

Compte Rendu

September - Oktober
septembre - octobre

District council meeting of 22 September 2021

Convened and announced on 16 September 2021

Present: ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (CSV), Mayor, SCHILTZ Fernand (LSAP), Deputy Mayor, JUNGBLUT Tom (CSV), Deputy Mayor.

EIFES Eric (DP), ZHU Dali (DP), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (CSV), LAKAFF Laurent (CSV), SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (Déi Gréng), WOLTER Laurence (Déi Gréng), WEYMERSKIRCH Patrick (LSAP), Councillors.

TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, REIFFERS Cindy, Secretary, GASPAR Alix, Secretariat.

Apologies: none

1. Determination of venue for the district council meeting

The district council unanimously approved the Cultural Centre in Moutfort as the venue for this district council meeting. It was also decided to hold the next district council meeting as a CovidCheck event.

2. HR matters

In closed session

3. Approval of an agreement – Climate Pact 2.0

Jeannot Schroeder, Climate Consultant to Contern District Council, showed a presentation by “MyEnergy” on the subject of Climate Pact 2.0. Our influence on the climate, along with our measures, need to be measurable in order to be able to determine actual effects and changes.

Deputy Mayor Fernand Schlitz was appointed Deputy Mayor for Climate Matters, and Corinne Spiroux as Climate Consultant.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff was pleased that the district was adopting this approach. He hopes for further thinking and action in support of the Climate Pact.

The district council unanimously approved the Climate Pact 2.0 agreement.

4. Approval of a division of a plot of land in Contern – Bourgheid

The district council unanimously approved the new division of two plots located in Contern, on Rue Bourgheid.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff expressed a concern that the plots were not divided 50/50 and that one was therefore narrower than the other.

5. Approval of an agreement with the district of Sandweiler

The district council unanimously approved an agreement with Sandweiler district council concerning the appointment of a labourer to assist the forest warden. It was recorded that the costs are to be split 57% to Contern District Council and 43% to Sandweiler District Council.

Eric Eifes regretted that no flyers offering wood from the forests were distributed to households in the district this year. The Mayor gave an assurance that the offer was printed in the “Connect”

district newsletter, and agreed that next year flyers would again be distributed to households. Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff proposed that this offer should also be promoted on the District Council website.

6. Approval of resignation by a member from a committee

The district council unanimously accepted the resignation of Ms Doris Kalmes from the Culture and Tourism Committee. The Mayor thanked her for her work in that area.

7. Supplementary loan – various items

Supplementary loans totalling € 46,000 were unanimously approved by the district council. These were needed in part for repairs to sports infrastructures damaged in the floods of 14 and 15 July, and in order to cover the costs of language courses and heating costs for the school complex.

8. Approval of several statements of accounts (“décomptes”)

The district council unanimously approved three statements of accounts. One related to the building of the multi-sports pitch in Moutfort, one to the purchase of furnishings for the district council in Contern, and one to conversion works around the youth centre in Moutfort.

Following objections by Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff and Eric Eifes concerning the statement of account relating to construction of a primary school in Contern, the Mayor proposed temporarily removing this item from the agenda.

9. Change to traffic regulations in Contern district

The amended traffic regulations for Contern district were approved unanimously by the district council.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff urged that residents should be given greater encouragement to use public transport. He praised the collaboration by the SIAS districts (“Syndicat intercommunal pour l’assainissement du bassin hydrographique de la Syre” – the inter-communal association for nature conservation in the Syre drainage basin) in devising common rules.

The Mayor emphasized the many advantages and the sound initiatives under the new traffic regulations. These enable the district to take action against long-term parkers, and form a sound basis for the work of the “agent municipal” (council officer) to be appointed in future with the supplementary role as “garde-champêtre” (forest ranger/game warden/code enforcement officer).

10. Creation of 2 parking zones within the district of Contern

The creation of two parking zones, located in Moutfort and Oetrange, was unanimously approved by the district council. They are being identified via the abbreviations MOU and OET.

11. Exceptional grant – Floods of July 2021

The district council unanimously approved an exceptional grant to the districts of Echternach and Rosport-Mompach of € 1,000 each, to support those districts financially following the floods in July.

The Mayor advised regarding a planned visit by the AGE (“Administration de la Gestion de l’Eau”) water management agency to assess the situation in the district and to prevent future catastrophes.

12. Grants to clubs and associations 2021

The district council unanimously agreed to give grants to various clubs and associations. In total, these amounted to € 2,900.

13. Income

Income totalling € 2,000,499.37 was unanimously accepted for the financial year 2021.

14. Announcements and councillor questions

The Mayor mentioned the individual letters of thanks received by the district council in respect of donations.

The Mayor announced forthcoming events, public meetings and dates. She asked councillors to note the date of 17 December for the district's Christmas celebration.

A parents' evening is planned on 5 October, which amongst other items will report on the "Séchere Schoulwee" ("Safe School Route") initiative. On 10 October at 11.00, the "Journée de la Commémoration nationale" ("Day of National Commemoration") is being marked in Oetrange, and the Christmas market and ContArt are being held on 4 and 5 December. The Festival of the Third Age ("Fest vum Drëtten Alter") is being held on 11 November, as is the Festival of US Veterans Friends.

Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor, explained the "Naturpakt" remit and reported on the appointment of a Nature Consultant, in collaboration with the SIAS districts.

Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor, praised the results of the new waste system: 600 tonnes of waste had already been saved. The district council's measures were having an impact, and residents were joining in enthusiastically.

Fernand Schiltz, Deputy Mayor, described the Mobility Week as a great success. The weather had played a part, and many people had joined in the various activities.

Tom Jungblut, Deputy Mayor, announced a tree-planting initiative on 30 October and the "Faire Genoss um Kaffisdësch" event on 31 October.

Laurence Wolter noted that the pavement between Moutfort and Millbech was damaged. Tom Jungblut, Deputy Mayor, answered that works will be undertaken there shortly, and the pavement would then be renewed at the same time.

Laurence Wolter expressed regret that a ditch along Rue de Medingen in Moutfort had become overgrown, and that it no longer took water away during heavy rainfall. Tom Jungblut, Deputy Mayor, explains that the restoration of such surface waters in biotopes is subject to a number of permits that are often difficult to obtain. Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff was surprised – as this was the old Syre river-bed, it must be possible to clear it. The Mayor promised to make inquiries to the responsible agency and, if necessary, to send district council workers along to mow the area.

Dali Zhu asked who the parties affected by the floods should contact to undertake preventive measures to their houses and properties. The Mayor made reference to the upcoming meeting with the AGE ("Administration de la Gestion de l'Eau") water management agency, which will document the situation in the district in order to make suggestions for improvement or preventive measures.

Dali Zhu has received complaints from a number of residents regarding the “ProActif” agency. He reported that waiting times were too long, and the teams worked inefficiently. The Mayor acknowledged that these problems were already known to the Cabinet. In response to a customer satisfaction survey, discussions had been arranged with “ProActif” and the intention was to inform residents more accurately regarding the intent and purpose of this agency. Eric Eifes asked for the results of the survey to be circulated via e-mail.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff inquired as to progress on the procedure regarding the general development plan. The Mayor answered that the Cabinet was waiting on the reply from the Ministry. Unfortunately, the Ministry had announced there were delays in processing, and it was hoped that a reply would be received by the end of the year.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff also wanted to know how things stood with the “Conterstuff” project. The Mayor assured him that things were moving forward. Statics experts and officers from the national sites and monuments agency SSMN (“Service des sites et monuments nationaux”) had recently inspected the site.

Eric Eifes complained about the yellow markers scattered along the entire Route de Luxembourg in Contern. The Mayor emphasized that these are a temporary installation intended to help in marking out the new parking spaces. As soon as the district council’s Technical Services department has drawn in the parking spaces, flower planters will be installed, and fixed concrete islands will be poured. Eric Eifes observed that the road signs will also need altering in these areas.

Eric Eifes asked when the public WC in Contern was being officially opened. The Mayor explained that an emergency switch still needed to be installed before that point was reached.

Eric Eifes reported that a meeting of the DP Committee had been arranged in the ‘Henkeshaus’, but when the members arrived the door could not be opened, due to the building works. The Mayor acknowledged that this was most unfortunate, and is passing the information on to the district council’s Communications Department.

Eric Eifes complained about the regular car meets on the “Grand Frais” site. The Mayor noted that a meeting with the police had already been held, and that the owners of the site had been instructed to install a barrier. As this has not yet happened, a reminder will be sent to “Grand Frais”.

Patrick Weymerskirch reported that ballast and gravel heaps were making the ‘Beim Schmilberbour’ track unusable. Tom Jungblut, Deputy Mayor, and the Mayor gave an assurance that the track will be tidied up as soon as the works site located there was completed.

District council meeting of 20 October 2021

Convened and announced on 14 October 2021

Present: ZOVILÉ-BRAQUET Marion (*MZB*) (CSV), Mayor, SCHILTZ Fernand (*FS*) (LSAP), Deputy Mayor, JUNGBLUT Tom (*JT*) (CSV), Deputy Mayor, EIFES Eric (*EE*) (DP), ZHU Dali (*DZ*) (DP), DI GENOVA Jean-Pierre (*JPD*) (CSV), LAKAFF Laurent (*LL*) (CSV), SCHMITZ Jean-Pierre (*JPS*) (CSV), ARRENSDORFF Jean-Jacques (*JPS*) (Déi Gréng), WEYMERSKIRCH Patrick (*PW*) (LSAP). Councillors: TAZIAUX Tim, Acting Municipal Secretary, REIFFERS Cindy, Secretary, GASPAR Alix, Secretariat.

Apologies: WOLTER Laurence (*LW*) (Déi Gréng)

1. Determination of venue for the district council meeting

The district council unanimously approved the Cultural Centre in Moutfort as the venue for this district council meeting. It was also decided to hold the next district council meetings as CovidCheck events.

2. HR matters

In closed session

3. Approval of a supplementary agreement – CIPA Niederanven

The district council unanimously approved a supplementary agreement relating to the integrated residential and nursing home for the elderly, CIPA Niederanven. The Mayor explained that this related to two changes concerning voting procedure and investments. She also advised that Contern district council has secured two additional rooms in the “Rousegärtchen” section, which is equipped to care for people with dementia and is currently being expanded.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff inquired as to the costs being incurred for these rooms and for the expansion of the CIPA. The Mayor explained that as yet no precise figures are available. Jean-Pierre Schmitz and Deputy Mayor Fernand Schiltz commented that elderly residents felt very much at home in the CIPA Niederanven and that no economies should be made regarding their accommodation and care. The Mayor explained that as soon as the definitive figures and all the details were set out in a new agreement, this would of course be submitted to the district council for approval.

4. Approval of an agreement – Pacte Logement 2.0.

Deputy Mayor Fernand Schiltz presented the benefits of Pacte Logement 2.0. Under it, an external consultant is being made available to the district council by the Ministry. He also stressed the urgent need to develop a local action programme to implement the agreement, with particular emphasis to be placed on affordable housing. Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff expressed his appreciation for these moves.

The Pacte Logement 2.0 agreement was unanimously approved by the district council.

5. Special development plan for “Op Horbett” in Moutfort – Approval of the implementation agreement (“Convention d’exécution”) and implementation design (“Project d’exécution”)

The district council unanimously approved both the implementation agreement and the implementation design for the special development plan (PAP) “Op Horbett” in Moutfort.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff asked whether the relatively high state allowance given for drainage works might possibly be used for a play area, for example. Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut explained that this allowance can only be used for specific construction works, and in this case it was being used for separations in the drainage system. Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff asked whether costs incurred as part of implementing the PAP might be met by the Ministry. The Mayor commented that the district council would itself meet some part of the costs of connecting to the public grid, but that all works will be listed in detail before they are invoiced by the companies.

6. Amendment to articles of association – SEC

The district council unanimously approved the amendment to the articles of association of the central district water board (Syndicat des Eaux du Centre, SEC). Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut commented that the directory of members and of their respective quantities of water needed to be brought up to date.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff asked about the original water quantities for the Contern district. Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut stated that additional volumes had been purchased twice, in order to avoid a high penalty for exceeding the threshold limit. He added that the samples taken at the water source had been problematic, but that the Cabinet had already authorised studies and was searching for solutions together with the water management agency, AGE.

7. Approval of a document – “Cession gratuite” in Contern

The district council unanimously approved a document for a free transfer (“Cession gratuite”) in Contern. This related to individual small parcels of land used for the construction of roads and pavements.

8. Approval of a document – Purchase of land in Contern

The district council unanimously approved a document for the purchase of land in Contern. This related to three parcels of forest. The district council already owned adjoining properties and wanted to purchase additional parcels here, to maintain a walking path and also to protect the water source.

9. Approval of a document – Purchase of land in Contern – Milbech

The district council unanimously approved a document for the purchase of land in Contern Milbech. This related to parcels along the path leading up to the water basin. This was to be used again.

10. Approval of several statements of accounts (“Décomptes”) – Jean-Pierre Schmitz left the room

The district council unanimously approved three statements of accounts. The first related to replacement of the water supply in the Route de Remich in Moutfort, the second to studies for construction of a primary school in Contern, and the third to conversion works to the rail underpass in Moutfort.

11. Opinion of the district council – “Projet du 2ième plan de gestion des risques d’inondation du Luxembourg” (“Proposed second Luxembourg flood risk management plan”) – *Jean-Pierre Schmitz entered the room*

The Mayor outlined the meeting with the water management agency AGE (Administration de la gestion de l'eau), which involved extensive discussion of the floods of 14 July. The Cabinet was hoping for proposed solutions from the AGE, which should then be implemented as quickly as possible. As soon as the AGE analysis is finished, it will present it to the Cabinet. A further meeting was arranged for January 2022.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff was finding the opinion difficult to assess, as it was a highly technical document. Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut conceded that the meeting with AGE had also been disappointing in that regard. The Cabinet had put forward a lot of good suggestions, but the AGE did not seem very determined to implement them. Protecting nature and species conservation were repeatedly given as reasons why concrete changes were not possible.

Eric Eifes asked about management of the water basin in Ieselslach. The Mayor explained that the district council had no access to it. Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut explained that retention basins were not flood protection, but are there to relieve the sewage system and thus to protect natural watercourses.

The district council unanimously approved the “Projet du 2ième plan de gestion des risques d’inondation du Luxembourg”.

12. Grants to clubs and associations 2021

The district council unanimously agreed to give grants to various clubs and associations. In total, these amounted to € 36,386.30.

Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut advised that the regulations concerning grants needed to be applied differently than was previously the case in respect of the “forfait officiels licenciés” (fixed fee for licensed officials). To support the volunteers, this sum should be paid per licence, not as a one-off grant. In view of this, some sports clubs will receive compensation in arrears, and the regulations are being amended.

13. Approval of income

Income totalling € 1,538,811.89 was unanimously accepted for the financial year 2021.

14. Announcements and councillor questions

The Mayor mentioned the individual letters of thanks received by the Cabinet in respect of donations. The Mayor announced forthcoming events, public meetings and dates. These include a visit from the Ministry of Equality between Women and Men on 22 October 2021. Minister Taina Bofferding is visiting our district as part of a campaign on equal opportunities, since our staff comprises 50% women and 50% men.

The Mayor proposed holding the next district council meeting as a CovidCheck event, back in the district council offices. Jean-Pierre Schmitz advised caution, and Patrick Weymerskirch expressed a similar view. It was therefore decided to continue to arrange the meetings in the Moutfort Cultural Centre.

Jean-Pierre Di Genova gave a reminder regarding Environmental Week and the “Faire Genoss um Kaffisdësch” event being held on 31 October 2021. Proceeds were going to the “Gemeng Conter Hëlleft” association.

Eric Eifes asked whether the committee membership lists available online were up to date. The Mayor said that she fundamentally assumed the website was always current, but that she would check this.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff had noticed that the district’s road-sweeping machine was sweeping the roads more often. The Mayor stated that due to the many construction sites in the district, it was necessary to operate more runs, in order to ensure that the roads and gutters were kept clean. Deputy Mayor Tom Jungblut commented that regular sweeping was also good for protecting the environment, as fewer cigarette stubs and face masks found their way into the wastewater and into the surrounding nature.

Jean-Jacques Arrensdorff asked who had approved the works on the vicarage in Moutfort. Deputy Mayor Fernand Schlitz explained that only one wall along the house was being repaired, and that the property belongs to the state, which is allowing these works to be carried out.

