**DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, DUNDALK ON TUESDAY 26th FEBRUARY 2013**

**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,

C Duff, Town Engineer

S Mullen, Executive Planner

The Meeting commenced with Prayers at 7pm

**025/13** At the outset, the Cathaoirleach Councillor J Green advised that the Civic Reception for Amy Broadhurst and the Dealgan Boxing Club will be held on Thursday 7th March 2013 at 7pm.

**026/13 VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

Councillor J Green extended a vote of sympathy to the family of the late Detective Garda Adrian O ‘Donohoe and encouraged anyone with any information to co-operate with the Garda Síochána. This was seconded by Councillor M Dearey.

**027/13** **PLANNING AND RELATED MATTERS**

13/1 Joe Traynor Retention of a single storey extension

to side of 80 Woodbury Gardens, Dundalk, Co Louth

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

13/2 Dundalk ICTU Centre Permission for change of use from

snooker / billiards hall to community resource etc at 30 Clanbrassil Street, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

13/3 Paul Duffy Permission for development

consisting of alterations and change of use etc at 19/20 Park Street, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

13/4 Larry Connolly Permission for development that will

consist of replacement of existing static sign etc at 44 Dublin Street, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members on this application.

**028/13** **PLANNING PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted by the Members

**029/13** **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

On the proposition of Councillor O Morgan and seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle the Members agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the 22nd January 2013.

**030/13** **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor M Butler asked if the tender for the operation and maintenance of the Recycling Centre had been awarded and the Director of Serviced and Town Clerk advised that the successful contractor had not yet been appointed.

**031/13 VARIATION NO 2 DUNDALK & ENVIRONS DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009 -2015 – ASHLING PARK PILOT SCHEME**

David Storey, Senior Executive Officer outlined the reasons for the variation and the process involved. In reply to queries raised by Councillor H Todd, he advised that the Council had addressed some of the issues raised by the residents, RAPID Area Implementation Team and the Cox’s Connect group; the energy efficiency measures already installed in several hundred houses; the need for a pilot scheme; and the proposed on site walk about to be held on Saturday and Tuesday. In reply to a query from Councillor M Butler, he advised that the construction costs were 100% funded by DECLG and that he has asked that the public realm measures are also funded. Councillor E O’Boyle advised that all of Councillor Todd’s concerns were addressed at this afternoon’s meeting. Councillor M Butler felt that the consultation process proposed appears to work well and should be continued.

**032/13** **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

David Storey, Senior Executive Officer, outlined the report and replied to queries from Councillors in relation to allocations, refusal of allocations, rent arrears, payment of deposits to landlords, the use of MABS, comparison of rent arrears with other authorities, and the Council’s Arrears Management Policy

**033/13** **CAPITAL PROJECTS REPORT**

The report was noted by the Members.

**034/13 ARTS PROGRESS REPORT - CREATELOUTH**

The report was noted by the Members.

**035/13** **FIRE PROGRESS REPORT**

The report was noted by the Members. In a reply to a query raised by Councillor E O’Boyle, the Director of Services and Town Clerk advised that the Fire Service will be known as Louth Fire & Rescue Service.

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**036/13** **PART VIII PLANNING – DUNDALK SPORTS CENTRE, MUIRHEVNAMOR**

The adoption of the Managers report was proposed by Councillor M Dearey and seconded by Councillor K Meenan.

**037/13** **MARKET SQUARE REPORT**

Catherine Duff, Town Engineer, outlined the findings of the report to the members and answered queries in relation to the installation of forward flashing amber lights, the painting of white zebra crossing marking, tactile paving, the strategic placing of litter bins, the rumble strip, engagement with the NCBI, and additional drainage measures at Crowe Street. This is to be progressed by addition to the Market Square Contract.

**038/13** **DRAFT APPOINTED STANDS BYE-LAWS (TAXI RANKS)**

Councillor S Bellew proposed that the appointed stand at Francis Street should operate from 6pm to 6am and this was seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle. Catherine Duff, Town Engineer pointed out that the problem with the overflow of the Crowe Street Taxi rank appears to occur at 4.30pm daily. Councillor C Keelan, Chair of the Infrastructure MPC outlined the consultation process undertaken, the reasons for the proposed byelaws and that a number of taxi rank areas would revert to pay parking spaces. Councillor M Dearey proposed that the appointed stand operate from 5pm to 6am in Francis Street. This was seconded by Councillor C Keelan.

Councillor S Bellew withdrew his original proposal and proposed the adoption of the Bye Laws, as presented with an amendment that the appointed stand in Francis Street operate from 5pm to 6am. This was seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle and agreed by the Members.

**039/13** **DRAFT CASUAL TRADING BYE-LAWS 2012**

Councillor C Keelan outlined the process followed and the difficulties in event trading. The draft Casual Trading Bye-Laws were approved for public consultation by Councillor M Butler and seconded by Councillor K Meenan.

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**040/13 SECTION 183 NOTICE – O’HANLON PARK/HILLVIEW RESIDENTS** **ASSOCIATION**

The Director of Services and Town Clerk outlined the details of the proposal, and the disposal to the O’Hanlon Park/Hillview Residents Association in accordance with the Section 183 Notice was proposed by Councillor H Todd and seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle.

**041/13 SECTION 183 NOTICE – HOUSING & SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY LTD., DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT, HERITAGE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

David Storey, Senior Executive Officer outlined the background to the proposal and the disposal in accordance with the Section 183 Notice was proposed by Councillor J Ryan and seconded by Councillor M Butler.

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**042/13 ROADS – ENGINEERS REPORTS –**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT MATTHEWS PHARMACY, PARK STREET**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR M DEAREY RE: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT LONG WALK**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT MEDEBAWN, AVENUE ROAD, DUNDALK**

**REVIEW OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT YORKE STREET, CLANBRASSIL STREET, DUNDALK**

**REVIEW OF UNCONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT CASTLETOWN ROAD ADJOINING BRIDGE STREET**

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT MATTHEWS PHARMACY, PARK STREET**

Councillor E O’Boyle stated that he felt that it was unrealistic to expect pedestrians to walk to the crossing outside the former Dunnes Stores premises. Catherine Duff, Town Engineer, advised that we will have to examine our priorities as there are several other requests for crossing to be considered.

**NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR M DEAREY RE: TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT AT LONG WALK**

Councillor M Dearey advised that he was in favour of the proposal at the Long Walk. In reply to a question Peter McVeigh advised that the next step is to design and then estimate the cost of the works and seek funding for same. Councillor M Doyle asked if we could look at improving the entrance to the bus depot also.

**NOTICE OF MOTION – PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES AT MEDEBAWN, AVENUE ROAD, DUNDALK**

Councillor O Morgan while acknowledging the report, requested that officials carry out a further site inspection between 9am and 9.30am and also between 2.30pm and 3.30pm? Catherine Duff, Town Engineer, advised that it is the speed of the traffic and the provision of a footpath that are the bigger issues.

**REVIEW OF PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT YORKE STREET, CLANBRASSIL STREET, DUNDALK**

Councillor M Bellew welcomed the report on the pedestrian crossing at Yorke Street/Clanbrassil Street and hoped the Council would proceed with the recommendation. C Duff, Town Engineer indicated that there was €7,500 available to fund the work.

**REVIEW OF UNCONTROLLED PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AT CASTLETOWN ROAD ADJOINING BRIDGE STREET**

Peter McVeigh explained the proposal for a revised pedestrian crossing at Castletown Road/Bridge Street junction and this was welcomed by Councillors C Keelan and M Bellew. Peter McVeigh advised that the next stage is to design and estimate the costs of works and seek funding for same

**043/13 RAMPART ROAD PUBLIC LIGHTING**

This report was noted.

**044/13 PREPARATION OF A RENEWABLE ENERGY STRATEGY FOR COUNTY LOUTH**

This was noted.

**045/13 REQUEST TO RECEIVE A DEPUTATION FROM LOUTH VOLUNTEER CENTRE**

This request was proposed by the Cathaoirleach Councillor J Green and seconded by Councillor M Butler.

**046/13** **CONFERENCES / EVENTS – TO APPROVE MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCE AT THE ENCLOSED CONFERENCES**

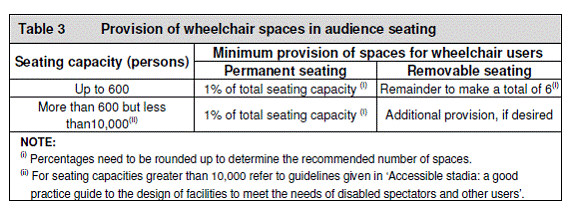
On the proposition of Councillor M Bellew and seconded by Councillor C Keelan, the Members attendance at Conferences listed with the agenda and recorded in the Conference Register was approved.

**047/13 NOTICE OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR O MORGAN**

“That this Council install four wheelchair spaces to augment the existing

seating arrangements in An Táin Theatre”.

**Reply**



Please note that these are the 2010 guidance notes and the seating system/ arrangement was updated more than 10 years ago.

The Táin theatre has 178 seats upstairs and 180 downstairs. Total = 358

1% of 358 = 3.58 rounded up to 4.

It would appear that a minimum of 4 seats have been provided. I also note that depending on the performance this number could be increased to 8 accessible spaces.

The seating system in the theatre on the lower floor is a retractable system and can be pushed back as one unit. It would appear to be feasible only to provide accessible spaces at the lowest level of the seating system. I understand that a number of seats in the front row are unsold so as to ensure anyone accompanying a wheelchair user is able to seat adjacent to the designated wheelchair spaces. This seems to be good management practice.

**Bernadette McArdle BEng, CEng, MIEI, MIBCI**

Building Control Officer

Louth Fire & Rescue Services

Louth County Council

County Hall

Millennium Centre

Dundalk

Co Louth

***Solstice in Navan - managed by Meath County Council   - Capacity 320 - 4/ 6 wheelchair spaces***

***Abbey Theatre Dublin (the national theatre) - Capacity 619   - 2 wheelchair spaces (grant aided by The Arts Council)***

***The Gate Theatre Dublin - Capacity 371 - 2 wheelchair spaces - (grant aided by The Arts Council)***

***Bord Gáis Energy Theatre - Capacity 2,111, - normally 10 spaces but the nature of the show can determine this, for the run of The Lion King they will have only 2 wheelchair spaces available.***

**048/13 NOTICES OF MOTION – COUNCILLOR K MEENAN**

1. “That this Council look at replacing the brick paving outside numbers 48-63 Doolargy Avenue as this part of the road in prone to flooding”.

This was proposed by Councillor K Meenan and seconded by Councillor H Todd. Councillor K Meenan advised that the road may have opened by utility providers.

1. “That this Council look to resurface the road at 1-6 Glenmore Park as it is in a poor state and is currently quite dangerous. This road sees a lot of traffic on it on a daily basis”.

This was proposed by Councillor K Meenan and seconded by Councillor H Todd.

**049/13 NOTICES OF QUESTION – COUNCILLOR O MORGAN**

1. May members please have a report on the history by which No’s 5 and 7 Slieveroe Crescent, one derelict and one of which is in a state of

dereliction/semi-demolition, have come to be in their present unacceptable

condition?

**REPLY**: A report will be available for the March Meeting.

2. What steps have been taken by our Executive Staff to provide Dundalk and

surrounding area with low-tide boat launching facilities since the deeply

regrettable drowning of our late colleague because the existing Connick Patent

Slipway at the Dundalk shipyard had not been serviced?

**REPLY**: Council officials held discussions with Dundalk Sub Aqua Club in 2012 regarding the provision of a slipway, and this was followed up by letter on 17th May 2012. No further action has taken place since then.

The former Connick Patent Slipway has not being used for some time and

is not in the ownership or control of the Council.

3. Could our Executive Staff prepare a short report detailing progress made to

date with the provision of a site for the proposed secondary school, to the

Department of Education and Skills at the Clark`s Forest Site, to

include, among other things, an outline of what planning enforcement action is

being taken against the unauthorised use of some of the land as a storage

facility for demolition debris?

**REPLY:** Council officials remain in discussions with both the adjoining land owner and Department of Education and Skills officials regarding the acquisition of land. Enforcement action is being taken by Louth County Council, under the Waste Management Acts against the owner of the site, in relation to the unauthorised storage of demolition waste.

In reply to a supplementary question from Councillor O Morgan, the Director of Serviced and Town Clerk advised that Dundalk Town Council is not a waste authority under the Waste Management Act.

**050/13** **RESOLUTIONS**

On the proposition of Councillor C Keelan and seconded by Councillor J Ryan, the Members agreed to support the motion of Clonmel Borough Council.

**051/13** **CORRESPONDENCE**

Noted

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**The meeting concluded with prayers @ 8.55pm**

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Minutes confirmed at Meeting

Held on the day of March 2013

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**CLEIREACH AN BHAILE**