in the Ballyoran Centre on their forthcoming trip to New York next year, this being a fabulous opportunity for this group of young people to dance on stage in New York.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that the details be emailed to her office for appropriate action.

14.14 Twelfth of July Celebrations – Dundonald and Dromara  
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen put on record her thanks and appreciation to the Council staff for their efforts and support in preparation for the forthcoming Twelfth of July celebrations in Dundonald and Dromara.

14.15 NAC Publication - How the Green Economy can Fund Local Government  
Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, drew Members' attention to the above publication that had been circulated that evening for each Member. The Deputy Mayor encouraged Members to take their copy with them and to read its contents, with any comments they wished to make to be emailed to her directly.

Conclusion of Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and wished everyone a very good summer break.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 10.05 pm.

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Mayor