

COUNCIL MEETING TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2021

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No	Item	Decision
1.	The Mayor's Business	<i>Received</i>
2.	Apologies	<i>Nil</i>
3.	Declarations of Members' Interests	<i>Nil</i>
4.	Deputation – Vice-Chancellor, Professor Bartholomew, Ulster University	<i>Received</i>
5.	Minutes of Council Meeting held Tuesday 5 January 2021	<i>Confirmed, including point of accuracy at Item 22.</i>
6.	Minutes of Planning Meeting held Wednesday 16 December 2020	<i>Noted</i>
7.	Minutes of Environmental Services Meeting held Tuesday 12 January 2021	
	Matters Arising	
	7.1 Dog Fouling (Item 4)	<i>Noted</i>
	7.2 The Shops (Sunday Trading etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Temporary Extension of Sunday Trading Hours (Item 14)	<i>Noted</i>
	7.3 Department for Infrastructure, DfI – Rivers Coleraine, (dated 1 st December 2020) - Re. Information of Rubbish/Debris along Bann River at Christie Park Path Coleraine (Item 15 (i))	<i>Director to follow up</i>

	7.4 Adoption of Minutes	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
8.	Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday 14 January 2021	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
9.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 19 January 2021	
	Matters Arising	
	9.1 Cushendall Cliff Path – Public Path Agreement (Item 4)	<i>Director to follow up</i>
	9.2 Portrush Harbour Public Realm (Item 3)	<i>Noted</i>
	9.3 Cushendall Cliff Path – Public Path Agreement (Item 4)	<i>Director to follow up</i>
	9.4 Adoption of Minutes	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
10.	Minutes of Corporate, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 26 January 2021	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
11.	Matters for reporting to Partnership Panel	<i>Noted</i>
12.	Conferences	<i>Approve (12.1 & 12.2)</i>
	12.1 Agenda NI - Northern Ireland Planning Conference	
	12.2 Institute of Government and Public Policy - Conference on Energy and Sustainability in the Public Sector	
13.	Correspondence	<i>Note (13.1 – 13.5)</i>
	13.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council correspondence dated 18 th	

	January - The Minutes of The 475 th Northern Ireland Housing Council meeting held on 10 th December 2020 and January Bulletin.	
	13.2 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council correspondence dated 4 th December 2020 – Requesting support of Notice of Motion recognising the unprecedented stress that has been placed on this year’s GCSE and A Level students.	
	13.3 - Newry, Mourne and Down District Council correspondence dated 7 th January 2021 – Requesting support of Notice of Motion recognising the importance of our National Health Service and the heroic contribution of our health and social care workers, and care home workers, throughout the pandemic.	
	13.4 Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards correspondence dated 15 th January 2021 – regarding Councillors accessing electronic communications from The Local Government Ethical Standards (LGES) Directorate.	
	13.5 - Northern Ireland Local Government Association correspondence dated 26 th January 2021 – NILGA Partnerships Panel Meeting 20 th January Outcome Notes	
14.	Consultation Schedule	Note (14.1 – 14.3 & (i) – (iii))
	14.1 Department for Communities – Consultation on the Revised Code of Practice on Obtaining Information – Submission by 8 th February 2021.	

	14.2 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs – Public Consultation Paper Extension of the existing NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy from 1 st April 2021 to 31 st March 2023 – Submission by 15 th March 2021.	
	14.3 The Executive Office – Launch of the Consultation for the Development of a New Strategic Programme for Government (PFG) – Submission by 22 nd March 2021.	
	(i) Department of Finance – Policy Screening – NI Official Statistics Order – Available to view.	
	(ii) Department for Communities Equality Screening Archive.	
	(iii) Department of Education – Department of Education: Equality Screenings Q/E December 2020 and Disability Action Plan 2020-24 – Published as previously circulated.	
15.	Seal Documents	Seal Affixed (i)
	(i) Grave Registry Certificates, Numbers 5077-5094 (inclusive)	
16.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Alderman Boyle, Seconded by Councillor McCaw ‘I, Alderman Boyle, wish to propose that a blue plaque, in recognition of Hercules Mulligan, be erected in his birthplace of Coleraine and that Council make a subsequent application to the Ulster History Circle for this and that Council pay for the erection of the plaque.’	Referred to Leisure and Development Committee
17.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Peacock, Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin ‘That this council continue to record proceedings of the council	Referred to Corporate, Policy and Resources Committee

	<i>when the council goes into committee. These recordings should not be publicly available but held by council for future reference....'</i>	
18.	Motion proposed by Councillor McMullan, Seconded by Councillor Chivers ' <i>That this council calls on the Agricultural Minister as a matter of urgency to apply for additional Covid funding in response to the urgent call by the Finance Minister for such bids. That this council believes it is an opportunity to help rural organisations, local communities and hill farmers within the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all those sectors that fall under the remit of his department that are facing such hard times at present.</i> '	<i>Amendment Carried</i> <i>'That this council calls on the Agricultural Minister as a matter of urgency to apply for additional Covid funding in response to the urgent call by the Finance Minister for such bids. We also call on the finance minister to ensure that funding that has been approved to subsidise those businesses who are waiting payments of grants due to COVID restrictions are speedily expedited.</i>
	<i>IN COMMITTEE' (ITEM 19)</i>	
19.	Minutes of Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday 14 January 2021 – In Committee	
	Matters Arising ' <i>In Committee</i> '	
	19.1 Rates Estimates 2021/22 (Item 6)	<i>Director of Leisure and Development to table report for March Leisure and Development Committee</i>

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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON
TUESDAY 2 FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7:00PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Alderman Fielding (C)

Members Present : Alderman Baird (R), Duddy (C), Finlay (R), Hillis (C), McCorkell (R), McKeown (R), S McKillop (R) Robinson (R) Alderman Boyle (R)

Councillors Anderson (R), Bateson (R), Beattie (R), Callan (R), Chivers (R), Dallat O'Driscoll (R), Hunter (R), Knight-McQuillan (R), McAuley (R), McCandless (C), McCaw (R), Holmes (R), McGurk (R), McGlinchey (R), MA McKillop (R), McLaughlin (R), McLean (R), McMullan (R), McQuillan (R), C McShane (R), Mulholland (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock (R), Quigley (R), Schenning (R), Scott (R), Wallace (R), Watton (R) and Wilson (R)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (R)
R Baker, Director of Leisure & Development (C)
P Donaghy, Democratic & Central Services Manager (R)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
S Duggan, Committee & Member Services Officer (R)
J Mills, Council Solicitor (R)

Officers In Attendance W McCullough, Head of Sport & Wellbeing (R)
A Lennox, ICT Mobile Operations (C)
A McAuley, Public Relations Officer (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R)
J Winfield, ICT Operations Manager (C)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)

In Attendance : Professor P Bartholomew, University of Ulster (R)

Public (2 No) (R)

Press (3 No) (R)

Key –

C = Attended In The Chamber

R = Attended Remotely

A = Attended remotely from a Council building

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor opened the meeting 'Good evening members, I want tonight to pay tribute to 100 year old Captain Sir Tom Moore, The British World War 2 veteran who very sadly passed away today. He captured the hearts of so many of our residents right across the Causeway coast region, many of whom donated to his charitable 100 laps across his garden whilst using his walking frame.

He raised many millions of pounds for our health service, money that no doubt has and will save lives. Many dream of super- hero's but Sir Tom was the nations real life superhero who we will all be forever grateful for the life that he lived well. Thank you Sir Tom. You have done yourself, your family and this Nation proud.

I want to condemn the weekend graffiti attack on St Mary's Church in Limavady. It was very sad to see a place of worship targeted in this way, and such despicable acts serve no purpose. I spoke with Monsignor McCanny on Sunday, and I relayed my solidarity with him as Mayor. I have no doubt that the entire Community is united in their condemnation of this incident.

I want to briefly mention a couple of engagements I have carried out since we were last together. I presented a token of appreciation to Conard McCullough who rescued his neighbour from a house fire and I attended the 'Black Santa' presentation in Ballymoney. My congratulations go to Alastair Coyles for raising such vital funds for five local charities.

I want to offer my good wishes to Paula McIntyre who is the new High Sheriff of County Londonderry. I have no doubt she'll be a fabulous ambassador for the area.

I'm also pleased to confirm that we have now launched our centenary civic gift initiative. Some potential recipients have already come forward, and I look forward to seeing this progress.

Finally I want to remind everyone that we must still adhere to ongoing coronavirus restrictions and health advice. We are indebted to our healthcare workers for their efforts, including those involved in the vaccine roll-out. We can best show our support for them by collectively following the guidance and upholding the restrictions.'

In accordance with Standing Order 4.3 the Mayor confirmed he had agreed to table an Emergency Motion (Item 18)

2. APOLOGIES

Apology was recorded for Councillor P McShane.

3. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interest.

4. DEPUTATION – ULSTER UNIVERSITY

The Mayor invited Professor Bartholomew, Ulster University Vice-Chancellor to provide members with an update on the Current Ulster University position.

Professor Bartholomew commencing by acknowledging the disappointing announcement regarding the relocation of School of Health Sciences from the Coleraine Campus to Jordanstown and Magee.

Professor Bartholomew outlined the vision for the University of Ulster including a providing a better sub-regional balance and multi-campus model and gave assurances of a renewed commitment, confirming that the University would continue to be headquartered from the Coleraine.

In terms of numbers the Professor confirmed that there were 4390 students enrolled for the current academic year and confirmed that elected members would be kept appraised regarding students numbers but pointed to underfunding issues and the undergraduate cap which influenced numbers.

A question and answer session ensued between the representatives and Elected Members.

Members spoke of their disappointment concerning the announcement to relocate School of Health Sciences from the Coleraine Campus to Jordanstown and Magee.

At the request of members, Professor Bartholomew provided confirmation as follows:-

- Continued investment in Sports Strategy with plans to extend School of Sport.
- 5.1 million investment in sports facilities is for all students to avail of as well as those outside of the University remit.
- University striving for Bio-medical Excellence
- Plans for School of Veterinary still on target
- University will work with Council and play their part in Growth Deal development
- University would welcome opportunities to baluster the student numbers through collaborative working with elected members.
- Commitment to education and up skilling post pandemic on demand.
- Collaborative agreements including Harry Gregg Foundation, Sports Centres and Colab lab.
- Community engagement ongoing including Riverside Theatre which is a form of community outreach
- School and community liaison ongoing
- Assurance of support to students affected by the pandemic including invoking the hardship fund, issue of laptops and taking a flexible approach with staff and students on a case-by-case basis as required.

The Mayor thanked Professor Bartholomew for his attendance and said he looked forward to continued engagement with the University of Ulster.

***Councillor Watton joined the meeting at 8.05 pm, during consideration of this item**

*** Professor Bartholomew left the meeting at 8.40 pm.**

The Mayor declared a recess at 8.45 pm

The Meeting reconvened at 8.55 pm

5. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 5 JANUARY 2021

5.1 Point of Accuracy (Item 22)

Alderman McKillop referred to a point of accuracy regarding the details of the resolution at Item 22 Bushmills Men's Shed lease which she stated should just have recorded detailed the details of the lease. Alderman S McKillop further commented that the minutes should also have included her comments regarding the economic benefits of the project and associated lease.

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan
Seconded by Alderman Boyle and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 5 January 2021 are confirmed as a correct record, including point of accuracy at Item 22.

6. MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 16 DECEMBER 2020

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 16 December 2020 are noted.

7. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 12 JANUARY 2021

Chair of Environment Committee, Councillor McQuillan, presented the Minutes.

7.1 Dog Fouling (Item 4)

Councillor McQuillan reported being contacted by numerous members of the public regarding the ongoing issue of dog fouling in the Coleraine area and commented that the matter had been raised at committee meetings and inter-agency meetings, where Council Officers, at present, were not in attendance.

Councillor McQuillan asked The Director of Environmental Services to explore employing a firm, at no cost to Council, to manage dog foul penalties as currently he felt that the current compliment of Dog Wardens was not impacting sufficiently to tackle the problems. Councillor McQuillan further commented that other Councils were working with such organisations and that the income from paid penalties was how the company were recompensed for the service.

7.2 The Shops (Sunday Trading etc) (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. Temporary Extension of Sunday Trading Hours (Item 14)

Alderman Duddy referred to email correspondence from the Chief Executive to members on 31st March 2020 seeking approval to extend and relax opening hours on a Sunday from 12 pm to 1 pm to enable health care workers additional shopping opportunities.

Alderman Duddy further referred to 'for information' report in 12th January 2021 Environmental Services Committee meeting which informed members that there would be a continuation to relax the trading hours for an additional 3 hours between 1000hrs to 1300hrs every Sunday during the calendar month of January 2021. From Sunday 7th February, trading hours will revert to that previously agreed, 1200hrs-1800hrs until further notice.

Alderman Duddy asked for clarification that Officers had delegated authority to amend the Sunday opening hours after 31st March 2020 and questioned the wisdom of bringing people out to shops for longer hours, suggesting that Council could be implicit in encouraging the spread of Covid-19.

The Chief Executive confirmed that on the guidance of the Public Health Agency, the short turn around and using delegated powers for emergency response Officers implemented the decision.

The Chief Executive further explained that the purpose of the decision was to spread the window of opportunity, to dilute numbers in premises and enhance social distancing.

Alderman Duddy asked that given the further lockdown to 8th March would the decision on opening hours be taken to Committee for consideration by members.

The Director of Environmental Services confirmed, at the request of the Chief Executive that on 7th February 2021 the opening hours agreed on 31st March 2020 would be put in place ie 12 noon – 6 pm opening on a Sunday.

Alderman Duddy referred to smaller businesses struggling at present who were not even permitted to establish a click and collect service.

Councillor Knight-McQuillan felt that to extend the opening hours in January instead of pre-Christmas when people were required to do larger and essential shopping was not prudent.

The Director of Environmental Services confirmed that the decision was taken on the advice of Environmental Health Northern Ireland and that the majority of Councils took advice and implemented similar arrangements for January.

7.3 Department for Infrastructure, DfI – Rivers Coleraine, (dated 1st December 2020) - Re. Information of Rubbish/Debris along Bann River at Christie Park Path Coleraine (Item 15 (i))

Alderman Duddy enquired if progress had been made to determine responsibility for removal of rubbish/debris as per correspondence above and indicated that the matter had been raised at the recent Towns Team meeting. The Mayor suggested that this be tabled at the next meeting of The Honourable Irish meeting.

The Director of Environmental Services agreed to follow this up.

7.4 Adoption of Minutes

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan

Seconded by Councillor MA McKillop

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held Tuesday 12th January are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

8. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2021

Chair of Finance Committee, Councillor McLean, presented the Minutes.

Proposed by Councillor McLean

Seconded by Alderman Duddy and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday 14 January 2021 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

9. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 19 JANUARY 2021

Chair of Leisure and Development Committee, Councillor Nicholl, presented the Minutes.

9.1 Cushendall Cliff Path – Public Path Agreement (Item 4)

Councillor McMullan referred to the maintenance of the car park at this location and felt that moves should be made to engage land owners with a view to extending the car park. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that he would speak to Councillor McMullan regarding this matter.

9.2 Portrush Harbour Public Realm (Item 3)

Councillor Anderson asked for an update regarding the cleaning regime in Portrush and provision of cleaning equipment. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that he had referred the matter to The Director of Environmental Services. The Director of Environmental Services confirmed that there was presently no funding for provision of the equipment but that the cleaning for this area would be scheduled as part of routine maintenance.

9.3 Cushendall Cliff Path – Public Path Agreement (Item 4)

Councillor M A McKillop referred to signage at this facility which was misleading as one sign indicated the facility was open and one indicated it was closed. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that he would look into this matter.

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 19th January 2021 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

10. MINUTES OF CORPORATE, POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 26 JANUARY 2021

Chair of Corporate, Policy and Resources Committee, Alderman Hillis, presented the Minutes.

Proposed by Alderman Hillis
Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Corporate, Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 26 January 2021 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

11. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

The Chief Executive advised elected members that the Outcomes of the recent Partnership Panel meeting were included as correspondence at Item 13.

12. CONFERENCES

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Chief Executive. The purpose of the report is to present conferences for Members' consideration.

The following were listed:

- 12.1 Institute of Government and Public Policy
Conference on Energy and Sustainability in the Public Sector – 13th May 2021, 9.00 am – 3.00 pm– Online via live, interactive platform. - Cost £295.00+VAT
Course Content:- Practical case study examples from public sector organisations will demonstrate how to fulfil green targets and achieve efficiency improvements in key areas such as accelerating the shift to zero-emission vehicles, promoting green public transport, greener buildings, protecting the natural environment and working towards net zero emissions by 2050.
- 12.2 Agenda NI - Northern Ireland Planning Conference
Thursday 11th February 2021, 9.00 am – 3.45 pm – Online - Cost £145.00+VAT.

Elected Members wishing to attend should register with Democratic Services.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the Conferences / Courses schedule.

RESOLVED – that Council approve the conference schedule.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Chief Executive.

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

The following were listed:

- 13.1 Northern Ireland Housing Council correspondence dated 18th January - The Minutes of The 475th Northern Ireland Housing Council meeting held on 10th December 2020 and January Bulletin.
- 13.2 Fermanagh and Omagh District Council correspondence dated 4th December 2020 – Requesting support of Notice of Motion recognising the unprecedented stress that has been placed on this year’s GCSE and A Level students.
- 13.3 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council correspondence dated 7th January 2021 – Requesting support of Notice of Motion recognising the importance of our National Health Service and the heroic contribution of our health and social care workers, and care home workers, throughout the pandemic.
- 13.4 Northern Ireland Local Government Commissioner for Standards correspondence dated 15th January 2021 – regarding Councillors accessing electronic communications from The Local Government Ethical Standards (LGES) Directorate.
- 13.5 Northern Ireland Local Government Association correspondence dated 26th January 2021 – NILGA Partnerships Panel Meeting 20th January Outcome Notes.

RESOLVED – that Council note the correspondence schedule.

14. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

Report, previously circulated, presented by the Chief Executive.

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members’ consideration.

The following Consultation Documents were presented

- 14.1 Department for Communities – Consultation on the Revised Code of Practice on Obtaining Information – Submission by 8th February 2021.
- 14.2 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs – Public Consultation Paper Extension of the existing NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2023 – Submission by 15th March 2021.

14.3 The Executive Office – Launch of the Consultation for the Development of a New Strategic Programme for Government (PFG) – Submission by 22nd March 2021.

- (i) Department of Finance – Policy Screening – NI Official Statistics Order – Available to view.
- (ii) Department for Communities – Equality Screening Archive.
- (iii) Department of Education – Screenings Q/E December 2020 and Disability Action Plan 2020-24 – Published as previously circulated.

RESOLVED – that Council note the Consultation schedule.

15. SEAL DOCUMENTS

Members were advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met.

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, Numbers 5077-5094 (inclusive)

Proposed by Councillor McQuillan
Seconded by Councillor Knight-McQuillan

RESOLVED - that the sealing of documents as listed (i) be approved.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN BOYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCCAWE

‘I, Alderman Boyle, wish to propose that a blue plaque, in recognition of Hercules Mulligan, be erected in his birthplace of Coleraine and that Council make a subsequent application to the Ulster History Circle for this and that Council pay for the erection of the plaque.’

The Chief Executive advised this would be referred to the Leisure and Development Committee.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR PEACOCK, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR MCLAUGHLIN

‘That this council continue to record proceedings of the council when the council goes into committee. These recordings should not be publicly available but held by council for future reference.’

Many times we have required clarification from a meeting which had gone into committee and not had the information available and many times we have seen call ins come back to say that the audio was not available and so limited consideration could be given or information on a members or officers contributions cannot be sought as the audio recording had stopped. In order to ensure good governance and ease of reference audio recordings should continue, in a manner most suitable, to be held privately by the council as a record of the meeting.'

The Chief Executive advised the Notice of Motion would be referred to the Corporate, Policy and Resources Committee.

18. MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCMULLAN, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR CHIVERS

'That this council calls on the Agricultural Minister as a matter of urgency to apply for additional Covid funding in response to the urgent call by the Finance Minister for such bids. That this council believes it is an opportunity to help rural organisations, local communities and hill farmers within the Causeway Coast and Glens area and all those sectors that fall under the remit of his department that are facing such hard times at present.'

Councillor McMullan was invited to speak in support of the Motion:-

'Members I am asking the Council to support my Motion calling on the Agricultural Minister to apply for extra Covid funding. This is on the back of the Finance Ministers urgent call for Ministers to make bids for additional COVID funding. This extra funding could be a lifeline to our farmers and rural community organisations who have all been at the forefront in the response to the Covid pandemic.

Farmers have really felt the brunt of a collapse in demand, especially for beef and lamb but they still have to keep producing, all the time adhering to Covid safety guidelines. Many of these primary producers are our hill farmers in the Causeway Coast and Glens. On top of the fall in demand of their product members, they are now experiencing the additional pressures of having no ANC payment and extra losses due to the decision to halt the transition towards a flat rate of Single Farm Payment entitlements.

Members I believe a scheme could be developed within weeks that would allow the Agricultural Department to make a bid to the Finance Department for this funding to support the hill farmer and other Agricultural Primary Producers impacted. This is an opportunity for our Council who has a large rural community to impress upon the Minister the benefit this additional Covid funding would make to our rural communities here in the Causeway Coast and

Glens. We as a Council must not allow this opportunity to pass us by, if we do we will be letting our rural communities down.'

Councillor Chivers was invited to speak in support of the Motion:-

'Although the previous allocation of money went to other sectors of the industry eg finishers who take their cattle and lambs to the meat factories where they get a set price, the suckler cow and sheep farmers have also been hit with COVID as they depend on the markets who have strict restrictions placed on them that limits the amount of buyers allowed in, also sellers are not allowed in at all therefore the farmer is unable to get a fair price for their stock. This sector needs to be treated as others have.

Our rural community organisations have been at the forefront of the response to the Covid pandemic. Many of these same organisations are carrying substantial overheads and running costs for buildings that are not currently in use due to the restrictions so they also need help.

And finally the extra funding could also be used in the RDP programme such as additional funding to projects and match funding, to projects that are ready to go, with all statutory approvals in place. We have a number in our Council area that this would benefit. I ask members to support our farm and rural communities and vote in favour of our Motion.'

Members broadly supported the Motion whilst some members felt that it was outside of the remit of Council and should be Stormont led.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Anderson

Seconded by Councillor Scott

That this council calls on the Agricultural Minister as a matter of urgency to apply for additional Covid funding in response to the urgent call by the Finance Minister for such bids. We also call on the finance minister to ensure that funding that has been approved to subsidise those businesses who are waiting payments of grants due to COVID restrictions are speedily expedited.

The Mayor put the Amendment to the Council to Vote
38 members voted For, 0 members voted Against, 0 members Abstained
The Mayor declared the Amendment Carried.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Scott

Seconded by Alderman Hillis and

AGREED – that Council move *'In Committee'*.

- * **Press left the meeting at 9.55 pm.**

The information contained in the following items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

19. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2021 – 'IN COMMITTEE'

Matters Arising 'In Committee'

19.1 Rates Estimates 2021/22 (Item 6)

Councillor McQuillan asked the Chief Executive for an update on the disposal of The Dunluce Centre. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed that there had been 6 bids in response to a development brief with 4 meeting the assessment criteria and offer in excess of £950,000. The successful bidders will have the opportunity on 12th February 2021 to present their proposals to a panel including the Mayor and the Chair of Leisure and Development in the capacity as observers. The Director of Leisure and Development confirmed he would bring a report to the March Leisure and Development Committee meeting for consideration by elected members.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Councillor Scott
Seconded by Councillor Anderson

AGREED – that Council move *'In Public'*.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 10.00 pm.

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