



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 16 DECEMBER 2024 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor N Kelly)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – L Boyle, T Campbell, L Clarke,
M Cosgrove, M Magill, P Michael, S Ross and J Smyth
- : Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Brady,
J Burbank, M Cooper, H Cushinan, P Dunlop,
S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour, M Goodman,
AM Logue, R Lynch, H Magill, A McAuley, E McLaughlin,
V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, L O'Hagan, A O'Lone,
L Smyth, S Ward, B Webb and S Wilson
- Members Present Remotely** : Councillors – R Kinnear, T McGrann, M Stewart
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive – R Baker
Director of Sustainability, Operations – M Laverty
Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations – M McDowell
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
Director of Community Development – U Fay
Director of Organisation Development (Interim) – H Hall
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston
Deputy Director of Investment and Business
Development – M McKenna
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
ICT Change Officer – A Cole
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson
Member Services Manager – A Duffy

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting and advised Members of the audio recording procedures.

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Councillor Gilmour.

The Mayor, Aldermen Boyle and Magill, Councillors Burbank, Cushinan, Goodman, Logue, McLaughlin, McAuley, O'Hagan and O'Lone joined the meeting at this point.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor took to the Chair and welcomed all present to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Aldermen – P Bradley and J McGrath
Councillors – S Cosgrove, B Mallon

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 12.2 – Councillor R Foster

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 25 November 2024 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 2 December 2024 be approved and adopted.

AMENDMENT TO THE DECISION MADE AT ITEM 4.9

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Councillor Logue that

Members reconsider Item 4.9 Carpark Charges at the Operations Committee and consider Option two to increase the hourly rate at the three existing chargeable car parks from £0.20 to £0.40.

On the amendment being put to the meeting and a recorded vote having been requested by Councillor Archibald-Brown, Members voted as follows.

In favour of the Amendment 25 Members viz	Against the Amendment 11 Members viz	Abstentions 0 Members viz
Aldermen – Clarke, Magill, Michael, Ross and Smyth	Aldermen – Boyle, Campbell, Cosgrove	

<p>Councillors – Archibald-Brown, Bennington, Brady, Cooper, Cushinan, Dunlop Flanagan, Goodman, Kelly, Kinnear, Logue, Lynch, McGrann, McLaughlin, Magill,, Ní Chonghaile, O'Hagan, O'Lone, Smyth and Ward</p>	<p>Councillors – Burbank, Foster, Gilmour, McAuley, McWilliam, Stewart, Wilson and Webb</p>	
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The amendment was declared carried.

RESOLVED – the decision of Item 4.9 Carpark Charges of the Operations Committee be amended to Option two to increase the hourly rate at the three existing chargeable carparks from £0.20 to £0.40.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure

Councillor Burbank made a point of clarification regarding the wording of Item 7.2 under any other relevant business in relation to the Operations Committee Meeting Minutes. He clarified that he had requested that all financial decisions made at the Operations Committee meeting be included as a separate item for noting at December's Council meeting, so Members were fully aware of the financial implications.

In response to this request, the Chief Executive provided a verbal update and advised Members based on the recommendations made at the December Committee meetings, the forecast income generation was valued at approximately £1.2 million. As a consequence of the previous decision taken by Council, the income generation had reduced to circa £700,000, subject to any further decisions made by Council.

In response to a Member's query in relation to financial implications the Chief Executive further clarified that £600,000 equated to approximately 1% on the rate and that expenditure options would be further explored with a report being brought back for Members consideration in the new year.

The Chief Executive concluded that a reduction in income inevitably meant a reduction in expenditure, which may have detriment upon service delivery.

ACTION BY: Richard Baker, Chief Executive

AMENDMENT TO THE DECISION MADE AT ITEM 4.6

Proposed by Councillor Goodman
 Seconded by Councillor Logue that

Members reconsider the decision taken at the Operations Committee Meeting in relation to Item 4.6 Caddy Liners and proposed that the distribution of caddy liners be increased from two to six.

On the amendment being put to the meeting 11 Members voted in favour, 25 against and 0 abstentions.

The amendment was declared not carried.

6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Alderman Boyle
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 3 December 2024 be approved and adopted.

7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Development Committee Meeting of Wednesday 4 December 2024 be approved and adopted.

8(a) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 1

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 9 December 2024 Part 1 be taken and read and signed as correct.

8(b) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 2

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 9 December 2014 Part 2 be approved and adopted.

9 MINUTES OF THE AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Ward
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Audit and Risk Committee Meeting of Tuesday 10 December 2024 be approved and adopted.

10 NOTICE OF MOTION

Proposed by Alderman Magill
Seconded by Alderman Clarke

“That this Council condemns the failure by the Government to prioritise farming families and the rural economy as part of the Autumn Budget; notes with deep concern the decisions to introduce new thresholds for Inheritance Tax and Agricultural Property Relief, which will jeopardise succession planning on farms, create barriers for new entrants to agriculture and discourage investment in many farm businesses; further notes that these policies undermine the aim of increasing food security and promoting more sustainable and efficient farming practices; is equally alarmed that the Chancellor has opted not to ringfence farm support budgets or uplift levels of funding in line with inflation; calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to bring forward proposals to mitigate the impact of these damaging policies on local farms, as well as avoid significant increases in food prices; and further calls on the Minister to work with the Minister of Finance to deliver an early and concrete commitment to farming families that current levels of financial support will not only be maintained but increased in the next financial year”.

RESOLVED – that the Motion be declared carried.

ACTION BY: Richard Baker, Chief Executive

11 ITEMS FOR DECISION

11.1 ED/ED/292 RURAL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT GRANT SCHEME (RBDGS) FUNDING AWARDS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the award of funding through DAERA’s RBDGS to applicants detailed in Annex 1 (circulated), subject to satisfactory eligibility checks, successful application and DAERA budget allocation.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were reminded that in July 2024, it was agreed to deliver a Rural Business Development Grant Scheme through the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), alongside all other Councils in Northern Ireland. Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's available grant aid budget under this scheme was yet to be confirmed, although it was anticipated that this would be up to £62,000 as per previous years. In addition, a budget of 10% of Letter of Offer value would be provided from DAERA to the Council to administer the scheme.

The key aim of the Scheme was to provide capital grants of up to £4,999 to support micro-businesses located in rural areas with under 5,000 population to invest in new equipment or capital items. The objective of the fund was to enable businesses to remain sustainable or to grow. The maximum grant-funding rate was 50%, with 50% match-funding provided by participating businesses.

As determined by DAERA, the scheme was opened for applications on 16 October until 8 November 2024 for projects to be completed by 14 March 2025. The Department's deadline for issuing successful applicants with project Letters of Offer is 10 January 2025. Due to this deadline, approval was sought from Members pending final assessment and budget allocation.

A total of twenty-four applications were received in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough. To be successful in securing a grant, businesses applying must score a minimum of 65% in their application assessment. The assessment was due to be completed during week commencing 16 December by Economic Development Officers. In a number of cases the grant awarded was less than the request as items were not eligible or the grant award was based on the procurement presented.

Detailed in Annex 1 (circulated) were RBDGS applicants and their proposed project costs. Officers would conduct eligibility checks and assessments on each application. This was a competitive grant, where awards would be determined on the basis of merit. Values contained within Annex 1 were subject to change pending satisfactory eligibility checks, successful application and DAERA budget allocation.

Projects that were deemed ineligible or did not meet the threshold or criteria for the programme would be notified of the outcome and offered business support through other Economic Development programmes where relevant.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In July 2024, the Council gave approval to participate in the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme through the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), alongside all other Councils in Northern Ireland.

4. Financial Position/Implication

There was no direct financial contribution required from the Council. DAERA would provide 10% of the funds awarded through Letters of Offer (for administration purposes) to promote and deliver the programme, which would be managed by the Economic Development Team.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Alderman Boyle

RESOLVED - that Members approve the Rural Business Development Grants detailed in Annex 1, subject to satisfactory eligibility checks, successful application and DAERA budget allocation.

ACTION BY: Matthew Mulligan, Economic Development Officer

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Brady and

RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct the following business 'In Committee'.

Members were advised that the live stream and audio recording would cease at this point.

Councillor Ward left the Chamber at Item 12.1.

12 ITEMS IN COMMITTEE

12.1 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/324 GENERAL CAR PARK IMPROVEMENTS, REFURBISHMENT AND NEW WORKS – PACKAGE 4, GLENWELL AND FARMLEY ROADS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Goodman

RESOLVED - [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ACTION BY: Andrew McKeown, Capital Development Manager

Having declared an interest in Item 12.2 Councillor Foster left the Chamber.

12.2 IN CONFIDENCE WM/CON/005 INTERIM RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT CONTRACT

CONTRACT PERIOD THREE YEARS WITH THE OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER FOUR YEARS

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Moved by Councillor Goodman
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RESOLVED -

*ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Sustainability
Councillor Ward returned to the Chamber during Item 12.3.*

12.3 IN CONFIDENCE G-LEG-3-286 PLANNING AGREEMENT REGARDING MONKSTOWN JUBILEE COMMUNITY CENTRE AND MONKSTOWN PAVILION AND JUBILEE GARDENS

1. Purpose

The purpose of the report was to provide Members with an update regarding the Planning Agreement between the Council and the developer, Mr Paul Frazer, regarding works at Monkstown Jubilee Community Centre and Monkstown Pavilion and Jubilee Gardens.

2. Introduction/Background

In March 2022 the Planning Committee approved the planning application by Mr Paul Frazer for a social housing development comprising 37no units (14no semi-detached, 11no townhouses, 3no detached wheelchair accessible bungalows, 1no detached and 8no apartments), associated open space, landscaping, access from Doagh Road including reconfigured access to Aspen View, public footpath to Monkstown Road, car parking, foul pumping station and all ancillary site works.

As the development would lead to a loss of open space, the developer needed to provide the Council with a proposal which would make the loss of open space acceptable under planning policy. If planning permission was approved the proposal would form part of a legally binding Planning Agreement (as per section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011).

In this regard the developer agreed to pay for and complete the following: (1) complete LED lighting refit to Monkstown Pavilion – pitch and premises, including outdoor phone charging stations and, (2) complete lighting upgrade for Monkstown Jubilee Centre and Jubilee Gardens. This was deemed acceptable to allow planning permission to be approved.

Most of the works had been completed by the developer, however, works to the pitch at Monkstown could not be completed as the work was procured as a full contract for pitch and lighting and it was not feasible for the developer to deliver the lights element alone; the approximate value of this work was
£ .

Therefore, to satisfy the terms of the Section 76 Planning Agreement the developer could pay the Council the monetary value of the works of £ or undertake to do works elsewhere in the local area.

To comply with the Section 76 Planning Agreement the works or money could only be directed to be used for the enhancement to an existing area of recreational use or open space owned by the Council in the Threemilewater District Electoral Area (DEA).

The DEA Members suggested that some of the £ would be used to undertake lighting works at the Holocaust Memorial at Monkstown Jubilee Community Centre, and Officers would bring a report back to Members to seek instructions regarding the remaining sum.

Moved by Councillor Cooper
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour

RESOLVED – the necessary amount of the £ be approved to be used to undertake lighting works at the Holocaust Memorial at Monkstown Jubilee Community Centre, in the Threemilewater DEA. Officers would bring back a report to seek instructions regarding the remaining funds.

ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services and Majella McAllister, Director of Economic Development and Planning

Councillor Foster returned to the Chamber.

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘OUT OF COMMITTEE’

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Brady and

RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct any remaining business ‘In Public’.

Members were advised that the audio recording would restart at this point.

The Mayor expressed his sincere condolences to Councillor Kinnear on the recent loss of her partner Niall.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending the meeting and wished all a Happy Christmas and New Year. The meeting concluded at 7.25 pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.