

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN

Minutes of District Development Committee Meeting of the Council held on Monday 18 April 2011 at 7.00pm in the Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry.

In the Chair: Councillor P McDonald

In Attendance: Councillor C Burns
Councillor W Burns
Councillor M Carr
Councillor B Curran
Councillor F Feely
Councillor T Hearty
Councillor J McArdle
Councillor D McCauley
Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor M Murphy
Councillor C Mussen
Councillor S 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 and Chief Executive
Mr G McGivern, Director of District Development
Mr E Curtis, Director of Administration
Mr E McManus, Deputy Director of Technical/Leisure Services
Mr D Shanks, Assistant Director Building Control
Mr J Finnegan, Internal Auditor
Mrs M Morrow, Committee Administrator

Apologies: Councillor G Stokes

DD/92/2011:- MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Williamson seconded by Councillor Hearty the minutes of the District Development Committee Meeting held on Monday 21 March 2011 were adopted as a true and accurate record.

DD/93/2011:- MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising.

DD/94/2011:-

**PRESENTATIONS TO MARK THE RETIREMENT
OF COUNCILLORS FROM COUNCIL**

Councillor M Murphy made a presentation to Councillors Mussen, McKeivitt and Williamson who were retiring or stepping down before the Local Government Elections. Councillor Connolly was also stepping down but was absent from the meeting.

Councillor Mussen said he had been a Councillor for 26 years, winning five out of six elections. He said it had been a brilliant journey and he had gained a great deal of satisfaction from those 26 years.

Councillor Mussen said Martin Luther King had been his political inspiration. He said he was currently a member of the Green Party and had great admiration for members of his Party. He added that he had met many people over the years and had a lot of respect for Newry and Mourne District Council's members of staff.

Councillor Mussen said he had a number of projects planned for his retirement but would always keep an eye on the political affairs of Council and the community. He said he loved the Hilltown area very much and would always be an active citizen in that community.

Councillor Mussen concluded by thanking all Council staff who had helped him over the years and wished everyone well for the future as he quoted Horslips' debut album "Happy to meet, sorry to part".

Councillor McKeivitt said she had been a Councillor for six years and had enjoyed every minute of it. She thanked the staff for their guidance and said she was humbly grateful.

Councillor McKeivitt said there had been changes in the Chamber during those years and asked everyone to remember Councillor Michael Cole. She said the Party had lost a great personality and hard worker and she knew he would be proud of his Party's achievements.

Councillor McKeivitt thanked her colleagues and wished everyone well for the future.

Councillor Williamson thanked Eileen McParland, Carmel McKenna, Sheila Kieran, Hilary Halliday, Catherine Carvill, Colette McAteer, Louise Dillon and Margaret Morrow for their assistance over the years. He also remembered the late Geraldine Quinn who he said was a great friend.

Councillor Williamson thanked the press and the voters of Crotlieve area. He said he was hugely indebted to his family and friends for their help and hard work over the years.

Councillors Rogers, Hearty, Patterson, W Burns, McCauley, O'Hare and Mr McCall wished those stepping down all the best for the future. Members said they had

made an enormous impact on the Chamber and that it was sad to see good people who worked hard for the community moving on.

Members wished Councillor McKeivitt every success in the MLA Elections.

FINANCE ITEMS

DD/95/2011:- TREASURER'S ADVICE SHEET – MARCH 2011
(F/1)

Read: Treasurer's advice sheet in respect of payments for the month of March 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Williamson it was agreed to approve payments in the month of March 2011 in the sums of £517,177.88 and £320,264.83 and £3,184,930.38.

DD/96/2011:- EXAMINATION OF ACCOUNTS – MARCH 2011
(REF F/1)

Read: Examination of accounts in respect of manual payments for the month of March 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Williamson it was agreed to approve payments for the month of March 2011 in the sums of £379,029.76 and £425,274.45.

DD/97/2011:- IMPREST GENERAL REVENUE – MARCH 2011
(REF: F/1)

Read: General revenue payment made through the imprest general account for the month of March 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Williamson it was agreed to approve payments made through the imprest general revenue account for the month of March 2011 in the sum of £53,597.61.

COMMUNITY SERVICES ITEMS

DD/98/2011:- COMMUNITY SPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS MEETING
- 30 MARCH 2011
(REF: R/S 269)

Read: Report of Community Sport and Public Works Committee Meeting held on 30 March 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor McCauley seconded by Councillor O'Hare it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**DD/99/2011:- SPORTS DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
- 30 MARCH 2011
(REF: M/8)**

Read: Report of Sports Development Committee Meeting held on 30 March 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor W Burns it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

**DD/100/2011:- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
- 6 APRIL 2011
(REF: M/4/2)**

Read: Report of Economic Development Committee Meeting held on 6 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Feely it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

At the request of Councillor Curran it was agreed to include 3G for Newry as an item on the June 2011 Economic Development Committee agenda.

DISTRICT DEVELOPMENT ITEMS

**DD/101/2011:- IRISH LANGUAGE COMMITTEE MEETING
- 7 APRIL 2011
(REF: M/48)**

Read: Report of Irish Language Committee Meeting held on 7 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor C Burns it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein with one amendment that the draft Bilingualism Policy would revert back to the Irish Language Committee.

TENDER REPORTS

**DD/102/2011:- APPOINTMENT OF AGENTS FOR PROPERTY SERVICES
(REF: 38/2010)**

Read: Report on tenders received for appointment of agents for property services.

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed to go into Committee in accordance with Section 23 (2c) of the Local Government Order 1972 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

When the meeting came out of Committee the Chairman reported that Council had agreed to accept the lowest tender received for appointment of agents for property services.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

**DD/103/2011:- LAMA SPRING SEMINAR
(REF: M/53)**

It was agreed no action would be taken on this item.

MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS

**DD/104/2011:- SCRUTINY COMMITTEE MEETING
- 11 APRIL 2011
(REF: M/42/7/A)**

Read: Report of Scrutiny Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Patterson it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**DD/105/2011:- FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
- 11 APRIL 2011
(REF: F/4/1)**

Read: Report of Finance Committee Meeting held on 11 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Patterson seconded by Councillor Feely it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein with one amendment to Item No. F/77/2011 re Land at Monk's Hill, Newry. It was agreed this item would be deferred until after the Elections and a site meeting would be convened to discuss this matter further.

**DD/106/2011:- AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
- 12 APRIL 2011
(REF: G/6/1/A)**

Read: Report of Audit Committee Meeting held on 12 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Rogers it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**DD/107/2011:- SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
31 MARCH 2011
(REF: SC/25)**

Read: Report of Special Council Meeting held on 31 March 2011 re Refuse Collection Issues (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

In response to queries from Members regarding bin collection issues Mr McManus said the issues regarding the rescheduling of routes had been discussed at length and the Technical/Leisure Services Department would deal with issues as they arose. He asked Elected Members to pass details of problems to him which he would endeavour to resolve.

**DD/108/2011:- ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL COMMITTEE MEETING
- 5 APRIL 2011
(REF: M/4/5)**

Read: Report of Environmental Control Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**DD/109/2011:- NIO GARDEN PARTY
- JUNE 2011
(REF: M/28)**

Mr McGivern said correspondence had been received from the NIO Garden Party Office requesting nominations to attend the Secretary of State's Garden Party in June 2011.

It was agreed the group leaders would nominate attendees for the Secretary of State's garden party for June 2011.

**DD/110/2011:- FISHERMAN'S MISSION CLASSIC CAR AND FAMILY DAY
- 25 JUNE 2011
(REF: R/S 52)**

Mr McGivern said correspondence had been received from the Fisherman's Mission requesting the use of Mourne Esplanade for a classic car and family day on Saturday 25 June 2011.

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor McCauley it was agreed to grant the use of Mourne Esplanade to the Fisherman's Mission for a classic car and family day on Saturday 25 June 2011 subject to the usual Council conditions.

**DD/111/2011:- LETTER OF OFFER FROM DCAL
(REF: R/S 112)**

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to sign the letter of offer from DCAL re Community Festivals Fund.

**DD/112/2011:- LETTER OF OFFER FROM DSD
(REF: CC/1/A)**

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed to sign the letter of offer from DSD re Community Support Programme Grant 2011–2012.

**DD/113/2011:- SITE OF THE FORMER ABBEY GRAMMAR SCHOOL, NEWRY
(REF: CP/12)**

Tabled: Request from Councillor Curran that the Council seeks an urgent meeting with all interested parties to discuss a range of issues in relation to the site of the former Abbey Grammar School, Newry.

Councillor Curran voiced concerns that access was being gained to the former Abbey Grammar School site and fires had been started in the grounds. He said all the windows in the school were boarded up and he was concerned that someone may be burned to death in the school. Councillor Curran said there was no community centre in that particular area of Newry and asked if part of the school could be used for a community centre. He said the owners of the school should meet with Elected Members to discuss this further.

Councillor Feely said Council did not own this building and he believed that now was not the right time to discuss this matter but it should be discussed after the Elections.

On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor McKeivitt it was agreed to arrange a meeting of all interested parties to discuss issues in relation to the site of the former Abbey Grammar School, Newry. This meeting to take place after the elections and the Neighbourhood Policing Team to be invited to this meeting.

**DD/114/2011:- PLANNING APPROVALS FROM DOE
PLANNING SERVICE PRE ELECTION
(REF: SB/13)**

Mr Curtis said there would be no Planning Committee Meeting in May due to the Elections taking place. He said he had spoken to Simon Kirk, Divisional Planning Manager, who said he could issue a list of non-contentious planning applications in early

May which, if Council had no objections to, could then proceed through the application process.

On the proposal of Councillor M Murphy seconded by Councillor C Burns it was agreed any non-contentious planning applications could be approved for the month of May and proceed through the application process.

Following further discussion it was agreed Council Officials would send a letter to Minister Edwin Poots to express Elected Members' disappointment at the reduction in the number of Planning Officers for the Newry and Mourne area and to request the retention of services of the two Planning Officers for the area.

**DD/115/2011:- NEWRY AND MOURNE CARERS WEEK FESTIVAL
13 – 17 JUNE 2011
(REF: R/S 112)**

Mr McGivern said a request had been received from Newry and Mourne Carers for assistance from Council during Carers Week Festival from 13 to 17 June 2011.

On the proposal of Councillor M Murphy seconded by Councillor Rogers it was agreed Council would provide advice and information on any potential funding opportunities for Newry Carers. Council would also grant the use of community centres for outreach sessions during Carers Week and provide complimentary tickets for Newry and Kilkeel swimming pools.

**DD/116/2011:- NEWRY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & TRADE BUSINESS
LUNCH - TUESDAY 10 MAY 2011
(REF: VB/37)**

On the proposal of Councillor Feely seconded by Councillor Carr it was agreed to take a table for ten at the Newry Chamber of Commerce and Trade Business Lunch to be held on Tuesday 10 May 2011 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry at a cost of £25 each.

**DD/117/2011:- TENDER FOR BUILDING WORKS AT MCGRATH HOUSE, NEWRY
(REF: MT/1)**

On the proposal of Councillor M Murphy seconded by Councillor Feely it was agreed to accept the lowest tender submission for building works at McGrath House, Newry.

**DD/118/2011:- TECHNICAL/LEISURE SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
- 13 APRIL 2011
(REF: MT/2/5)**

Read: Report of Technical/Leisure Services Committee Meeting held on 13 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt seconded by Councillor O'Hare it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

DD/119/2011:- ULSTER SCOTS COMMITTEE MEETING
- 13 APRIL 2011
(REF: M/48/3/2)

Read: Report of Ulster Scots Committee Meeting held on 13 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor McCauley it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

DD/120/2011:- MUSEUM COMMITTEE MEETING
- 5 APRIL 2011
(REF: SB/13/26)

Read: Report of Museum Committee Meeting held on 5 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor McDonald it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

DD/121/2011:- CROTLIEVE COUNCILLORS MEETING
- 13 APRIL 2011
(REF: R/S 77/23)

Read: Report of Crotlieve Councillors Meeting re Innisfree Park, Ballyholland held on 13 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt seconded by Councillor O'Hare it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

DD/122/2011:- INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
- 29 MARCH 2011
(REF: M/4/1)

Read: Report of Integrated Rural Development Committee Meeting held on 29 March 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Hearty seconded by Councillor W Burns it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

DD/123/2011:- SPECIAL LEISURE SUB COMMITTEE MEETING
- 15 MARCH 2011
(REF: R/S 269)

Read: Report of Special Leisure Sub Committee Meeting held on 15 March 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor M Murphy seconded by Councillor Hearty it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein.

**DD/124/2011:- SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
- 14 APRIL 2011
(REF: F/3)**

**SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
- 15 APRIL 2011
(REF: M/4/2)**

Read: Report of Special Meeting of Council to consider the 2011/2012 allocation of Voluntary Contributions held on 14 April 2011 (copy circulated).

Read: Report of Special Economic Committee Meeting re funding contribution for East Border Region and Mourne Heritage Trust held on 15 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Carr seconded by Councillor O'Hare it was agreed to go into Committee in accordance with Section 23 (2c) of the Local Government Order 1972 by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

When the Council came out of Committee the Chairman reported that it had been agreed to defer the above two reports to the Special Council Meeting re Voluntary Contributions which would be held on Thursday 21 April 2011. It had also been agreed to give that meeting delegated powers whereby the report of that meeting would not be required to be ratified at a full Council Meeting.

**DD/125/2011:- CIVIC RECEPTION
(REF: M/28)**

On the proposal of Councillor McKeivitt seconded by Councillor McArdle it was agreed Council would provide a civic reception for visitors from St Ethelburga's Centre for Peace and Reconciliation when they visit Newry in May 2011.

**DD/126/2011:- PROPOSED ROYAL WEDDING CELEBRATIONS IN BESSBROOK
(REF: CC/19)**

Read: Correspondence dated 8 April 2011 from Model Village Community Association re proposed Royal Wedding Celebrations in Bessbrook.

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns seconded by Councillor McCauley it was agreed to authorise the use of the village green in front of Bessbrook Institute and the use of the pond area in Bessbrook for the proposed Royal Wedding celebrations in Bessbrook. It was further agreed Council would provide crowd control barriers, waste bins, tables and chairs as required on the day.

**DD/127/2011:- SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
- 14 APRIL 2011
(REF: SB/13)**

Read: Report of Special Committee Meeting held on 14 April 2011 to discuss residents' concerns re planning application P/2009/0357/F – Erection of housing development on land situated adjacent and north of No. 51 Burren Road, Warrenpoint.

On the proposal of Councillor C Burns seconded by Councillor McDonald it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations contained therein. It was agreed the Meeting referred to within the report would be convened after the MLA count takes place on 7 May.

**DD/128/2011:- TRAFFIC CONGESTION AT ABBEY SCHOOL, NEWRY
(G/4/1)**

Read: Correspondence dated 11 April 2011 from Ms C Ruane MLA re traffic congestion at entrance to Abbey School, Ashgrove Road, Newry.

Mr McCall said Ms Ruane had requested a meeting to discuss the traffic congestion at the entrance to Abbey School on Ashgrove Road, Newry.

It was agreed to agree to this request with all interested Councillors and MLAs for the area invited and this meeting would be convened after the Elections had taken place.

**DD/129/2011:- SPECIAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
- 18 APRIL 2011
(REF: CC/41/2)**

Read: Report of Special Economic Development Committee Meeting with all interested Councillors and Invest NI re Toughglass, Killeel held on 18 April 2011 (copy circulated).

On the proposal of Councillor Williamson seconded by Councillor O'Hare it was agreed to approve the above report and the recommendations therein.

Councillor W Burns said he wished to commiserate with the employees of Toughglass on the loss of their jobs. He said the management of the company had done all in their power to keep the company open and Minister Arlene Foster had endeavoured to resolve this problem. He said it was a sad day for the area.

Councillors McCauley and Rogers asked that they be associated with Councillor Burns' comments.

**DD/130/2011:- PAYMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY 2011
(REF: F/1)**

On the proposal of Councillor Rogers seconded by Councillor Williamson it was agreed that the Mayor and Director of Finance would review payments for the month of May 2011 and make payments to suppliers accordingly.

CHAIRMAN'S BUSINESS

DD/131/2011:- CAR BOMB IN NEWRY

Councillor Feely said he wished to condemn the recent car bomb which had been left in an underpass along the A1 Road. He said people in the area were very angry that this had happened.

Councillor Rogers said he wished to be associated with Councillor Feely's comments and that he condemned this action outright.

DD/132/2011:- REQUEST FOR LETTER (M/21)

At the request of Councillor Feely it was agreed Council would send a letter of good wishes to Mr Sam Hughes, who had worked for the Credit Union for over 30 years and was unwell at the moment. Councillor McArdle said he wished to be associated with this request.

DD/133/2011:- HUNTER MOORE MEMORIAL FLUTE BAND (R/S 37)

At the request of Councillor McCauley it was agreed Council officials would contact the Hunter Moore Memorial Flute Band who had requested to play at the bandstand in Warrenpoint on a Sunday in June.

DD/134/2011:- VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

Councillor W Burns said he wished to give recognition to the Leaders of the Girls Brigade and Boys Brigade voluntary organisations. He said these leaders work on a voluntary basis. Councillor McCauley said he wished to be associated with these comments.

DD/135/2011:- GERALDINE QUINN MEMORIAL QUIZ

Councillor McKeivitt said the Geraldine Quinn Memorial Quiz, which had taken place in Newry Golf Club on Saturday 16 April, had been a brilliant night and she thanked all the organisers who had contributed their time and made such a great effort to raise funds for MacMillan Nurses.

DD/136/2011:- CLEAN UP AT BULL'S HILL (SC/1)

Councillor McArdle said he had recently taken part in the clean up at Bull's Hill and he said a large amount of rubbish had been removed from the area. However, he said rubbish was again gathering at this spot.

Councillor McArdle said gates were needed on either side on this area and it was agreed this matter would be referred to Council's Technical/Leisure Services Department.

DD/137/2011:- MESSAGES OF SYMPATHY (M/21)

It was agreed to send letters of sympathy to the family of Aiden Carr, the family of Councillor McCreesh's niece who had passed away suddenly and to Mr Eddie Wilson from Kilkeel on the recent loss of his daughter.

Mr McCall concluded the meeting by saying this was the last meeting of Council before the Elections would take place. He said this was the only Council to have completed a six year term and, on behalf of the staff and Management Team of Newry and Mourne District Council, he wished all Elected Members well for the future.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 8.35pm.

Minutes of meeting for consideration at the District Development Committee Meeting to be held on Monday 20 June 2011.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Signed: _____
Clerk & Chief Executive

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN
NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PURPOSE OF MEETING: District Development Committee Meeting

VENUE: Boardroom

DATE: Monday 18 April 2011

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	8.35						
Burns W J	2	7.00	8.35						
Carr M	52	7.00	8.35						
Casey C	54								
Connolly M									
Curran B	6	7.00	8.35						
Donnelly G									
Feehan J W	49								
Feely F	8	7.00	8.35						
Flynn A									
Hearty T	59	7.00	8.35						
A Moffett	12								
Murphy T									
O'Reilly M									
McArdle J	55	7.00	8.35						
McCauley D		7.00	8.35						
McCreesh J P	44								
McDonald PJ	35	7.00	8.35						
McGinn P	56								
McKevitt K		7.00	8.35						
Murphy M	47	7.00	8.35						
Mussen C		7.00	8.35						
O'Hare S	37	7.00	8.35						
Oliver G		7.00	8.35						
Patterson J	38	7.00	8.35						
Reilly H	26	7.00	8.35						
Rogers S		7.00	8.35						
Ruane M	53	7.00	8.35						
Stokes G		Apology							
Williamson A V	39	7.00	8.35						

Officials in attendance:

Time of Arrival:

Time of Leaving:

G McGivern
M Morrow
D Shanks

E McManus
T McCall
J Finnegan

E Curtis

7.00pm

8.35pm

Signed: M Morrow

Date: 18 April 2011