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**MINUTES OF MEMBERS' MEETING, WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2023**  
**GUILDHALL, DERRY AND STRABANE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**ATTENDEES**

Jim Brennan	Eugene McConnell
Derek Hussey	Alison Bennington
Declan Norris	Christine McFlynn
Terry Andrews	Beth Adger
Joe Boyle	Hazel Legge
Allan Bresland	Keith Kerrigan
Alan McDowell	Julie Gilmour
Billy Webb	Stephen Moutray

Linda Williamson	Admin Assistant
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**Via Teams**

Tomas O'Neill	Roy Crawford
Alan Lewis	Trevor Wilson
Dean A McCullough	Stephen Cosgrove
Gretta Thompson	Alan Barr

**1. Welcome and apologies**

The NAC Chair, Cllr Terry Andrews opened the meeting and noted that apologies had been received from:

Martin Reilly

Valerie Harte

Gordon Kennedy

Cllr Andrews asked for a minute silence to be observed as a mark of respect in noting the passing of

- Cllr Damien Reilly – Meath County Council
- Cllr Matthew [ aged 19] Matty Lock, Maghull Town Council – England
- Councillor Leanne Kennedy – Labour, Seaham Council, a friend and well known to NAC Northern Ireland delegates who attend workshops with their Scottish , Welsh and English counterparts .

Joe referred to the passing of former NAC Treasurer Cllr Eric Ferguson and requested a sympathy card be sent to the family.

Cards will be sent from NAC.

**2. Minutes of last Meeting held on 19 July 2023**

Derek Hussey – Proposer

Beth Adger – Seconder

**3. Secretary's Report**

3.1 Staff change

Kate Wilson's retirement and her temporary replacement Linda Williamson were noted.

3.2 Councillors Review

No further update on the recruitment of Chair.

3.3 Leadership and change in Local Enterprise

Joe invited Alan McDowell to update members after he had completed his report.

3.4 Move to Bradford Court

Members were updated regarding an offer to share office space with NILGA without cost. Costs have increased significantly within current accommodation and to maximise the value of Council contributions to the organisation it made good business sense to explore this further. A site visit was arranged, and the space includes meeting rooms necessary for EC meetings. The rooms have been booked for the first six months beginning in January 2024. The EC will progress this.

3.5 Amended Constitution

Hazel Legge confirmed that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) had discussed the issue and she was confident that the NAC would receive a positive response shortly.

Ards & North Down BC (A&ND) had requested for individual membership of the NAC to be added to the Amended Constitution. This was accepted by Council and therefore no changes are required to the new Constitution.

### 3.6 AGM

Arrangements with The Glenavon House Hotel in Cookstown have progressed and invites to AILG and LAMA have been accepted. Overnight accommodation has been booked as the partnership is important and facilitates informal networking before the formal meeting on the Friday.

### 3.7 NILGA Update

NILGA is in the process of finalising their business plan up to end March 2025. Their Corporate plan 2023-2027 was issued for consultation over the summer.

The Regional Elected Member Development Programme for the remainder of 2023/2024 includes Audit & Risk, Civil Contingencies, Employment Matters, Mental Health & Wellbeing for Councillors, Empowering Women Councillors and Economic Development.

They have recently been appointed by tender by Belfast City Council to deliver training on working in a political environment to all their management teams.

### 3.8 Leadership and Local enterprise Conference

Alan McDowell was invited to give an update on the Leadership and Local enterprise Conference being planned for early 2024. The conference is being supported by Ulster University and will be held on two sites one of which will be Magee College. Councils have a responsibility for local enterprise in their areas and it is important that councillors attend and become enterprise champions. NAC is leading the event and UU will contribute more than half of the associated costs.

The event will be open to 462 councillors across NI. It is important to listen and learn from current initiatives, funding may be available and the importance of using it for economic development.

Joe thanked Alan.

**Treasurer's Report**

Figures up to 11 August were presented, bank statements had not been received to present something more up to date.

**National President**

Beth advised that due to local elections her attendance at recent meetings had been difficult. She is attending the NAC Conference 22-24 September 2023 where the theme is Anti-Social Behaviour.

**AOB**

None

**Closing remarks**

Terry reflected on his time as Chair of NAC, building relationships with AILG and LAMA, flying the flag for NI, working on the NAC constitution and with DFC. He paid tribute to Beth and Joe.

Joe thanked Terry, particularly his energy and ideas and for keeping good relations with LAMA. Terry has been a conscientious chair where his commitment and efforts have clearly been demonstrated. He remarked that Terry still a lot to give to local government.

Decisions/Actions Summary	By
Send cards to those recently bereaved.	JB/LW