



MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING, WEDNESDAY 19 MARCH 2025

Derry City & Strabane District Council The Guildhall, Derry/Londonderry

ATTENDEES

Aldermen

Ald Alan McDowell
Ald Keith Kerrigan

Ald Stephen Moutray
Ald Hazel Legge

Ald Derek Hussey

Councillors (in person)

Cllr Julie Gilmour
Cllr Fergal Donnelly

Cllr WJ Webb MBE
Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Joe Boyle

Councillors (via Teams)

Ald John Smyth
Cllr Gary Hynds

Cllr Martin Reilly
Cllr Trevor Wilson

Cllr Victor Warrington

APOLOGIES

Councillors

Cllr Alison Bennington
Cllr Eugene McConnell

Cllr Errol Thompson
Cllr Christine McFlynn

Cllr Gretta Thompson

The Chairman opened the meeting with the sad news that our esteemed member, friend and colleague, Ald Beth Adger MBE, had sadly passed away earlier in the morning following a brief illness and members stood in silence in her memory.

A number of members, in the Chamber and on-line, took the opportunity to pay personal and party tributes to a stalwart of local government in Northern Ireland who had always supported and represented the NAC well in all capacities, having only recently completed a 2-year term as National President of NAC-UK. Members noted that Beth would be sadly missed by her party and council, where she had currently been serving as Mayor, as well as the many organisations she had supported over the years, but none would feel her loss more deeply than her extended family which included the very many children she and her husband Tommy had fostered during their long and happy marriage and while bringing up their own family as well. Beth was a popular and much-loved individual, and many heartfelt and genuine tributes were paid to her. Condolences would be expressed to the family on behalf of the NAC. It was agreed that the meeting would continue in Beth Adger's memory.

1. Welcome

Ald Alan McDowell welcomed those members attending both in-person and remotely to the meeting in the Guildhall at Derry City & Strabane District Council.

2. Apologies

Apologies had been received in advance of the meeting and additional ones were also noted from the floor.

3. Minutes of last Meeting held on 22 January 2025

The Chair took members through the minutes of the previous meeting and their approval was proposed by Ald Derek Hussey and seconded by Cllr Terry Andrews, following updates provided on future meetings between NAC-NI and LAMA, and also the presentation at the January meeting by Cllr Cadogan Enright on the Electrified Green Economy. Due to some technical difficulties it had been agreed that the Executive Committee would look at a re-run of this event.

4. Treasurers Report

Cllr Billy Webb circulated and shared on screen the up to date accounts and outlined the income, expenditure and closing balance. He also updated members regarding the Business account and the Reserve account balances.

The accounts were approved.

5. Secretary's Report

Cllr Boyle reported on two very successful and positive meeting which had been held with SOLACE and also the Chief Executive of Derry City and Strabane District Council. These were organised to encourage understanding and support and they were considered by all who attended to be positive, and it was agreed that regular contact would be maintained.

The Secretary advised that a further letter had been sent to the DfC Minister and his response had indicated that this issue of Roles & Responsibilities was 'in progress'.

Cllr Boyle reported on the role that Elected Representatives had played to assist constituents during the recent storms and that while the utility organisations had responded well, when contacted, the 'priority line' services were not easy to access. Cllr Boyle undertook to write to Phoenix Energy, Fibrus and NIE Networks to have the situation clarified. A wide ranging discussion took place during which a number of member took the opportunity to recount their experiences.

The Secretary concluded by mentioning the NILGA Local Government Awards taking place in The Game of Thrones Studio on 27 March.

6. UPDATE FROM NATIONAL VICE-CHAIR

Ald Derek Hussey advised that he had attended the NAC-UK Conference in Glasgow at the end of February, noting that it s perhaps one of the most worthwhile events organised by NAC Scotland and would be worthy of further roll-out.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman updated members on the progress regarding the Local Enterprise Champions training and advised that full information would be provided in the coming weeks. Discussion also followed regarding Local Economic Partnerships.

Finally, Members discussed the issue that not all councils had accepted the remuneration paid to councillors and agreed that this should be for noting, not for review or discussion.

Cllr Terry Andrews proposed that the next meeting should proceed as planned in The Braid, Ballymena in honour of Ald Beth Adger, who had agreed to host it in her capacity as Mayor. This was agreed.

The meeting closed at 12.30pm