

Borough District of Drogheda – December 2015

Minutes of the Meeting of the Borough District of Drogheda held in Barlow House, West Street, Drogheda, on Monday, 7th December, 2015 at 6.00 p.m.

In attendance:

- Mayor:** Cllr. P. Bell
- Members:** Cllrs: T. Byrne, K. Callan, A. Cassidy, R. Culhane, K. Flood, F. Godfrey, I. Munster, P. Smith, O. Tully
- Officials:** Gerry Kelly, Senior Engineer
David Storey, Senior Executive Officer
Pat Finn, Senior Engineer
Mary Murtagh, Meetings Administrator
- Apologies:** none

Minute No. 129/15

Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 2nd November, 2015.

- Proposed by:** Cllr. F. Godfrey
Seconded by: Cllr. O. Tully.

Minute No. 130/15

Matters Arising

- It was clarified that the intention was to commence the statutory consultation process for Laurence's Gate and that traffic management / flow would be addressed as part of that process. The view was expressed that any proposal to install lights at the Tholsel would not be feasible.
- Members expressed dissatisfaction at the lack of correspondence / responses issued on foot of representations by members and, in particular, the late cancellation of a meeting of the Joint Policing Committee. Agreed that Notice of Motion would be submitted in the matter.
- Members were advised that a letter had issued to the Minister for the Environment inviting him to attend a meeting of the Municipal District, but that no response had been received to date. Agreed to circulate copy of letter to members and to issue a reminder to the Minister seeking a response.

Minute No. 131/15

Presentation by Dr. Declan Redmond UCD

The meeting was advised that Dr. Redmond was unable to attend due to illness. It was agreed to reschedule the presentation to an alternative suitable date.

Minute No. 132/15

Part 8 Planning Report – Access onto R132, Mell, Drogheda

Mr. P. Finn, Senior Engineer, advised members that the intention was to commence the statutory process to create a new entrance adjacent to the Rosehall roundabout where an historical entrance existed prior to the roads project. It was noted that no detailed costs are available as yet for an elaborately designed entrance to replace an existing agricultural entrance blocked off as a result of the road works and preventing the owner from accessing the lands. Members noted the Part 8 report / map and it was agreed that the statutory process could commence.

Minute No. 133/15

Housing and Communities Progress Report

Mr. David Storey, Senior Executive Officer, presented the Housing and Communities Progress Report and addressed issues raised by the members, including the following;

- The issue of the inclusion of apartment blocks within housing estates.
- The appointment of North & East Housing Association to the Scarlet Street development. It was agreed to invite North & East Housing Association to the January Municipal District meeting to outline the project.
- Energy upgrade under the Better Energy Communities Scheme. Noted that members had been updated by email.
- Members expressed dissatisfaction at the fact that the date for the Rough Sleeper Count had been changed without reference to them, and expressed the view that this could have contributed to the 'nil' return. It was stressed that Rough Sleepers has a very specific definition and doesn't include squatting or sleeping on friend's couches etc.
- Concern was expressed that the numbers on the housing list were increasing on a monthly basis and that the cost of private rented accommodation was a major contributory factor in this. It was noted that the refusal rate in the county was between 30% and 40%, depending on the area, and also that if a second

offer is refused the person comes off the list for a year. Noted that the Choice Based Letting Scheme was expected to have a positive effect on this situation.

Minute No. 134/15

Report on Termon Abbey & Aston Village

Members were advised that the taking in charge of these estates was at a very advanced stage with only some issues in relation to Irish Water awaiting a response.

Cllr K. Flood indicated that one third of the drains for Aston Village have not been mapped / CCTV'd and questioned how this estate could be taken in charge. Mr. P. Finn advised that work had been carried out on overflows, with a recent inspection in heavy rain indicating that the system is working.

P. Finn stressed that the report before members deals with taking in charge issues only, and that while he is aware of issues in relation to footpaths, these can be dealt with outside of this process.

Members agreed that it was important that lessons are learned from this development and that a similar situation must not be repeated in any future developments. Members also requested that all outstanding works be prioritised and time framed.

Minute No. 135/15

Infrastructure, Operations and Marine Progress Report

Members noted the report circulated with the agenda. Mr. P. Finn, Senior Engineer, and Mr. G. Kelly, Senior Engineer, responded to issues raised by members including the following;

- Additional applications received for the 30 kph speed limit programme in housing estates – not all eligible. Agreed to circulate the final list the members. G. Kelly to check on applications submitted by members that haven't been included and revert.
- Traffic management on Ballymakenny Road, particularly in proximity of school, needs to be examined with members stressing the need for a School Warden in the area.
- Report on the Obelisk Bridge expected soon and will be made available to members.
- P. Finn advised that Flood Maps are out for consultation, with Drogheda and Balray deemed areas for further assessment. Cost / benefit analysis being dealt with by OPW at the minute on a national basis.

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- G. Kelly confirmed for members that any confusion between Municipal Districts was purely in relation to engineering areas, but that budgets allocated to each Municipal District were spent on projects in that district.
- G. Kelly to check and revert on issue on flooding at Flaxmans Lane.
- G. Kelly will provide an update on the works at the junction at Greenhills.
- G. Kelly will ask Area Engineer to examine flooding issues between Railway Terrace and The Steps and advise if any remedial works planned.
- No progress achieved to date on removal of hoarding at former Weavers premises. P. Finn indicated that assurances had been received that it would be resolved this week, and agreed to follow up in the matter and revert.
- Disabled access to footpaths at bus waiting area at Dominic Street requested. G. Kelly to investigate and try to include in Works Programme.
- Agreed that G. Kelly would follow up with Irish Water in relation to completion of gully clearance at Greenhills.
- G. Kelly to follow up with Environmental Enforcement in relation to dog fouling issues, particularly at Abacus School, and revert. Noted the difficulties in identifying culpability and the need for witness evidence.
- G. Kelly to check if litter bins have been removed from some areas, including Termonfeckin, and check in relation to replacement where appropriate. Noted the prevalence of domestic waste being deposited in public litter bins requiring attention.

Minute No. 136/15

Votes of Sympathy

Votes of sympathy were extended to;

- The family of the late Joe Murphy R.I.P;
- The family of the late Thomas O'Connor R.I.P.;
- Mr. Noel Curran, Brookville on the death of his wife Mrs. Eileen Curran R.I.P.

Minute No. 137/15

Proposed by Cllr. K. Callan
Seconded by Cllr. R. Culhane

"That this Council carry out a review of the current boundary and fencing of areas between Castlemanor and Moneymore Estates and Boyne Rugby Club"

Reply:

There is clear photographic evidence that there has been a pedestrian route available from Moneymore through Castlemanor, that this access has existed for at least 20 years and that it existed even prior to the construction of Castlemanor Housing Estate. The short-cut through a gap in Moneymore/Castlemanor boundary can be clearly seen on various aerial photographs as far back as 1995. Moneymore residents tended to walk to the Ballymakenny Road via the Rugby Club grounds, as opposed to Castlemanor as it was the shorter of the two short-cuts, though both routes existed. It is only since the rugby club closed off the former, that the Moneymore-Castlemanor route has become more widely used.

Following lengthy discussions it was agreed

- i. Closure doesn't appear to be an option, but issues such as drop in ground levels, lack of public lighting and waste / water on site need to be addressed. Solutions to be examined / costed. Cllr K. Callan to meet P. Finn, Senior Engineer on site to discuss / examine.
- ii. The motion is to be forwarded to the Joint Policing Committee to address the anti-social behaviour issues.

Minute No. 138/15

Notice of Motion

Proposed by Cllr. P. Bell

Seconded by Cllr. K. Flood

"That this Council resolves with immediate effect to fully restore public lighting on West Street. In particular lighting stands installed as part of the enhanced pedestrianisation of the main shopping street in the town"

Reply:

The public lighting on West Street installed as part of the pedestrianisation of the main shopping area needs to be reviewed as a number of the architectural lights are being damaged on a regular basis. The situation is being examined with a view to how best to fully restore the lighting along this street.

G. Kelly advised that the general public lighting contractor is not responsible for West Street which uses specialist lighting equipment. Progress is being made, but agreed that a defined timeframe for replacement is necessary, with G. Kelly to pursue and investigate.

The meeting concluded.

The Minutes were confirmed at a meeting of the Council held on:

Date: _____

Mayor: _____

Meeting Administrator: _____