

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN

Minutes of Monthly Meeting of the Council held on Monday 1 March 2010 at 7.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

In the Chair

Councillor J Feehan - 7.00pm-8.00pm

Councillor Casey – 8.00pm-8.25pm

In Attendance

Councillor C Burns

Councillor W J Burns

Councillor M Carr

Councillor C Casey

Councillor B Curran

Councillor G Donnelly

Councillor J W Feehan

Councillor A Flynn

Councillor I B Hanna

Councillor T Hearty

Councillor T Murphy

Councillor M Mathers

Councillor J McArdle

Councillor J P McCreesh

Councillor P J McDonald

Councillor P McGinn

Councillor K McKevitt

Councillor M Murphy

Councillor J O'Hare

Councillor G Oliver

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor S Rogers

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor G Stokes

Councillor A V Williamson

**Officials in
Attendance**

Mr T McCall, Clerk and Chief Executive

Mr R Dowey, Director of Finance

Mr E Curtis, Director of Administration

Mrs R Mackin, Assistant Director of Administration
(Equality)

Mrs C McKenna, Assistant Director of Administration
(General Services)

Mrs Colette McAteer, Committee Administrator

M/65/2010:-

CAR BOMB IN NEWRY CITY
(REF: M/21)

Councillor Feehan said he wished to unreservedly condemn the car bomb attack on Newry Courthouse over the weekend and said the people who had carried out this attack were unrepresentative of the people of the area. He said Newry was a vibrant city and no-one wanted to see it harmed and certainly did not want this type of attack as part of their future.

Councillor Feehan said he also wished to condemn the threat on Councillor Stokes life. He said Councillor Stokes had been visited by the PSNI who had informed him that they had received a warning that if he continued to condemn attacks by republicans in the city of Newry, his life would be at risk. Councillor Feehan said he totally condemned this dastardly behaviour.

Councillor Casey referred to a torch light procession held in Newry City centre and said he had believed it had been organised by the Newry City Centre Partnership. He said he had not been told that it was being organised by any one particular Party and he had attended both in his role as Deputy Mayor, and as a representative of his Party, only to find that it was an SDLP organised event and he found some of the remarks made to be unacceptable.

Councillor McCreesh said he would condemn any threat on a public representative.

Councillor Curran said he would support Gary and his family and said such threats were a big issue to any elected representative and was something which he and his Party Members had put up with over the years and it was a lonely place to be.

Councillor Curran said he would warn any Members against any knee jerk reaction to events and said if events were being organised every effort should be made to ensure everyone was involved and the timing etc was organised properly.

Councillor Reilly said the car bomb attack on Newry Courthouse was totally unwarranted in the city and the Protestant minority believed there was nothing there to protect them from hard-line republicans in the area.

Councillor Reilly also condemned the threat on Councillor Stokes and his family and said every Councillor should show their total solidarity with Councillor Stokes.

Councillor W Burns said those who had suffered as a result of the bomb were working class people of the area who found it very difficult to get to and from their place of work. He said the ordinary people suffered all the time and said someone must know who carried these devices into the city and they should take such information to the security forces for attention.

Councillor W Burns condemned the blatant attack on Councillor Stokes life and said as a public representative he and his family were entitled to have their own comments and views.

Councillor Stokes said he would like to thank all Councillors for their support and comments.

Councillor McGinn said the Deputy First Minister had spoken on this matter and had asked that the entire community stay together to achieve the vision which everyone wanted. He said Councillors should unite against the threat to Councillor Stokes and if everyone stood together all would be well.

Councillor McGinn said the type of people engaged in this type of activity had nothing to offer and there was a process which could be used and he appealed for this type of activity to cease.

Councillor Hanna also condemned the threat to Councillor Stokes and said he understood what he was going through and he felt for him and his family. He pleaded with those who had issued the threat to stand back from it.

Councillor Hearty said he would agree with the support for Councillor Stokes but said people who continued to talk and point the finger at other people had nothing to add to any process.

M/66/2010:- CONGRATULATIONS
(REF: M/23)

At the request of Councillor McGinn it was agreed to send a letter of congratulations to the Southern Regional College Gaelic Football Team on winning the All Ireland Championship.

At the request of Councillor Feehan it was agreed to send a basket of fruit to Councillor Feely who had recently been in hospital.

M/67/2010:- SYMPATHY
(REF: M/21)

At the request of Councillor Reilly it was agreed to send a letter of sympathy to George Graham, former Councillor, on the death of his brother Andrew.

M/68/2010:- MINUTES

On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Stokes it was agreed to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on Monday 01 February 2010 as a true and accurate record same having being circulated

subject to Councillor McKevitt being added to the list of those in attendance at the Meeting and subject to Minute No. M/48/2010 being amended to read as follows:-

“Councillor Reilly referred to the recent outbreak of swine flu and said that the Council of Europe had indicated that this outbreak had been hyped up by people who stood to make a profit from it.”

FINANCE ISSUES

**M/69/2010:- FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING – THURSDAY 11
FEBRUARY 2010
(REF: F/1)**

Read: Report of Finance Committee Meeting held on Thursday 11 February 2010. (Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor W Burns, seconded by Councillor Rogers it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations and to note that in relation to Minute No. F/37/2010 – Proposed Lease – Cullyhanna Community Centre, that the Slieve Gullion Councillors Meeting be convened to discuss the Proposed Lease of Cullyhanna Community Centre should also include representatives from Cullyhanna Community Partnership.

**M/70/2010:- AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING – FRIDAY 25
JANUARY 2010
(REF: G/6/1/A)**

Read: Report of Audit Committee Meeting held on Friday 25 January 2010. (Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations.

**M/71/2010:- NET REVENUE EXPENDITURE REPORT – 31
DECEMBER 2009**

Read: Report of Net Revenue Expenditure Report Year to Date 31 December 2009. (Copy circulated)

It was agreed to mark the above report ‘noted.’

NOTICE OF MOTION

**M/72/2010:- NOTICE OF MOTION
(REF: M/53)**

It was agreed to adjourn consideration of a Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Feely regarding the role of the Cistercian Monks in the Foundation of Newry to the next appropriate meeting of the Council, at which Councillor Feely would be in attendance.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS

M/73/2010:- LAMA ANNUAL CONFERENCE

It was unanimously agreed to appoint Councillor Curran and Councillor O'Hare to attend the LAMA Annual Conference to be held on Friday 09 and Saturday 10 April 2010 at the Sligo Park Hotel, Sligo at a cost of €195 per delegate.

ROADS/WATER/NIE MATTERS

M/74/2010:- FEWS COUNCILLORS MULTI AGENCY MEETING – THURSDAY 28 JANUARY 2010 (REF: M/43/1)

Read: Report of Fews Councillors Multi Agency Meeting held on Thursday 28 January 2010. (Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor Feehan, seconded by Councillor C Burns it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations.

M/75/2010:- FEWS COUNCILLORS SITE MEETING – DERRYMORE ESTATE (REF: SB/13)

Read: Report of Fews Councillors Site Meeting held on Monday 01 February 2010 re: anti social problems at Derrymore Estate, High Street, Bessbrook. (Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor McCreesh, seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations.

M/76/2010:- FEWS COUNCILLORS SITE MEETING - REQUEST FOR A WATER MAIN EXTENSION AT GREYHILLA ROAD, WHITECROSS (REF: G/4/2)

Read: Report of Fews Councillors Site Meeting held on Monday 01 February 2010 re: request for a water main extension at Greyhilla Road, Whitecross. (Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor McCreesh, seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations.

M/77/2010:-

**MOURNES COUNCILLORS MULTI AGENCY
MEETING – FRIDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2010
(REF: M/43/4)**

Read: Report of Mourne Councillors Multi Agency Meeting held on Friday 12 February 2010. (Copy circulated)

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

CORPORATE/DEMOCRATIC/ADMINISTRATION SECTION

M/78/2010:-

**PROPOSALS FOR A WEB BASED VIDEO SYSTEM
FOR NEWRY & MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL
(REF: M/178)**

Read: Report of Special Committee of the Council with representatives from UTV and KDS Systems held on Monday 15 February 2010 re: proposals for a Web Based Video System for Newry & Mourne District Council. (Copy circulated)

Councillor Carr said the proposal from UTV had been very impressive but also very expensive and the costs far out weighed what the Council would be getting from it. He said for that reason he could understand that this proposal be rejected on the basis that the Council did not have any monies to carry out this project but he could not understand the recommendation that proposals for a Web Based Video System for the Council also be rejected as he believed this would be a low cost version of video streaming Council Meetings.

Councillor M Carr proposed and Councillor Stokes seconded that the Council continue to investigate a low cost study of video streaming Council Meetings for the benefit of the people of the Newry & Mourne area.

Councillor Hearty said the Council had no money for this type of project in its budget and therefore the proposal which he made at the Sub Committee Meeting on Monday 15 February 2010 ie that the Council take no action on providing either systems still stood.

The proposal made by Councillor M Carr, seconded by Councillor Stokes ie that the Council continue to investigate a low cost study of video streaming Council Meetings for the benefit of the people of the Newry & Mourne area was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

FOR:

11

AGAINST: 12

ABSTENTIONS: 1

The proposal was declared lost.

The recommendation contained in the report of the meeting held on Monday 15 February 2010 ie that the Council take no action on providing a video stream for full Council Meetings and a Web Based Video System for the Council, and that both concepts be rejected on the basis that the Council do not have any monies to carry out these projects was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

FOR: 12

AGAINST: 8

ABSTENTIONS: 2

The recommendation contained in the report was therefore declared carried and it was agreed to adopt the report of the meeting held on Monday 15 February 2010 and the recommendations contained therein.

**M/79/2010:- TRAIN SERVICE TIMETABLE – NEWRY TO DUBLIN
(REF: M/20)**

Read: Report of Special Committee Meeting of the Council held Wednesday 27 January 2010 to discuss possible improvements to the Train Service Timetable to better meet the needs of commuters travelling from Newry to Dublin. (Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor C Burns, seconded by Councillor Feehan it was agreed to approve the above report.

**M/80/2010:- STAFF & POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING – TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2010
(REF: M/4/3)**

Read: Report of Staff & Policy Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 16 February 2010. (Copy circulated)

On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna it was agreed to approve the above report and recommendations.

**M/81/2010:- LEGAL OPINION – MEMBERSHIP OF WARRENPOINT HARBOUR AUTHORITY
(REF: H/2)**

citizens programme £1K

[7] Consultation/professional fees for provision of a community based outdoor senior citizens facility at Kilbroney Pk-£2K

[8] Canoe sea rescue and swimming courses for voluntary sector involved in delivery of water based festivals-£1K

[9] Purchase of currach and specially adopted trailer to promote on going cross community festivals in Warrenpoint and Camlough- £4,261.00

On the proposal of C Burns, seconded by Councillor S Rogers it was agreed to approve the above Community Support Programme as listed.

M/84/2010:- FISHING INDUSTRY IN KILKEEL

Councillor W Burns said he had recently visited Kilkeel Harbour on what was a very calm day but said it was disheartening to see almost the entire fishing fleet tied up in the harbour purely as a result of EU Council decrees in relation to the amount of days allocated for fishing.

Councillor W Burns said it had been a very depressing sight on such a calm day.

**M/85/2010:- PHOTOCALL – BALLYVEAGH GUN CLUB
(REF: M/28)**

Councillor Reilly said he had asked that a photo call be organised with Ballyveagh Gun Club and had requested the Club be given an opportunity to meet the Mayor and be presented with a plaque.

Councillor Reilly said he was disappointed that the plaque had not been available for the photocall and it was further agreed relevant Council Officials check if all Mournes Councillors had been invited to attend this event.

M/86/2010:- ITEM OF OVERSPEND – CREGGAN PLAY AREA

Mr McCall said at the Community & Sport Public Works Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 24 February 2010 it had been agreed to seek approval at the Monthly Meeting to grant authority to the Scrutiny Committee to take the final decision in relation to an item to be tabled at the March Scrutiny Meeting re: overspend on Creggan Play Area – initial costings indicated £8,000 would be required but there was only £5,000 available from the Local Community Fund.

On the proposal of Councillor C Burns, seconded by Councillor Donnelly it was agreed to grant approval to the Scrutiny Committee to make the final decision on this item of overspend without the need to come back to a Full Council Meeting.

Councillor Carr said he could not understand the logic of this decision as not 10 minutes previously in the meeting, the Council had agreed to take no action on an issue as there was no money in the budget for it. He said these processes were bringing the Council into disrepute.

Councillor C Burns said the overspend was being requested on a Council facility and if agreed by the Scrutiny Committee it would mean that £8,000 would be spent on a Council owned play area and the Council would only be contributing £3,000.

Councillor Casey then took the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

M/87/2010:- CONDEMNATION
(REF: M/21)

Councillor McKevitt said she would like to condemn an attack which took place on 2 girls who had taken the sensible decision to walk home together on Saturday night and who were then attacked in a car park in New Street, Newry.

M/88/2010:- CONGRATULATIONS
(REF: M/23)

At the request of Councillor McKevitt it was agreed to send a letter of best wishes to Mr Eddy McGrady MP who was retiring after 50 years of service in local politics.

Councillor McGinn said Mr McGrady was a fine MP and he wished him well in his retirement.

Councillor McGinn also asked that a letter of congratulations be sent to Newry Rainbow Club on the very informative and interesting panel discussion evening which they organised in Newry Arts Centre on Thursday 25 February 2010.

Councillor McGinn said the Rainbow Club had spoken very highly of the Council and their Officials, particularly the Equality Officer and of the support given to them.

Councillor O'Hare said she would like to be associated with the congratulations to the Rainbow Club and said they gave support to many in society and she would like to see the Council continuing to help and support them in the tremendous job they were doing.

Councillor Reilly went on to express his view on the type of lifestyle of the Rainbow Community.

Councillor O'Hare said there were high incidents of suicide in the community represented by the Rainbow group.

Councillor McGinn referred to Section 75 of the Equality Act which give a commitment to support and protect people and yet Councillors were standing here making personal comments about the people who live in Newry & Mourne.

Councillor O'Hare said she resented that her comments about suicide had been taken out of context by Councillor Reilly and said comments like this caused distress to groups.

Councillor Stokes said the Equality Officer should take a look at the comments made by Councillor Reilly.

Councillor W Burns made further comments about the Rainbow Club.

Councillor Curran said Councillor Reilly's remarks were not in keeping with the debate. He said everyone was entitled to their opinion but not when they were making a public statement.

Councillor Curran said some people had an up hill struggle every day in life and the Rainbow Club should be supported and people in this Chamber should be as supportive as possible to this community.

Councillor Reilly asked the Chairman if anyone in the Chamber had incited hatred and the Chairman replied "no" and Councillor Reilly ask that this be recorded.

Councillor McGinn said, by law the Members of the Rainbow Community were specifically highlighted to be protected by the law. He said he accepted that some elected members had different opinions but he wished to make it clear that no-one wished any harm to anyone in this Chamber tonight.

M/89/2010:-

**LAND BEHIND THREEWAYS COMMUNITY
CENTRE, NEWRY**

Councillor Curran said he would like to congratulate Kathleen Magee, Area Community Officer and the Threeways Community Centre on the start of the new scheme at the Centre. He referred to a piece of land behind the Centre which he said was being denied to the Community by the Poor Clare Order and said that by doing so they were making the Centre inadmissible to people with disabilities and he asked that this matter be progressed.

Councillor Stokes agreed with Councillor Curran and said this issue needed to be moved forward.

M/90/2010:-

**CONGRATULATIONS
(REF: M/23)**

Councillor W Burns referred to the Council's Rare Awards Ceremony held on Saturday 27 February 2010 and said he would like to congratulate the organisers

of the event and all those who had won or who had been nominated in a category.

Councillor Stokes also congratulated everyone concerned with the Rare Awards evening.

Councillor Casey said he had been contacted by some of the staff at Bellinis who had said they had felt belittled by the attitude and by some of the remarks made by Council staff and he would like this matter to be investigated.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.25pm.

For consideration at the Monthly Meeting of the Council to be held on Monday 12 April 2010.

Signed:

Mayor

Signed:

Clerk & Chief Executive

COMHAIRLE AN IÚIR AGUS MHÚRN

NEWRY AND MOURNE DISTRICT COUNCIL

PURPOSE OF MEETING: Monthly Meeting

VENUE: Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry

DATE: 1 March 2010

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	8.25						
Burns W J	2	7.00	8.25						
Carr M	52	7.00	8.25						
Casey C	54	7.00	8.25						
Connolly M									
Curran B	6	7.00	8.25						
Donnelly G		7.00	8.25						
Feehan J W	49	7.00	8.25						
Feely F	8								
Flynn A		7.00	8.25						
Hanna I B	10	7.00	8.25						
Hearty T	59	7.00	8.25						
Kennedy D	12								
Murphy T		7.00	8.25						
Mathers M		7.00	8.25						
McArdle J	55	7.00	8.25						
McCreesh J P	44	7.00	8.25						
McDonald PJ	35	7.00	8.25						
McGinn P	56	7.00	8.25						
McKevitt K		7.00	8.25						
Murphy M	47	7.00	8.25						
Mussen C									
O'Hare J	37	7.00	8.25						
Oliver G		7.00	8.25						
Patterson J	38								
Reilly H	26	7.00	8.25						
Rogers S		7.00	8.25						
Ruane M	53	7.00	8.25						
Stokes G		7.00	8.25						
Williamson A V	39	7.00	8.25						

Officials in attendance:

Time of Arrival:

Time of Leaving:

Signed: *Colette McAteer*

Date: 1/03/10