

## **Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Derry City and Strabane District Council held in the Guildhall, Derry on Thursday 22 February 2018 at 4.00 pm**

**Present:- Members of the Committee - ; Aldermen; Bresland, Devenney, M Hamilton, R Hamilton, Hussey, Ramsey and Warke; Councillors McKnight, Gardiner, Kerrigan, Carlin, Carr, Cooper, Cusack, Dobbins, Donnelly, Duffy, Fleming, Gallagher, Hassan, Hastings, Jackson, C Kelly, D Kelly, Logue, McGinley, R McHugh, McMahan, Reilly, Robinson and Tierney.**

**C43/18 Notice and Summons of Meeting**

The Chief Executive read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

**C44/18 Webcasting Notice**

The Mayor read the Webcast Announcement for the Meeting.

**C45/18 Member Attendance and Apologies**

Apologies were received from Alderman Thompson and Councillors Campbell and O'Reilly.

Alderman McClintock advised that she and Aldermen Ramsey and Warke would be leaving the Meeting early to attend an engagement in Belfast.

**C46/18 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Councillor Boyle declared an interest in item as Council's representative on the CoDA Board.

**C47/18 Chairperson's Business**

**C47/18 Best Wishes**

The Mayor referred to the fact that this was Councillor Hassan's last Council Meeting prior to his retirement. He commended Councillor Hassan on the excellent work he had carried out during his twenty one years as an elected representative of Council and extended his best wishes to

Councillor Hassan and his family on his retirement from Council.

Councillor Fleming expressed his Party's appreciation for Councillor Hassan as both a political activist for forty years and a Councillor for twenty one years. He stated that Councillor Hassan had been a first point of contact for many of his constituents and had been to the fore in terms of building and developing Sinn Fein within the Greater Shantallow area. He had provided an excellent service to his constituents which was reflected in the large numbers who sought his advice on a daily basis. He made particular reference to Councillor Hassan's passion for housing which was a key issue for many of his constituents. Councillor Fleming said that Sinn Fein as a group would miss Councillor Hassan from Council however, he would continue his work as a political activist for the Party. He concluded that Councillor Hassan was a quiet and devoted family man and he wished him well in his retirement from Council.

Councillor Tierney, on behalf of his Party, paid tribute to Councillor Hassan on the work he had carried out particularly in Shantallow. He stated that he had worked with Councillor Hassan on a number of projects within Council and there had been genuine respect on both sides as they recognised the need to adopt a joint approach in order to achieve. He said himself and his colleagues found Councillor Hassan amenable and courteous in terms of working together amidst their differing political views. He extended both his personal and his Party's best wishes to Councillor Hassan on his retirement from Council.

Alderman McClintock referred to the massive contribution Councillor Hassan had made to Council and its electorate particularly in relation to housing development with which his name would remain associated and wished him well in his retirement.

Alderman Hussey, on behalf of his Party said the fact that Councillor Hassan had been returned to Council for 21 years was reflective of his success as an elected representative. He said he had not known Councillor

Hassan prior to the merger in 2015 but had always found him to be courteous and had enjoyed a good relationship with him. He extended his best wishes to Councillor Hassan on his retirement.

Councillor Robinson echoed Members sentiments and acknowledged the work carried out by Councillor Hassan in the Shantallow and Carnhill areas.

Councillor Hassan thanked Members for their kind words. He referred to the considerable changes which had taken place since the merger of the two Councils in 2015. He said as a Member of the former Derry City Council he had felt familiar with the processes which were in place however the merger had produced an entirely new composition which introduced a new learning curve. He thanked the Chief Executive and the Senior Management Team on their hard work and efforts in bringing the merger to fruition and particularly during the immediate transition period. He referred to the significant changes facing Council particularly in terms of having assumed responsibility for planning which gave elected representative an opportunity to have an input into the regeneration of the City in terms of planning applications. He said he felt a situation had arisen whereby Council had been given real power and could influence and have a significant impact on the future development and regeneration of the City.

Councillor Hassan stated that when he had been first elected onto Council in 1997 there were 800 people on housing waiting lists. This figure however was now almost 3000 and stated that there was still insufficient housing development to address this growing problem. He referred to the need to stop building housing developments comparable to Galliagh Estate. He referred to the housing developments at Skeoge which he felt lacked infrastructure and a sense of community. He referred to the need for the situation to be continuously monitored to ensure that the necessary facilities were developed within these developments which would ultimately be considered by Council through the planning process.

**C48/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Meeting of the Derry City and Strabane District Council held on Thursday 25 January 2018**

The Minutes of the Open Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 25 January 2018 (C1/18-C32/18) were submitted.

Councillor Hastings Moved, Councillor McKeever Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.**

**C49/18 Matters Arising**

**C49/18 Flooding Incident Response (Ref C11/18)**

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly, the Chief Executive advised that he had been liaising with the Department for Infrastructure during the past number of weeks. He stated that he had spoken with a senior official from the Department the previous day who had indicated that a public engagement and information session would be arranged in the coming weeks and the Department was currently working on the logistics. He stated that there would be considerable publicity surrounding the event to ensure that community groups and those most affected by the floods were made aware of the details. He concluded that the Department were embracing Council's request to hold this event which was currently in the planning stages.

**C50/18 Growth Deal/City Deal (Ref C8/18)**

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Chief Executive advised that it was anticipated that Members would be updated on progress in relation to the above matter at Meetings of the Governance and Strategic Planning Committee through the normal Committee process. He stated that a detailed report on this matter had been submitted to the January Meeting of the Committee.

The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council representatives who met with the Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

had included himself, the Mayor and the Lead Finance Officer.

**C51/18      Closure of Ulster Bank Branches (Ref C19/18)**

Alderman Hussey thanked the Director of Business and Culture for Meetings which had been arranged between local Councillors and representatives from Ulster Bank to discuss proposed closures. He said it had come to his attention that the parent bank of Ulster Bank, the Royal Bank of Scotland, had granted a reprieve to ten rural branches which they had intended closing in Scotland on the basis that if the proposed closures were implemented, customers would have to travel nine miles to the next available bank. He stated that the original request to meet with representatives from Ulster Bank was in relation to the proposed closure of the Castledearg Branch, which, if implemented, would result in customers having to travel 13 miles to the next available bank in Strabane. Alderman Hussey subsequently requested that a further letter be sent to Ulster Bank requesting that they consider granting a reprieve in respect of the proposed closure of its Castledearg branch given the decision by its parent bank to grant a reprieve in respect of ten of its branches in Scotland and if they were not prepared to grant such a reprieve request that they provide an explanation as to how branches in Northern Ireland differed from branches in Scotland which were within the same banking system.

Members agreed accordingly.

**C52/18      Notice of Motion – Circular Economy/Zero Waste Strategy (Ref C25/18)**

Alderman Hussey referred to a Westminster briefing scheduled for 29 March to discuss the government's waste strategy going forward and in particular the issue of plastics and queried if it would be appropriate for Council representation at that briefing given the implications which might arise from the issues involved. He continued that given the nature and content of the briefing he felt it would be appropriate for an Officer to attend on behalf of Council who could make subsequent

suggestions to the Chief Executive on the outcome thereof.

The Chief Executive undertook to discuss the matter with the Director of Environment and Regeneration.

**C50/18 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Special Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on Monday 5 February 2018**

The Open Minutes of the Special Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on Monday 5 February 2018 (SC15/18 – SC23/18) were submitted.

Alderman McClintock referred to discussion which had taken place at SC23/18 regarding the flying of the tricolour at the St Patrick's Day Parade in Strabane. She stated that Alderman Thompson had requested that the Minutes be amended to include his comments "that the tricolour was not the official flag of Northern Ireland".

Alderman Hussey expressed concern that the Minutes did not contain the Director of Business and Culture's contribution to that Meeting with regard to the issue of flags and emblems which the Mayor had suggested had not adequately answered Councillor's Carlin's question. An adequate response was subsequently provided by the Chief Executive.

The Chief Executive advised that the Minutes would be amended accordingly.

Alderman Hussey expressed concern that at the outset of the Meeting the Mayor had agreed that the issue of flags and emblems could be discussed at the end of the Meeting. However following Councillor Carlin's submission and the subsequent response from Officers he had refused any further discussion by Members.

Councillor Donnelly referred to the fact that at the beginning of the Special meeting Councillor Gallagher had proposed that Standing Orders were suspended to allow discussion on the flying of flags at Council sponsored events. Whilst his proposal had been overturned the Mayor had assured that discussion thereon could take place at the end of the Meeting.

Councillor Donnelly referred to the Chief Executive's comments at that Meeting that there was no Council ban on the flying of the national flag

and queried if there was protocol in Derry for those partaking in Council events to fly this flag.

The Chief Executive advised that there was no policy in relation to the flying or carrying of flags at Council events.

The Mayor stated that it had not been his intention to allow a discussion on the matter but to have information provided by Officers to respond to the question raised by Councillor Carlin. He stated that it had already been pointed out to him that a motion could not be presented at that stage. He reiterated that a response had been given to the question which had been raised and the matter had therefore been dealt with.

Councillor Carlin stated that the significance of the Special Meeting was the striking of the district rate which she had not wished to deflect from. However, she thanked the Chief Executive for the response provided by him at the Special Meeting. She stated that her address to that Meeting was to seek clarification on a specific issue and not to open a general debate.

Alderman Hussey expressed concern that having raised the matter discussion had only been permitted with Councillor Carlin.

Subsequently Councillor D Kelly Moved, Councillor McKnight Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes, as amended, be adopted as a true record of the meeting.**

**C51/18 Adoption of the Open Minutes of the following Committees**

**a Monthly Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on Tuesday 30 January 2018**

The Minutes of the Monthly Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on 30 January 2018 (GSP24/18-GSP33/18) were submitted.

Councillor Boyle Moved, Councillor Hastings Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting**

## **Matter Arising From Minutes**

### **C55/18 Irish Language Week 2018 (Ref GSP32/18)**

Councillor Donnelly stated that he had taken part in a Language Working Group which had met to discuss proposals for branding and signage. He said he understood this procedure had been exhausted without any official agreement and that a paper had been drafted by Officers outlining three options on a way forward. He suggested that this paper be presented to an appropriate Meeting of Council/Committee in order that a decision could be agreed by Members in relation thereto.

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Lead Democratic Services and Improvement Officer confirmed that a meeting had not yet taken place with Conradh Na Gaeilge however Officers were in the process of arranging such a meeting.

### **C56/18 Measuring the Impact of UK City of UK City of Culture 2013 (Ref GSP33/18)**

In response to a further query from Alderman Hussey, the Chief Executive confirmed that following the adoption of the above Minutes a letter would be sent to the Department for Communities regarding the Belfast Jobs Fair as recommended at that Meeting.

### **b Monthly Planning Committee held on Wednesday 31 January 2018**

The Minutes of the Monthly Planning Committee held on 31 January 2018 (P21/18-P38/18) were submitted.

Alderman Kerrigan Moved, Councillor Boyle Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.**

### **c Monthly Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on Thursday 1 February 2018**

The Minutes of the Monthly Assurance, Audit and Risk Committee held on 1 February 2018 (AAR14/18-AAR22/18) were submitted.

Councillor Gallagher referred to a recommendation made in relation to Minute AAR20/18 "to bring forward a report on the analysis of the recent court case", which had been omitted from the Minutes.

It was agreed that the Minutes would be amended accordingly.

Councillor Duffy Moved, Councillor McMahon Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.**

### **Matters Arising From Minutes**

#### **C59/18 NIAO Audit Strategy (Ref AAR21/18)**

Councillor Gallagher referred to the NIAO Director's response to his query during discussion on the above Minute "that the City of Derry Airport was not a going concern at the moment" and based on this and other information which had come to light

Councillor Gallagher Proposed, Councillor Donnelly Seconded

**That Council seek an urgent Meeting with Causeway Coast and Glens Council in order that they consider a contribution towards City of Derry Airport.**

Councillor Gallagher referred to the fact that Causeway Coast and Glens had recently announced, for their third year, that there would be a zero increase in their district rate. He said it was imperative that Council explored every avenue in terms of raising revenue towards the subvention in respect of City of Derry Airport.

Councillor Fleming questioned the validity of the Member's comments regarding the striking of the rate particularly given that he had negated his responsibility in terms of striking his own Council's district rate.

Councillor P Kelly stated that if the above proposal were accepted Council should also write to Donegal County Council and Mid Ulster Council as both these Councils benefited from City of Derry Airport.

Alderman Ramsey questioned the soundness of the proposal suggesting that it would lead to effectually bringing in shareholders. He said it was not possible to request funding from other Council's in respect of the Airport as ultimately it was not their responsibility.

Councillor McGinley expressed his opposition to the proposal. He suggested that through the Board's stakeholder engagement, which included Council representatives, a process of engagement be initiated with the other Councils which included Council representatives. He proposed that the matter be ultimately dealt with through the CoDA Board and a report thereon be presented to Council when deemed appropriated. He stated that Council would continue to lobby individual agencies for contributions towards the operation of City of Derry Airport.

Councillor Boyle concurred with the previous speaker's comments. He expressed concern that what Councillor Gallagher was suggesting was something of a laissez faire approach which would not derive benefits. He said he understood that there had been continued lobbying by the Management Board of City of Derry Airport and, not least the lobbying which had taken place with central government during the past eighteen months when promises had been given but had not been forthcoming. He stated that it was vital that central government, in whatever semblance, met its promise to Council regarding their financial commitment to City of Derry Airport which remained outstanding. He stated that approximately £4m had been committed to capital development. He questioned what benefits, if any, would be derived from approaching surrounding Councils requesting a contribution towards the operational costs of the Airport. He reiterated that the focus must remain on government commitment in respect of capital development.

Alderman Devenney said it was not practicable to approach other Councils seeking a contribution towards City of Derry Airport. He agreed that Council must focus and lobby strongly to acquire the £7m promised from central government in respect of the Airport. He stated that the government had announced that it would be committing £7m to City of Derry Airport which had given a level of reassurance to all those concerned with the Airport. He referred to concerns he had expressed regarding the last increase in Council's subvention to the Airport.

Councillor Hastings said he understood the Board had been appointed to oversee the management of City of Derry Airport. He acknowledged concerns regarding the level of subvention committed by Council but suggested that to adopt the proposal would undermine the Board's position.

Councillor Gallagher reminded Members that the comments regarding the Airport not being a going concern at present were made by the Audit Office. He stated that the current management of the Airport had failed and said that as this was a regional infrastructure then it should be funded by the entire region which benefited. He reiterated that Causeway Coast and Glens Council derived many benefits from City of Derry Airport particularly due to its location. He expressed concern at the lack of route development at the Airport as a result of which the suggested £4m for capital development would possibly have to be increased. He reiterated the need for the costs associated with operating the Airport to be spread throughout the region.

Councillor McGinley Proposed that the Board of CoDA be requested to initiate a process of engagement with stakeholders to include those Councils currently benefiting from City of Derry Airport.

Councillor Gallagher disagreed with Councillor McGinley's suggested amendment stating that it was not in line with his original proposal.

The following amendment was subsequently Moved by Councillor McGinley, Seconded by Councillor Reilly

**That Council request the Board of CoDA to initiate a process of engagement with those other Councils that it was felt may contribute to the operational costs of City of Derry Airport, as a matter of urgency.**

The Chief Executive said it was important to ascertain if this was an amendment or a separate Motion.

Councillor Reilly expressed concern at the urgency with which Councillor wished the matter to be dealt with.

Councillor Gallagher stated that his Proposal was in relation to Council's responsibility to its ratepayers and the impact of Council's increasing subvention to City of Derry Airport on the district rate.

The Mayor sought advice from the Lead Legal Services Officer regarding the viability of the amendment.

The Lead Legal Services Officer referred Members to Standing Order 17.1(1) and advised Members that the amendment was consistent with these criteria.

Councillor Gallagher pointed out that City of Derry Airport had been in operation for over twenty years and, the private company who now had responsibility for the management of the Airport, continued to seek subvention from Council to meet its annual shortfall. This ongoing situation did not instil confidence that the Airport was being managed satisfactorily by the CoDA Board. This was placing an unnecessary burden on ratepayers who were ultimately carrying the cost of running City of Derry Airport and referred to the need for Council to take responsibility in relation thereto.

Councillor McGinley said he understood that Council was the Airport's only shareholder.

The following amendment Moved by Councillor McGinley,  
Seconded by Councillor Reilly

**That Council request the Board of CoDA to initiate a process of engagement with those other Councils that it was felt may contribute to the operational costs of City of Derry Airport, as a matter of urgency.**

The amendment was then put to the vote and declared carried their voting For 29; Against -3; Abstentions – 0.

The amendment became the substantive motion.

A vote was then taken on the substantive motion the result of which was as follows For – 32; Against – 3; Abstentions – 0.

Subsequently Councillor McGinley Moved, Councillor Reilly Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that Council request the Board of CoDA to initiate a process of engagement with those other Councils that it was felt may contribute to the operational costs of City of Derry Airport, as a matter of urgency.**

**d Monthly Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 6 February 2018**

The Minutes of the Monthly Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 6 February 2018 were submitted.

Councillor McKnight Moved, Alderman R Hamilton Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.**

**e Monthly Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 7 February 2018**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 7 February 2018 (ER27/18-ER39/18) were submitted.

Councillor Dobbins Moved, Councillor Hastings Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.**

### **Matter Arising From Minutes**

#### **ER62/18 Winter Gritting Programme (Ref ER31/18)**

Councillor Donnelly referred to the recent weather warning regarding heavy snowfall the following week and the impact thereof on those most vulnerable members of society and newly born livestock. He referred to a number of issues which had arisen in local communities regarding gritting and grit boxes being replenished.

Councillor Donnelly expressed concern at a recent statement issued by Councillor Cooper that Transport NI would be supplying four large grit boxes in local communities which would be replenished by Roads Service. He stated that a number of Independent Members had met with representatives from Transport NI and a Council Officer who had confirmed that this statement was inaccurate. He said he understood that, due to ongoing difficulties, Council was currently considering purchasing six large grit boxes at a cost of £900 and he further understood that the Department for Communities had indicated that it would not fund the purchase of these boxes.

Councillor Donnelly expressed further concern at comments made by Councillor Campbell on social media that he had acquired two tonne of grit which was stored at the Cornbeef Tin. He had suggested anyone with queries should contact him or any Sinn Fein Councillor in their area. He queried why residents should have to

contact any political party to access grit. He suggested that Council set up a Working Group to consider the purchase of the six large grit boxes to ensure that all members of the public would have access to grit boxes and this would not be accessible only to specific communities.

Subsequently Councillor Donnelly Moved, Councillor Gallagher Seconded

**That Council sets up an Adverse Weather Working Group.**

Councillor Cooper advised that a Working Group already existed involving Council and the statutory agencies which met regularly and dealt with issues relating to adverse weather. He continued that his discussions with the Emergency Planning Officer were based on the fact that he was Council's point of contact in relation to issues such as the supply of grit. He acknowledged that there had been an element of confusion surrounding the heading of his recent statement regarding Transport NI. However, he had spoken to senior officers from Roads Service regarding this and there was an amended statement which had not been issued in the press. He continued that the Emergency Planning Officer had indicated that processes had begun regarding the initial purchase of four large grit boxes by Council to be placed across the three main urban areas and the rural area. He said the statement issued by Councillor Campbell was merely to reassure all members of the community, regardless of their political persuasion, that grit could be made available.

Alderman Hussey stated that in his area Roads Service had been very responsive to requests pointing out that in the rural area grit piles and not grit boxes were used. He acknowledged that there may be a slight delay in having these delivered. He suggested that the matter be discussed at the meeting with the Department for Infrastructure scheduled for the following week.

Alderman Devenny stated that whilst he supported part of the proposal he acknowledged that the situation could

change if weather conditions deteriorated rapidly. He expressed concern that by supplying grit boxes Council would be setting a precedent which could not be extended to the rural area. He made reference to the criteria applied in terms of securing grit boxes.

The Mayor acknowledged difficulties which were being experienced in areas which did not meet the criteria for securing grit boxes.

Councillor Gallagher stated that the grit boxes referred to by Councillor Donnelly were supply grit boxes which would not be intended for installation on street corners. These boxes could accommodate a considerable amount of grit and could be accessed by entire communities. He referred to numerous complaints regarding the filling of grit boxes currently in situ and commended the Emergency Planning Officer whose intervention had ensured that boxes in the Park area had been filled to cope with the recent spell of inclement weather. He said he felt the establishment of a Working Group would mean matters relating to inclement weather could be addressed as they arose.

In relation to the rural area, Councillor Cooper confirmed that these were jumbo sized grit boxes and he had been informed that four would be purchased by Council. He understood that discussions were taking place with Roads Service and local community groups regarding having the boxes filled. He said this issue had arisen due to complaints regarding the number of areas without grit boxes. He advised that the Emergency Planning Officer was Council's point of contact to address such matters and as such questioned the feasibility of a Working Group being established to address this problem. He said an adequate level of co-operation currently existed between the various statutory agencies and opposed the proposal to establish an Adverse Weather Working Group.

Councillor Carr stated that Roads Service or Transport NI could not be relied upon to fill grit boxes however they would be willing to arrange for Council to carry out this

task. He stated that neither of these agencies had the human resources required to perform this duty. The gritting of roads took priority over filling grit boxes.

Councillor Robinson referred to discussion he had with Roads Service regarding this matter when they had referred to the lack of manpower to carry out this duty following recent cuts. He stated that Roads Service could not confirm how many of the 307 grit boxes throughout the Council area had been filled and he suggested that the establishment of an Adverse Weather Working Group could assist in this regard.

The Motion was put to the vote and carried unanimously.

Subsequently

Councillor Donnelly Moved, Councillor Gallagher Seconded and the Council unanimously

**Resolved that Council sets up an Adverse Weather Working Group.**

**C63/18 Best Wishes (Ref ER30/18)**

Arising out of the above item Councillor P Kelly enquired why Council had stopped removing waste from rural roads. He stated that it had also been brought to his attention that Council were proposing to reduce the time spent on street cleansing in rural areas. He queried why Estate Services had been contracted to open the gates of the car park in Strabane in view of the fact that Street Cleansers were operating from 6.00 am and could be assigned with this task.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to present a report thereon to the next Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

Councillor Carr referred to difficulties being experienced by Cleansing staff during inclement weather which had resulted in refuse not being collected in certain areas. He requested that a report thereon be submitted to a

Meeting of the Environment and Regeneration Committee.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to submit a report to a future Meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Cusack referred to a number of complaints which she had received regarding delays in relation to the collection of bulky waste. She expressed concern that no information had been made available to elected representatives to relay to the general public. She suggested that such information be sent by email or text or that an information network be established through which such information could be made available.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration assured that this matter would also be addressed in the report which would be presented to the Environment and Regeneration Committee. She also requested that Members submit details of any complaints received to her Department and these would be addressed individually.

Alderman Hussey referred to his previous request that debris build-up on traffic islands throughout the district be removed. He said that whilst this had been carried out in the Strabane area there were areas in Castlederg and the Derg which remained untreated. He requested that the matter be addressed.

**f Monthly Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 8 February 2018**

The Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 8 February 2018 (HC24/18=HC40/18) were submitted.

Councillor Tierney Moved, Alderman McClintock Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.**

**C52/18 Minutes of the Special Planning Committee Held on Tuesday 13 February 2018**

The Minutes of the Special Planning Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 13 February 2018 (SP1/18-SP6/18) were submitted.

Councillor Gardiner Moved, Alderman Bresland Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the above Minutes be adopted as a true record of the Meeting.**

**C53/18 Notices of Motion**

**C66/18 Notice of Motion – Inquiry into Hyponatraemia related Deaths**

Councillor Logue Moved, Councillor Dobbins Seconded and the Council unanimously

**Resolved that this council sends our condolences and solidarity to the families of Raychel Ferguson, Conor Mitchell, Claire Roberts, Adam Strain and Lucy Crawford following the publication of the report of the Inquiry into Hyponatraemia-related Deaths;**

**This council states that we fully and wholeheartedly support the Campaign by Raychel Ferguson’s family for the introduction of Raychel’s Law for a Statutory Duty of Candour in honour of those children who have died as a result of Hyponatraemia.**

**And we instruct Council to write to the Department of Health and urge it to begin proceedings that will introduce a Statutory Duty of Candour.**

**C67/18 Notice of Motion – Impact of ‘Support for Mortgage Interest’ Scheme (SMI)**

Councillor Cusack Moved, Councillor Hastings Seconded and the Council unanimously

**Resolved that this Council recognises the impact that the changes to the ‘Support for Mortgage Interest’ (SMI) scheme will have on hardworking, low income families in our City and District who will face increased financial hardship due to the upcoming change in the SMI scheme from a benefit to a loan;**

**further recognises that this change will punish those who own their own home, including those who were actively encouraged by the British Conservative Government to buy their own homes during the crash;**

**is concerned that the conditions of this loan will cause people to get into unmanageable debt and is self-defeating in that it could cause people to lose their homes, and in turn possibly become more reliant on the state and on social housing;**

**and calls on the Department for Work and Pensions to urgently review this decision, as well as its financial impact and validity before the changes are made in April.**

**C68/18 Notice of Motion – Neighbourhood Renewal**

Councillor Tierney Moved, Councillor Boyle Seconded

**That This Council recognises the value of Neighbourhood Renewal as a flagship programme to tackle poverty and disadvantage; further recognises the contribution that Neighbourhood Renewal projects make to our most disadvantaged communities across this Council area; expresses concern at the proposed 11% cut to Neighbourhood Renewal budgets for the financial year 2018/19; and calls on the Department for Communities to protect the existing budgets for these valuable projects.**

The following amendment by way of addition to the Motion was Moved by Alderman Ramsey, Seconded by Alderman R Hamilton

**That This Council recognises the value of Neighbourhood Renewal as a flagship programme to tackle poverty and disadvantage; further recognises the contribution that Neighbourhood Renewal projects make to our most disadvantaged communities across this Council area; expresses concern at the proposed 11% cut to Neighbourhood Renewal budgets for the financial year 2018/19; and calls on the Department for Communities to protect the existing budgets for these valuable projects.**

**And that an Officer together with the Local Strategy Managers meets with the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities.**

The amendment on being put to the vote was carried unanimously. The amended Motion therefore became the substantive Motion.

A further Amendment was Moved by Alderman Hussey, Seconded by Alderman M Hamilton

**That This Council recognises the value of Neighbourhood Renewal as a flagship programme to tackle poverty and disadvantage; further recognises the contribution that Neighbourhood Renewal projects make to our most disadvantaged communities across this Council area; expresses concern at the proposed 11% cut to Neighbourhood Renewal budgets for the financial year 2018/19; and calls on the Department for Communities to protect the existing budgets for these valuable projects and consider the instigation of similar per capita support for those deprived communities beyond the current Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. And that an Officer together with the Local Strategy Managers meets with the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities.**

The amendment on being put to the vote was carried unanimously. The amended Motion became the substantive Motion.

Subsequently Councillor Tierney Moved, Councillor Boyle Seconded and the Council unanimously

**Resolved that this Council recognises the value of Neighbourhood Renewal as a flagship programme to tackle poverty and disadvantage; further recognises the contribution that Neighbourhood Renewal projects make to our most disadvantaged communities across this Council area; expresses concern at the proposed 11% cut to Neighbourhood Renewal budgets for the financial year 2018/19; and calls on the Department for Communities to protect the existing budgets for these valuable**

**projects and consider the instigation of similar per capita support for those deprived communities beyond the current Neighbourhood Renewal Areas.**

**And that an Officer together with the Local Strategy Managers meets with the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Communities.**

**C69/18 Notice of Motion – Annie (Russell) Maunder, Astronomer**

Councillor Carlin Moved, Councillor D Kelly Seconded and the Council unanimously

**Resolved that this Council recognises the pioneering scientific discoveries and ground breaking achievements of Strabane native, Annie (Russell) Maunder, Astronomer, who was born 150 years ago on 14 April 1868, and that we liaise with local schools and the Armagh Planetarium and Observatory to develop an appropriate programme of events to commemorate and celebrate her life and work during April 2018.**

The Mayor left the Meeting at this stage and it was agreed that the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Boyle, take the position of Chairperson for the duration of the Meeting.

**C70/18 Notice of Motion – Irish and British Government to Immediately Convene the British/Irish Intergovernmental Conference**

Councillor Gardiner Moved, Councillor Tierney Seconded

**That Given the recent failure of the SF/DUP talks and the urgent requirement for proper governance in Northern Ireland,**

**which reflects the requirements, cultures and aspirations of our diverse communities, Council calls on both the Irish and British Governments to immediately convene the British - Irish Intergovernmental Conference in the absence of functioning Executive and Assembly; and further calls on the Irish and British Governments to strengthen the implementation and workings of institutions under Strands 2 and 3 of the Good Friday Agreement.**

The following amendment was Moved by Councillor McGinley and Seconded by Councillor Duffy

**That Given the SDLP and Sinn Fein's stated opposition to direct rule and the urgent requirement for proper governance in Northern Ireland, which reflects the requirements, cultures and aspirations of our diverse communities, Council calls on both the Irish and British Governments to immediately convene the British - Irish Intergovernmental Conference in the absence of functioning Executive and Assembly; and further calls on the Irish and British Governments to strengthen the implementation and workings of institutions under Strands 2 and 3 of the Good Friday Agreement.**

The amendment on being put to the vote was declared lost their voting For – 12; Against – 13; Abstentions – 4.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared lost their voting For – 8; Against 17; Abstentions – 3.

## **C54/18 Correspondence**

The Chief Executive presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated. He stated that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of correspondence received in relation to proposals carried by Council.

Members noted the content of the report.

**C55/18 Seal**

Councillor Tierney Moved, Councillor Cusack Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that the seal of the Council be affixed to the following documents:**

**Documents Sealed 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018**

Grant of Right of Burial in Ballyoan Cemetery

Mr Michael Lynch, 13 Moira Park, Lisburn, BT28 1SJ

Grants of Right of Burial in City Cemetery

- 6BQ. Mrs Deirdre Campbell, 177 Carnhill, Derry, BT48
- Mr Joseph Ferry, 166 Hatmore Park, Derry, BT48  
0QJ.
- Mrs Mairead Brennan, 100 Victoria Road, Derry,  
BT47 2RN.
- 7HQ. Mr George Boyle, 2 Windsor Terrace, Derry, BT48
- Mr Freddy Daly, 25 Glenvale Park, Derry, BT48 0GA.  
Mr Peter Vail, 55 Petrie Way, Derry, BT48 8PW.  
Mr Jimmy Hammett, 3 Cromore Gardens, Derry,  
BT48 9TF.
- Mrs Rosaleen Wilson, 125 Bishop Street, Derry,  
BT48 6SU.
- Mr Joseph McMonagle, 21 Cable Street, Derry,  
BT48 9HF.
- 8GD. Mr Seamus Quigley, 9 Glendale Drive, Derry, BT48
- Mrs Moya McClafferty, 18 Belmont Crescent, Derry,  
BT48 7RR.
- 9NT. Mrs Pam Cross, 98 Westway, Creggan, Derry, BT48
- Ms Mary White, 57 Carrickreagh Gardens, Derry,  
BT48 9QW.
- Mr Sean McGillan, 4 Broadway, Creggan, Derry,  
BT48 9NS.

Ms Chloe McGilloway, 22 Central Drive, Derry, BT48 9QQ.

Mr Alphonsus McCaul, 22 Glenbank Road, Derry, BT48 0BA

Mr Adrian Kelly, 31 Ballymagowan Avenue, Derry, BT48 9QR.

Mr Ned Kennedy, 9 Drumcliffe Avenue, Derry, BT48 9EZ.

Mrs Cecilia Doherty, 1 Forest Park, Derry, BT48 0JN

**Grants of Right of Burial in Mountcastle Burial Ground**

Lynn Buchanan, 14 Stoneyfalls Park, Donemana, Strabane, Co Tyrone, BT82 0BF

William Bresland, 4 Killycurry Road, Artigarvan, Strabane, Co Tyrone, BT82 0JY

**Grants of Right of Burial in Castleberg Burial Ground**

Joseph Galbraith, 20 Eden Park, Castleberg, Co Tyrone, BT81 7BD

Andrew Galbraith, 23 Hospital Road, Castleberg, Co Tyrone, BT81 7BU

**Grants of Right of Burial in Strabane Burial Ground**

Lorna Kildea, 39 Olympic Drive, Strabane, Co Tyrone, BT82 9BA

Roy Hetherington, 21 Ballee Road, Strabane, Co Tyrone, BT82 0AA

**C73/18 Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – Confidential Business**

Alderman R Hamilton Moved, Councillor McMahan Seconded and the Council

**Resolved that in accordance with Section 42, Sub Sections (2) or (4) of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, the press and**

**members of the public be asked to withdraw whilst the Council discuss the following matters:**

**(a) Adoption of the Confidential Minutes of the Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 25 January 2018 and of Special Meeting held on Monday, 5 February 2018;**

**(b) Adoption of the Confidential Minutes of the following Committees:**

**(i) Monthly Governance and Strategic Planning Committee held on Tuesday 30 January 2018;**

**(ii) Monthly Planning Committee held on Wednesday 31 January 2018;**

**(iii) Monthly Business and Culture Committee held on Tuesday 6 February 2018;**

**(iv) Monthly Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 7 February 2018; and**

**(v) Monthly Health and Community Committee held on Thursday 8 February 2018.**

The Meeting terminated at 7.10 pm

**The Meeting went into Confidential Business**

**Signed:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**(Chairperson)**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_