

# Council

## MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the Council Chamber, City Hall  
on Monday, 8th April, 2024 at 6.00 p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor Murphy) (Chairperson);  
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Groogan);  
The High Sheriff (Councillor S. Douglas); and  
Aldermen Lawlor, McCullough and Rodgers; and  
Councillors Anglin, Beattie, Bell, Black, Bower, Bradley, R. Brooks, T. Brooks, Bunting, Carson, Cobain, Collins, de Faoite, Doherty, M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly, R. M. Donnelly, Doran, D. Douglas, Ferguson, Flynn, Garrett, Hanvey, Kelly, Long, Lyons, Magee, Maghie, Maskey, F. McAteer, G. McAteer, McCabe, McCann, McCormick, McDonough-Brown, McDowell, McKay, McKeown, I. McLaughlin, R. McLaughlin, McMullan, Murray, Nelson, Nic Bhranair, Ó Néill, Smyth, Verner, Walsh and Whyte.

### Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

### Apologies

Apologies for inability to attend were reported for Aldermen Copeland and McCoubrey and Councillors Canavan and Duffy.

### Declarations of Interest

Alderman Rodgers and Councillor Ferguson declared an interest in relation to the item “Blanchflower Stadium – Preferential Use Agreement” within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that they were shareholders of Glentoran Football Club.

The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Groogan), Alderman McCullough and Councillors Black, Carson, M. Donnelly, Maskey, McCabe, Ó Néill and Vernon declared an interest in relation to the item “Community Support Programme 2024/25” within the People and Communities Committee minutes, in that they were employed by organisations which were in receipt of revenue grants.

### **Minutes of the Council**

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Councillor Murphy),  
Seconded by Councillor R. McLaughlin,

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 4th March, be taken as read and signed as correct.

### **Official Announcements**

#### **Condolences**

The Lord Mayor paid tribute to Cindy Hanna, former City Hall Tour Guide, who had sadly passed away on 17th March, 2024 and he conveyed his condolences to Cindy's family.

Councillor Walsh offered his condolences to the family of Sean Magill, a community activist who contributed to the rebuilding of the Irish language community, on his recent passing.

#### **Well Wishes**

The Lord Mayor acknowledged Joan Devlin's recent retirement from Belfast Healthy Cities and wished her well for the future.

Alderman McCullough sent well wishes to Her Royal Highness, The Princess of Wales, on her recent diagnosis.

The Lord Mayor expressed solidarity with Takura Makoni, whose south Belfast house had been daubed with graffiti telling him he was not welcome in the area after he had spoken out against racism, and he stated that this behaviour was not reflective of the wider community.

Councillor P. Donnelly wished members of the local Muslim community a Happy Eid and he wished the East Belfast GAA the best of luck following the recent launch of its future plan.

Councillor S. Douglas praised the Walking and Cycling Index Report published by Sustrans, and encouraged Members read the report.

#### **Congratulations**

The Lord Mayor, Councillors S. Douglas, Smyth and Long congratulated Councillor Hanvey on his recent wedding.

The Lord Mayor acceded to a request from Councillor R. Brooks to write a letter of congratulations to Tori Watson, who, having lost her father Paisley to cancer, had run a half marathon every day for 22 days in order to raise over £5000 for Marie Curie Hospice.

Councillor de Faoite congratulated the YMCA Youth in Government Programme graduation ceremony in City Hall and thanked the Lord Mayor for his attendance at the event.

Councillor de Faoite congratulated Breda GAA on the recent opening of its clubhouse, and those Council officers who had been involved in bringing the project to fruition.

Councillor D. Douglas paid tribute to the Powered by Poppy campaign which had completed its Walking on Sunshine event and encouraged all Members to share the campaign information to promote donations.

Councillor Maghie congratulated Our Lady and Saint Patrick's College, which won both the senior schools football club trophy and senior netball tournament.

Councillor Smyth congratulated Green Party NI Leader, Mal O'Hara on becoming a Senator in Seanad Éireann.

#### **Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee**

Moved by Councillor Black,  
Seconded by Councillor R.M. Donnelly and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 22nd March, 2024, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

#### **Minutes of People and Communities Committee**

Moved by Councillor Murray,  
Seconded by Councillor M. Donnelly,

“That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 12th March, be approved and adopted.”

#### **XL Bully Restrictions announced by DAERA Minister**

At the request of Councillor Flynn, the Council agreed to write to the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, to enquire as to what impact the legislation would have on local councils and animal welfare charities, and what resources would be allocated to deal with those impacts.

**Blanchflower Stadium –  
Preferential Use Agreement**

**Amendment 1**

Moved by Councillor Lawlor,  
Seconded by Councillor Bunting,

“That officers would look to work with local community-based football clubs and Glentoran Football Club to develop an allocation model, based on an assessment of need, so that they all get access to the pitch on Monday to Thursday evenings.”

On a vote by show of hands, eleven Members voted for the amendment and thirty-eight against and it was declared lost.

**Amendment 2**

Moved by Councillor Maghie,  
Seconded by Councillor Murray and

Resolved - “That the Committee’s decision, that officers would look to work with local community-based football clubs to develop an allocation model which was fair and equitable for all users, to ensure that all clubs would get fair access to pitches throughout the week, would be brought back to the Committee for further consideration.”

**Requests for Events in Parks**

**Amendment**

Moved by Councillor Lyons,  
Seconded by Councillor de Faoite,

“That the Committee’s decision to grant authority to the applicant for the proposed Finaghy Cultural Festival would be referred to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee for reconsideration.”

On a recorded vote, thirty-nine Members voted for the amendment and fourteen against and it was declared carried.

For (39)	Against (14)
The Lord Mayor (Councillor Murphy); The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Groogan); and Councillors Anglin, Beattie, Bell, Black, Bower, Bradley, T. Brooks, Carson, Collins, de Faoite, Doherty, M. Donnelly, P. Donnelly, R. M. Donnelly, Flynn, Garrett, Hanvey,	The High Sheriff (Councillor S. Douglas); Aldermen Lawlor, McCullough and Rodgers; and Councillors R. Brooks, Bunting, Cobain, Doran, D. Douglas, Ferguson, Kelly, McCormick, McDowell and Verner.

Long, Lyons, Magee, Maghie, Maskey, F. McAteer, G. McAteer, McCabe, McCann, McDonough- Brown, McKay, McKeown, R. McLaughlin, Murray, Nelson, Nic Bhranair, O'Neill, Smyth, Walsh and Whyte.	
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**Strategic Cemeteries and Crematorium  
Working Group Update**

At the request of Councillor Lyons, the Council agreed to write to the Department for Communities to propose a policy framework with Historic Environment Division and the Council, that would consider funding, operational security and public access to historic cemeteries.

**Adoption of Minutes**

Subject to the foregoing amendments, the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 12th March were thereupon approved and adopted.

**Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee**

Moved by Councillor Nic Bhranair,  
Seconded by Councillor Walsh, and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 13th and 27th March, be approved and adopted.

**Minutes of Licensing Committee**

Moved by Councillor McKeown,  
Seconded by Councillor McCabe, and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 20th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Minutes of Planning Committee**

Moved by Councillor Garrett,  
Seconded by Councillor Maskey, and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 19th and 27th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Minutes of Climate and City Resilience Committee**

Moved by Councillor R. M. Donnelly,  
Seconded by Councillor R. McLaughlin, and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Climate and City Resilience Committee of 14th March, be approved and adopted.

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Committee**

Moved by Councillor Bower,  
Seconded by Councillor Ferguson, and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Committee of 11th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

**Minutes of Standards and Business Committee**

Moved by Councillor McDonough-Brown,  
Seconded by Councillor R. McLaughlin, and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Standards and Business Committee of 28th March, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Lord Mayor  
Chairperson