

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber Lagan Valley Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 17 December, 2024 at 6:30 pm

PRESENT

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg,
A Grehan, H Legge, A McIntyre, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns, P Catney,
D J Craig, N Eaton, A P Ewing, A Givan, A Gowan, J Harpur,
B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp, S Lowry, U Mackin,
A Martin, G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever,
R McLernon, T Mitchell, G Thompson and Hon N Trimble

REMOTE:

Deputy Mayor
Councillor R Carlin

Alderman S Skillen, and Councillors J Gallen and
J Lavery BEM

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Director of Environmental Services (Acting)
Member Services Officers (BS, EW)
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the December meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed his Chaplain, Rev Stephen Reain-Adair to the meeting. Rev Reain-Adair then gave an address and said a prayer following which he extended best wishes for Christmas and 2025 to Members and Officers.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, since the previous meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors P Kennedy and D Lynch.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Members' Declarations of Interest declared at the meeting.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council – 26 November 2024

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 November 2024 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Council meeting held on 26 November 2024.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the following legal document be signed at the meeting:

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

- Lisburn & Castlereagh Council and Irish Waste Services Limited, 94-96 Hillsborough Road, Carryduff, BT8 8HT – Contract for the Recycling and Recovery of Residual and Bulky Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres and Council Bulky (Amenity) Collection Service – ref STA24/25-019

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Communities & Wellbeing Committee

3 December 2024

Proposed by Councillor D J Craig
Seconded by Alderman H Legge

Matters Arising

Item 4.2 Page 608
Blue Bridge, Hilden

Councillor G Hynds enquired if there had been any update on the issues he had raised at the December meeting of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee in regard to the Blue Bridge at Hilden. The Chief Executive advised Councillor Hynds that an update on these issues would be provided to Councillor Hynds directly.

Environment & Sustainability Committee

4 December 2024

Proposed by Alderman J Baird
Seconded by Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Baird reminded the Council that the minutes of the Environment & Sustainability Committee were subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am the following morning, 18 December 2024.

Verbal Matter

Stray Dog
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen raised the issue of a stray dog that had received significant media attention earlier that day. The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that this matter would be considered later in the meeting under agenda item 14. Any Other Business.

Regeneration & Growth Committee

5 December 2024

Proposed by Alderman A Grehan
Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A Grehan reminded the Council that the minutes of the Regeneration & Growth Committee were subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Thursday, 19 December 2024.

Corporate Services Committee
Proposed by Councillor N Trimble
Seconded by Councillor N Eaton

11 December 2024

Councillor N Trimble reminded the Council that the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee were subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Tuesday, 24 December 2024.

Governance & Audit Committee
Proposed by Alderman S P Porter
Seconded by Councillor S Lowry

12 December 2024

Alderman S P Porter reminded the Council that the minutes of the Governance & Audit Committee were subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Monday, 23 December 2024.

Planning Committee (for Noting)

4 November 2024

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 November, 2024 had been circulated for noting as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 December 2024. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor S Burns, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There were no reports from the Chief Executive.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for consideration.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business for consideration.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Stray Dog
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen highlighted the concerns that had been raised by members of the public in connection with a stray dog that was being held securely by the Council.

It was proposed by Alderman S Skillen, seconded by Councillor G Hynds, and agreed that a third party assessment be sought in regard to a number of issues in connection with the stray dog in question.

Comments were noted from a number of Members who supported the proposal by Alderman Skillen. One of the Members commended the manner in which the Council's dog wardens and other Officers had carried out their duties in relation to this issue.

In response the Chief Executive acknowledged the significant interest in this matter and gave an assurance that the dog concerned was in a safe place and that no immediate action would be taken. He was hopeful that the dog's owner would come forward and engage with Council Officers.

14.2 Special Meeting of Council to receive Dfl Roads (Eastern Division)
18th November 2024 – Follow Up on Actions
Councillor J Laverty

Councillor J Laverty enquired about any updates on actions from Dfl Roads following the Special Meeting of Council on 18th November 2024 at which a number of queries and issues had been raised.

The Chief Executive advised that if no response from Dfl Roads had been received to date Officers would contact the Dfl Officials in regard to the outstanding responses and report back to Council in due course.

At a later point during Any Other Business Councillor C McCready also advised that he had not received a response from Dfl Roads Officials on the issues he had raised at the Special Meeting of Council. Councillor McCready reiterated the concerns that had been raised at that meeting in connection with Dfl's on-line portal and asked that this issue be highlighted in a letter to Dfl Roads which would specifically request an explanation on the functionality of the online portal as information that had been input on the portal seemed to 'fall off' as no responses had been issued.

14.3 Success of Lisburn Christmas Light Festival
Alderman A Grehan

Alderman A Grehan, as Chairperson of the Regeneration & Growth Committee, wished to put on record her thanks and appreciation to the Lisburn City Centre Management team on the success of this year's Christmas Light Festival. The number of visitors to the Light show in Castle Gardens had been exceeded this year, with the dodgems in Castle Gardens and the Virtual Reality Sleigh Ride in

14.3 Success of Lisburn Christmas Light Festival (Cont'd)
Alderman A Grehan

the City Centre both having proved particularly popular. Alderman Grehan welcomed the positive reports across the Council's social media platforms and on behalf of the Alliance Party extended thanks to the Chief Executive, Directors and all the Officers involved for their efforts which ensured a successful Christmas light festival and also for their hard work during the year.

Alderman Grehan wished everyone sentiments of the season.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor concurred with the sentiments expressed by Alderman Grehan.

At a later point in the meeting Councillor N Trimble also commended the efforts of everyone involved in this year's Christmas Light festival.

14.4 Waste Collection Service
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney outlined his concerns in connection with the Council's waste collection service and in particular the condition of the current fleet of Council waste collection vehicles. Councillor Catney expressed concern that the Council's existing fleet of vehicles had been operational for a significant period of time with some of the vehicles having been in use now for seventeen years. He also referred to a recent visit to the Council's Depot where he had the opportunity to speak with Council staff who work on these vehicles.

Councillor Catney emphasised that this was an issue that affected every resident across the Council area and that the allocation of Council income for waste collection was one of the most important responsibilities of the Council. Councillor Catney emphasised that it was imperative that the income generated from recyclables was ring-fenced to ensure an efficient, effective and sustainable waste collection service. He stated that this was a service that Elected Members were elected to deliver and therefore a significant investment by the Council was necessary to future-proof this service and ensure waste was collected in the most economically and friendly way possible.

Councillor Catney referred to the £2.6m funding package from Government to help support Councils with waste services.

Councillor Catney concluded by wishing everyone a merry Christmas on behalf of the SDLP.

The Chief Executive by way of assurance to ratepayers advised that the Council had sweated its assets as best as possible and referred to the excellent garage of mechanics who continued to maintain these vehicles. The Chief Executive acknowledged the importance of ensuring that the Council maintains an efficient and effective waste collection service. He also affirmed that there had been an award of funding recently from DEFRA to all Councils in Northern Ireland for the next financial year and advised that a report would be reported to Committee in

14.4 Waste Collection Service (Cont'd)
Councillor P Catney

January 2025 in regard to budget allocation for waste projects to maximise recycling and reduce the amount of waste going to landfill.

At a later point during Any Other Business the Chief Executive responded to comments by Councillor G Hynds on the above-mentioned issues. Councillor Hynds echoed the concerns about the fleet of waste collection vehicles. He also paid tribute to efforts of the staff working in the Council's garages and those driving the lorries and wished them all a very good Christmas and New Year.

14.5 Passing of the late Mr Alister McReynolds, former Principal of SERC
Alderman A McIntyre

Alderman A McIntyre informed the Council of the recent sad and sudden passing of Mr Alister McReynolds who was well known to many Members due to his various roles in Lisburn and beyond. Alister had been a past Principal of the South Eastern Regional College for many years, having retired in 2007. He also had held various positions in recent times including: Honorary Fellow of the University of Ulster where he had given lectures on his specialism - the Scotch-Irish history, both in the USA and at home; he was an author, a former secretary of Lisburn Rotary Club and a former member of Lisburn Chamber of Commerce, as well as being a contributor to television and radio shows.

Alderman McIntyre advised the Council that he had become acquainted with Alister through his role in the Ulster history circles and stated that Alister's passion and expertise in this field would be missed greatly in that role.

At the request of Alderman A McIntyre, The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed to write a letter of sympathy, on behalf of the Council, to Alister's wife and the wider family circle.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed his condolences to the McReynolds family on their very recent bereavement.

14.6 Sentiments of the Season and Thanks to Officers, Council Staff and those working in the Voluntary & Community Sectors
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter, on behalf of the DUP, having wished everyone a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year paid tribute to the efforts of the Council's Senior Management Team for the quick and efficient manner in which they respond to requests and questions from Members throughout the year. He also expressed thanks and appreciation to Council Officers and staff across all the Council facilities for their efforts throughout the year.

Alderman Porter also extended sincere thanks and appreciation to all those who work in the voluntary and community organisations across the Council area who, he stated, do so much valuable work across our communities.

14.7 Condolences to the McDonald Family
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson referred to the tragic death of a young man, David McDonald, as a result of a road traffic accident on the Carryduff Road area of Temple the previous weekend and proposed that a letter of condolence from the Council be sent to the McDonald family on the death of their loved one.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor conveyed condolence to the McDonald family and stated that his thoughts and prayers were with the family at this difficult time.

14.8 Condolences to Dawn Campbell, Council Employee in the Ballyoran Community Centre
Alderman S Skillen

At the request of Alderman S Skillen it was agreed that the Council's condolence be conveyed to Dawn Campbell, who worked in the Council's Ballyoran Community Centre, on the recent passing of her father, Mr Robert Campbell.

14.9 Thanks and Sentiments of the Season to Council Staff
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, paid tribute to the hard work during the past year by Council staff and wished them all a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

At the conclusion of the meeting The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked those present for their attendance and again wished everyone a very merry Christmas and happy New Year.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.10 pm.

Mayor