

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island on Tuesday 25 June, 2024 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT;

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Deputy Mayor
Councillor R Carlin

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

Councillors D Bassett, R T Beckett, P Burke, S Burns,
P Catney, D J Craig, N Eaton, A P Ewing, A Gowan,
B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp, J Lavery BEM, U Mackin,
G McCleave, A McIntyre, M McKeever, T Mitchell, N Parker,
G Thompson and N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

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

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the June meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

The 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.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed his Chaplain, Rev Stephen Reain-Adair to the meeting. Rev Reain-Adair introduced himself to the Council as being the church minister for Killinchy Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church, having been ordained eight years ago, and also a school teacher at Bangor Academy. He stated that it was an honour to be Councillor Dickson's Mayoral Chaplain. Rev Reain-Adair then gave an address and said a prayer following which he extended good wishes to Councillor Dickson for his Term of Office. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Rev Reain-Adair for his attendance and kind words, and Rev Reain-Adair left the meeting.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, since his election to the position of Mayor on 7 June 2024.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor put on record his thanks and appreciation to the many community groups who had organised events to commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day. He stated it had been a privilege to visit many of these events across the Council area.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also extended thanks to the Officers, staff and everyone involved in the Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run on 19th June 2024 which he stated had been a fantastic event with over 5,000 runners having taken part.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen M Gregg, M Guy and S Skillen, and Councillors J Gallen, A Givan, P Kennedy, S Lowry, A Martin, C McCreedy and R McLernon.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declaration of Interest declared at the meeting.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council – 28 May 2024

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 May 2024 be confirmed and signed.

4.2 Annual Meeting of Council – 7 June 2024

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 7 June 2024 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 Baird, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Hillhall Regeneration Group, 14 Hillhall Road, Lisburn BT27 5DE – Lease relating to Land and Buildings at Hillhall Road, Cromwell's Close, Lisburn
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Department of Infrastructure, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB – Deed of Surrender relating to Lands and Car Park at Moira Demesne
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Live Life Social Enterprises Limited, 9 Magheralone Road, Ballynahinch, Co Down BT24 8ND – Sub-Lease of Land and Buildings at The Grove Leisure Centre, Lisburn
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ulster Supported Employment Ltd (USEL), 182-188 Cambrai Street, Belfast BT13 3JH – Contract for Collection, transportation, recycling and/or recovery of mattresses from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref: T23/24-027)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Irish Waste Services Ltd, 94-96 Hillsborough Road, Carryduff BT8 8HT – Contract for Recycling and Recovery of Residual and Bulky Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres and Council Bulky (Amenity) Collection Service (Ref STA23/24-043)
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and J&K Contracts, 7 Beaghbeg Road, Cookstown BT80 9PE – Contract for LCCC Small Settlements – Aghalee Traffic Calming Works

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 7.12 pm.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Communities and Wellbeing Committee

4 June, 2024

Proposed by Councillor R T Beckett

Seconded by Councillor D J Craig

Matters Arising

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Community Investment Fund – Phase 3

Councillor D J Craig welcomed the success of the above investment funding initiative by the Council and extended best wishes to the successful community groups for their respective projects. He encouraged those groups who were unsuccessful this time to apply again to any future Community Investment Fund initiative.

Environment & Sustainability Committee

5th June 2024

Proposed by Councillor G Hynds

Seconded by Alderman J Baird

Regeneration and Growth Committee

5th June 2024

Proposed by Councillor J Laverty

Seconded by Councillor T Mitchell

Corporate Services Committee

12th June, 2024

Proposed by Councillor N Trimble

Seconded by Councillor N Eaton

Governance & Audit Committee

13th June 2024

Proposed by Alderman S P Porter

Seconded by Councillor D Bassett

Adopted subject to the attendance list being amended to replace Councillor C Kemp by Councillor N Eaton.

Planning Committee

13th May 2024

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 13th May, 2024 had been circulated for noting as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 3rd June, 2024. It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that their contents be noted.

Comments were noted from Councillor P Catney about the importance of the Council progressing the relevant paperwork in connection with Section 76 Planning Agreements as quickly as possible. Councillor Catney advised that he had been contacted on this issue by Architects who had requested he bring this matter to the attention of the Council.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There were no reports for consideration.

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. Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for consideration.

Councillor A Gowan returned to the meeting at 7.18 pm.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Passing of Mr Joe Heron, Coca Cola HBC
Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A G Ewart, having referred to the sudden passing of Mr Joe Heron, a senior manager at Coca Cola HBC, Lisburn plant, asked that a letter of condolence from the Mayor's Office be sent to Mr Heron's family to convey the deepest sympathies of this Council on this very sad occasion. Alderman Ewart advised that Mr Heron had worked closely with Council Officers and the Regeneration & Growth Committee in the recent past. The Right Worshipful the Mayor having also expressed sadness on the sudden passing of Mr Heron agreed to send a letter of sympathy to Mr Heron's family.

13.2 Dreamscheme NI – 20th Anniversary
Councillor M McKeever

At the request of Councillor M McKeever, The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed to write to Dreamscheme NI to congratulate them on reaching their 20th anniversary and to thank the staff and volunteers at Dreamscheme NI for all their good work with young people in the community. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also undertook to host a reception for Dreamscheme NI to mark their 20th anniversary.

13.3 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run 2024
Councillor T Mitchell

Councillor T Mitchell put on record his congratulations to all the Officers and staff for their efforts in this year's Lisburn Half Marathon and Fun Run which he stated had been a fantastic evening.

13.4 Passing of Mr Joe Heron, Coca-Cola HBC (Cont'd)
Councillor A Gowan

Councillor A Gowan addressed the Council on the sudden passing of Mr Joe Heron and stated that during his Term of Office as Mayor he had had the privilege of being in Joe's company along with the Chief Executive on a number of occasions. He described Joe as a true gentleman and someone who was a true champion for Coca-Cola's Lisburn site and for investment in the Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area. Joe also had been a keen supporter of his Mayoral Charity and he had been in attendance at his Mayoral charity dinner at Larchfield Estate earlier in the year, Coca-Cola having been one of the event sponsors. Councillor Gowan expressed his shock on hearing this very sad news earlier that day. He stated that it was very sad too for the management and staff at Coca-Cola. He supported Alderman Ewart's request that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr Heron's family.

13.5 Confidential Business
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds wished to raise an issue in connection with one of the confidential reports on the agenda that evening which he was of the opinion should be considered outside of confidential business. Councillor Hynds stated that he wished to have his concerns recorded in relation to the process and the lack of transparency.

As this was a confidential matter The Right Worshipful the Mayor did not permit the matter to be discussed at this stage in the meeting and requested Councillor Hynds to take his seat.

Councillor Hynds made a number of further comments on his concerns and The Right Worshipful the Mayor again instructed Councillor Hynds to take his seat.

At this point Councillor Hynds stated that he wished to raise a point of order as he was not being provided the opportunity to express his opinion.

Councillor G Hynds then stated that he wished to raise another matter and proceeded to discuss the lack of transparency by this Council.

At this juncture Alderman A Grehan raised a point of order in that the Member was raising a matter that was due to be considered later in the meeting during Confidential business.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, on two further occasions, requested the Member to take his seat.

Councillor P Catney, having indicated that he had a separate issue to raise, stated that he had sympathy with Councillor Hynds' concerns in connection with the amount of business being progressed through Confidential business.

13.6 Passing of Tommie Gorman RTE Journalist
Councillor P Catney

Councillor Catney informed the Council of the passing earlier that day of Mr Tommie Gorman, a former well known RTE journalist, Councillor Catney described Mr Gorman as having been a very fair and great journalist whom he had had the pleasure of meeting during his time as an MLA. He stated that Mr Gorman has visited the Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area many times.

It was agreed at the request of Councillor P Catney that a letter of condolence from the Mayor's Office be sent to Mr Gorman's family expressing the sympathy of this Council.

13.7 Confidential Business
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds indicated that he wished to put forward a proposal in connection with the extent of matters being brought through confidential business.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, on two occasions, stated that Councillor Hynds was not following procedures and accordingly he would not permit him to put forward his proposal.

Alderman A Grehan intervened and stated that procedures were not being followed, and expressed concern that if the Member continued in that manner that the meeting should go "in Committee" as the matter related to confidential business.

At this point the Right Worshipful the Mayor brought in the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive advised Councillor Hynds that if his issue related to confidential business he should wait until the Council was considering the confidential report in question and make his proposal. Following further exchange from the Member the Chief Executive drew the Council's attention to Standing Order 25.3 Member Not to be Heard Further which outlined that any Member can propose that a Member be not heard further and asked all Members to give consideration to that Standing Order.

14. Confidential Business

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that the undernoted Confidential items were confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information). In addition item 14.3 was confidential due to (a) Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and (b) Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the council or a government department and employees of, or office holders under, the council)

In Committee

It was proposed by Councillor M McKeever, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered “in Committee” in the absence of press or members of the public. The livestream was paused at this stage in proceedings (7.29 pm).

14.1 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2022/0947/F

It was proposed by Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Alderman O Gawith, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above Agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

Councillor P Catney left the meeting at 7.28 pm.

14.2 Review of Adjudication Hearing Decision

Councillor G Hynds left the meeting at 7.29 pm and returned at 7.31 pm. Councillor P Catney also returned at 7.31 pm.

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed that the Council adopts the actions outlined in the paper that had been appended to the Chief Executive’s report on the review of an Adjudication Hearing Decision.

14.3 Lessons Learned

At the outset it was noted that there were no conflicts of interests arising for any Member of Council in connection with the above matter.

The Chief Executive responded to questions from two Members on issues arising from the appended action plan following which number of comments were raised by other Members.

14.3 Lessons Learned (Cont’d)

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that:

- a) the Council adopts the action plan, noting the actions progressed and those which are yet to be completed, and
- b) a future update will be provided to the Corporate Services Committee in December 2024.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.42 pm.

Mayor