

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Tuesday 1st September 2026 at 6.00 pm.

**PRESENT IN
COUNCIL CHAMBER
(COMMITTEE):**

Councillor S Lowry (Chair)

Councillor B Magee (Vice-Chair)

Aldermen H Legge and J Tinsley

Councillors T Beckett, C Kemp, A Givan, G McCleave,
T Mitchell, N Parker and G Thompson

**PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION
(COMMITTEE)**

Alderman S Skillen and Councillors R Carlin and J Gallen

**PRESENT IN
COUNCIL CHAMBER
(NON-COMMITTEE)**

Councillor G Hynds

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Head of Communities
Head of Sports Services
Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)
Member Services Officers (HB & EW)
I.T. Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chair, Councillor S Lowry, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it would be recorded and live streamed on the Council website after the meeting, unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

Unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per 8.6 of the Council's Standing Orders. Mobile phones were to be turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting. Members attending remotely were asked to keep their cameras on. Finally, the Chair asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

The Chair welcomed those on Communities & Wellbeing Committee for the first time and also said that she was looking forward to the year ahead working with the Vice-Chair, Councillor B Magee.

1. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor J Craig.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following Declarations of Interest were made:-

- Alderman J Tinsley – Items 4.1 and 4.3 – Non-pecuniary interest. Helped community groups with funding applications. Would be leaving the meeting for these items.
- Councillor T Mitchell – Items 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3 – Pecuniary interest - Shareholder of Ballymacash Sports Academy and an elder of Granshaw Presbyterian Church. Would be leaving the meeting for these items.
- Councillor G Hynds – Items 4.1, 4.3, 5.2 – Non-pecuniary interest - Secretary of Derriaghy CCFC. Would be leaving the meeting for these items.
- Councillor N Parker – Items 4.1, 4.3 and 5.2 – Non-pecuniary interest.
- Councillor C Kemp – Items 4.3 and 5.3 – Non-pecuniary interest in Glenclare Community Group and St Joseph's GAC.
- Alderman S Skillen – Items 4.1, 4.2, 4.3 and 5.2 – Pecuniary interests and helped groups complete funding applications – will leave meeting for these items.
- Councillor G McCleave – Item 4.3 - Daughter plays for Glenavy GAC and will leave the meeting for this item.

3. Report of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

3.1 Presentation – Terms of Reference for Communities & Wellbeing Committee

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing gave a Powerpoint presentation regarding the Terms of Reference for the Committee and showed a film clip showing the range of work which staff in the department carry out. There were no questions from Members.

Councillors G Hynds and T Mitchell and Alderman J Tinsley left the meeting before Item 4.1 as did Alderman S Skillen who was in remote attendance.

4. Report of the Head of Communities

4.1 DIY & Technical Assistance Fund 2026 / 2027

The Head of Communities reported on the Outcomes of Assessment for the DIY & Technical Assistance Fund 2026 / 2027 and provided a narrative report and Appendix. This scheme was part of the DEA Investment Programme which was approved by this committee in April.

There was an open call and advisory workshops were held; 49 applications were received with 46 being deemed eligible for funding. There was an underspend in the scheme which will be put into the DEA Investment Programme.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor B Magee, and agreed to recommend that:

- the successful applicants be awarded their weighted score, subject to compliance with the terms and conditions as part of the grant process.

Councillor A Givan joined the meeting at 6.20 pm, at the beginning of Item 4.2

4.2 Addressing Poverty & Social Exclusion Grant

The Head of Communities explained that this funding scheme was also part of the DEA Investment Programme and that delegated authority had been granted to allow organisations to receive funding prior to the summer.

A narrative report and appendix detailing the outcomes of the Addressing Poverty & Social Exclusion Fund had been provided to Members.

The report was proposed by Councillor Kemp and seconded by Councillor Parker.

4.3 Communities Facilities Fund 2026 / 2027

A narrative report and appendix were provided by the Head of Communities who explained that 80 applications had been received which showed unprecedented demand; this was an increase of 128% compared to the previous year. It was recommended that Members agreed to:

- Proceed with Option 3 and allocate the full award, of the weighted score, to all 69 successful groups, subject to approval of reserves at Corporate Services Committee in September.

Councillor B Magee proposed the recommendation, suggesting that the criteria is considered in the future, which was seconded by Councillor T Beckett.

4.3 Communities Facilities Fund 2026 / 2027 (ctd)

While Members welcomed the increase in applications, they also asked about measures which officers take to oversee the funding. The Head of Communities outlined the governance and verification measures implemented for funded organisations and confirmed clawback arrangements are in place for unspent funds.

Councillors G Hynds, T Mitchell and Alderman J Tinsley rejoined the meeting in the Chamber and Alderman S Skillen rejoined remotely at the end of this item.

5. Report of Head of Sports Services

5.1 Dundonald Touring Caravan Park accreditation

The Head of Sports Services brought a narrative report to Members about the AA 4 Gold Star Rating which has been awarded again to Dundonald Touring Caravan Park. There have been visitors from 26 different countries staying at the Caravan Park over the past year, including Australia, New Zealand and Brazil. The AA 4 Gold Star accommodation is the highest rating available for stand-alone touring caravan sites.

The report was duly noted by Members.

5.2 Sports Club Enhancement Fund

Councillors G Hynds, C Kemp and G McCleave left the Chamber at 6.35 pm for Item 5.2.

A narrative report and appendix detailing the funding scheme and details of applications was provided by the Head of Sports Services. There were 50 applications to the Sports Club Enhancement Fund with 47 applications being successful.

It was recommended that:

- Grants through the Sports Club Enhancement Fund be awarded to all 47 successful applicants.

Councillors G Hynds, C Kemp and G McCleave returned to the Chamber at the end of Item 5.2 at 6.38 pm.

6 Report of Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)

6.1 Delegated Authority – Decisions taken over the Summer Months (Parks & Amenities)

The Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting) presented a report and Appendix detailing the two events taken under delegated authority arrangements over the summer months. This report was noted by Members.

7. Any Other Business (Non-Confidential)

7.1. Period Poverty
Councillor N Parker

Councillor N Parker asked if the period poverty project could be re-looked at. The Head of Communities explained that this was a project started by The Executive Office (TEO) and now led by Libraries NI. The Head of Service will engage with TEO to explore opportunities for expanding the scheme to additional facilities.

7.2 Parks Events
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen thanked staff in Parks & Amenities Unit for the recent 'Park Life' events which have been fantastic.

7.3 Portmore & Aghalee Graveyards and ASB at Laurelhill Sportzone
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley paid tribute to the hard work of staff at both Portmore and Aghalee Graveyards which has made them much safer.

Alderman J Tinsley also reported that a number of residents in Lombard Avenue had raised concerns about noise late at night that appeared to emanate from the car park at Laurelhill Sportszone. The Head of Sports Services confirmed he was aware of this issue and was working with the schools, Education Authority and Capital colleagues to progress a barrier solution, timeframe would be dependent upon any planning considerations.

7.4 Ulster Grand Prix
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley explained that Motorcycle Union Ireland would be keen to run the event in Lisburn in 2027. The Director of Leisure, Communities & Wellbeing explained that officials from Motorcycle Union Ireland have been working with central government and other funders at the overall programme. Council officials have engaged with the Motorcycle Union Ireland, however, approvals and a report would need to be presented, possibly in October or November.

7.5 Aberdelghy, McIlroy Park and Huguenot Park
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds asked about the progress with Aberdelghy. He also pointed out that constituents have complained to him about overflowing bins at McIlroy Park and Huguenot Park.

7.6 Blue Bridge
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds thanked Parks staff for cutting grass around the Blue Bridge. However, since the Blue Bridge belongs to the Department for Infrastructure, he asked if they could be encouraged to maintain the grass cutting.

7.7 Hanging Baskets at Milltown
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds explained that residents from Milltown Village told him that hanging baskets were supposed to be put up back in April.

7.8 Parking at Wallace Park
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds explained that parking around the residential area at Wallace Park is becoming an issue when events take place in the park.

The Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting) will find out about these various issues and get back to Councillor G Hynds.

7.9 New Dundonald International Ice Bowl (DIIB)
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen asked if the 'Free Fall', which was an iconic part of the original Dundonald Ice Bowl, could be stored somewhere in the future. The Head of Sports Services confirmed this can be looked at.

7.10 Summer Schemes
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry commended the staff for the excellent summer schemes that were organised.

7.11 Summer Scheme at DIIB (Dundonald International Ice Bowl)
Alderman H Legge

Alderman H Legge passed on thanks from a friend who commended the council for the great summer scheme at Dundonald International Ice Bowl who said that the range of activities and trips were very good and the summer scheme was excellent value for money.

8 Any Other Business (Confidential)

There was no confidential business.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chair, Councillor S Lowry, thanked those present for their attendance and - there being no further business - the meeting concluded at 6.49 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIR