

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Hybrid Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 28 November, 2023 at 7:02 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor A Gowan

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg, A Grehan, M Guy, H Legge, S Skillen and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, R T Beckett, P Burke, S Burns, R Carlin, P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan, B Higginson, G Hynds, P Kennedy, J Lavery BEM, C McCready, A McIntyre, M McKeever, R McLernon, U Mackin, A Martin, N Parker, T Mitchell and N Trimble

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman S P Porter and Councillor G Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Finance and Corporate Services (remote)
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing (remote)
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Acting Director of Environmental Services
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Officer

Mr D Roberts, Mayor's Chaplain

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed those present to the 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 Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

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.

Alderman J Baird arrived to the meeting at this point (7.06 pm).

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed his Chaplain, Mr D Roberts, to the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Margaret, mother of Veronica McPolin, Environmental Health Unit; and
- John, brother of Stuart MacMillan, Head Greenkeeper at Aberdelghy Golf Club.

Mr Roberts gave an address and said a prayer, during which he too remembered the bereaved families referred to by the Mayor.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Mr Roberts for his attendance and he left the meeting (7.18 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements (00:15:30)

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, since the last meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor highlighted the following:

- Lisburn City Centre Christmas Light Switch-On. The Mayor put on record his appreciation to all staff involved in organising this extremely successful and well-attended event;
- Church Service to recognise the 50th anniversary of the Greenfinches. The Mayor thanked those staff involved in arranging this event, as well as Alderman J Tinsley for his input.

2. Apologies (00:17:04)

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, Councillors N Eaton, C Kemp and S Lowry and the Director of Organisation Development and Innovation.

3. Declarations of Interest (00:17:34)

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes (00:18:16)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 October, 2023 be confirmed and signed.

It was proposed by Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Councillor B Higginson and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of Council held on 20 November, 2023 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising (00:18:55)

Councillor D J Craig referred to page 516 of the minutes of the special Council meeting and reiterated his thanks to DfI Roads in respect of the upgrade of The Cutts/McKinstry road junction. He put on record his appreciation to the late former Mayor, Margaret Tolerton, who, together with Oakwood Integrated Primary School, had campaigned for this upgrade for many years.

6. Deputations (00:21:05)

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (00:21:09)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and R Heatrick Limited t/a Skipway, 341 Tandragee Road, Portadown, BT62 3RB – Contract for collection, transportation, recycling and/or recovery of waste wood from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref: T22/23-076); and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Bryson Recycling, Belfast Road, Central Park, Mallusk, Newtownabbey, BT36 4FS – Contract for the provision of a kerbside sort service for the collection and recycling of dry recyclables and food waste from households within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area (Ref: STA23/24-010).

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees (00:21:29)

Environment and Sustainability Committee
(00:21:34)

Proposed by Councillor C McCready
Seconded by Councillor R Carlin

1 November, 2023

Page 477, Item 5.4

Free Off-Street Car Parking on Saturdays in December and January

Alderman A G Ewart referred to an earlier social media post regarding the above matter and asked why that post had been made in advance of ratification of minutes at tonight's meeting. The Chief Executive stated that he understood that approval had been granted in November 2022 that free off-street car parking on Saturdays in December be approved as an annual concession, but agreed to confirm this for Alderman Ewart.

Verbal Matter – Awards Ceremony

Councillor C McCreedy, Chairman of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, advised that he had attended a recent awards ceremony at which the Council had received a Platinum Award in respect of its work in relation to domestic abuse. He paid tribute to staff in the Environmental Health Unit, particularly Mrs S Pinion and Mrs B Turley, Environmental Health Managers.

Regeneration and Growth Committee

2 November, 2023

(00:25:06)

Proposed by Councillor J Laverty

Seconded by Councillor T Mitchell

Communities and Wellbeing Committee

7 November, 2023

(00:25:42)

Proposed by Councillor R T Beckett

Seconded by Councillor J Gallen

The Chairman of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, Councillor R T Beckett, highlighted the following:

- Twilight Night events which had been very successful and well-attended. He put on record that he had felt proud to be Chairman of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee and expressed his appreciation to all staff involved in the organisation of the events, particularly those staff in the Parks and Amenities Unit and the Arts. Alderman A Grehan concurred with the comments made by Councillor Beckett. She stated that parents of children from Parkview Special School would be sending a letter to the Council in respect of sensory elements of the events and encouraging the continuation of those in the future;
- The Council had received a runner-up award at the recent Pro Landscaper Project Awards in respect of Carryduff Community Garden. Councillor Beckett paid tribute to the staff in the Parks and Amenities Unit for their work at this location;
- Councillor Beckett thanked Councillor D J Craig for having taken his place at the recent Pride of Place Awards Ceremony that he had been unable to attend. Two local charities had received awards – Live Life Well-Being Centre and the Lisburn Foodbank. Councillor Beckett extended his congratulations to both and paid tribute to staff involved. Alderman A Grehan echoed Councillor Beckett's comments. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, advised that he was delighted to be hosting a reception for both groups in the New Year.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, paid tribute to staff involved in the recent Sports Awards, which had been a true celebration of sporting achievements.

Corporate Services Committee

8 November, 2023

(00:31:20)

Proposed by Alderman O Gawith

Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

Planning Committee

2 and 9 October, 2023

(00:31:59)

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 2 and 9 October, 2023 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 6 November, 2023. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor U Mackin and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive (00:32:46)

9.1 Hardship Grant Programme 2023/24 – Delegated Authority to December Meeting of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee (00:32:54)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman S Skillen and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, at its meeting on 5 December, 2023, to consider and approve the award of the Hardship Grant Programme 2023/24.

10. Reports from Members on Boards (00:33:38)

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure (00:33:44)

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion (00:33:52)

12.1 Childcare (00:33:56)

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Alderman M Guy, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“That this Council recognises childcare as a vital social and economic infrastructure, a crucial form of early intervention, early education, an anti-poverty tool, and a means by which to improve productivity and gender equality in the labour market across Lisburn and Castlereagh; believes childcare

12.1 Childcare (Contd)

should be child-centred, high quality and accessible to all children; and commits to reviewing how the Council and community planning partners can support childcare provision in the area, including reviewing whether holiday/wider schemes supported by the Council can be expanded”.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Alderman M Guy, and seconded by Councillor G Thompson.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, advised that the above Notice of Motion would be referred to the Communities and Wellbeing Committee for consideration.

13. Confidential Business (00:35:26)

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 Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that the following item be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The livestream was paused at 7.39 pm.

13.1 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2022/0830/F

(Redacted report would be available after the Agreement is signed and sealed)

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed that approval be given to (a) the proposed amendments, as outlined in the report; and (b) the signing and sealing of the Agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor J Laverty, seconded by Councillor B Higginson and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (7.41 pm).

14. Any Other Business (00:36:51)

14.1 December Council Meeting (00:36:55)
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, reminded Members that the next meeting of Council would take place on 19 December at the earlier commencement time of 6.00 pm.

Conclusion of the Meeting

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

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

Mayor