

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber and Remote Locations on Monday 19 December, 2022 at 6:02 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Guy

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

Councillors N Anderson, R Carlin, D J Craig, A P Ewing,
A Givan, A Gowan, M Gregg, S Hughes, S Lee, U Mackin,
J McCarthy, G McCleave, C McCready, A McIntyre,
R McLernon, T Mitchell, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer,
A Swan and N Trimble

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson

Aldermen O Gawith and M Henderson MBE,

Councillors J Gallen, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry,
S Mulholland and S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services (remote)
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Member Services Officers (BS & EW)
Technicians
IT Officer

Rev R Higginson (Mayor's Chaplain)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillors N Anderson and R Carlin entered the meeting at 6.03 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, who was chairing the meeting remotely, welcomed those present to the remote meeting of Council which, in line with Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020, was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting.

The Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, expressed condolences in relation to the following bereavements:

- Mother (Elizabeth) of Peter McFadden, Planning Officer, Local Development Plan Team.
- Mother (Sheila) of Vincent Copeland, Procurement team.
- Father (David) of Emma McGee, Procurement team.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, welcomed his Chaplain, Reverend Roger Higginson, Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church, to the meeting. Reverend Higginson gave an address and said a prayer during which he too remembered the families referred to by the Mayor.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, thanked Reverend Higginson for his attendance following which Rev Higginson left the meeting (6.16 pm).

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 last meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor put on record that it had been a privilege on behalf of the Council to have had the opportunity recently to visit the Council facilities and paid tribute to the work of Council staff in delivering services across the Council area.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors R T Beckett, F Cole and H Legge.

3. Declarations of Interest

During the course of the meeting Councillor D J Craig declared an interest in the item 14.2 Education Authority for Northern Ireland (EANI) - Funding Cuts to Local Groups due to his membership of the Board of the Education Authority. Councillor Craig submitted a completed Declaration of Interest form thereon.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor S Skillen and agreed that the following minutes be confirmed and signed:

- meeting of Council held on 22 November, 2022, and
- Special meeting of Council held on 29 November 2022.

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and MPS Contracts Limited (2), 211 Moira Road, Lisburn BT28 2SN – Conveyance of Friends Meeting House, Maghaberry
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, Maghaberry Community Association and Coulter Homes Ltd, 40 Railway Street, Lisburn BT28 1XP – Boundary Rectification at Maghaberry Community Centre
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Stepping Stones NI, 39 Seymour Street, Lisburn BT27 4SY – Lease for Navigation House
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Babble, 11 Prince Edward Park, Belfast BT9 5FZ - Contract for Delivery of 2022/23 Food and Drink Programme

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Cont'd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Vodafone Limited, Vodafone House, The Connection, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2FN – Contract for Mobile Voice and Data Services

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Development Committee

1 December 2022

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart

Seconded by Alderman A Grehan

Matters Arising

Item 7.2 Page 674

Hillsborough Forest Digital Sculpture Trail - Update

Councillor N Anderson advised that he wished to raise a matter in connection the Hillsborough Forest Digital Sculpture Trail. As this matter had been considered 'in Committee' at the December meeting of the Development Committee – it was necessary to go into Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed the confidential matter be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The livestream and the audio recording was paused (6.15 pm).

"In Committee"

Comments were noted from Councillor N Anderson in connection with the Committee's recommendation on the way forward in regard to the Hillsborough Forest Digital Sculpture Trail. A number of Members spoke on the matter in question, including the Chairman of the Development Committee, Alderman A G Ewart. It was noted that further reports on the Hillsborough Forest Digital Sculpture Trail would come before the Development Committee in due course.

It was proposed by Councillor S Mulholland, seconded by Councillor S Skillen, and agreed to come out of Committee, and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

Leisure and Community Development Committee

6 December, 2022

Proposed by Councillor A McIntyre

Seconded by Councillor A Gowan

Matters Arising

Item 3.2 Page 685

Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III – Working Group

Councillor S Skillen requested that consideration be given to the Mayor of the Day being included in the meetings of the Coronation Working Group in view of the civic nature of its remit. Councillor Skillen acknowledged that the matter of membership of the working group had been discussed at the December meeting of the Leisure & Community Development Committee.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing addressed the Committee in relation to the issue raised by Councillor Skillen.

Following discussion it was noted that the first meeting of the King's Coronation Working Group would take place on Wednesday 21st December and that the matter of the Mayor or Deputy Mayor's attendance at the Coronation Working Group be discussed at the Leisure and Community Development Committee.

Item 3.2 Page 685

Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III – Funding for Programme of Events

Alderman S P Porter welcomed the Committee's decision to allocate £34,000 from the initial budget of £84,000 for the programme of events associated with the Coronation of His Majesty, King Charles III to address community cost of living pressures. Alderman Porter commended Members and Officers for their efforts in progressing the various community initiatives, in particular those Members and Officers who were working behind the scenes.

Alderman Porter also welcomed the fact that the Council had allocated a total of £100,000 to help community groups during the current cost of living crisis.

Environmental Services Committee

7 December 2022

Proposed by Councillor C McCready

Seconded by Councillor A McIntyre

Matters Arising

Item 8.2 Page 696

Waste Collection Proposal

Councillor C McCready drew Members' attention to the Special meeting of Council on 18th January 2023 which had been convened to consider a full business case in connection with the Council's waste collection proposal in relation to the kerbside model.

Governance & Audit Committee

8 December 2022

Proposed by Alderman D Drysdale

Seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer

Corporate Services Committee
Proposed by Councillor S Hughes
Seconded by Councillor U Mackin

14 December 2022

The Chairman, Councillor S Hughes, advised the Council that the Minutes of the Corporate Services Committee were still subject to the Call-In procedure.

Planning Committee

7 November, 2022

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 7 November, 2022 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 5 December, 2022. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor John Palmer, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There were no reports from the Chief Executive.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members 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 Energy Support Payment
Councillor R Carlin

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

“This Council is deeply concerned that the £600 energy support payment due to people across Lisburn and Castlereagh who are enduring severe cost-of-living pressures has not yet been made, despite DUP assurances it would be paid in November.

Notes that as a result of the DUP boycott of power-sharing, responsibility for delivering this payment rests with the British Government.

It is further concerned that as temperatures drop and winter deepens many families struggling to pay soaring energy bills will have budgeted for this payment being made before Christmas as promised.

12.1 Energy Support Payment (Cont'd)
Councillor R Carlin

And therefore calls on the British Government to urgently provide clarity on the delivery of the payments, it is well past time that these were delivered with no more broken promises.”

The Notice of Motion, as proposed by Councillor R Carlin, was seconded by Councillor G McCleave.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6) and as the above Notice of Motion falls within the remit of the Leisure & Community Development Committee the Notice of Motion would be referred to that Committee for consideration. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also referred to the announcement earlier that day in regard to the administration of the Energy Support Scheme and put on record that this Council has no responsibility for the administration of this scheme. This Council, however, was supporting community groups during the cost-of-living crisis in the sum of £100,000, and that this area of work was where this Council needed to focus its efforts on.

Councillor R Carlin elaborated on reasons why he felt his Notice of Motion should be debated at the meeting that evening.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reiterated his decision to refer this motion to the Leisure & Community Development Committee.

13. Confidential Business

There were no confidential reports for consideration at the meeting.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Compliments of the Season
Alderman A Grehan

Alderman A Grehan wished everyone present at the meeting a very happy Christmas and peaceful New Year.

14.2 Education Authority for Northern Ireland (EANI) - Funding Cuts to Local Groups
Councillor C McCready

Councillor D J Craig left the meeting at this point in view of his conflict of interest (6.55 pm). Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 6.55 pm and returned at 6.57 pm.

Councillor C McCready reported that he had been approached by a group from the Moira area who were concerned about a significant reduction in their funding from EANI for 2022/2023. Councillor McCready referred to the vital services that

14.2 Education Authority for Northern Ireland (EANI) - Funding Cuts to Local Groups (Cont'd)
Councillor C McCready

this group provided for the local community and emphasised that any reduction in funding would have an impact their work.

Councillor McCready proposed that the Council writes to the EANI to convey the concerns of this local group and to request clarity on the grading used by EANI in assessing funding applications. Councillor McCready's proposal was seconded by Councillor N Anderson.

Following comments from a Member on this matter, Councillor McCready amended his proposal to state that the matter of EANI funding to local groups would be referred to the Leisure & Community Development Committee for consideration with a view to any appropriate action being taken. The amended proposal, seconded by Councillor N Anderson, was agreed.

14.3 Congratulations to Dr Rosemary Coogan – Northern Ireland's first Career Astronaut
Councillor S Lee

At the request of Councillor S Lee it was agreed that a letter of congratulations from The Right Worshipful the Mayor be sent to Dr Rosemary Coogan on her recent success in being selected to join the European Space Agency as one of their career astronauts following a rigorous selection process. It was noted that Dr Coogan was Northern Ireland's first career astronaut.

14.4 Compliments of the Season
Councillor N Anderson and Councillor N Trimble

Councillor N Anderson wished Members and Officers and all constituents watching on the livestream from home a very merry Christmas. He hoped that Members would put aside their differences and enjoy the festivities.

Councillor N Trimble also wished everyone a happy Christmas. He commended The Right Worshipful the Mayor on the manner in which he had chaired the meeting remotely that evening and wished him a speedy recovery.

14.5 Video from Live Life Well-Being Centre
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson

At this point in the meeting The Right Worshipful the Mayor had arranged for Members in the Chamber and on Zoom to watch a recording of a performance by a local social enterprise group, the Live Life Well-Being Centre, to the song 'You Raise Me Up' who were using Makaton signing and asked Members to reflect on words of the song.

At the conclusion of the performance The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked the Technical team for their assistance in playing the recording. He expressed thanks and appreciation to all at the Live Life Wellbeing Centre for their production.

14.5 Video from Live Life Well-Being (Cont'd)
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson

The Right Worshipful the Mayor mentioned that the singing by the Beechlawn School choir, who had also used Makaton signing, had been very well received on the evening of the Council's Switch-On event.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, wished everyone a very happy Christmas with family and friends and expressed appreciation to everyone for their contribution to the Council during the past year.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.11 pm.

Mayor