

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN

Minutes of Technical/Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 March 2009 at 7.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

In the Chair Councillor T Hearty

In Attendance Councillor C Burns
Councillor W Burns
Councillor C Casey
Councillor B Curran
Councillor G Donnelly
Councillor J Feehan
Councillor A Flynn
Councillor I Hanna
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor D Kennedy
Councillor T Murphy
Councillor M Mathers
Councillor J McCreesh
Councillor P McDonald
Councillor P McGinn
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor M Murphy
Councillor C Mussen
Councillor J O'Hare
Councillor G Oliver
Councillor J Patterson
Councillor H Reilly
Councillor S Rogers
Councillor M Ruane
Councillor A Williamson

Officials in Attendance Mr T McCall, Clerk & Chief Executive
Mr E McManus, Deputy Director of Technical/Leisure Services
Mr J Farrell, Director of Environmental Health
Mr D Shanks, Assistant Director of Building Control
Mr L Dinsmore, Management Services Officer
Ms L Dillon, Committee Administrator

Apologies Mr J McCorry, Director of Technical/Leisure Services
Mr E Curtis, Director of Administration
Councillor J McArdle

**T.E.S/51/2009: - LAND AT CECIL STREET, NEWRY
(REF: R/S 77/60)**

Mr McCall advised that the Special Council Meeting which was to be held prior to the Monthly Meeting, to agree the sealing of document in respect of the purchase of land at Cecil Street, Newry, had been adjourned as the Council were awaiting further information from other Departments.

Councillor Curran said he had been contacted by a member of the public who owned land which backed onto the Council's site for development of the new leisure facility. He said this person informed that they had never at any stage been approached to ascertain if their land was for sale.

Mr McCall advised that Councillor Curran provide him with relevant details in order to clarify this matter.

**T.E.S/52/2009: - MESSAGE OF SYMPATHY
(REF: M/21)**

On the proposal of Councillor Casey seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed a message of sympathy be sent to Liam Neeson on the death of his wife Natasha Richardson.

**T.E.S/53/2009: - MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS
(REF: M/23)**

At the request of Councillor Feehan it was agreed a letter of congratulations be sent to the Irish Rugby Team on winning the Six Nations Rugby Grand Slam.

**T.E.S/54/2009: - MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS
(REF: M/23)**

At the request of Councillor Patterson it was agreed a letter of congratulations be sent to Mr Dan Rooney on his appointment as US Ambassador for Ireland.

It was noted a letter had already been sent from the Mayor of Council to Mr Rooney extending congratulations to him on his new appointment.

T.E.S/55/2009: - MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Patterson, Minutes of the Technical/Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on Monday 23 February 2009, were adopted as a true and accurate record, same having been circulated.

BUILDING CONTROL

T.E.S/56/2009: - REPORT OF BUILDING CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING - TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2009 (REF: M/4/4)

Read: Report of Building Control Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2009. **(Copy circulated)**

On the proposal of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor McCreesh it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

Arising out of the above Building Control Committee Meeting, it was agreed the following matter be referred to the Technical/Environmental Services Committee Meeting for discussion: -

1. Erection of Street Name Plates

Mr Shanks advised that at the Building Control Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 10 March 2009 it had been recommended to defer the following recommendation for discussion at the Technical/Environmental Services Committee Meeting on 23 March 2009: -

“That due to limited resources for the incoming year, the Council delay the erection of replacement dual language name plates until the end of 2009 after which the erection of same would be subject to resources being available to purchase the name plates.”

Mr Shanks explained that the budget for the erection of street name plates had been reduced from £10,000 to £5,000 for the 2009/2010 financial year and that due to the limited resources available it was proposed to delay the erection of replacement dual street name plates until the end of 2009 and that priority instead be given to erecting missing nameplates, in particular in rural areas.

Considerable discussion then followed during which several Members expressed concern at the recommendations as they did not wish to see the policy for the erection of dual language street name plates altered.

Mr Shanks stated that the proposal did not involve over-turning or amending the policy but was to seek approval to prioritise dealing with those name plates which are missing.

After further discussion a recorded vote was taken on the above recommendation i.e. *“That due to limited resources for the incoming year, the Council delay the erection of replacement dual language name plates until the end of 2009 after which the erection of same would be subject to resources being available to purchase the name plates.”*

A recorded vote was then taken and voting was as follows: - **(Copy attached)**

For: 5
Against: 14
Abstentions: 5

The proposal was therefore defeated.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

**T.E.S/57/2009: - ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MONTHLY REPORT
- MARCH 2009
(REF: PH/2)**

Read: Environmental Health Monthly Report from Mr J Farrell, Director of Environmental Health for the month of March 2009. **(Copy circulated)**

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Mussen it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

The following issues were then raised and referred to the Environmental Health Section: -

1. Diesel Laundering Waste

Councillor Mussen expressed concern at the huge amount of diesel laundering waste which was illegally dumped across the District and which was costing the rate-payers huge amounts of money to clear up. He said this material was unfortunately sometimes illegally dumped in very scenic areas throughout the District and he requested the Council meet with the relevant enforcement agency as he was concerned there did not appear to be satisfactory progress made in apprehending those responsible for this illegal dumping. He suggested this matter be discussed at the next Meeting of the Environmental Control Committee.

Mr Farrell confirmed he would provide Councillor Mussen with the relevant costs associated with the removal of illegally dumped diesel laundering waste and added that the amount of waste from diesel laundering being dumped had considerably decreased over the past number of years.

It was agreed the relevant enforcement agency be invited to attend an appropriate Meeting of the Environmental Control Committee to discuss the issue of illegal dumping of diesel laundering waste.

2. Water Testing – NI Water

Councillor Reilly referred to water testing which had been carried out in the Kilkeel area and asked for an explanation as to the difference in “a satisfactory result” and a “highly satisfactory” result.

Mr Farrell explained that a “satisfactory result” depended on the bacterial count and if there was a presence of pathogenic organisms.

3. Interruption to Water Supply – Kilkeel Area

Councillor Reilly referred to the continual interruption to water supply and poor water pressure in the surrounding area of Cranfield and Kilkeel which he said was particularly bad during holiday periods whenever the Caravan Park would be busy and he asked that the Environmental Health Department arrange to have this matter investigated with NI Water.

Councillor Hanna said he had received several complaints regarding poor water pressure in the Kilkeel area. He said the same homes appeared to be affected and was creating a terrible inconvenience for homeowners and especially farmers who had to look after livestock. He said this problem had been ongoing for the past 5 to 6 years.

Councillor W Burns agreed with the sentiments expressed by the previous speakers regarding interruption to water supply and poor water pressure in the Kilkeel area. He said work which was to have been carried out had never been done and he requested that Water Service be instructed to have the necessary works carried out as a matter of priority in order to have the problems regarding water supply and pressure resolved.

It was agreed the Environmental Health Department urgently contact NI Water requesting that necessary works be carried out to resolve water supply problems in the Kilkeel area, as a matter of priority.

**T.E.S/58/2009: - REPORT OF FEWS COUNCILLORS MEETINGS
RE: SCRAPYARD OPERATION, LISSUMMON ROAD, NEWRY
- FRIDAY 6 MARCH 2009
(REF: PH/1)**

Read: Report of Fews Councillors Meeting held on Friday 6 March 2009 regarding scrap yard operation at Lissummon Road, Jerrettspass. **(Copy circulated)**.

On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor McCreesh it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

**T.E.S/59/2009: - REPORT OF BEECH HILL/CLOUGHOGUE LIAISON
PANEL MEETING
- FRIDAY 13 MARCH 2009
(REF: G/4/1)**

Read: Report of Beech Hill/Cloughogue Liaison Panel Meeting held on Friday 13 March 2009. **(Copy circulated)**

On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor McCreesh it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

**T.E.S/60/2009: - LIQUOR LICENCE SCHEDULE
(REF: M/152)**

On the proposal of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed the Council had no objections to those Liquor Licences listed on the Liquor Licence Schedule, subject to there being no objections from the Environmental Health and Building Control Departments.

TECHNICAL/LEISURE SERVICES

**T.E.S/61/2009: - (A) REPORT OF TECHNICAL/LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE
MEETING – WEDNESDAY 11 MARCH 2009
(B) TECHNICAL/LEISURE SERVICES GENERAL REPORT
- FEBRUARY 2009
(REF: MT/2/5)**

Read: Report of Technical/Leisure Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2009. **(Copy circulated)**

Read: Technical/Leisure Services General Report for the month of February 2009. **(Copy circulated)**

On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the above Reports and the recommendations contained therein.

The following issues were then raised and referred to the Technical/Leisure Department: -

1. Swimming Lessons

Councillor Reilly said he had received complaints in relation to Private Sector use of the swimming pool at Kilkeel Leisure Centre for swimming lessons and he said this matter needed to be resolved.

It was agreed Councillor Reilly be provided with an update regarding this issue.

2. Play Area – Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel

Councillor Reilly said that the Mayor of Council had requested a Meeting to discuss the Play Area at Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel but added that this Meeting had still not been convened.

Mr McManus said he had received no further information to date with regard to the Play Area at Mourne Esplanade, Kilkeel.

It was agreed Councillor Reilly be kept updated regarding this matter.

3. Illicit Dumping – Nicholson’s Road, Kilkeel

Councillor Reilly referred to illicit dumping at Nicholson’s Road, Kilkeel. He said dumping has been a major problem at this location and said he understood the Council had

previously agreed to repair the perimeter fence which he believed would resolve this issue and would be inexpensive to carry out.

It was agreed this matter be investigated and a Report be issued back to Councillor Reilly in due course.

4. Annalong Harbour

Councillor Reilly expressed concern at the fact that a business case was required for carrying out works to Annalong Harbour, yet large amounts of money was being spent in other areas of the District each year without the requirement for a business case.

5. Bus Shelter – Cloughreagh, Bessbrook

Councillor McGinn referred to the survey of residents of Cloughreagh Park, Bessbrook regarding the installation of a bus shelter at Cloughreagh. He said it was disappointing that following the survey it had been agreed not to proceed with installing a shelter as he said this was a very busy pick-up area for buses although he said it was understandable that there did seem to be a fear among residents of having bus shelters erected in their areas.

6. Community Floral Grants

Councillor McGinn said it was important that groups and organisations clearly understood how the Community Floral Grant System would work and he asked for clarification.

Mr McManus explained that previously the Council issued letters to Community Groups inviting them to apply for the Community Floral Grant and he said that arrangements would be done on a similar basis for the incoming new financial year.

7. Newry Canal

Councillor Curran referred to the recent Countryfile programme which focused on the restoration work which had been carried out on many waterways throughout Europe. He said Newry Canal was one of the oldest waterways and he believed that there should be more positive measures taken to have this waterway opened up.

8. Land at Riverside Crescent, Bessbrook

Councillor McCreesh referred to the proposed re-development of Council property at Riverside Crescent, Bessbrook and asked if outstanding matters had been resolved.

Mr McManus explained that following a Site Meeting held on Wednesday 11 March 2009 there had been no reference made to further costs. He confirmed the contractor went on site quite quickly after it had been agreed to proceed with the works.

**T.E.S/62/2009: - ORIEL B2B NETWORK (DUNDALK CHAMBER)
- COMMENCING 7 APRIL 2009 (FAIRWAYS HOTEL, DUNDALK)
(REF: M/42)**

Read: E-Mail correspondence from Dundalk Chamber dated 12 March 2009 inviting Council representation on the Oriel B2B Network which would be held every first and third Tuesday of each month commencing Tuesday 7 April 2009, at a cost of €10 per session.

On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor McDonald it was agreed to appoint Councillor McCreesh to attend the Oriel B2B Network Meetings.

**T.E.S/63/2009: - REPORT OF IRISH LANGUAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
- THURSDAY 19 MARCH 2009
(REF: M/48/3)**

Read: Report of Irish Language Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 March 2009. *(Copy circulated)*

On the proposal of Councillor Feehan seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve the above Report and the recommendations contained therein.

**T.E.S/64/2009: - APPLICATIONS FOR REGISTRATION AS A SOCIETY
(REF: M/64/2)**

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare seconded by Councillor Curran it was agreed to approve the following Application for Registration as a Society, subject to all matters being in order: -

- John Mitchell GFC, Newry, c/o Sunningdale House, Damolly, Newry, BT34 1PY

**T.E.S/65/2009: - VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTION AGREEMENT
- NMDC AND TRUSTEES OF PAIRC ESLER
RE: USE OF PAIRC ESLER FOR MAJOR EVENTS
(REF: F/3/65)**

On the proposal of Councillor O'Hare seconded by Councillor Mussen it was agreed the Council proceed to sign a Voluntary Contribution Agreement between NMDC and the Trustees of Pairc Esler, for use of Pairc Esler for major events.

It was further agreed that the signing of this Agreement should be subject to the inclusion of an additional Clause to deal with the issue of protecting the playing surface for major events, as outlined in correspondence from the Council's Solicitor dated (e-mail) 23 March 2009, subject to Officer agreeing appropriate wording.

Councillor Reilly referred to the considerable costs involved with providing floor covering at Pairc Esler and he said the Council should not commit itself to having to incur these costs which would be expensive in the long-term for rate payers.

Councillor Curran said the Council need to take a look at buying this equipment rather than hiring it on a 3 year basis.

**T.E.S/66/2009: - NILGA RE: SEMINAR
- SERVICE DELIVERY OPTIONS FOR DESIGN OF LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
- FRIDAY 27 MARCH 2009
(REF: G/4/55)**

Read: Correspondence dated 20 March 2009 from NILGA giving details of Seminar on Service Delivery Options for the Design of Local Government to be held on Friday 27 March 2009 at the Hilton Hotel, Templepatrick.

It was agreed to note the above correspondence.

**T.E.S/67/2009: - RECYCLING ISSUES – DAISY HILL HOSPITAL
(REF: SC/28)**

Councillor Mussen referred to the fact that apparently Daisy Hill Hospital did not carry out recycling of normal everyday waste. He expressed concern at the fact that a facility the size of Daisy Hill Hospital did not contribute to recycling everyday waste especially given the fact that landfill capacity was fast running out together with the huge costs that were involved to deposit waste via landfill. He said the Council had a duty to encourage a facility such as Daisy Hill Hospital to fulfil its obligations in respect of recycling waste and also to comply with departmental directives and he therefore requested the Council write to the Southern Health and Social Services Care Trust on this matter.

It was agreed a letter be sent to the Southern Health and Social Services Care Trust regarding the issue of recycling of normal everyday waste at Daisy Hill Hospital.

**T.E.S/68/2009: - THE MASTER'S PARK, NEWRY
(REF: M/48/3/1)**

Councillor Curran said a response had still not been received from The Christian Brothers and the Clare Nuns with regard to their future plans for the Master's Park, Newry and asked that they be requested to provide clarification.

**T.E.S/69/2009: - PROGRAMME OF EVENTS – NEWRY TOWN HALL
(REF: CP/4)**

Councillor Curran referred to the need for a Programme of Events to be issued advertising upcoming events scheduled for Newry Town Hall. He said he had been approached by a member of the public who regularly hired Newry Town Hall and who said they had been assured they would be provided with a Programme of Events on upcoming attractions but that this had not been carried out.

He also referred to billboard advertising and requested that the billboard should be used for advertising events/attractions in the run-up to the actual events and should remain on the billboard while the event is running.

It was agreed the District Development Department be requested to provide Councillor Curran with an update on the above issues.

**T.E.S/70/2009: - UNDOCUMENTED IRISH IMMIGRANTS
(REF: M/2)**

Councillor McGinn referred to Mr Dan Rooney's appointment as the new US Ambassador for Ireland. He asked that the Council write to Mr Rooney asking that he do all he can to help to continue to raise the issue of the undocumented Irish immigrants. He said the recent statement made by the Dublin Government in relation to this issue was disappointing and added that this issue continued to affect many people from both sides of the divide.

**T.E.S/71/2009: - CRIMINALISATION OF REPUBLICAN EX-PRISONERS
(REF: M/172)**

Councillor Curran concurred with the sentiments expressed by Councillor McGinn regarding the issue of undocumented Irish immigrants. He asked that the new US Ambassador for Ireland, Mr Dan Rooney, also be requested to use his good offices to highlight the issue of republican ex-prisoners who continue to be treated unfairly on the basis of criminalisation by the British Government.

**T.E.S/72/2009: - NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT LOCAL BIO-DIVERSITY
ACTION PLAN
(REF: PH/1)**

Councillor Hearty congratulated Mr John Farrell, Director of Environmental Health and his staff for the excellent work done in producing and launching the Newry and Mourne District Local Bio-Diversity Action Plan which he said had generated a lot of interest.

**T.E.S/73/2009: - MESSAGE OF CONGRATULATIONS
(REF: M/23)**

At the request of Councillor McGinn it was agreed a message of congratulations be sent to Mr Bernard Dunne, professional boxer, on his recent achievements.

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 8.05pm.

**For consideration at the Technical/Environmental Services Committee Meeting to
be held on Monday 27 April 2009**

Signed: _____
Chairman of Council

Signed: _____
Clerk & Chief Executive

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Technical/Environmental Services Committee Meeting

VENUE: Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry

DATE: Monday 23 March 2009

Name of Councillor		Time of Arrival	Time of Leaving	Meeting Duration	Travel Time To/From Home	Mileage	Same Day Meeting	Total Time	Amount Payable
Burns C	58	7.00	8.05						
Burns W J	2	7.00	8.05						
Carr M	52								
Casey C	54	7.00	8.05						
Connolly M									
Curran B	6	7.00	8.05						
Donnelly G		7.00	8.05						
Feehan J W	49	7.00	8.05						
Feely F	8								
Flynn A		7.00	8.05						
Hanna I B	10	7.00	8.05						
Hearty T	59	7.00	8.05						
Kennedy D	12	7.20	8.05						
Murphy T		7.00	8.05						
Mathers M		7.00	8.05						
McArdle J	55								
McCreesh J P	44	7.00	8.05						
McDonald PJ	35	7.00	8.05						
McGinn P	56	7.00	8.05						
McKevitt K		7.00	8.05						
Murphy M	47	7.00	8.05						
Mussen C		7.00	8.05						
O'Hare J	37	7.00	8.05						
Oliver G		7.00	8.05						
Patterson J	38	7.00	8.05						
Reilly H	26	7.00	8.05						
Ruane M	53	7.00	8.05						
Stokes G									
Williamson A V	39	7.00	8.05						

Officials in attendance:

Time of Arrival:

Time of Leaving:

Signed: Louise Dillon

Date: 23 March 2009

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

RECORDED VOTE

DATE: *Monday 23 March 2009*

VENUE: *Boardroom*

PURPOSE OF MEETING: *Technical/Environmental Services Committee Meeting*

SUBJECT OF VOTE: *“Due to limited resources for incoming financial year 09/10, the Council delay the erection of replacement dual language nameplates until the end of 2009, with the erection of any dual language nameplates at that stage to be subject to resources being available to purchase the nameplates.”*

NAME OF COUNCILLOR	FOR	AGAINST	ABSTAIN
C Burns		√	
W J Burns	√		
M Carr			
C Casey		√	
M Connolly			
B Curran		√	
G Donnelly			√
J Feehan			√
F Feely			
A Flynn		√	
I B Hanna	√		
T Hearty		√	
D Kennedy	√		
G Oliver	√		
M Mathers		√	
M Murphy		√	
T Murphy		√	
C Mussen			
J McArdle			
J P McCreesh		√	
P J McDonald		√	
K McKevitt			√
P McGinn		√	
J O'Hare			√
J Patterson		√	
H Reilly	√		
S Rogers			√
M Ruane		√	
G Stokes			
A V Williamson		√	
TOTALS	5	14	5