

BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

SUMMONS TO ATTEND THE MONTHLY MEETING OF THE COUNCIL

TO: THE LORD MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND THE COUNCILLORS OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Notice is hereby given that the monthly meeting of the Council will be held in the Council Chamber, City Hall, on Monday, 1st October, 2018 at 6.00 p.m., for the transaction of the following business:

1. Summons
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Minutes of the Council (Pages 1 - 12)
5. Official Announcements
6. Request to Address the Council

To consider a request from Mr. Malachy Turley, co-founder of Rosemount House Hostel, to address the Council in relation to the motion on a Homeless Hostel for Females being proposed by Councillor McCusker.

7. Minutes of Strategic Policy and Resources Committee (Pages 13 - 56)
8. Minutes of People and Communities Committee (Pages 57 - 82)
9. Minutes of City Growth and Regeneration Committee (Pages 83 - 106)
10. Minutes of Licensing Committee (Pages 107 - 112)
11. Minutes of Planning Committee (Pages 113 - 126)
12. Minutes of Brexit Committee (Pages 127 - 132)
13. Notices of Motion

a) Robert McCartney Murder

Proposed by Councillor Reynolds,

Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

(Wording to be confirmed – awaiting Senior Counsel opinion)

(To be debated by the Council)

b) Greening of Derelict Spaces

Proposed by Councillor Kyle,

Seconded by Councillor Attwood,

“Creating green spaces in cities produces significant benefits, not least in the area of mental health. Recent research has shown a 40% reduction in feelings of depression and a 50% reduction in feelings of worthlessness among residents, as a result of greening derelict plots of land. The benefits were even greater in areas of deprivation.

Simple interventions, such as clearing rubbish, sowing grass, planting trees and marking the boundary with a low fence, can produce health benefits, remove eyesores and reduce antisocial behaviour.

This Council will carry out an audit to identify derelict sites in public ownership. It will establish a budget in the coming year and engage with other statutory bodies in order to create a programme of work whereby derelict plots of land are cleared, grassed and fenced, thus enhancing neighbourhoods and improving wellbeing.”

**(To be referred, without discussion, to the
People and Communities Committee)**

c) United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Proposed by Councillor Heading,

Seconded by Councillor McCusker,

“This Council notes the Concluding Observations of the United Nations Committee on the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Following an examination of the UK’s compliance with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in August 2017, this Council is concerned at the lack of actions and consistency from either the Northern Ireland Executive or the UK Government in respect of the Concluding Observations. The Council recognises the valuable contribution that those living with disabilities make to our society and will undertake to prepare a review on how the council meet local obligations within the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Council will write to the Prime Minister, Theresa May, seeking an update on the steps which the Government is taking to meet the recommendations contained within the Concluding Observations.”

(To be debated by the Council)

d) Homeless Hostel for Females

Proposed by Councillor McCusker,

Seconded by Councillor Campbell,

“This Council notes the growth of alcohol and drug addiction among the female population and the impact which this has on families and communities. The Council further notes the lack of a dedicated hostel and programme to assist in the recovery of women suffering addiction and calls on the relevant statutory funders to recognise the urgent need for a hostel, similar to the all-male Rosemount House facility, and to support those organisations involved in delivering this service.

The Council, therefore, agrees that an all-party delegation meet with representatives of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Department of Health to discuss the establishment of an all-female hostel.”

(To be debated by the Council)

e) Letting Agents' Administration/Application Fees

Proposed by Councillor Collins,

Seconded by Councillor Heading,

“This Council notes the June 2018 legal case of Loughran v Piney Rentals Limited and F5 Property Limited, which determined that the practice of letting agents charging letting fees, commonly referred to as administration fees or application fees, when renting properties on behalf of a landlord is unlawful under The Commission on Disposals of Land (Northern (Ireland) Order 1986.

The Council further notes that this practice has been widespread in the private rental sector in recent times, particularly where the demand for privately rented accommodation is high. Despite the recent legal case, it is apparent that some letting agents are continuing to charge these fees unlawfully.

Accordingly, the Council welcomes the decision of the court and agrees to work with other relevant agencies such as Trading Standards, the Association of Residential Letting Agents and Housing Rights to ensure that letting agents are aware that the practice of charging these fees should immediately be ceased and that appropriate action is taken against those who refuse to do so. The Council agrees also to explore ways to let citizens know their rights in relation to this issue, through the media and through the Council’s publications.”

(To be debated by the Council)

The Members of Belfast City Council are hereby summoned to attend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Suzanne Wylie". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small dot at the end.

Chief Executive