**DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, DUNDALK ON TUESDAY 27TH NOVEMBER 2012**

**PRESENT**

Cathaoirleach, Councillor J Green, presided.

**ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor M Bellew, Councillor S Bellew, Councillor M Butler, Councillor M Dearey, Councillor M Doyle, Councillor C Keelan, Councillor K Meenan, Councillor O Morgan, Councillor E O’Boyle, Councillor J Ryan and Councillor H Todd

**IN ATTENDANCE**

J Martin, County Manager

F Pentony, Director of Services and Town Clerk

D Storey, Senior Executive Officer

J Lawrence, Administrative Officer

C Duff, Town Engineer

S Mullen, Senior Executive Planner

B Harten, County Arts Officer

The Meeting commenced with Prayers at 7pm

**302/12** **DTC ARTS ACT GRANT AWARDS: 2ND ROUND 2012**

The meeting was preceded with the Members agreeing the 2nd Round Awards as presented by B Harten, County Arts Officer. On the proposition of Councillor M Bellew and seconded by Councillor J Ryan, the awards were agreed as presented.

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**303/12** An Cathaoirleach J Green thanked the Members for wearing blue attire to mark Prostate Cancer Awareness month.

On the proposition of An Cathaoirleach J Green and seconded by Councillor M Doyle, it was agreed by the Members to hold a Civic Reception for Amy Broadhurst, European Junior Featherweight Champion, and Dealgan Boxing Club.

**304/12** **PLANNING AND RELATED MATTERS**

12/105 Brian O’Kane Permission for development

Consisting of partial demolition etc at

New Service Road, Coe’s Road, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/106 Blue Diamond Sports Ltd Retention of signage at 8 Park Street,

Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/107 PJ Boyle Permission for new single storey

veterinary surgery associated signage and site works at Inner Relief Road, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/108 Catherine Morgan Permission for a bay window to the

front of an existing house and associated site development works at 33 Hyde Park, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/109 Declan Murphy Permission for development that will

consist of change of use from office space to a resource centre etc at Ground Floor, Block 3, Quayside Business Park, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/110 St Patrick’s Trust Permission for extension and

renovation of existing dwellinghouse etc at 173 Ard Easmuinn, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/111 Derek & Catriona McKeown Permission for a two storey extension

to the side and rear of dwelling and new waste water treatment system at 12 Rath, Ardee Road, Dundalk

Councillor E O’Boyle remarked that he considered that this development was not in compliance with the Development Plan. F Pentony clarified that the development was in compliance and had it not been it would have required a material contravention process to be instigated.

12/112 Lis Na Mere Developments Extension of Duration of planning

permission 08/60 which consists of permission for the construction of 92 No residential units which comprise of 54 No houses and 38 apartments and associated works at Lis Na Dara, Lis Na Wully, Carrickmacross Road, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/113 Ampezzano Ltd Extension of Duration of planning

07/33 which consists of permission for demolition etc at Francis Street, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/114 Margaret Kearney Permission for a two storey extension

to side of an existing dwelling and associated site works at 255 Greenfield Court, Tom Bellew Avenue, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/115 Grace Fellowship Retention of change of use from retail

warehouse to change including coffee shop etc at Block D, North Link Retail Park, Coe’s Road, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/116 Seamus Murphy Permission for the construction of a

two storey structure etc at Louisville, Bellewsbridge Road, Dundalk.

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

12/117 Board of Management De La Permission for a single storey

Salle College extension containing a classroom to a

recently granted development Ref No 12/57 at De La Salle College, Castletown Road, Dundalk.

On the proposition of Councillor E O’Boyle and seconded by Councillor O

Morgan it was recommended by the Members that the County Manager grant permission in this case.

12/118 Padhraic Staunton Permission for extension and

alterations to the front, side and rear along with associated site works at 28 Willow Grove, Dundalk.

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

**305/12** **PLANNING PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted by the Members

**306/12** **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposition of Councillor H Todd and seconded by Councillor M Bellew the Members agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the 23rd October 2012.

The minutes of the CPG meeting of the 15th October 2012, were noted by the Members.

**307/12** **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor C Keelan referred to Minute No 268/12 – Landfill site and queried had a date for the survey been set? He further requested that the members receive a brief synopsis on works carried out by Waterford and Cork County Councils. C Duff responding advised that she would come back to Councillor Keelan on the issue after the meeting.

Councillor C Keelan referred to Minute No 276/12 – Reform of Local Government – and advised that the report on the Boundary Commissions will be made in May 2013 and advised the Members on differences proposed between Borough Councils and Town Councils.

Councillor O Morgan referred to Minute No 278/12 – Sanitary Services Act 1964. F Pentony advised that synopsis will be provided in the coming week.

Councillor M Bellew referred to Minute No 268/12 – Market Square pedestrian crossings and status of lower Clanbrassil Street crossing and sought an update on when remedial works will be carried out. C Duff responded that a report on Market Square will issue.

**308/12** **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT NOVEMBER 2012**

Councillor K Meenan referred to derelict properties at Slieve Roe Crescent. D Storey advised of the Notice of Question from Councillor O Morgan and it was agreed to take discussion on the issue now and he furnished the Members with a report on No.’s 2 and 3 Slieve Row Crescent. Councillors Meenan and Morgan welcomed the report.

Councillor J Ryan queried the results of the Rough Sleeps that was recently undertaken and J Lawrence advised that 3 persons were found to be sleeping rough in the Dundalk area.

Councillor J Ryan referred to the implementation of the final provisions of the Housing Regulations and queried D Storey on his view on same. D Storey replied that units must be to a standard as provided for under PRTB.

It was confirmed for Councillor J Ryan that the six cases listed in the eviction/voluntary surrender ASB statistics were voluntary surrenders following actions taken by the Local Authority

**30912** **APPROVAL TO ADVANCE A LOAN OF UP TO €290,925 TO TUATH HOUSING ASSOCIATION, FOR THE PROVISION OF 2 UNITS OF ACCOMMODATION AT BARRACK MEWS, DUNDALK, CO LOUTH, UNDER THE CAPITAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME**

It was confirmed by D Storey that an error was contained within the Notice and that a corrective notice will be forwarded for the December Meeting.

**310/12** **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT NOVEMBER 2012**

C Duff confirmed for Councillor M Bellew that the road resurfacing contracts were 100% complete and that the reconstructing of the Hill Street junction was dependant on the Tesco Development going ahead at this location.

D Storey confirmed for Councillor K Meenan that discussions would be held in the New Year with the Department in relation to the Remedial Works Scheme in Muirhevnamor

F Pentony confirmed for Councillor M Bellew that drawings were not yet available for the new second level school at the Clarke Forest site and that he will request draft drawings from the Department for the Members consideration. F Pentony confirmed for Councillor M Bellew that a further attempt to process the Seatown Windmill site will be undertaken with the owner.

**311/12** **TO FIX DATE FOR BUDGET MEETING**

The Members agreed to hold the Budget meeting at 6pm on 18th December 2012.

**312/12** **TO FIX DATE FOR DECEMBER MONTHLY MEETING**

The Members agreed to hold the December Monthly Meeting on 11th December 2012 at 6pm.

**313/12** **TO APPROVE AN OVERDRAFT FACILITY FOR 2013**

On the proposition of Councillor M Bellew and seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle the Members agreed to approve an Overdraft facility of three million euro for 2013.

**314/12** **ESTABLISHMENT OF DUNDALK ARTS CENTRE**

D Storey gave the Members a written report and update on proposals for the setting up of a company Ltd by guarantee for the Arts Centre. On the proposition of Councillor M Bellew and seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle the Members agreed to support the proposal as developed to date and be updated on Membership of the new Company in due course.

**315/12** **PROPOSED REVISION OF STANDING ORDERS**

An Cathaoirleach J Green advised the Members that having attended Council meetings at both late evening and in early evening (during a staffing work to rule) her preference would be for an early evening start for the Monthly Council meetings.

Members spoke in favour and against the proposal of An Cathaoirleach to revise the Standing Orders to fix the time of Monthly meetings to 4.30pm / 5pm.

On a show of hands eight members voted against the proposal change and 4 members voted in favour.

The proposal to revise the Standing Orders was lost.

**316/12** **CONFERENCES / EVENTS – TO APPROVE MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCE AT THE ENCLOSED CONFERENCES**

On the proposition of Councillor E O’Boyle and seconded by Councillor J Ryan, the Members attendance at Conferences listed with the agenda and recorded in the Conference Register was approved.

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**317/12** **NOTICES OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR JENNIFER GREEN**

This Council supports the same rights and entitlements to civil marriages for all citizens of County Louth regardless of race, religion or sexuality.

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This motion was seconded by Councillor H Todd and agreed by the Members.

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**318/12** **NOTICES OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR OLIVER MORGAN**

1. That this Council calls on the Minister for Education and Skills to prevent

any further increase to the significant cost of third level education which is already pricing many families out of education by protecting maintenance grant supports for vulnerable families which have already been cut by 12% since 2010 and that our Town Clerk circulate the motion to all the other Local Authorities in Ireland.

This motion was seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle and agreed by the Members.

1. That this council`s Roads Engineering Department prepare and bring to

Council a report dealing with the feasibility and affordability of standardising all our town centre pedestrian crossings and traffic junctions so that they 1. Comply with the Road Traffic Laws and Regulations 2. Minimise the present chronic disruption of traffic flows with consequent inconvenience/danger to our road users in order to bring all these junctions into line with the Level of Service and Safety which will obtain at the Market Square/Earl Street/Crowe Street junction when the two pedestrian crossings there are brought up to a standard which complies with the Road Traffic Laws and Regulations by being painted white and black.

Such report should contain an evaluation of the possibility of making all these pedestrian crossings easily and safely usable by the physically impaired.

This motion was seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle. On the proposition of Councillor M Dearey and seconded by Councillor M Butler it was agreed by the Members to amend the motion to provide that the request as set out in the motion for standardisation of pedestrian crossings be concluded in tandem with the Development Plan process that will commence in 2013.

C Duff advised the Members that Notices of Motion that were broad-brush approaches were posing difficulty for the Engineering section and that approximately 20 reports for Notices of Motion were currently outstanding. C Duff agreed to send the outstanding list to the Members as requested by Councillor C Keelan.

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**319/12** **NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR EAMONN O’BOYLE**

**Notice of Motion Re: New Safety Measures along the Castleblayney Road.**

That this Council’s roads section, as a first step to increasing public road safety and to reducing the speed to safer levels of motor vehicles travelling along the Castleblayney Road at Newtownbalregan in order to minimise the risk of serious/fatal road traffic accidents occurring to pedestrians and other road users, especially to students who walk/cycle to and from De La Salle College, St. Louis Secondary School and Scoil Eoin Baiste / Fatima National Schools conduct a proper feasibility study and report its findings to the members as soon as possible of the need and urgency to carry out the following road safety works:

1. To erect **clearly visible signage and/or road markings** that give adequate warning to motorists of their approach to these schools;
2. To **fit rumble strips**, where practicable and safe, at various intervals along that stretch of road into Dundalk that approaches the Castletown Cross junction and that continues down along this main road to the traffic lights situated at the bottom of the hill opposite the entrance to Castle Park and/or to Bellewsbridge Road;
3. To **extend out the footpath** that runs directly past the ‘Castle Service Station’ on the Castleblayney Road out from Dundalk **on the opposite side of the road with a length of new footpath for approximately 20 metres to the Grey Acre Road junction** to link up with the existing footpath that runs along the front of the numerous houses on the same side of the Castleblayney Road **and to establish a new standard visible pelican pedestrian crossing** at a point towards the end of the existing footpath that runs past the Castle Service Station to extend across the main road to permit safe pedestrian crossing over this roadway to and from the beginning of the requested new footpath on the opposite side of the main road referred to above
4. To make whatever other recommendations and/or findings that would increase greater safety for all users along this stretch of public roadway.

The motion was seconded by Councillor J Ryan and agreed by the Members.

C Duff advised that funding was not available for these works at present. Councillor E O’Boyle responded that he wished to see some movement on this motion as soon as possible.

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**320/12** **NOTICES OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR MARTIN BELLEW**

That this Council engage with the operators of the Civic Amenity & Recycling Centre with a view to developing a more reasonable acceptance and charging regime for disposing of bulky waste (e.g. 3 piece suites, beds, couches, sofas, etc) at the Recycling Centre.

This motion was seconded by Councillor J Ryan.

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**321/12** **NOTICE OF QUESTION – COUNCILLOR CONOR KEELAN**

What is the expected date of delivery of the promised report into the feasibility of moving the pedestrian crossing at Quinn’s corner further up Castletown Road?

C Duff acknowledged that the report was outstanding and will provide same before year end.

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**322/12** **NOTICES OF QUESTION – COUNCILLOR MARIA DOYLE**

1. How much does it cost annually to produce, publish and distribute Dundalk Town Council’s quarterly newsletter?

**REPLY:** The DTC Newsletter is published twice yearly.

The cost for this year for design and print is €4,526.40 incl Vat

The cost for this year for distribution is €2,091.00 incl Vat

Councillor M Doyle expressed her satisfaction with the answer

1. When will the works on Stapleton Place agreed at the July 2012 meeting of this council begin and when is it envisaged that these works will be completed?

C Duff advised that work will not commence until 2013. Councillor M Doyle asked a supplementary question as to why this was the case and C Duff responded that workload was an issue and that the operational plan for 2013 was being complied at present and this plan will include for these works.

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**323/12** **NOTICES OF QUESTION – COUNCILLOR OLVIER MORGAN**

1. May members please be furnished with a report setting out the position in respect of the taken into charge of Glenwood Estate to include information on when applications were made by the developers for the taken in charge, have any parts of the Estate been taken in charge, a list of issues which have been resolved and a list of issues which remain to be resolved and are preventing the immediate implementation of the taking in charge by the council?

The reply to the question was circulated at the meeting and Councillor O Morgan expressed his satisfaction with same.

2. May members please have a report on the history by which the two bungalows at Slieve Roe Crescent, one of which is demolished and one of which is in a state of dereliction/semi-demolition, have come to be in their present unacceptable condition?

The response to the question was circulated at the meeting. Councillor O Morgan advised that he will clarify at the next available opportunity the derelict sites that his Notice of Question referred to.

3. May members please have the favour of an update on the present position in respect of the Clarke`s Forest and environs area to include the present position with the acquisition of the site by the Department of Education and Skills, for the new 1000 pupil secondary school, the present position in respect of the unauthorised use of some of the land for the storage of assorted waste material including asbestos slates, the present legal position in respect of the S.183 LGA disposal of part of this land which is in this council`s ownership for €2,100,000 and the position in respect of the provision of public parkland and playing areas as part of the overall redevelopment?

**REPLY**: This school project has been included in the monthly Capital Progress Report. The Environment Section of Louth County Council is investigating and processing the unauthorised dumping which is on privately owned land. The disposal did not proceed as the developer did not complete the transaction. The public parkland and playing area is being designed as part of the overall project

Councillor O Morgan noted the reply.

**32412** **RESOLUTIONS**

The resolutions were noted by the Members..

On the proposition of Councillor J Ryan and seconded by Councillor J Green the Members agreed to support the Notice of Motion of Carrick On Suir Town Council.

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**325/12** **CORRESPONDENCE**

The Members requested that the European Commission correspondence be recirculated as some detail was missing

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**The meeting concluded with prayers @ 8.50pm**

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Minutes confirmed at Meeting

Held on the 11th day of December 2012

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**CLEIREACH AN BHAILE**