

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 28 October, 2025 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman A Grehan

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

Councillors J Bamford, D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns,
R Carlin, P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, A P Ewing,
A Givan, A Gowan, J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds,
C Kemp, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, U Mackin, B Magee,
T Mitchell, G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever,
R McLernon, N Parker, G Thompson and Hon N Trimble

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Alderman S Skillen and Councillor D Lynch

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

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

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the meeting of Council which was being livestreamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor 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 the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Andrew Thompson, to the meeting of Council. Rev A Thompson addressed the meeting and said a prayer, during which he expressed condolences to Councillor Gretta Thompson on the passing of her mother, Mrs Mary Loughlin, in recent weeks.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Rev A Thompson for his attendance and he left the meeting.

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, Alderman A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, since the last meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor put on record her thanks to Council staff, local businesses, community groups, sporting clubs, and every individual who got behind the 'Paint the Town Pink' campaign. The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed everyone's enthusiasm and generosity which made this initiative a tremendous success. It also brought people together to raise vital funds for her Mayoral charity, Action Cancer, and raise awareness about the importance of screening and early detection.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also put on record her sincere thanks to Officers and staff in the Mayor's Office for their excellent work in organising her Mayor's Dinner. It was a wonderful evening where everyone came together to celebrate local disability groups and to hear from some truly inspiring young speakers. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also expressed thanks to all her guests for being part of such a meaningful night, the theme this year being *inclusivity for disability*.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed the news that the first sod would be dug at Canal Boxing Club's new site at the Queen Elizabeth II Park on Monday and conveyed thanks to the Director of Regeneration & Growth and his team for their efforts in bringing this project forward.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, Alderman J Tinsley and Councillors J Gallen and A Martin.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Gowan declared an interest in item 4.1 of the Community & Wellbeing Committee minutes Sports Accelerator Fund in view of a family member being a member of Dromara Village Football Club and Lisnagarvey Hockey Club.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 23 September, 2025

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 September, 2025 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and PWS Ireland Ltd, Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry BT34 QX – The Manufacture and Delivery of Street Nameplates for LCCC (T24/25-057);
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Workforce Training Services, 88 Springfield Road, Belfast BT12 7AJ – For delivery of F25/26-007 – Transport Academy as per the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Action Plan 2025/26;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Shannon Road Markings Ltd, 9a Groganstown, Belfast BT17 0NR – Contract for AT4 Line Marking 1st September 2025 – 31st August 2028 (T25/26-013); and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Sunbelt Rentals Ltd, 100 Cheapside, London EC2V 6DT; Maurice Flynn & Sons Ltd, Saunders House, Springfield Industrial Estate, 2 Springbank Road, Belfast BT17 0QL; Balloo Hire Centre Limited, 31 Sydenham Road, Belfast BT3 9DH; KDM Hire Ltd, Alexander Road, Castlereagh BT6 9HP – Contract for AT2 Hire of Plant and Machinery 1st September 2025 – 31st August 2028 (T25/26-014).

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Special Governance and Audit Committee

25 September, 2025

Proposed by Councillor D Bassett

Seconded by Alderman S P Porter

Environment and Sustainability Committee

1 October, 2025

Proposed by Alderman A Gowan

Seconded by Councillor S Burns

Regeneration and Growth Committee

2 October, 2025

Proposed by Councillor C Kemp

Seconded by Councillor J Harpur

Councillor R Carlin left the meeting at 7.17 pm and returned at 7.19 pm.

Communities and Wellbeing Committee

7 October, 2025

Proposed by Councillor T Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor A Givan

Adopted subject to the following wording being included at item 6.6:

6.6 Wet Condition of Dog Exercise Area in Ballybeen:

Councillor S Lowry put on record her thanks to the staff in the Parks & Amenities Team for the quick response to the recent issues of flooding and maintenance. Councillor Lowry also requested that the Parks & Amenities team carry out more than a weekly inspection of the park as these issues seemed to be a recurring issue.

Matters Arising

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Notice of Motion – to include Dogs at LCCC Events

Councillor A P Ewing welcomed the proposed addition of two bespoke dog friendly events on a pilot basis and expressed thanks to the Officers for their work on these pilot events. Councillor Ewing looked forward to the events taking place which, he stated, would be a great social event for all local dog owners.

Corporate Services Committee

8 October, 2025

Proposed by Councillor B Higginson

Seconded by Councillor J Bamford

Planning Committee

8 September, 2025

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 8 September, 2025 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 6 October, 2025. It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

The Chief Executive presented the undernoted reports in connection Section 76 Planning Agreements.

9.1 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2020/0303/F

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

9.2 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2023/0623/F

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

9.3 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2023/0900/F

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

9.4 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2024/0513/F

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above agreement by the Mayor and 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. Notice of Motion

12.1 No 1 on the Subject of Digital ID Cards
Councillor A Gowan

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor A Gowan, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

12.1 No 1 on the Subject of Digital ID Cards (Cont'd)
Councillor A Gowan

“This Council notes with concern the Labour Government’s plans to introduce Digital ID cards across the United Kingdom.

Council believes that such a scheme poses serious risks to personal privacy and creates potential for misuse of citizens’ personal data. We further recognise that past proposals for ID card systems in the UK have been met with widespread public opposition, with legitimate fears around civil liberties, data security, and the cost of implementation.

Accordingly, this Council:

1. Expresses its opposition to the introduction of Digital ID cards.
2. Affirms its commitment to protecting the privacy of our residents.
3. Calls on the Labour Government to abandon its plans for Digital ID cards and to instead focus on policies which deliver practical improvements in public services, and that address public concerns with illegal immigration on a pan-UK basis.
4. Agrees to write to the Prime Minister to communicate this Council’s opposition and to urge the Government to drop these proposals.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor A Gowan and seconded by Councillor S Burns.

Councillor A Gowan elaborated on his Notice of Motion during which he highlighted five key areas of concern in relation to the Prime Minister’s proposals to introduce Digital ID cards:

- Privacy and Personal Freedom: once everyone’s identity is controlled in one government system it is open to the possibility of linking that information to go far beyond its original purpose, and this can create risks for personal privacy and public confidence. Councillor Gowan stated that in a democracy the ID belongs to the individual and not the State.
- Security and Data Risks: Councillor Gowan referred to the havoc that is caused when data has been hacked. He stated that there are risks in having everyone’s personal identity in one place. This would breach the trust between the State and the individual, and would be on a scale rarely seen before.
- the Prime Minister claims that the Digital ID card is about tackling illegal immigration: Councillor Gowan stated that it was clear that the Digital ID card would not be an effective deterrent to illegal immigration into the UK.
- risk of function creep: Councillor Gowan advised that experience shows that once new technology in place it tends to find new uses. What begins as a form of ID soon becomes essential to access of everyday services. This is not deliberate – it just evolves over time and the best way to approach this is to stop it at its inception.

12.1 No 1 on the Subject of Digital ID Cards (Cont'd)
Councillor A Gowan

- exclusion and inequality: many people in society do not have a smartphone nor do they want one and when this issue was posed to the Prime Minister he said alternatives would have to be found. Councillor Gowan emphasised that a fair society must make sure access to public services and opportunities is open for all and not just for those who can log in.

In closing Councillor Gowan reiterated that this proposal was unnecessary, intrusive and counter-productive. He stated that there was no real public demand for a Digital ID card as in the region of 5000 people in Lagan Valley had signed the petition. These risks undermine trust in Government and are widening the gap between citizens and the state. What we need is confidence, transparency and fairness. Councillor Gowan urged every Member to send a united message from the Council that evening.

Councillor S Burns having seconded the Notice of Motion, also referred to the fundamental concern about privacy and misuse of personal data. Councillor Burns made a number of points in support of the Notice of Motion, including:

- in an age where data breaches are becoming more of a problem the introduction of a digital ID system could create an enormous central database of personal information and even the most secure systems have been hacked. If the Government cannot guarantee absolute protection it has no right to collect this sensitive data in the first place as once leaked this information cannot be recovered
- fears about surveillance and state control: the UK public has repeatedly rejected Digital ID card schemes as they raise legitimate fears about surveillance and state control. They risk a society where ordinary citizens feel constantly monitored.
- the sensible use of public money: the cost of developing, maintaining and securing such a system would cost billions of pounds which could go to valuable front-line services.

Councillor Burns concluded by stating that this proposal was expensive, risky and deeply unpopular and it would threaten the very principles of privacy and freedom. Councillor Burns stated that elected representatives were here to protect therefore she would be supporting this Notice of Motion.

Councillors C Kemp, N Trimble, G McCleave and P Catney, on behalf of their respective political parties, spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

In summing up Councillor A Gowan welcomed the support of all Members that evening. Councillor Gowan acknowledged that there were differing reasons across the Council's political spectrum as to why certain sections of our community oppose the introduction of digital ID cards.

12.1 No 1 on the Subject of Digital ID Cards (Cont'd)
Councillor A Gowan

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor A Gowan, seconded by Councillor S Burns, was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

12.2 Standing Up for Innocent Victims
Councillor T Beckett

Councillor D Lynch joined the meeting remotely at 7.37 pm.

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor R T Beckett had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council is deeply alarmed that the definition of victim in the Victims and Survivors (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 does not distinguish between those who perpetrated wrongdoing during the Troubles and the innocent victims they harmed, injured, killed or bereaved; believes that innocent victims should not have to interact with terrorists and their supporters when accessing victim support services; asserts that there is no moral equivalence between victim-makers and innocent victims; welcomes the fact that the victims pension legislation makes a clear distinction between perpetrator and victim; condemns the Alliance Party’s decision to intentionally blur this line by removing the word “innocent” from the description of a victim in a recent Assembly motion addressing the legacy of the past; and resolves to write to the Justice Minister requesting that she personally apologise for suggesting that victim makers could also be considered victims”.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor R T Beckett and seconded by Councillor B Higginson.

At the outset Councillor Beckett expressed his condemnation the recent behaviour at the home of the Justice Minister when masked men held a protest outside her home.

Councillor Beckett then spoke on his Notice of Motion during which he highlighted a number of significant and personal issues, including:

- all too often especially during the Troubles masked men carried out cowardly acts on members of the public innocently going about their daily lives. Many people were killed in their own homes sometimes in front of their family members, leaving families devastated with the loss of a father, mother, brother or sister, and singled out because they stood up against terrorism. Councillor Beckett paid tribute to those brave families who were left to carry on after terrorist atrocities. This was why there needs to be a distinction between victim and perpetrator.
- the Victims & Survivors NI Order 2006 initially defined the victim as someone injured as result of a conflict-related incident without making distinction between the innocent victim and the perpetrator. Legislation at that time was

12.2 Standing Up for Innocent Victims (Cont'd)
Councillor T Beckett

heavily criticised for failing to distinguish between those serving their county or those who were innocent victims and perpetrators of violence.

- the introduction of the UK Government's Troubles Permanent Disablement Payment Scheme in 2021 in support of innocent victims. Legislation made a clear definition by including provision to deny payments if the applicant had a relevant conviction based on their conduct. This was about recognising those who are permanently injured through no fault of their own and excludes those whose actions caused the injury. Councillor Beckett stated that two political parties had tabled an amendment which removed the word 'innocent' from a recent Assembly motion on legacy issues. He stated that this was an insult to those who continue to grieve for loved ones murdered by terrorists. The word innocent should not be removed. Innocent does mean innocent.
- as Remembrance Sunday approaches Councillor Beckett stated he had never forgotten the atrocities he had witnessed in Enniskillen in 1987. He had witnessed the atrocities and the fear of those attending an act of remembrance, many remembering their loved ones who lost their lives during the Troubles.

In concluding Councillor Beckett re-emphasised that the Justice Minister should be standing up for innocent victims and should review what she has said. There needs to be a distinction between those carrying out acts of murder and violence and those who were targeted by them. The word innocent should not be erased and there needs to be a distinction between perpetrators and victim. Innocent does mean innocent.

Councillor B Higginson having seconded the Notice of Motion stated that the motion was an important Motion. It was not about dealing with the past but it was about how to navigate the present as people in this Country were still living in the present with the legacy of the trauma and atrocities committed against them.

Councillor Higginson stated that recently the living legacy of the trauma has been reopened by the cruel decision of Alliance Party and the Sinn Fein Party who have chosen to inflict sorrow into the wounds of people already hurting. Councillor Higginson also recounted a personal story of the murder of a good friend and asked where was Alliance's compassion for a nine year old boy left orphaned by those very people they now call victims.

In concluding Councillor Higginson made it clear that he would be supporting this Notice of Motion which condemned the attempt to blur the lines between victim and victim maker.

Councillors T Mitchell and Alderman A G Ewart on behalf of their respective political parties, spoke in support of the Notice of Motion during which they recounted personal stories of atrocities, and they too spoke in support of the issues raised by Councillor Beckett.

12.2 Standing Up for Innocent Victims (Cont'd)
Councillor T Beckett

Councillor P Catney addressed the Council on the Notice of Motion as did Alderman A McIntyre.

Councillor R Carlin also spoke on the Notice of Motion and indicated that he would not be supporting the Motion for the reasons he had outlined.

Councillor N Trimble also addressed the Council. Councillor Trimble indicated that whilst he supported the Notice of Motion he was of the opinion that clarity on the issue should be sought from the Justice Minister.

A number of Members thanked Councillor R T Beckett for having brought this Notice of Motion forward that evening.

In summing up Councillor R T Beckett thanked those Members who had spoken in support of his Notice of Motion and who had recounted their personal stories.

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor R T Beckett and seconded by Councillor B Higginson, was put to the meeting and on a recorded vote being taken at the request of Councillor G Hynds, the voting was as follows:

In favour: Alderman J Baird, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Burns, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan, Councillor B Higginson, Councillor G Hynds, Councillor J Laverty, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor C McCready, Councillor R McLernon, Alderman S P Porter, Alderman S Skillen and Councillor N Trimble (18)

Against: Councillor J Bamford, Councillor D Bassett, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor P Catney, Councillor K Dickson, Alderman O Gawith, Alderman M Gregg, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur, Councillor C Kemp, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor D Lynch, Councillor B Magee, Councillor G McCleave, Alderman A McIntyre, Councillor M McKeever, Councillor N Parker, and Councillor G Thompson (18)

No Members abstained from voting.

There being an 18 votes in favour of the Motion and 18 votes against the Motion, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, used her casting vote and voted against the Motion. The voting now being 18 votes in favour and 19 votes against, the Notice of Motion fell.

Councillor J Harpur left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

13. Confidential Business

The matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed that the confidential report be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

13.1 Report on the details of the abandoned dog, known as Max: Circumstances, Chronology of Events, Summary and Key Outcomes including Lessons Learned
(Report to be published after meeting of Council)

Councillor D Lynch left the meeting at 8.16 pm.

Councillor J Harpur returned to the meeting at 8.19 pm
Alderman A G Ewart left the meeting at 8.31 pm and returned at 8.34 pm.
Councillor C Kemp left the meeting at 8.39 pm and returned at 8.41 pm.
Councillor S Lowry returned to the meeting at 8.44 pm and 8.46 pm.

The Director of Environmental Services presented the report to Council. The Director and the Chief Executive responded to questions from Members in connection with issues contained in the report and provided clarification thereon.

A number of Members put on record that aggressive behaviour towards Council staff was unacceptable.

A Member also put on record thanks to the Officers and staff for their efforts during this time.

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor N Trimble, and agreed that:

- a) the content of the report, as presented, be noted, and
- b) the Council takes the necessary actions to ensure the key outcomes/lessons learned, as outlined, are implemented as appropriate.

14. Any Other Confidential Business

Councillor N Parker left the meeting at 9.00 pm

14.1 Planning Matter
Councillor R T Beckett

At the request of Councillor R T Beckett, the Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to contact the Member the following day in regard to a planning matter.

14.2 Regimental Names
Councillor B Higginson

In response to comments from Councillor B Higginson, the Chief Executive agreed to follow up with the Member on the issue he had raised.

14.3 Voting Matter
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

Comments were noted from The Right Worshipful the Mayor in connection with voting procedures.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

13.1 Report on the details of the abandoned dog, known as Max: Circumstances, Chronology of Events, Summary and Key Outcomes including Lessons Learned (Update)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor provided an update in regard to the above matter, it being noted that recommendations in terms of outcomes and lessons learned, as set out in the report, had been approved. It was also noted that the report and appended documents would be published on the Council's website the following day.

15. Any Other Business

15.1 Congratulations to President Elect, Catherine Connolly
Councillor G McCleave

It was agreed, at the request of Councillor G McCleave, that a letter of congratulations and best wishes be sent to the newly elected President of Ireland, Mrs Catherine Connolly.

15.2 Twilight Night Events – Food Vendors and Thanks to Officers
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter, having welcomed the huge success of the recent Twilight Night event, drew Members' attention to the high cost of food purchased from the various food vendors that were in place on the evening. Alderman Porter was concerned that some families could be excluded from such events due to the high cost of these fast-food outlets. Alderman Porter requested that this matter be considered.

By way of an update The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, advised that discussions on this matter had already taken place with Officers.

15.2 Twilight Night Events – Food Vendors and Thanks to Officers (Cont'd)
Alderman S P Porter

At a later point in the meeting Councillor A P Ewing also commended the success of the Twilight Night event, as well as the Relaxed Twilight Night event, as did the Chairperson of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee, Councillor T Mitchell. Councillor Mitchell conveyed his thanks to the Officers and staff concerned.

15.3 Emerge Counselling Services
Alderman S P Porter

Councillor N Parker returned to the meeting at 9.03 pm.

Alderman S P Porter expressed concern in regard to a video that had been published on social media on the possible closure of Emerge Counselling Services in Lisburn. Alderman Porter stated that he, along with other Members, were shocked and concerned at this news in view of the long waiting lists for CAMHS and the high cost of other mental health services.

Alderman Porter expressed thanks all the volunteers at Emerge Counselling Services and also to those who have played their part with this charity in the early days.

It was agreed on a proposal by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, that the Council writes to the Minister for Health, the Public Health Agency, and the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust to convey the Council's grave concerns in regard to the potential closure of Emerge Counselling Services and also to highlight the limited provision of mental health services in Lisburn; and in particular to ask:

- a) if each body could work with Emerge with a view to supporting this much-needed service in Lisburn continues, and
- b) what provision that they have planned for this deficit at a local level to try and help those people who need these valuable services.

Councillor A P Ewing wished to put on record his support to Emerge Counselling Services which he stated provided a vital service to the local community and which had been the chosen Mayoral Charity in recent years. He stated that this charity is saving lives and must be protected.

15.4 Appointment of Language Commissioners
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin welcomed the announcement earlier that day from the NI Executive in regard to the first ever appointment of an Irish Language Commissioner and an Ulster Scots Commissioner. Councillor Carlin congratulated Pol Deeds and Lee Reynolds in taking up their respective roles, and asked that the Council reach out to the Office of Identity and Cultural

Expression on how best the Council could support and promote both languages in Lisburn and Castlereagh.

15.5 Ulster in Bloom Awards
Councillor A Gowan

Councillor A Gowan referred to the recent Ulster in Bloom awards ceremony which had taken place in Grand Central Station and welcomed the success of Anahilt in winning the Best Newcomer award. Councillor Gowan also welcomed the fact that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, had agreed to host a reception for Anahilt & Magheraconluce Community Association to mark this success.

Councillor Gowan, on behalf of the Council, expressed thanks and appreciation for the contribution and efforts of the staff in the Parks & Amenities team whose efforts had ensured this success. He also thanked teams from both Parks & Amenities and also Environmental Services for all their efforts right across the Council area.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, also commended the efforts of the Parks & Amenities team for having come second in another category of the Ulster in Bloom awards.

15.6 Carryduff GAC
Councillor D Bassett

Councillor D Bassett welcomed the successful season by Carryduff GAC and put on record congratulations to all involved in this success.

Councillor N Trimble left the meeting at 9.08 pm.

15.7 Thanks to Parks & Amenities Team
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry expressed thanks to the Parks & Amenities team for their help in regard to a plaque in memory of the late Roy and Suzanne McDowell who had been members of the Comber Road Residents Association in Dundonald, and who had passed away within 5 weeks of each other in 2022. Councillor Lowry also expressed gratitude to the family's daughters for their assistance in organising a number of photographs for display on the memorial plaque which had been erected very recently within a flowerbed in Dundonald. Local residents from the Comber Road Residents Association were grateful for these photographs which provided many memories of the activities they had shared.

Conclusion of Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 21.09 pm.

Mayor