**DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF MONTHLY MEETING OF DUNDALK TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, TOWN HALL, DUNDALK ON TUESDAY 25th FEBRUARY 2014**

**Attendance**

**Cathaoirleach**, Councillor E O’Boyle, presided.

**Councillors:** M. Bellew, S. Bellew, M. Butler, M. Dearey, M. Doyle, J. Green,

C. Keelan, K. Meenan, O. Morgan, J. Ryan, H. Todd

**Officials:** P. Poole, County Manager

F. Pentony, Director of Services and Town Clerk

D. Storey, Senior Executive Officer,

C. Duff, Town Engineer

U. Conlon, Executive Planner

F. Magee, Senior Executive Engineer

P. Donnelly, Senior Executive Officer

The Meeting commenced with Prayers at 7.00pm

**41/14 CONFERENCES**

**Proposed by Councillor J Ryan**

**Seconded by Councillor M Bellew**

**And Resolved:-**

To include the Showcasing Boyne Valley 2014 conference on the conference schedule.

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**42/14 VOTE OF SYMPATHY**

On the proposal of An Cathaoirleach Councillor E. O’Boyle and support by all the members’ votes of sympathy was recorded in respect of.

Mr. Canice O’Mahony former Town Engineer who had contributed so much to the town of Dundalk both as an official of the Town Council and as a historian and writer.

Mr James McManus Snr, former employee of Dundalk Town Council

Mr Johnny Owens, Father of Paul Owens employee of Dundalk Town Council

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**43/14**  **PLANNING AND RELATED MATTERS**

14/1 Danny Culligan Construction Ltd Extension of Duration of Planning

Permission No 08/170 which consists

of the construction of 40 residential

units in three separate buildings and all associated site works at Brookeville, Ardee Road, Dundalk, Co Louth

There was no comment from the Members of this application

14/2 Roy and Lisa Taylor Permission for the part demolition of a

dwellinghouse and domestic garage,

proposed extensions, alterations, etc

and all associated site works at Ellen

Lodge, Red Barns Road, Dundalk, Co

Louth

This incomplete application was noted.

14/3 Dundalk Racing (1999) Ltd Permission for the widening of the

existing horse racing track at two sections and the provision of fences for jump racing, along with the installation of 2 No. Oil tanks and boiler containers for undersoil heating to the new area of track at Dundalk Stadium, Racecourse Road, Dundalk

There was no comment from the Members of this application.

14/4 Edwin deRoever Permission for change of use of part

of existing storage building to waste recovery facility. The proposed development is within the cartilage of a Protected Structure at Lockington’s Yard, Dundalk Port, Quay Street, Dundalk.

There was no comment from the Members of this application.

14/5 Na Piarsaigh GFC Permission for extensions and

alterations to an existing changing room facility and all associated site development works at Rock Road, Dundalk, Co Louth.

There was no comment from the Members of this application.

14/6 Roy & Lisa Taylor Permission for the part demolition of a

dwelling house and car port, proposed extensions and alterations, change of front elevation, conversion of existing roof space to linen room, study and plant room, new domestic garage, all associated site development works at Ellen Lodge, Red Barns Road, Dundalk, Co Louth.

There was no comment from the Members of this application.

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**44/14**  **PLANNING PROGRESS REPORT**

The Planning progress report for January 2014 circulated with the agenda was noted by the members.

**45/14**  **CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES**

Councillor M Bellew requested it be recorded in respect of minute no 24(3)/14 that he as an elected member was not forbidden by the Town Clerk for doing anything that was his right to do as an elected member.

On the proposition of Councillor M Bellew and seconded by Councillor K Meenan the Members agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the 28th January 2014.

**46/14**  **MATTERS ARISING**

Councillor M Dearey proposed in respect of Minute No 14/14 which was seconded by Councillor M Butler that the signage scheme provide for the erection of a single Business park sign which would include individual business details on same, subject to funding allowing same.

Councillor M Bellew in reference to Minute no 6/14 (297/13) regarding the right turning lane from Rampart Road to Marshes Road proposed that the original white stop line be removed in order to encourage traffic to progress to the white turning box installed to facilitate and encourage more efficient right turning. The Town Engineer agreed to examine the matter again.

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**47/14 MINUTES FOR INFORMATION**

The following minutes were noted by the Members

Planning MPC 26th November 2013

CPG meeting 20th January 2014

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**48/14**  **HOUSING PROGRESS REPORT**

Mr D Storey, Senior Executive Officer presented the monthly housing progress report dated 11th February 2014 and he responded to members queries as follows:

* Staff structure in respect of the housing rent collection.
* Derelict site at Slieve Roe Crescent
* Proposed discussions with voluntary housing associations re: the building of social housing on council lands
* Department funding issues

**49/14 TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION PROGRAMME 2014 -2018**

The Traveller accommodation programme 2014 – 2018 as circulated under cover letter dated 10th February 2014 was noted by the members. The members were advised that the matter would be before a future meeting of Louth County Council for adoption.

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**50/14 CAPITAL PROGRESS REPORT**

The Capital Progress report dated 18th February 2014 was presented by Mr David Storey, Senior Executive Officer and noted by the members. There were queries from the members in regard to restoration works at the Market Square and whether there had been any progress with the owner of the land adjoining to the Windmill building at Seatown, with a view to it been renovated. The Town Clerk undertook to write again to the owner of the property.

**51/14 PROPOSED PROHIBITION ORDER RACECOURSE ROAD**

**Proposed by Councillor E O’Boyle**

**Seconded by Councillor C Keelan**

**And Resolved:-**

That having considered the draft Prohibition Order in respect of the Racecourse Road, Dundalk to confirm same as presented.

Councillor Keelan’s disappointment that the process had taken so long was noted.

**52/14 CLANBRASSIL STREET REFURBISHMENT**

Details of the proposed Clanbrassil Street refurbishment were circulated and details were outlined by Mr Frank Magee, Senior Executive Engineer. Members were advised that the scheme would be on public display form 26th February 2014 for a period of six weeks. Ms Catherine Duff, Town Engineer in responding to the members advised that all the Disability and less abled groups registered with the Community and Voluntary forum would be notified that the scheme was available for comment and she expected the work to commence in June 2014.

**53/14** **DRAFT TREE POLICY**

**Proposed by Councillor M Dearey**

**Seconded by Councillor M Butler**

**And Resolved:-**

Having considered the Tree Management Policy 2012 -2015 as circulated with the agenda to amend same as below confirms its adoption as amended.

* Specify a replacement ratio specific to species
* Emphasis the impact trees have on flood prevention.

The Town Clerk agreed to confirm if a preservation order could be placed on a group of trees as opposed to a specify tree. It was also agreed on the proposal of Councillor M Bellew seconded by Councillor K Meenan that the Director of Services and Town Clerk writes to the Department re: the progress on legislation covering the Council’s powers over trees on private lands.

**54/14 PERSONAL ACCIDENT ACHEMES (A&B) – ELECTED MEMBERS**

Noted by the members

**55/14 CONFERENCE & EVENTS**

**Proposed by Councillor J Ryan**

**Seconded by Councillor E O’Boyle**

**And Resolved:-**

To approve the members attendance at conference and events circulated with the agenda and recorded in the conference & events register.

**56/14 NOTICE OF MOTION - Councillor M Bellew**

Following on from the reply of Notice of Question Re: Removal of Hill Street

Bridge at January's monthly meeting. I am proposing that Dundalk Town Council make the Removal of Hill Street Bridge a major priority for 2014.

**Proposed by Councillor M Bellew**

**Seconded by Councillor M Butler**

**And Resolved:-**

Ms Catherine Duff, Senior Engineer explained the structure of the eight

year planning permission granted for the Tesco site and clarified the phasing of same. It was confirmed that the third phase of the development would require the removal of the bridge.

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**57/14 NOTICE OF MOTION - Councillor M Butler**

In light of the imminent demise of Dundalk Town Council, that the reserves of

Dundalk Town Council are ringfenced solely for the future use of the Dundalk

area Municipal Authority.

**Proposed by Councillor M Butler**

**Seconded by Councillor M Dearey**

**And Resolved:-**

The Town Clerk advised the members that upon order directing the dissolution of the Town Councils all assets and liabilities of Dundalk Town Council would transfer to Louth County Council. The County Manager advised that while she understood the sentiment of the motion that it would not be possible to act upon same for the reasons outlined by the Town Clerk.

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**58/14 NOTICE OF MOTION** – **Councillor O Morgan**

1. That this Council act with all possible speed and due diligence to relocate the caravan/mobile home dwellers who have taken up residence on the site of the former Monarch Leather factory, adjacent to where Clark’s Forest was butchered to clear the site for redevelopment.

**Proposed by Councillor O Morgan**

As there was no seconder for the Motion, the Motion falls.

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**59/14 NOTICE OF MOTION – Councillor O Morgan**

That this Council use some of our money to acquire the former De La Salle Retired Brothers’ Residence at John St./ Patrick Street/ De La Salle Terrace, refurbish the building to pristine standard and lease it, at a token rent, to Dundalk Women’s Aid, in order to assist with the sterling efforts which are being made by that organisation’s community volunteers to protect and help this very vulnerable sector of our society.

**Proposed by Councillor E O’Boyle**

As there was no seconder for the proposal, the motion falls.

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**60/14 NOTICE OF MOTION – Councillor E O’Boyle**

**Notice of Motion (1): Earmark funding for Flood Mitigation Works.**

1. That this Council, in view of the real and imminent danger of tidal inundation to as many as 3,500 of our town’s peoples’ homes and business premises and the fact that we have over €10 million (ten million euros) in our Dundalk Town Council Bank Accounts, which we are about to hand over to Louth County Council, proceed to earmark a substantial portion of our cash-in-hand resource to flood risk mitigation measures around our town.

**Notice of Motion (2) Re: Illumination of Town Hall for special occasions.**

1. That this Council investigate the possibility of illuminating at night the Town Hall building (and perhaps other public buildings in its control) with appropriate colour lighting to commemorate particular special occasions such as with emerald green lighting for St. Patrick’s Day, with yellow lighting for daffodil week, with pink lighting for breast cancer week, with Christmas lights for Christmas week, etc.

**Proposed by Councillor E O’Boyle**

**Seconded by Councillor M Doyle**

**And Resolved:-**

The Town Clerk confirmed that he would arrange for the Town Hall to be illuminated in an appropriate colour to mark specify occasions such as St. Patrick’s Day and the Giro D’Italia

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**61/14 NOTICE OF QUESTION – Councillor M Butler**

What is the current value of this Council's general reserve?

**REPLY:** *At the end of 2012 there was €3,231,500 held in the general reserves, this figure has been accumulated over the years in the accounts of Dundalk Town Council. However, the figure may be somewhat inflated due to the high level of uncollected rates currently on the accounts of the Council, and it is likely that this figure will be significantly reduced when the AFS for 2013 is completed.*

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**62/14 NOTICE OF QUESTION – Councillor O Morgan**

1. Could the members of our Planning Authority please have a detailed explanation of the process by which we made a decision to extend the duration of Planning Permission reference no. 07/139, for the construction of another 38 houses on the Lower Point Road, by five more years, such explanation to include the names of the officials of this Council who made the decision to extend the duration of the Planning Permission without reference to the Members?

**REPLY:** *The granting of an extension of duration of a planning permission is governed by Section 42 and 42A of the Planning & Development Act 2010 and is an executive function of the Council. The elected members do not have a role in this process. In any event, the information quoted in the Notice of Question is incorrect, as this application was refused on 19th March 2013.*

1. What amount of money is currently held by this Council in each of our bank accounts?

**REPLY:** *The amount of money in the Council’s bank account fluctuates on a daily basis and cannot be considered in isolation due to the amount of outstanding creditors, but is sufficient to allow the Council to carry out its statutory functions. The Council reported on the balance on its accounts in the 2012 Annual Financial Statement, which was approved by the Council on 28th May 2013. The audited AFS for 2013 will be presented to the Council later in the year.*

1. How much has it cost this Council to date to service the €6,200,000 that we were advised by our Management to borrow to purchase the 5.1 acre floodplain field beside the Blackwater River which is situated between the Wilton Green and the Waterview residential estates on the Lower Point Road?

**REPLY:** *The loan of €6,200,000 to purchase the 5.1 acre site (which was zoned residential by the Council in 2003) for the purpose of constructing social and affordable housing was approved by the Council members on 24th July 2007, sanctioned by the DEHLG on 17th September 2007 and drawn down from the HFA in 20th September 2007. As the loan only becomes payable when the construction work commences, it has not cost the Council any money to service this loan to date.*

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**63/14 RESOLUTIONS**

Resolutions from Ballina and Monaghan Town Councils were noted.

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**The meeting concluded with prayers @ 8. 40 pm**

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Minutes confirmed at Meeting

Held on the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of March 2014

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**CATHAOIRLEACH**

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**CLEIREACH AN BHAILE**