

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE AGM

Meeting No 062

MINUTES

Tuesday 9 November 2021

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor M Goodman (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor R Kinnear	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman R Gibson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman A Carson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman A McDowell	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman D Drysdale (<i>Chair</i>)	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor S Lee	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor K Owen	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor H McKee	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor F Ferguson	Belfast City Council
Councillor P McReynolds	Belfast City Council
Councillor JJ Magee	Belfast City Council
Councillor M Gregg	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor D Reid	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Alderman R Cherry	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor I Friary	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor W Clarke	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
G Craig (<i>Secretary</i>)	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
K Boal	arc21
M Lavery	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards & North Down Borough Council
C Mathews	Belfast City Council
J McConnell	Belfast City Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Girvan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
H Moore	Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
P Thompson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
J McBride	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
J Green	arc21

The Chair welcomed all to the AGM. He informed the meeting that he was not seeking nomination for the position of Chair for the incoming year.

Alderman Gibson took the opportunity to thank the Members and Officers for all their help during his tenure as Chair and noted his appreciation for all the support during his time in office, especially from the Senior Management Team at arc21, with their total commitment to the organisation, especially during a difficult period.

He wished the organisation every success in the future along with his continuing commitment and support as a Joint Committee Member.

He handed the meeting over to Mr Craig to brief Members on the procedures for the election of Chair and Deputy Chair.

Procedures

Mr Craig advised of the procedures for the position of electing a Chair and Deputy Chair for the forthcoming year.

In the absence of the Deputy Chair he asked Members to nominate a temporary Chair in order to conduct the business and nominate the Chair, and Councillor Owen was proposed and seconded.

(Councillor Owen in the Chair)

Election of Chair

Councillor Owen then sought nominations for the position of Chair to serve the Joint Committee for the forthcoming year.

Nominated: Alderman David Drysdale

Proposed by: Councillor Alison Bennington

Seconded by: Councillor Harold McKee

It was resolved that Alderman Drysdale be elected as Chair of the Joint Committee for the incoming year.

(Alderman Drysdale in the Chair)

Alderman Drysdale thanked Councillor Owen and advised that he was delighted to accept the position of Chair, thanked everyone for their support over the last few days and weeks and looked forward to working with everyone.

He thanked Alderman Gibson for all his dedication to the organisation and, in particular, his contribution to arc21 over the last few years as Chair and applauded him for his work during this difficult period and hoped that he would remain on arc21 to continue to provide his experience in meeting the challenges ahead.

Alderman Gibson thanked the Chair for the comments, confirmed his intention to remain on the Joint Committee and took the opportunity to wish the Acting Chief Executive every success in the future.

Alderman Drysdale supported this and extended his thanks the Council Officers and arc21 staff for their ongoing support and help during what had been a challenging year with the outbreak of Covid-19 and the challenges facing the waste sector.

He advised that his immediate focus would be to provide leadership to the Joint Committee focusing on the key strategic role to maintain, develop and implement the six councils' Waste Management Plan which would be a priority focus moving forward.

He also discussed the recent work undertaken by the Subcommittee which recognised the importance of ensuring that arc21 is managed effectively which was being done by working with the ACEO and senior management team to provide support at this time and ensure that appropriate governance arrangements are established and maintained between the Joint Committee, Subcommittee, Stakeholders and arc21 staff to help promote arc21 for the future.

He noted his thanks to Councillors Goodman and Bennington for meeting with Mr Walker and Mr Craig to discuss governance matters and advised that following that meeting Mr Craig had agreed to formally report directly to Mr Walker rather than to the Chair of the Joint Committee, as previously required by the Joint Committee. He also thanked everyone for their recent efforts and, in particular, Councillor Bennington who had deputised at recent meetings during his absence.

He informed the meeting that the Members had agreed to appoint a permanent Chief Executive to arc21 which, following the procurement of appropriate support, would be advertised shortly. Mr Drysdale also reported that he would be forwarding an update on recent developments to the Council Chief Executives for their information. He advised that in the meantime Mr Walker had agreed to take responsibility for all functions within arc21.

He further advised that Mr Walker would be reviewing the organisation to ensure that roles and responsibilities were clarified and that sufficient resources were available to deliver arc21's objectives.

Councillor Carson offered congratulations to Alderman Drysdale, wishing him every success in the role and noting the importance of the role and the responsibilities.

He asked for clarification regarding a Member of the Joint Committee who had recently stepped down from his Party and was in attendance at the meeting. The Chair advised that there had been no formal communication from the Council to suggest that this Member's position has changed and therefore we would be proceeding as normal. Mr Craig also advised that nothing official had been received from the Member's Council in question at this point in time and therefore the Member remains a Member of the Joint Committee at this time.

Mr Craig stated that the next item of business was the election of the position of Deputy Chair for the forthcoming year.

Election of Deputy Chair

Nominations were then invited for the position of Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee.

Nominated: Councillor Michael Goodman

Proposed by: Councillor Alison Bennington

Seconded by: Councillor Kathryn Owen

It was resolved that Councillor Goodman be elected Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee for the incoming year.

Councillor Goodman thanked Members for nominating him as Deputy Chair and looked forward to providing support to the Chair, Joint Committee and Senior Management Team moving forward. He advised that it had been a difficult 18 months for everyone and we need to focus on the future and consider how the six councils manage their waste, focus on solutions to the problems facing all and that he looked forward to working with everyone to achieve this.

The Chair thanked Councillor Goodman for all his support over the last few weeks.

Alderman Drysdale advised the Committee that he would be stepping down as Chair of the Audit Committee with his new role and nominated Councillor Bennington as Chair.

Nomination: Councillor Alison Bennington

Proposed: Alderman David Drysdale

Seconded: Councillor Michael Goodman

Councillor Bennington thanked the Committee for nominating her for the position of Chair of the Audit Committee and looked forward to working with everyone.

Mr Craig thanked the outgoing Chair for all his work and commitment to the Audit Committee and advised that the next meeting of the Audit Committee was to be a Workshop focussing on the role of Audit Committee members.

He added that the nomination of Councillor Bennington as Chair would be presented to the Audit Committee at that meeting. .

Mr Craig advised that the current members of the Audit Committee were Cllrs Bennington, Carson, Lee, Reid, McKee and an independent member John Balmer, Head of Finance at Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. The Chair sought nominations to join the Audit Committee and Councillor Owen advised that she was happy to do so.

The Chair advised that the Joint Committee had approved that the Subcommittee should look at arc21's governance going forward, and that this was continuing.

He reported that he had sent out the Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee Chair to Members prior to the meeting for their information and asked that these be agreed in principal, which was granted, and he noted that this could be adjusted accordingly going forward if needed.

He reported that communication was key between Members, arc21 Staff and the constituent council Chief Executives going forward, and he hoped to maintain and enhance this.

Mr Walker thanked Alderman Gibson for all his help, commitment and support and in particular, for steering the organisation through the current difficult times. He wished him well and hoped that he would continue to provide his experience and wealth of knowledge as a long-standing Member of arc21 moving forward. He welcomed Alderman Drysdale and Councillor Goodman to their new roles and look forward to working with the Joint Committee in facing the huge challenges ahead.

Alderman Gibson thanked Mr Walker for his comments, offering his appreciation of the efforts of Officers and the commitment of the Committee, and wished arc21 every success moving forward.

Councillor McKee thanked Alderman Gibson for all his commitment and especially during this difficult time and wished Alderman Drysdale, Councillor Goodman and Councillor Bennington every success in their new roles.

Mr Craig confirmed that the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee would be held on Tuesday 7 December at 10.30am using MS Teams.

Alderman Drysdale closed the meeting and asked the subcommittee of Members to stay online for a brief meeting.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DDP', written over a horizontal line.

Date: 7 December 2021

Chairman: